

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Icon of Saints Bartholomew and Titus -- August 25th

August 25, 2013

14TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – *TONE 5*

RETURN OF THE RELICS OF THE HOLY APOSTLE BARTHOLOMEW; THE HOLY APOSTLE TITUS, BISHOP OF CRETE

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 26 – SEPTEMBER 1

Please Note: There will be NO Vespers during the Summer months unless noted in the bulletin.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29 – BEHEADING OF THE GLORIOUS PROPHET, FORERUNNER AND BAPTIZER JOHN

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31 – DEPOSITION OF THE PRECIOUS CINCTURE OF THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS AT CHALKOPRATEIA

6:00 PM – Great Vespers for Sunday (supplies for Sunday obligation)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1 – 15TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; THE BEGINNING OF THE INDICION, WHICH IS THE NEW YEAR; OUR VENERABLE FATHER SYMEON THE STYLITE AND ARCHIMANDRITE, AND HIS MOTHER, MARTHA; SYNAXIS OF THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS IN MIASENA; THE HOLY MARTYR AITHALAS, DEACON IN PERSIA; THE FORTY HOLY MARTYRED WOMEN AND DEACON AMMON, THEIR TEACHER; THE HOLY MARTYRS CALLISTA AND HER BROTHERS, EVODUS AND HERMOGEN IN NICOMEDIA; THE RIGHTEOUS JOSHUA, SON OF NUN

8:45 AM – Divine Praises

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy

For All Parishioners

“WE AS A CHURCH DESCENDED FROM THE MISSION OF THE SLAVIC APOSTLES CYRIL AND METHODIUS — GREAT TRANSLATORS OF THE SCRIPTURE AND LITURGY — HAVE AN EXTRAORDINARY MISSION TO CONTINUE THIS TRANSLATION SO WE MAY PRAY PROPERLY AND PROFOUNDLY IN ENGLISH, IN SPANISH, IN PORTUGUESE, IN UKRAINIAN. THAT IS WHY THE QUESTION OF INCULTURATION IS VERY IMPORTANT. IN UKRAINE AS WELL, BECAUSE I THINK THAT THE MODERN UKRAINIAN PERSON OFTEN DOES NOT UNDERSTAND THE OLD, OUTWORN WORDS, AND THEY HAVE TO BE PRESENTED IN A NEW WAY. ONE BOY FROM THE PROVINCE OF MISIONES TOLD ME THIS: “YOU KNOW, BISHOP, IF THE CHURCH IS A MUSEUM THAT PRESERVES VERY WELL THE CULTURAL ARTIFACTS OF THE PAST, THEN ONE CAN VISIT IT ONCE A YEAR, LIKE EVERY OTHER MUSEUM; BUT TO LIVE IN A MUSEUM... NO THANKS.” SO WE WANT OUR CHURCH TO BE ALIVE AND ABLE TO GIVE THIS.”

- PATRIARCH SVIATOSLAV OF THE UGCC

Prayers for Teachers and Students

will be offered for the new academic year today. Teachers and students are asked to come forward near the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy.

Vespers next Saturday

In order to allow those who are volunteering at House of Ukraine next weekend to be able to “make Holy the Lord’s Day” there will be vespers offered at 6PM on Saturday. Vespers does satisfy the Sunday obligation that all binds all Catholics.

Special Parish Survival Strategy Meeting

Mark your calendars!

On Sunday, September 22nd, there will be an important Special Meeting of the Parish Body to discuss urgent issues related to the immediate future of the parish. All parish members are asked to attend.

Looking Ahead

- Sunday, 9/1: Church New Year
- Sunday, 9/15: Parish Picnic
- Sunday, 9/22: Special Parish Meeting
- Sunday, 10/6: Pokrov Celebration

Stewardship in the Parish

Why Do We Need to Teach Stewardship in Our Parishes?

