

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Icon of the Call of the Apostles (Mt. 4:18-23)



June 7, 2015

2ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – TONE 1

THE HOLY HIEROMARTYR THEODOTUS, BISHOP OF ANCYRA

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 8 – JUNE 14

SATURDAY, JUNE 13

PLEASE NOTE: NO VESPERS

SUNDAY, JUNE 14 – 3RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; THE HOLY PROPHET ELISHA; OUR HOLY FATHER
METHODIUS, PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy

For All Parishioners

*If you are reading the bulletin during the Liturgy (including the homily),
please **stop** and be attentive – будьмо уважні!*

Parish Meeting

A date of June 28 has been set for a general meeting of the parish. This meeting will run from 12:00 noon until 1:30 PM and will have several agenda items:

1. Parish Finances
2. Parking Lot
3. Parish Needs (roof, etc...)
4. Stewardship

There will be an opportunity for individuals to speak. Those wishing to be added to the list of speaker must inform Fr. James by June 21st.

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It would be a great lie to tell a searching soul: 'Go to church, because there you will find peace.' The opposite is true. The Church tells those who are at peace and asleep: 'Go to church, because there you will feel real anguish for your sins, for your perdition, for the world's sins and perdition. There you will feel an unappeasable hunger for Christ's truth. There, instead of becoming lukewarm, you will be set on fire; instead of pacified, you will become alarmed; instead of learning the wisdom of this world you will become fools for Christ.

- St. Maria of Paris (1891-1945)

Eternal Memory!

On May 26, Don Fugere, a former longtime parishioner, fell asleep in the Lord. Please keep Don, his wife Donna and their children Delinda and Taylor in your prayers. During his many years at our parish Don was a notable steward of God's Gifts dedicating much to our church and its community.

Visitation

Glen Abbey Mortuary
Chapel of Roses
3838 Bonita Road, Bonita
619-361-1996

Visitation:

Tuesday June 9th 5-9 PM

Funeral

Saint Anne Catholic Church
2337 Irving Avenue, SD, CA 92113
619-239-8253

Funeral Mass:

Wednesday June 10th 10:00 AM

*May the Lord grant His servant Don
blessed repose and eternal memory!*

**FOREWORD FROM THE FATHER AND HEAD
OF THE UKRAINIAN GREEK-CATHOLIC CHURCH**

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Reverend Fathers,

With great joy I recommend this *Practical Workbook for Parishioners* on the theme of “Stewardship of Divine Gifts: A Christian Way of Life.” The Synod of Bishops of the UGCC explored this theme during its session in September 2014, and the “Working Group for the Realization of the Strategic Development of the UGCC till 2020” took the main points expressed during the Synod and gathered them in a practical format for implementation in our parish communities.

I am particularly grateful to Bishop Ken (NOWAKOWSKI), who is chairman of the Working Group since October 2011 and who carries responsibility for this new addition to the series of publications in our “Vibrant Parish – a Place to Encounter the Living Christ” program. I also wish to thank Bishop David (Motiuk) of Edmonton, Bishop Paul (CHOMNYTSKY) of Stamford and Rev. Dr. Andriy Onuferko for their work on the individual themes in this publication.

Every person is gifted in some manner. At the same time, Our Lord God placed upon us a responsibility to properly use these gifts, that is, to share them for the glory of God and for the good of one’s neighbor.

Dear Brothers and Sisters, I hope that Workbook will help you deepen your understanding of the sense and meaning of God’s gifts in the building up of the Kingdom of God, so that you might commit yourselves to a more generous gifting of time, talents and treasure for the good of your parish community.

Let everything be done for the glory of God and for the good of His People!

The Blessing of the Lord be upon you!

+ *Sviatoslav*

“STEWARDSHIP OF DIVINE GIFTS – A CHRISTIAN WAY OF LIFE”

“We offer to You Yours of Your own on behalf of all and for all.”

(Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom)

INTRODUCTION

“Remember, O Lord, those who bear fruit doing good works in Your holy churches and remembering the poor. Send down Your mercy upon all of us.” (Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom)

POINTS TO REMEMBER:

- At the Synod in September 2014 our Bishops dedicated considerable time to reflect on “Stewardship of Divine Gifts – a Christian Way of Life.” They would like to share key aspects of that reflection with the clergy and faithful laity of our Church.
- Developing a good understanding of Christian stewardship will help us strengthen not only our parish communities, but also our personal spiritual lives, our families, our Church as a whole.
- We live in an increasingly secular society, and so good Christian Stewardship will help reinforce those Christian foundations and values, which modern society increasingly seems to forget or neglect.

I. STEWARDSHIP GENERAL PRINCIPLES

1. Every Gift is from God

Stewardship of Divine gifts begins with an awareness that **everything comes from God and ultimately belongs to God**, and serves to give Him glory. At each Divine Liturgy we pray: “for all good giving and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from You, the Father of Lights.” The Church also encourages us in its services to “commend ourselves, and one another, and our whole life to Christ our God.”

