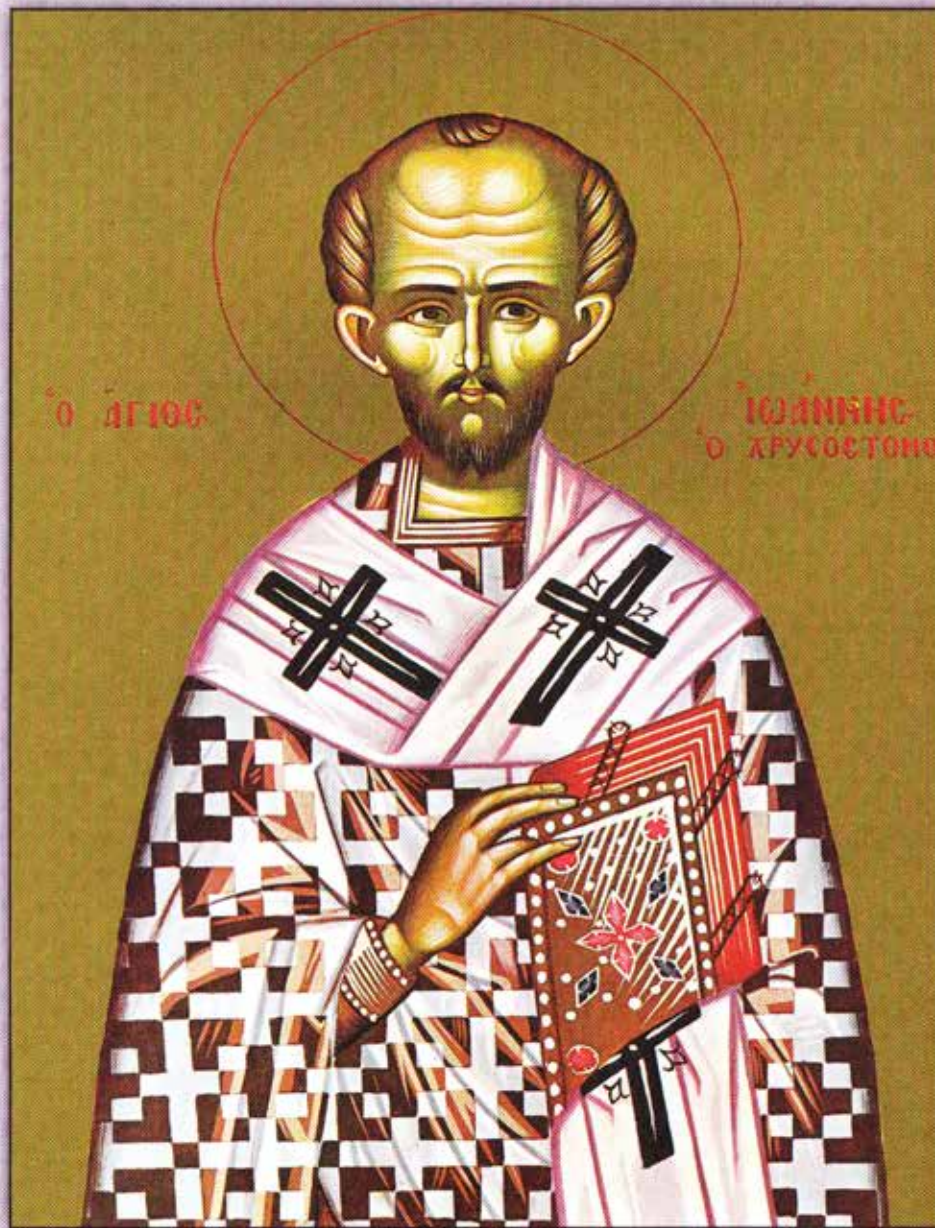


TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



*Icon of Saint John Chrysostom -- November 13th*

# ***November 10, 2013***

## ***25TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – TONE 8***

THE HOLY APOSTLES ERASTUS, OLYMPUS, RODION, SOSIPATER, TERTIUS AND QUARTUS

### ***SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 11 – NOVEMBER 17***

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16 – THE HOLY APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST MATTHEW

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy + Luba Knianicky; Req: Bohdan Knianicky

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

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17 – 26TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; OUR HOLY FATHER GREGORY THE WONDERWORKER, BISHOP OF NEOCAESAREA; PASSING INTO ETERNAL LIFE (1947) OF BLESSED JOSAPHAT KOTSYLOVSKY, BISHOP OF PEREMYSHL AND MARTYR

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy For All Parishioners

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### **Pastoral Visit by Bishop Richard**

Our Father and Bishop Richard, will make a pastoral visit to our parish on Sunday, December 22nd. In preparation for the bishop's visit, we need to have a choir practice. Watch for further information in future bulletins.