Every parish decides to embark upon the stewardship journey for a different reason. Yet, basically, all of the reasons fall into one of five categories. These are:

- *It is what God calls us to do.*
- *It is what built our Church.*
- *It increases parishioners' generosity to the parish.*
- *It increases participation and vitality in parish ministries.*
- *It enriches parishioners' prayer lives, faith and spirituality.*

Here is a closer look at each of these reasons.

Stewardship Is What God Calls Us to Do

Throughout sacred scripture God calls us to be a giving people. The concepts of giving God our "first fruits" and of tithing a fair percent were first mentioned in the Old Testament. About half of Our Lord's parables address the proper use of our resources and Jesus talks about money five times more than He talks about prayer. Generous giving is fundamental to our faith tradition. Any parish that truly wants to follow the teachings of Our Lord must teach and embrace stewardship. As the US Catholic Bishops' write in their Pastoral Letter on Stewardship, *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*, "Once one chooses to become a disciple of Jesus Christ, stewardship is not an option."

Stewardship Is What Built Our Church

From the awe-inspiring European basilicas to the smallest rural churches in our own country, all of the churches, schools, hospitals and other Catholic agencies which we take for granted today have been built by previous generations giving generously of their time, talents and treasure. Auctions, raffles and golf tournaments did not build up the Church and they cannot maintain it. The Church today was built up because our ancestors in faith understood their responsibility to support the establishment of God's kingdom here on earth. They made God a priority in their lives and they generously shared no matter how much or how little they had.

Stewardship Increases Parishioners' Generosity to the Parish

Once parishioners begin to understand the concepts of stewardship and to realize that God calls them to share a fair percent of their financial blessings, parishes often see an increase in giving. Depending on the demographics and financial situation within the parish, a parish may see a 10-20% increase in giving when parishioners are asked to make a stewardship commitment. Over time, parishes that regularly teach and practice stewardship tend to have 5% greater giving than parishes that ignore this important spiritual teaching.

Stewardship Increases Participation and Vitality in Parish Ministries

Without a stewardship perspective, many parishes find themselves using all of their time and talent to raise treasure. Instead of doing ministry to the poor, the needy or the spiritually hungry, parishes just do endless fundraising. In contrast, when a parish embraces stewardship, parishioners are invited to share their unique talents in many different forms of ministry. Parishes often see new forms of ministry develop when parishioners are asked to prayerfully discern what special skills and talents God might be calling them to share with their parish community.

Stewardship Enriches Parishioners' Prayer Life, Faith and Spirituality

Ultimately, before we give any time to any other activity, stewardship calls us to give time to God. Those who hear and understand that message begin to spend more time in Mass attendance, Eucharistic adoration, scripture reflection, private prayer and faith enrichment activities. If we are not spending time with God, we may be good volunteers or good donors, but we are not good stewards. We are not doing what God asks us to do because we have not taken the time to be with Him and ask for His guidance. By establishing a closer relationship with God, parishioners are able to truly change their lives. As they grow closer to God, they can more clearly hear how God is calling them to give more fully of their time, their talent and their treasure. They give out of deep love for God and find joy in that giving.

Stewardship Is...

It is difficult to teach or practice stewardship, unless we have a clear understanding of exactly what stewardship is. If we wish to embrace stewardship, we must gradually learn to embrace every definition or aspect of stewardship.

• **Scripture Based** All of the teachings of stewardship come directly from the Gospels, the Old Testament and the letters of the New Testament. Stewardship is not a new fad, or environmental word. Stewardship is the way God has expected His people to live since the beginning of time.

• **Dependence on God** Stewardship is recognizing that everything we have is a gift from God. We can take credit for nothing. Everything we have and everything we do is a result of some gift that God has placed into our hands.

• **Gratitude** Stewardship is living a life of gratitude – taking the time every day to recognize the gifts that God has given and to be grateful for them.

• **Giving Back** Stewardship is returning a portion of our gifts to God. The gifts we return are our time, our talent and our treasure. We return these gifts not because God or our Church needs them but because we feel an overwhelming need to show our love and gratitude to God.

