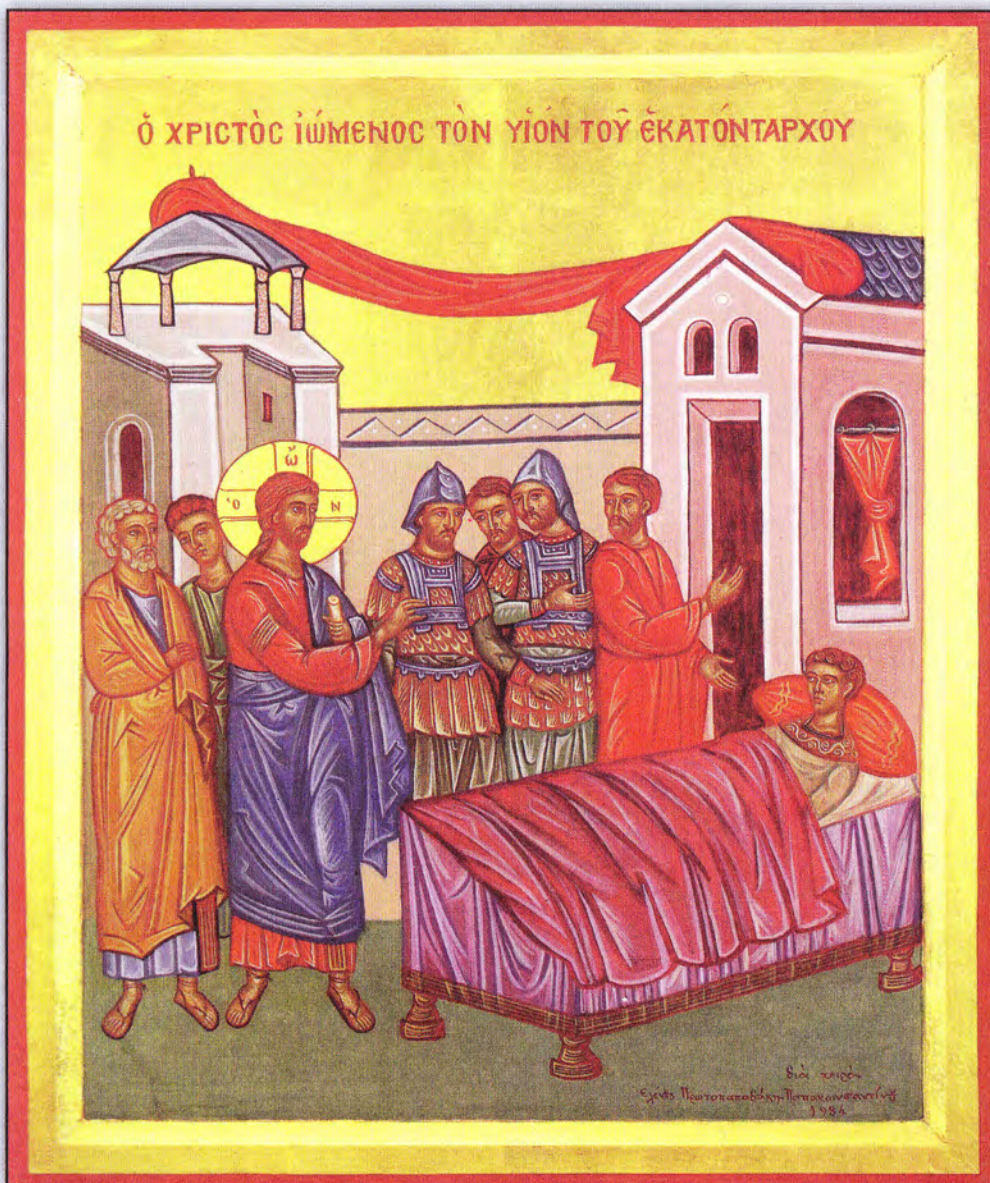


FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Icon of Christ Healing the Centurion's Servant (Mt. 8: 5-13)