### ***Varenyky Making***

Please join us in the church hall, Tuesday November 12 and Tuesday November 19 at 9:00 AM to make varenyky for the upcoming Christmas Bazaar.

*Collection data for last week will be in next week's bulletin.*

Over the next two weeks there will be two more Stewardship Home Meetings to present information about parish stewardship.

All meetings will begin promptly at 6:30 PM and last until approximately 8:30.

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### **The locations and dates are:**

*Friday, November 15 at the home of:*

Taras Konrad  
2496 Meadow Lark Dr.  
San Diego CA 92123

*Wed, November 20 at the home of:*

Jeanine Soucie  
5516 Mount Aconia Drive  
San Diego CA 92111

Please come to one of these meetings.

You're free to choose which one.

If you have any questions, please call  
Fr. James at 619-905-5278

***Our response to this stewardship campaign will be an important gauge of the viability of our parish.***

# WHOSE GIFT LIST?

*By Fr. Daniel C. Kovalak*

Preparations for the “holiday season” are already in full swing. And some of the colorful newspaper inserts suggest that, even though Thanksgiving is a few weeks away, the holiday gift-giving pressure’s on!

A study from ten years ago reported that the average person maintains some 200 relationships. That’s a substantial number including various circles of relationships—family, religious, social and professional groups, volunteer organizations, service providers, etc. Perhaps our holiday stress is due to the sheer number of people in our circles we want to remember through our gift-giving.

But the implications of this relationship study are more far-reaching. Obviously, because it’s a secular study, there’s no consideration of one’s relationship to God. As people of faith who presumably strive to keep the commandment to love the Lord with all our heart, mind, soul and strength, every other relationship should be seen through the prism of our relationship to Our God. And we have the capacity to personally share this faith with about 200 souls!

There’s more. When this relationship study was published a decade ago, its purpose was to illustrate the increasingly detrimental effect various social media have on the depth of human relationships. The study’s conclusion was, with all our advanced technology, our relationships are becoming increasingly “superficial, non-substantial and inconsequential.”

This is a sobering indictment! In all our twitters, texts and tweets, there’s little if any substance, quality, or “soul” in a majority of human relationships. They’re deteriorating into “virtual” relationships, void of personal, human interaction and maintained largely by words; that, in case we need to be reminded, makes up roughly seven-percent of effective communications. If we don’t

know the circumstances and struggles of the person behind the words, can’t hear the intensity of their voice or read the body language that accompanies their words or are unaware of the “heart” from whence they emanate, words are just bits (or bytes) of data that show little if any respect to “personhood.”

In Christian theology, the relationship between the Persons of the Holy Trinity is profound and instructive. “In the beginning,” God’s will regarding relationships is clearly revealed after the creation of Adam: “It’s not good that man should be alone.” The coming of Jesus Christ into the world is literally the “personification” of God’s will: “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14). The Gospels essentially document the myriad ways Jesus connected with people on the most intimate level and repeatedly note such connections were inspired by divine and redemptive love. “Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:13). There’s absolutely nothing superficial, non-substantial or inconsequential in this relationship!

There’s little argument that gift-giving is synonymous with Christmas. But are we concerned enough, caring enough, loving enough of the 200 or so souls precious to God among our circles of relationships to give them more than a crockpot, computer game or scented candle?

It’s through real, deep, substantial human relationships that we move toward heaven and eternal joy: to the extent we acknowledge upon Whose gift-list WE are listed as beloved children of God. May we share the gift of some refreshing, cool water with someone today; to help satisfy their thirst for a truly meaningful relationship with the Living God.





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

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**Website:** [stjohnthebaptizer.org](http://stjohnthebaptizer.org)

**Pastor:** Fr. James Bankston  
[frjames@mac.com](mailto:frjames@mac.com)

Fr. James' cell phone: (619) 905-5278

*Be Merciful*

Being a disciple of Christ means being meek and gentle. And from what source may we draw this meekness? If we are continually mindful of our sins, if we grieve for them, if we weep for them. A soul that habitually feels such contrition does not permit itself to become vexed and angry. In truth, where there is sorrow, anger cannot be. Where there is compunction, anger is altogether out of place. Where there is contrition of soul, there is no irritation. The soul that suffers the lash of contrition has no time to be aroused to anger, but it groans bitterly and weeps more bitterly.

Now, I know that many laugh when they hear these words, but I do not cease mourning for those who laugh. The present time is

the time for mourning and grieving, because we commit many sins in word and deed.

Hear what the Prophet said: "Have mercy on me, O God, according to your great mercy." Well, then, we also must have mercy on our neighbors in this way: according to the great mercy shown to us. For, we shall obtain the kind of treatment from our Lord that we give to our fellow servants. And what is "great mercy" like? When we give, not from superfluities, but from our necessities. But, if we do not even give from our superfluities, what hope will there be for us? When shall we be rid of those sins of ours? Where shall we be able to flee and find salvation?

*St. John Chrysostom*