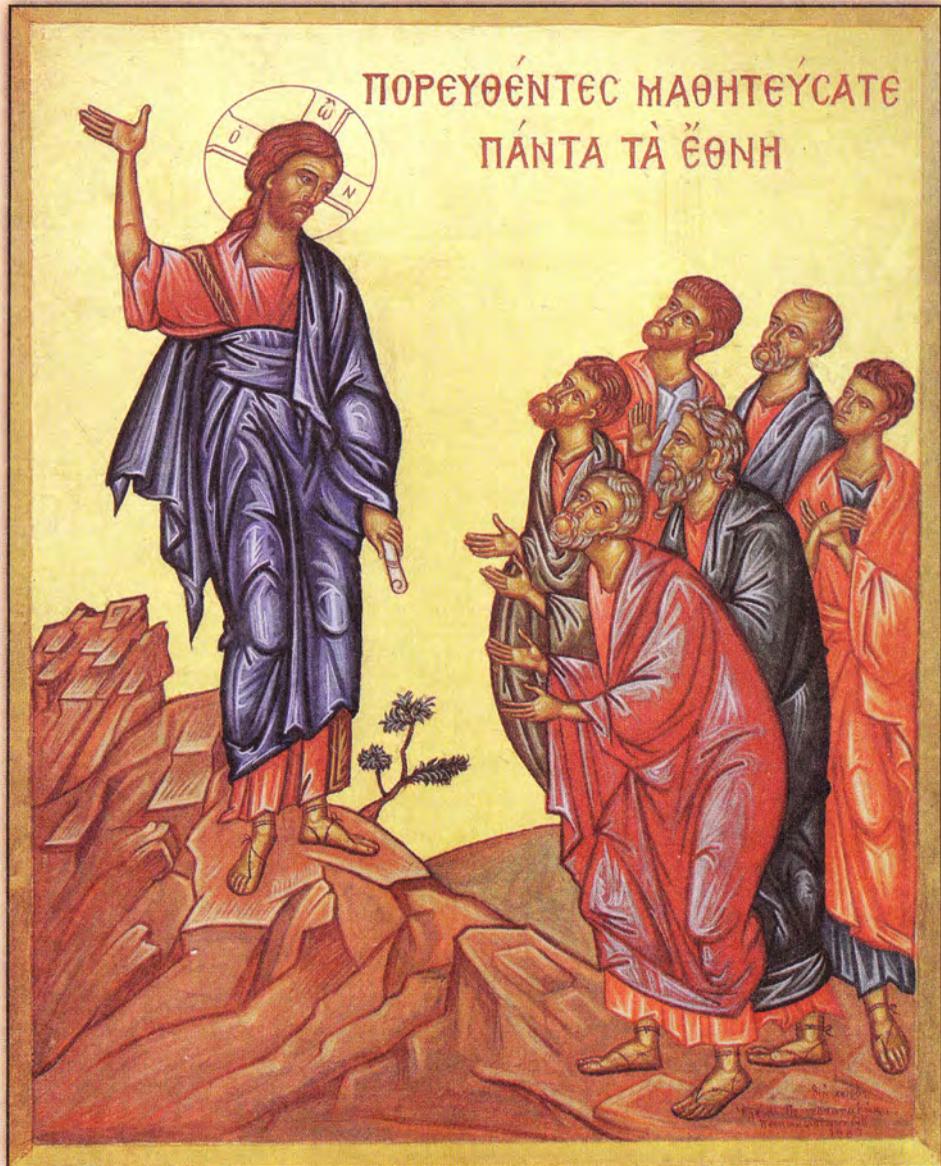


THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Icon of Christ Teaching the Apostles (Mt. 6:22-34)



June 14, 2015

3RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – TONE 2

THE HOLY PROPHET ELISHA; OUR HOLY FATHER METHODIUS, PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 15 – JUNE 21

SATURDAY, JUNE 20

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy

Special Intention

6:00 PM – Great Vespers

SUNDAY, JUNE 21 – 4TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; ALL SAINTS OF RUS’-UKRAINE; THE HOLY MARTYR JULIAN OF TARSUS IN CILICIA; FATHERS DAY (CIVIL)