POINTS TO REMEMBER::

- A simple definition of Stewardship: **the wise use of human** (natural and spiritual) **as well as material resources for the building up of the Kingdom of God.**
- Stewardship begins with an **awareness that everything comes from God** and ultimately belongs to God.
- The most important gift we have received is that of **salvation in Jesus Christ**
- That gift requires our response: **sacrifice, dedication and a sense of shared responsibility** for the life of the Church and her mission on earth.

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION:

1. My life is not my own but God’s. What does this phrase say to me?
2. Do I try to foster an awareness of God’s ownership over all of creation? How?
3. If everything we are and have is a gift from God, how does that impact my life as a Christian?
4. What does the gift of salvation in Jesus Christ mean to me? Is there anything more important for me in my life?
5. When in the Liturgy we are encouraged “to commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God” how does this phrase speak to me personally?

2. The Mission of the Church

The Word of God calls us to conversion and to a life in faith. Liturgy grants us the possibility to unite ourselves to the one sacrifice of our Lord, given on the Cross, and to give our life in sacrifice to God. Through works of mercy, *diakonia* (*service*), we allow others to experience how good the Lord is.

POINTS TO REMEMBER::

- The six elements of “The Vibrant Parish: a Place to Encounter the Living Christ” should always be present in our minds and hearts.
- Every parish community, no matter how small, is called to make the first three elements a priority in its life and mission: preaching the **Word of God and Catechesis, Liturgy and Prayer, and Serving One’s Neighbor** through works of mercy and justice.
- The other elements flow from the first three. They focus on who does the work and with what resources (**Leadership-Stewardship**), on how and why we fulfill our mission (with a sense of **Communion-Unity**), always mindful of the Gospel mandate to preach the Kingdom of God to the world (**Missionary Spirit**).
- This is **not a theoretical or abstract mission**, but one that is fulfilled concretely in our own time and where we live by actual people, by US!
- It is our calling and mission to **place the gifts we have received in God’s service**.

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION:

1. Have the priorities of the “Vibrant Parish” (Word of God and Catechesis, Liturgy and Prayer, Serving One’s Neighbor, Leadership-Stewardship, Communion-Unity, Missionary Spirit) become a priority for my personal and family life? In what ways?
2. Do I understand that I am called to help build the Kingdom of God in my time and where I live?
3. Am I committed to do my part in placing the world at the service of God and His plan of salvation for humankind?

3. Stewardship of God’s Gifts is rooted in the Sacred Scriptures

“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace.”

1 Pt 4:10

POINTS TO REMEMBER::

- Our understanding of Christian Stewardship is rooted in Sacred Scripture
- Texts such as the parable of the just and unjust servant (Lk 12:42-46) or the parable on the talents (Mt 25:14-30, par. Lk 19:11-27) emphasize that we are caretakers of the gifts of the Kingdom of God, not its owners.
- The Greek word *oikonomos* (literally: “house-ruler”) is used in texts, such as 1 Pt 4:10 (good *stewards* of God’s varied grace) and 1 Cor 4:1-2 (*stewards* of the mysteries of God... it is required of *stewards* that they be found trustworthy).
- In the New Testament we also find mention of *oikonomia*, used in reference to: 1) God’s plan of salvation for the human race, 2) the fulfillment of that plan in Jesus Christ, 3) our participation and responsibility in the fulfillment of that plan.

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION:

1. Which of the servants best describes me in the Parable of the Talents (Mt 25:14-30)?
2. What does it mean when we say that our life and all the things we possess are given to us “on loan” from God?
3. Am I a “good steward of God’s varied grace” in my personal and family life, in my parish community?

4. Stewardship of Divine gifts – Our Shared Responsibility

“For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.”

Rom 12:4-8

POINTS TO REMEMBER::

- Christian Stewardship involves all members of the Church, and not just the bishops and clergy.
- St. Paul teaches us that we are all members of one Body (see Rom 12:4-8) and that in the Church each person has his or her purpose.

GOD’S EXTENDED HAND

FOCUS (Fellowship of Orthodox Christians United to Serve) has provided us with a special bin for collecting donations of clothing, toiletries, etc. to be distributed at GEH. It is located near the door of the church hall.

The Apostles Fast began on Monday, June 1st and extends until the celebration of the feast of the Holy and Prime Apostles Peter and Paul on June 29th. Divine Liturgy will be at 9:30 AM on Monday, June 29th. Come celebrate!