June 21, 2015

4TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – TONE 3
ALL SAINTS OF RUS'-UKRAINE

THE HOLY MARTYR JULIAN OF TARSUS IN CILICIA; FATHERS DAY (CIVIL)

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 22 – JUNE 28

TUESDAY, JUNE 23

6:00 PM – Great Vespers for Nativity of St. John the Baptizer (*Satisfies Obligation*)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24 – NATIVITY OF St. JOHN THE BAPTIZER (PAROCHIAL HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION)

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy

SATURDAY, JUNE 27

9:30 AM – DIVINE LITURGY

✙ INESSA (40TH DAY); REQ: OLGA FEDUNYAK

6:00 PM – Great Vespers

SUNDAY, JUNE 28 – 5TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; TRANSLATION OF THE RELICS OF THE HOLY WONDERWORKERS AND UNMERCENARIES CYRUS AND JOHN

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!*

Fathers Day



May God bless all of you Fathers, Grandfathers, Step-Fathers and God-Fathers on this day set aside to honor you! May you always show forth the love, compassion, wisdom and faithfulness that is found in our Heavenly Father. Многая Лета! God grant you many blessed years!

A Father's Day Prayer
Mender of toys, leader of boys,
Changer of fuses, kisser of bruises,
Bless him, O Lord.

Mover of couches, soother of ouches,
Pounder of nails, teller of tales,
Reward him, O Lord.

Hanger of screens, counselor of teens,
Fixer of bikes, chastiser of tykes,
Help him, O Lord.

Raker of leaves, cleaner of eaves,
Dryer of dishes, fulfiller of wishes,
Bless him, O Lord.

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.

Stewardship of Time

Time on this earth is one of our greatest privileges and yet one of our biggest responsibilities. Outside of Sunday morning, how much time does God really get? The daily choices we make in our lives, how we spend our time and energy, indicate not only what we truly value but also where we will spend eternity.

– from Parish Publishing, LLC

STEWARDSHIP OF DIVINE GIFTS – A CHRISTIAN WAY OF LIFE

Continued from last week

III. CONCRETE EXAMPLES OF PARISH STEWARDSHIP

1. Tithing: four hours per week for the building up of the Kingdom of God

“Every tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the trees, is the Lord’s; it is holy to the Lord”

Lev 27:30

POINTS TO REMEMBER::

- The biblical practice of tithing (offering one tenth of earning to the Lord) was practiced in early Christian Rus'-Ukraine, and indeed is still practiced in many Christian denominations today. Might we take another look at this practice, rethinking it in the context of a broader understanding of stewardship?
- St. Paul encourages generosity, as we have seen, but he doesn't specify amounts. It would seem, however, that the early Church had the same understanding found in the Old Testament: that the first and best portion of anything we acquire belongs to God (see 1 Cor 16:1-2).
- Might we not today commit ourselves to a modified form of tithing? Concretely: four hours per week dedicated to God's works. What we cannot offer in its monetary equivalent we should offer in time and talents.

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION:

1. Is the tithing example of St. Volodymyr the Great something that I should be emulating in my life?
2. What does it mean to me when we say that the first and best belongs to God?

3. Do I think that it's reasonable to expect that I donate one tenth of my time, talents and treasure to the building up of the Kingdom of God?

4. Do I trust God when it comes to my personal financial security? (Mt 6:33: “Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”)?

2. Concrete opportunities for stewardship based on the elements of the “Vibrant Parish”

“Remember, O Lord, those who bring offerings and do good works in Your holy churches, and who remember the poor. Reward them with Your riches and heavenly gifts of grace; for earthly things grant them heavenly ones; for temporal ones, eternal, for corruptible, incorruptible.”

(Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great)

POINTS TO REMEMBER::

- All of us should ask ourselves: how can I contribute to making my parish “a place to encounter the Living Christ.” We can all contribute in ways, great and small.
- The best way to think about our commitment and involvement in the parish community is from the perspective of the priorities of “the Vibrant Parish,” especially its first three elements.
- Each parish needs to make a list of its needs and possibilities for pastoral action, and reach out to its members, asking them to consider offering their time and talents.

PRACTICAL TIME-TALENT OPPORTUNITIES:

It is time to make a commitment. Can I see myself taking on responsibilities or engaging in:

NOTE: The lists provided below are given as an example. Each parish is invited to use it, expanding or shortening it according to its concrete needs and possibilities for action.

The Word of God and Catechisis

Catechist
Catechist assistant
Christian initiation instructor (for parents and godparents)
pre-Marriage instruction volunteer
Adult education facilitator
Bible study leader/member
Catechumenate team leader/member
Parish School volunteer
Youth group leader or coordinator
Young adult leader
Librarian / Media resource volunteer
Parish bookstore volunteer

Missionary Spirit

Evangelisation committee member
Visiting lapsed Catholics
Outreach to newly arrived
Outreach to the unbaptised
Parish Neighbourhood Outreach
Media relations volunteer
Parish hospitality (Ushers/greeters)

Liturgy and Prayer

Altar server
Liturgy Committee Member
Sacristan
Reader
Cantor
Choir member
Choir Director

Prayer group leader
Prayer group host
Prayer group member
Caretaker of vestments and linens
Prospora baker
Families praying for special intentions
Church cleaning volunteer
Church decorator (eg. feast preparation)

Communion-Unity (Koinonia)

Parish photographer
Brotherhood member
Sisterhood member
Sunday coffee volunteer
New immigrant volunteer
Baby and child care during church event
Transportation for the immobile to church services and events
Ecumenical team member
Parish social committee member
Kitchen volunteer
Social media coordinator

Serving One's Neighbor (Diakonia)

Adult day care volunteer
AIDS program volunteer
PRO-LIFE ministry volunteer
Bereavement volunteer
Soup kitchen volunteer
Visiting elderly volunteer
Visiting sick volunteer
Visiting shut ins volunteer
Parish food bank volunteer
Needy children volunteer

Leadership-Stewardship

Financial Council member
Pastoral council member
Stewardship Committee/Team member
Auditor
Sunday collection volunteer
Fundraising volunteer

Various professionals:

Medical doctor

Plumber

Carpenter

Electrician

Computer software specialist

Computer hardware specialist

*Parish grounds maintenance –
landscaping volunteer*

Parish building maintenance volunteer

Cleaning volunteer

Lawyer

Realtor

Mechanic

Auto / parish equipment maintenance
volunteer

Parish Website maintenance volunteer

Graphic designer

Newsletter/bulletin work volunteer

Secretarial work volunteer

Office volunteer

Parish archivist

3. Pastoral and Financial Councils, Pastoral Planning

POINTS TO REMEMBER::

- Two parish organizations are called to play an important role in the life of a parish.
 1. The PASTORAL COUNCIL assists and supports the pastor in planning and organizing the broader activity of the parish community.
 2. The FINANCIAL COUNCIL advises, assists and supports the pastor in financial and administrative matters.
- The Handbook for Pastoral Planning is an important tool to help a parish prioritize its activities with a view towards its mission.

- It is important for parishioners to know the financial state of its community so that they might also have a deeper sense of their responsibility in material matters.

INSTEAD OF QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

Every parish should develop an annual Pastoral Plan, invite all parishioners to participate, especially in the first two sessions of Pastoral planning: Count our Blessings (What are we doing already?) and Dare to Dream (What would we like to do?).

Parishioners should be invited to consider whether in the future they might be willing to serve in the Parish Pastoral and Financial Councils.

Practical Suggestion: If you have a large parish, you may consider creating a “Stewardship Committee” within the Pastoral Council. This would be a group of individuals who would assist the pastor in developing lists of tasks within the parish, and look for individuals who have specific talents, who might serve in Parish Council structures or help the parish fulfill its Pastoral Plan. If you are a smaller parish, then at least consider calling together a small

“Stewardship Team” of Pastoral Council members. Members of such a Stewardship Committee or Team might be called upon to assist in presenting this WORKBOOK to the parish community.