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!*

THE RHYTHM OF THE CHURCH CALLS US TO A MORE HUMAN WAY OF LIVING:

ON THE APOSTLES’ FAST – *By Archpriest Stephen Freeman*

The Orthodox year has a rhythm, much like the tide coming in and going out – only this rhythm is an undulation between seasons of fasting and seasons (or a few days) of feasting. Every week, with few exceptions, is marked by the Wednesday and Friday fast, and every celebration of the Divine Liturgy is prepared for by eating nothing after midnight until we have received the Holy Sacrament.

It is a rhythm. Our modern world has lost most of its natural rhythm. The sun rises and sets but causes little fanfare in a world powered and lit by other sources. In America, virtually everything is always in season, even though the chemicals used to preserve this wonderful cornucopia are probably slowly poisoning our bodies.

The Scriptures speaks of the rhythms of the world – “the sun to rule by day... the moon and stars to rule by night...” The rhythm of the Church does not seek to make us slaves of the calendar nor does it treat certain foods as sinful. It simply calls us to a more human way of living. It’s not properly human to eat anything you want, anytime you want. Even Adam and Eve in the Garden initially knew what it was to abstain from the fruit of a certain tree.

Orthodox do not starve when they fast – we simply abstain from certain foods and generally eat less. At the same time we are taught to pray

more, attend services more frequently, and to increase our generosity to others (alms).

But it is a rhythm – fasts are followed by feasts. The fast of the Apostles begins on the second Monday after Pentecost and concludes on the Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul on June 29. Most of Christendom will know nothing of any of this – that Eastern Christians will have begun a Lenten period while the world begins to think of vacations.

The contemporary God is much the same as the contemporary diet – we want as much of Him as we want – anytime, anywhere. There is no rhythm to our desire, only the rise and fall of passions. There is no legalism in the Orthodox fast. I do not think God punishes those who fail to fast. I believe that they simply continue to become less and less human. We will not accept the limits and boundaries of our existence and thus find desires to be incessant and unruly. It makes us bestial.

For those who have begun the fast – may God give you grace! For those who know nothing of the fast – may God give you grace and preserve you from a world that would devour you. May God give us all the mercies of His kindness and help us remember the work of His blessed apostles!

RESTORATION OF THE 12 MAJOR FEASTS OF THE CHURCH

On April 7, 2015, our Patriarch, Sviatoslav, promulgated the Particular Law of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church. These are canons (rules) that supplement the Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches promulgated in 1990. One of the aspects of the particular law is the restoration of the number Great Feasts to twelve as well as the addition of the patronal feast day of each parish.

114. CCEO: 880 § 2,

§ 1. The faithful are **obliged** to celebrate all Sundays, the patronal feast of their parish, and the following twelve feasts which are:

1. The Nativity of the Mother of God (September 8) *restored
2. The Exaltation of the Holy Cross (September 14) *restored
3. The Presentation in the Temple of the Mother of God (November 21) *restored
4. The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ (December 25)
5. The Theophany of Our Lord Jesus Christ (January 6)
6. The Encounter in the Temple of Our Lord Jesus Christ (February 2) *restored
7. The Annunciation of the Mother of God (March 25)
8. The Entrance of Our Lord into Jerusalem (Sunday before Pascha)
9. The Ascension of Our Lord Jesus Christ (40th day of Pascha)
10. The Descent of the Holy Spirit (50th day of Pascha)
11. The Transfiguration of Our Lord Jesus Christ (August 6) *restored
12. The Dormition of the Blessed Virgin Mary (August 15)

§ 2. On these days, the faithful are obliged to participate in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy and abstain from strenuous physical work.

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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.