- All of us have gifts and blessings, but also limitations, inadequacies, and weaknesses. That is why we are called to work together, supplementing in one another that which is lacking.
- We need to trust the Holy Spirit, who always supplies the Church with all that is needed for her to fulfill its mission.
- We have different gifts, perform different services and activities. To each is given the manifestation of the Holy Spirit “for the common good” (see 1 Cor 12:4-7)

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION:

1. How do I understand my calling to be an active member in the Body of Christ?
2. Have I ever asked myself what my gifts might be, and asked in prayer for the Lord to show me how I might use those gifts?
3. How do the words of St. Paul apply to me when he speaks about all Christians using their gifts “for the common good” (1 Cor 12:7)

Share 2015

Jesus asks us to commit ourselves to be good stewards of the gifts entrusted to us, to share our time, our talent and our treasure as an outward sign of the love and gratitude we have for Him. Please be a good steward of your gifts and share them by participating in **Share 2015 – Annual Eparchial Appeal**.

Христос попросив нас бути добрими провідниками дарів, довірених нам, ділитися часом, талантом, скарбами, як видимий знак любови і вдячності до Нього. Будь ласка, лудтьє добрими провідниками своїх дарів, і поділітьсЯ ними, приймаючи угасть в **Share 2015 – Єпархіаний Заклик**.

A Note on Kneeling

Now that Pentecost has arrived, kneeling is no longer forbidden for weekday Liturgical Services. Kneeling is reintroduced into the **weekday** Liturgical services with the Kneeling Prayers (which technically are part of Vespers for Monday.) Kneeling is **still prohibited for all Sundays**. "Because kneeling is a sign of penance in the Eastern tradition, the faithful should be discouraged from kneeling during the Paschal Season and on **all** Sundays of the year. The faithful should be properly instructed as to the reasons why kneeling at these times is not congruent with the theology of the Eastern Churches." (Art. 464 § 1 - *Pastoral Guide of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the USA.*)



LET US NOT
GRIEVE WHEN
WE MAKE A
SLIP, BUT WHEN
WE BECOME
HARDENED BY
IT.

-ST. ISAAC THE SYRIAN

Please Note:

When you are away, please don't forget that the church still relies on your contributions. Our bills do not go on vacation. Your absence on any Sunday does not negate your obligation to support your home parish.

Roof Campaign



The hall roof is in dire need of repair. There are at least six separate leaks. Numerous patch jobs have failed to solve the problems. The current drought has minimized the problem but we continue to pray for rain anyway. There is good news and bad news: The good news is - we have the money; the bad news is - it's still in your pockets. We will be soliciting quotes for repairs soon. Know a roofer you would recommend?

Roof Repair Challenge

An anonymous donor has given \$1000.00 towards the repair of the hall roof. The donor has challenged the rest of the parish to contribute to this cause so that the roof can be fully repaired rather than patched.

Roof Challenge Response: \$1550.00

Pastor:

Fr. James Bankston: (619) 905-5278

Pastoral Council:

Vladimir Bachynsky: (619) 865-1279

Mark Hartman: (619) 446-6357

Luke Miller: (858) 354-2008

Jeanine Soucie: (718) 674-4529

Social Committee Chairperson:

Megan Hartman (619) 540-4291

Finance Committee:

Bohdan Knianicky: (619) 303-9698



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

4400 Palm Avenue
La Mesa, CA 91941
Parish Office: (619) 697-5085

Website: stjohnthebaptizer.org

Pastor: Fr. James Bankston
fjames@mac.com
Fr. James' cell phone: (619) 905-5278

How the Apostles Serve

People dedicate themselves to God in the hope that the eyes of their heart will be enlightened. They withdraw from worldly activities and give themselves up to prayer and supplication, waiting for the Lord to come and reveal Himself to them and purify them from their sins. For they do not rely solely on their own labors and conduct to obtain what they hope for, namely, that the Lord will come and dwell in them with the full experience and energy of the Spirit. And when they experience the Lord's goodness and delight in the fruits of the Spirit, and when the veil of darkness is lifted and the light of Christ shines upon them to their unspeakable joy, they are completely satisfied because they have the Lord with them in much love; they are like a merchant rejoicing in his gains. But even so they still have to struggle and they go in fear of the robber spirits of wickedness causing them to grow slack and lose their labor before they obtain the kingdom of heaven, the Jerusalem above.

Let us too, then, beseech God to strip off our old

nature and clothe us in the heavenly Christ even now, so that the joy of being led by Him may bring us great tranquility. For in His desire to fill us with longing for the kingdom the Lord says: "Without me you can do nothing."

Nevertheless He was able to enlighten many people through the Apostles. In spite of being merely creatures, they fed their fellow servants. Through their good example and teaching the Lord restored to life minds that were dead and corrupted; for it is possible for one creature to nourish and give life to another: though only creatures, the clouds, when so commanded, bring seeds of wheat or barley to life. Like light coming in through a window and the sun shedding its radiance over all the world, the prophets were lights to their own house of Israel, but the Apostles are suns with rays reaching every corner of the earth.

St. Macarius

**For more information on Eastern spirituality, visit
www.theosismedia.com**