IV. STEWARDSHIP OF GOD’S GIFTS – A WAY OF LIFE

“Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”

Ephesians 5:1-2

KEY POINTS:

- Christian Stewardship is a way of life and a continuous process of conversion in order to make God a priority in our lives.
 - It requires a spirit of sacrifice and a readiness to share of one's time, talents and treasure.
 - It is nothing new, for the Church has always had to administer its many gifts, sometimes effectively, but sadly, sometimes less so.
- It is the Gospel in action by concrete individuals, in a concrete place, in a specific time, with those gifts-resources, which God has given us.
 - Let us, therefore, together be good stewards of God's gifts and share them for the building up of His Kingdom.



A PRAYER FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS AT THE END OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR

O Lord, grateful of Thy great benefits which Thou hast so richly bestowed upon us in Thy loving-kindness, we bless and give thanks to Thee and we beseech Thee to look graciously upon us and these graduates, who have completed their courses of study. Pour into their hearts, minds, and upon their lips, the spirit of wisdom, understanding, piety, and godly fear; enlighten them with the light of Thy knowledge, and bestow upon them strength and steadfastness, that they may quickly apprehend and willingly embrace all that they have received which is good and profitable, and in accordance with Thy divine law. Grant that they grow in wisdom and understanding. May they prosper in good works for the glorification of Thy holy Name. Give them health and long life that they may labor for the building up and glory of Thy holy Church, this nation, and of all Thy people. And bless also their teachers, rewarding them for their good endeavors and diligence to impart the truth that emanates from Thee. For Thou art the only true God, Who is mighty in mercy and gracious in strength, and to Thee we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

SAYING OF MOTHER GAVRILLA (+1992)

- Relationships become difficult when the "I" stands above the "You".
- God loves your enemies as much as He loves you.
- We are all vessels, sometimes of Light and sometimes of Darkness.
- You must not talk about people who are absent.
- We should ask God everyday to break our will and make it His, so that we may become as He wants us to be.
- We must not just "surrender" to His Will. This is what soldiers do. We, who are His children, must offer Him our own will along with all our being - in whatever pitiful state we may be - and tell Him: "Lord, take all my faults and imperfections and set them right."
- The Lord said, "Whoever wants something, believing, he will receive" - as long as the request is in accordance with God's Commandments, that is to say, with Love.

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.*)

Sunday offering for June 14	
Amount	Number
\$2.00	1 (loose)
\$10.00	2
\$15.00	3
\$20.00	2
\$25.00	1
\$40.00	2
\$50.00	3
\$200.00	1
\$300.00	1
<hr/>	
\$842.00	

Parishioner Total: \$842.00

Average / parish household (42): \$10.27

Weekly Stewardship Goal: \$2200.00

Deficit: (\$1358.00)

Year-to-date deficit: \$2478.00

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.

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**

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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

Our Faith Saves Us

Our faith is not founded upon empty words; nor are we carried away by mere caprice or beguiled by plausible arguments. On the contrary, we put our faith in words spoken by the power of God, spoken by the Word Himself at God's command. God wished to win us back from disobedience, not by using force to reduce us to slavery, but by addressing to our free will a call to liberty.

The Word spoke first of all through the prophets, but because the message was couched in such obscure language that it could only dimly be apprehended, in the last days the Father sent the Word in person, commanding Him to show Himself

openly so that the world could see Him and be saved.

We know that by taking a body from the Virgin He refashioned our fallen nature. We know that His humanity was of the same clay as our own; if this were not so, He would hardly have been a teacher who could expect to be imitated. If He were of a different substance from me, He would surely not have ordered me to do as He did, when by my very nature I am so weak. Such a demand could not be reconciled with His goodness and justice.

St. Hippolytus

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