In vain will the world seek for equality until it has seen men through the eyes of faith. Faith teaches that all men, however poor, or ignorant, or crippled, however maimed, ugly, or degraded they may be, all bear within themselves the image of God, and have been bought by the precious blood of Jesus Christ. As this truth is forgotten, men are valued only because of what they can do, not because of what they are.

- Venerable Fulton Sheen
(Preface to Religion)

STEWARDSHIP OF DIVINE GIFTS – A CHRISTIAN WAY OF LIFE

Continued from last week

II. STEWARDSHIP OF GIFTS TIME, TALENTS AND TREASURE

1. *Stewardship of Time*

“Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For he says, “In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you.” Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”

2 Cor 6:1-2

POINTS TO REMEMBER::

- Time is a unique gift, given to all, but not in equal measure.
- Time is a non-renewable resource: it cannot be reacquired or exchanged. We must choose whether to use it wisely or waste it.
- We usually think of time in a chronological sense, but the Scriptures also have a different understanding of time from God’s perspective of eternity. With the coming of Christ chronological time is called to be transformed into supernatural time, the time of invitation and salvation, that is, God’s time. Frequently the Greek word *kairos* (sometimes translated as “season”) is used in this sense.
- There are moments when we can experience this transformation of time, especially in the liturgical life of the Church: the eternal salvation offered in Jesus Christ is made present “here, today for us.”
- We need to examine how we manage time in our personal lives.
- We need to “make time” for God, dedicating a portion of our time each week for God’s community of faithful.

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION:

1. In what ways do I, as a Christian, experience time as a gift from God?
2. Do I practice good personal time management or do I often find myself wasting time on things that really don’t matter?
3. In what ways do I use my personal time to serve others?
4. In what ways do I offer my gift of time to help build up my parish community?

2. *Stewardship of Talents*

“And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’”

Mat 25:20-21

POINTS TO REMEMBER::

- When we look at our Christian community we can see that God bestowed us with many talents. We should ask God for discernment on how to best use these talents for His glory.
- We have natural talents, intellectual and physical, which we can and should develop throughout our lives.
- We receive our spiritual talents from the Holy Spirit. They allow us to act with a sense of not our, but God’s will, and move us to serve our neighbor for the sake of the Gospel.

- The Church speaks of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit (Isa 11:1-3) and also provides us with some tools to recognize when the Holy Spirit bears fruit through us and others (Gal 5:22-23).
- The Christian community needs both spiritual and natural gifts to fulfill its mission.
- We need to be able to offer our talents to the Christian community. No skill or ability is too small to be given back to God.
- Whatever we offer should be given in a spirit of thanksgiving to God, recognizing in Him the source of all that is good in us.

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION:

- What are my natural talents and do I share them with my parish community?
- Do I pray for discernment, so that I may grow in spiritual gifts and be open to sharing them with others?
- Do I recognize the spiritual gifts of my pastor and my fellow parishioners? What are these gifts? How do I show my appreciation for these gifts?

3. Stewardship of Treasure (material resources)

“...Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.”

2 Cor 9:6-8

POINTS TO REMEMBER::

- If time and talents are a gift, then the material compensation which is produced by their application should be seen as a gift as well.
- The Church is called to act in this world and cannot fulfill her mission without a material foundation.
- The Christian community may find the material resources it needs in the form of an unsolicited gift. It may produce something of value or offer services for which it can justly seek compensation. However, for the most part the Church must ask for donations.
- Not only does a parish need the financial and material support of its members, but so does an Eparchy and the Church as a whole.
- St. Paul encouraged early Christians to be generous: “...for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Cor 9:6-8).
- The Christian community must always receive with gratitude, never judging a person’s generosity based on the size of the gift.

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION:

1. Do I acknowledge as God’s gift that which I have acquired through honest labor?
2. Do I have a sense of ownership for my parish and recognize my responsibility to financially support its mission?
3. How do I respond to special appeals, either from my Bishop, from His Beatitude or the Holy Father?
4. Do I judge others on the basis of how much or how little they give?
5. Do I teach generosity to my children and give them good example?