• **Transformative** Stewardship is transformative. Once we embrace the stewardship message it changes the way we look at every decision we make. Stewardship becomes a total way of life.

• **A Love Response** Once we allow God to truly take up residence in our hearts we become so overwhelmed by His abundant love for us that we just naturally feel the need to join our lives with Him and dedicate our time, talent and treasure to carrying out God's work here on earth. Our generosity comes from within and not from any external pressure or reward.

• **Proportionate Giving** Stewardship calls us to realize that each of us is called to give as God has given to us. We no longer base our giving on what others are giving. We no longer excuse ourselves from giving because we do not see others giving. Rather we give in proportion to all that God has given to us.

• **Prayer** - Spending Time with God Stewardship involves spending time with God. Recognizing that every day is a gift from God, we strive to spend some of each day with God, through prayer, Divine Liturgy,

Vespers, scripture reading, quiet, meditation and other spiritual activities. During this time we ask God how He wants us to use the gifts He has given to us.

• **Participation - Sharing Talent** Stewardship involves sharing talent. Recognizing that God has given each individual unique skills and talents so that together we can do the work of Our Lord, we strive to share our own talents and to encourage and welcome others to also use their talents to participate in the mission and ministry of the Church.

• **Generosity - Giving Treasure** Stewardship involves giving treasure. Giving time and talent does not excuse us from giving treasure. Throughout the Gospels, Jesus challenged us to give as it has been given to us. Aware of our tremendous financial blessings, we strive to give generously to support the building up of God's kingdom. We recognize the 10% tithe as an important sacrificial goal. Although this level of giving may not be immediately possible, we are aware of what percentage we are giving back. We regularly strive to increase our generosity, taking small incremental steps toward giving a full tithe.

• **Trust in God** Stewardship is trusting God. We believe that our generous God will always provide for us. None of us will ever have all that we want, but we will always have all that we need.

• **Accountability** Stewardship calls us to recognize that just as in the Parable of the Talents, each of us will someday be asked by God to give an accounting of all that we have done with the gifts that have been given to us. Likewise, parish communities that embrace stewardship must be accountable to the community for the way in which the parish uses the gifts entrusted to it.

• **Thankfulness** Stewardship calls us to be ever grateful for the gifts that God has given. Not only are we called to be grateful to God, but we also must be grateful to one another. Just as we thank God every day, a stewardship parish must also show gratitude, recognition and appreciation to those who have given generously to the support of the parish.

• **Counter-Cultural** Stewardship is counter-cultural. While society encourages us to continually strive for more and more, stewardship helps us to recognize that we already have more than enough. In fact, we have enough to share.

• **Discipleship** Stewardship is discipleship. We strive to put God first in all things and to follow where Our Lord might lead.



PRAYERS FOR SUFFERING AND PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS

Again we pray for the suffering people of Egypt, Syria, and throughout the world who are being persecuted for their Christian faith, especially the bishops Metropolitan Paul and Archbishop Gregorios, who have been kidnapped: for the families, friends and communities who are wounded and grieving; that the Lord Our God will look upon them with mercy and will heal, comfort, strengthen and shelter them in His love.

Again we pray to Thee, O Lord and God, for the repose of those who have departed this life in these ungodly, horrific and evil persecutions; especially those whose earthly sojourns have ended suddenly, without repentance; give them rest where all sickness, sorrow and sighing have passed away: hear us, O Lord, and have mercy.

Again we pray for all those working to bring peace, security, relief and recovery to those injured in body, soul and spirit and who are in desperate need; and for all who are anxious and fearful; that they may persevere in their struggles and find consolation, hope and courage in Jesus Christ, Our Savior and Our God.

Again we pray that the Lord God will preserve this city and this holy house, and every city and land from pestilence, famine, earthquake, flood, fire, the sword, the invasion of enemies, terrorist attack and from civil war; and that our good God, who loves mankind, will be graciously favorable and easy to be entreated, and will turn away from us all the wrath stirred up against us, and deliver us from all His righteous chastisement, which impends against us, and have mercy upon us.