Sunday offering for May 17

Amount	Number
\$5.00	1
\$10.00	1
\$15.00	2
\$20.00	3
\$25.00	2
\$34.00	1 (loose)
\$40.00	2
\$50.00	4
\$75.00	1
\$80.00	1
\$200.00	1
\$300.00	1
<hr/>	
\$1024.00	

Parishioner Total: \$1099.00

Guest Total: \$25.00

Average / parish household (42): \$13.40

Weekly Stewardship Goal: \$2200.00

Deficit: (\$1026.00)

Year-to-date deficit: \$20,318.00

Roof fund: \$50.00

Luncheon donations: \$145.00

Sunday offering for May 24

Amount	Number
\$5.00	1 (loose)
\$15.00	2
\$20.00	1
\$40.00	2
\$50.00	4
\$75.00	1
\$300.00	1
\$400.00	1
<hr/>	
\$902.00	

Parishioner Total: \$897.00

Guest Total: \$5.00

Average / parish household (42): \$10.94

Weekly Stewardship Goal: \$2200.00

Deficit: (\$1228.00)

Year-to-date deficit: \$21,546.00

Sunday offering for May 31

Amount	Number
\$5.00	2
\$10.00	1
\$15.00	1
\$20.00	2
\$40.00	1
\$50.00	2
\$75.00	2
\$89.00	1 (loose)
\$100.00	2
\$120.00	1
\$300.00	1
\$400.00	1
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\$1474.00	

Parishioner Total: \$1364.00

Guest Total: \$110.00

Average / parish household (42): \$16.63

Weekly Stewardship Goal: \$2200.00

Deficit: (\$761.00)

Year-to-date deficit: \$22,307.00

Sunday offering for June 7

Amount	Number
\$10.00	3
\$15.00	1
\$20.00	2
\$30.00	2
\$40.00	1
\$50.00	2
\$80.00	1
\$100.00	1
\$150.00	1
\$300.00	1
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\$1040.00	

Parishioner Total: \$1010.00

Guest Total: \$30.00

Average / parish household (42): \$12.32

Weekly Stewardship Goal: \$2200.00

Deficit: (\$1115.00)

Year-to-date deficit: \$23,422.00

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.

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!

A Note on Kneeling

Now that Pentecost has past, 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*.)

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 поділітья ними, приймаючи угасть в **Share 2015 – Єпархіаний Заклик**.

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: \$1600.00

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

Love and Perfection

Let anyone truly possessed by the love of Christ keep His commandments. Who can express the binding power of divine love? Who can find words for the splendor of its beauty? Beyond all description are the heights to which it lifts us. Love unites us to God; it cancels innumerable sins, has no limits to its endurance, bears everything patiently. Love is neither servile nor arrogant. It does not provoke schisms or form cliques, but always acts in harmony with others. By it all God's chosen ones have been sanctified; without it, it is impossible to please Him. Out of love the Lord took us to Himself; because He loved us and it was God's will, our Lord Jesus Christ gave His life's blood for us – He gave His body for our body, His soul for our soul.

See then, beloved, what a great and wonderful thing love is, and how inexpressible its perfection. Who are worthy to possess it unless God makes them so? To Him therefore we must turn, begging of His mercy that there may be found in

us a love free from human partiality and beyond reproach. Every generation from Adam's time to ours has passed away; but those who by God's grace were made perfect in love have a dwelling now among the saints, and when at last the kingdom of Christ appears, they will be revealed.

Happy are we, beloved, if love enables us to live in harmony and in the observance of God's commandments, for then it will also gain for us the remission of our sins. Scripture pronounces happy those whose transgressions are pardoned, whose sins are forgiven. Happy the person, it says, to whom the Lord imputes no fault, on whose lips there is no guile. This is the blessing given those whom God has chosen through Jesus Christ our Lord. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen.

St. Clement of Rome

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