Sunday offering for July 28

Amount	Number
\$3.00	1 (loose)
\$10.00	2
\$20.00	3
\$40.00	3
\$50.00	4
\$75.00	3
\$80.00	1
<u>\$100.00</u>	<u>1</u>
\$808.00	

Parishioner Total: \$808.00

Average / parish household (42): \$19.24

Weekly Stewardship Goal: \$2125.00

Shortfall: **-\$1317.00**

Sunday offering for August 11

Amount	Number
\$10.00	2
\$20.00	2
\$30.00	1
\$40.00	1
\$50.00	1
\$75.00	1
<u>\$150.00</u>	<u>1</u>
\$425.00	

Parishioner Total: \$405.00

Visitor Total: \$20.00

Average / parish household (42): \$9.64

Weekly Stewardship Goal: \$2125.00

Shortfall: **-\$1720.00**

Sunday offering for August 4

Amount	Number
\$10.00	4
\$40.00	1
\$50.00	1
\$75.00	2
\$100.00	1
\$400.00	1
<u>\$500.00</u>	<u>1</u>
\$1280.00	

Parishioner Total: \$1280.00

Average / parish household (42): \$30.48

Weekly Stewardship Goal: \$2125.00

Shortfall: **-\$845.00**

Sunday offering for August 18

Amount	Number
\$10.00	2
\$15.00	1
\$16.00	1 (loose)
\$20.00	2
\$40.00	2
\$45.00	1
\$50.00	3
\$75.00	1
\$100.00	2
\$120.00	1
<u>\$125.00</u>	<u>1</u>
\$886.00	

Parishioner Total: \$826.00

Visitor Total: \$60.00

Average / parish household (42): \$19.67

Weekly Stewardship Goal: \$2125.00

Shortfall: **-\$1299.00**

THE CHURCH NEW YEAR –SEPTEMBER 1ST

Every time we enter upon another year whether it be civil or ecclesiastical we have the opportunity to reflect upon the past and make changes for a better future. Let us ask ourselves: What practical changes can I make which will allow the Lord to act more in my life?

Can I do more in my spiritual life – prayer, study, almsgiving, stewardship? Can we do more as a community – outreach, charity, evangelism? How can I personally and we collectively play a part in making this coming year better than the previous year?



**Українська Греко-Католицька Церква
Святого Йоана Хрестителя
St. John the Baptizer
Ukrainian Greco-Catholic Church**

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The Twelve Apostles: Timid Men Who Won the World

It was clear through unlearned men that the cross was persuasive, in fact, it persuaded the whole world. Their discourse was not of unimportant matters but of God and true religion, of the Gospel way of life and future judgment, yet it turned plain, uneducated men into philosophers. How the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and his weakness stronger than men!

In what way is it stronger? It made its way throughout the world and overcame all men; countless men sought to eradicate the very name of the Crucified, but that name flourished and grew ever mightier. Its enemies lost out and perished; the living who waged a war on a dead man proved helpless. For the good deeds which tax-collectors and fishermen were able to accomplish by God's grace, the philosophers, the rulers, the countless multitudes cannot even imagine.

Paul had this in mind when he said: The

weakness of God is stronger than men. That the preaching of these men was indeed divine is brought home to us in the same way. For how otherwise could twelve uneducated men, who lived on lakes and rivers and wastelands, get the idea for such an immense enterprise? How could men who perhaps had never been in a city or a public square think of setting out to do battle with the whole world? That they were fearful, timid men, the evangelist makes clear; he did not reject the fact or try to hide their weaknesses. Indeed he turned these into a proof of the truth. What did he say of them? That when Christ was arrested, the others fled, despite all the miracles they had seen, while he who was leader of the others denied him!

It is evident, then, that if they had not seen him risen and had proof of His power, they would not have risked so much.

St. John Chrysostom