

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FATHERS



*Icon of the Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils*

**July 13, 2014**  
**FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
*SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE SIX ECUMENICAL COUNCILS;*  
*SYNAXIS OF THE HOLY ARCHANGEL GABRIEL;*  
*OUR VENERABLE FATHER STEPHEN THE SABBATE*  
*SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 7 – JULY 13*

**PLEASE NOTE:** There will be **NO** vespers during the Summer months unless noted in the bulletin.

SUNDAY, JULY 20 – *SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; THE HOLY AND GLORIOUS PROPHET ELIAS*  
9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy All Parishioners

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

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## SHARE 2014

## EPARCHIAL APPEAL ЄПАРХІАЛЬНИЙ ЗАКЛИК

### LIVE IN LOVE — LIVE IN CHRIST

“Live in love, as Christ loved us and handed Himself over for us as a sacrificial offering to God.” Ephesians 5:2

SHARE 2014 — Eparchial Appeal is the major fundraiser in the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saint Nicholas to support the most critical areas of operation.

#### Our Most Important Projects:

- Parishes and Missions
- Communication and Christian Outreach
- Priests in Need
- Seminarian Formation
- Eastern Catholic Formation
- Eparchial Administration

**YOUR GIFT MATTERS!  
PLEASE DONATE TODAY!**

### ЖИВІТЬ У ЛЮБОВІ — ЖИВІТЬ У ХРИСТІ

“Живіть у любові, як Христос любив і Він віддав Себе за нас, як запашне приношення і пожертву Богу”.  
Ефесян 5:2

SHARE 2014 — Єпархіальний Заклик є основною кампанією збору коштів в Українській Католицькій Єпархії Святого Миколая на підтримку найважливіших ділянок діяльності.

#### Наші Найважливіші Проекти:

- Парафії та Місії
- Комунікація та Християнське Звернення
- Священики у Потребі
- Формация Семінарств
- Східня Католицька Формация
- Єпархіальне Адміністрування

**ВАШ ДАРУНОК ВАЖЛИВИЙ!  
БУДЬ ЛАСКА, ЗРОБІТЬ ВНЕСОК СЬОГОДНІ!**

# ***L**AZINESS*

## *Our laziness and misplaced priorities*

Our laziness and misplaced priorities regarding the Sunday and holy day services, keep us from our obligations to God, and endanger the soul, for in keeping ourselves away from God's temple, we remain afar from the cure that comes from participating in the Divine Mysteries. Saint Gregory Palamas tells us that we "may remain uncured, suffering from unbelief in your soul because of deeds or words, and failing to approach Christ's surgery to receive... holy healing".

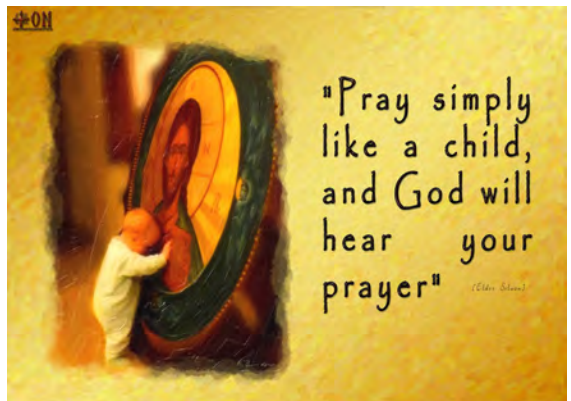
Christianity is not a religion by which we can attain salvation in the privacy of our own home, for our faith is a communal faith, whereby we participate in the Body of Christ in a corporate way. It is in this life that we must participate in the communal life of the Church, for after death there is no treatment for that which separates us from God. There is no repentance after this life, because all people share the same end. Each of us is destined to see the Glory of God at the Second Coming of Christ.

Protopresbyter John Romanides tells us, "All people will see the Glory (Uncreated Light) of God, and from this viewpoint they have the same end. Everyone, of course, will see the Glory of God, but with one difference: The saved will see the Glory of God as a most sweet and never-setting Light, whereas the damned will see the same Glory of God as a consuming fire that will burn them."

Our laziness, and our misplaced priorities, keep us from the Divine Mysteries, and deprive our soul of the healing grace that comes with an encounter with the Living God. As the Hospital of the Soul, the Church has been established by Christ Himself as that place wherein we receive the cure, so that we may bask in the Eternal Banquet that awaits us in the after life. By depriving ourselves of the grace filled Mysteries in this life, that are only found within the life of the Church, we separate ourselves from the very treatment that ensures eternal bliss in the next life.

With love in Christ,  
Abbot Tryphon

All-Merciful Saviour Orthodox Christian  
Monastery



"Pray simply  
like a child,  
and God will  
hear  
your  
prayer"  
(Elder Silvanos)



## Saying from the Saints

### St. John Chrysostom on Scripture

“The Holy Scriptures were not given to us that we should enclose them in books, but that we should engrave them upon our hearts.”

### St. Nektarios of Aegina on Faith

“Christian religion is not a certain philosophic system, about which learned men, trained in metaphysical studies, argue and then either espouse or reject, according to the opinion each one has formed. It is faith, established in the souls of men, which ought to be spread to the many and be maintained in their consciousnesses.”

### Elder Cleopa of Sihastria on the Cross

“Do not do anything without signing yourself with the sign of the Cross! When you depart on a journey, when you begin your work, when you go to study, when you are alone, and when you are with other people, seal yourself with the Holy Cross on your forehead, your body, your chest, your heart, your lips, your eyes, your ears. All of you should be sealed with the sign of Christ’s victory over hell. Then you will no longer be afraid of charms, evil spirits, or sorcery, because these are dissolved by the power of the Cross like wax before fire and like dust before the wind.”

### St. John of Kronstadt on the Saints

“What does the daily invocation of the saints signify — of different ones each day, during the whole year, and during our whole life? It signifies that God’s saints — as our brethren, but perfect — live, and are near us, ever ready to help us, by the grace of God. We live together with them in the house of our Heavenly Father, only in different parts of it. We live in the earthly, they in the heavenly half; but we can converse with them, and they with us. God’s saints are near to the believing heart, and are ready in a moment to help those who call upon them with faith and love.”

### St. Seraphim of Sarov on Christian Homes

“Neither do walls or rich furniture make a home. Millionaires in magnificent mansions may never know a home. But where there are good relationships, where love binds the family together and to God, there happiness is always to be found. For good relationships are heaven anywhere.”



## Blessing of Automobiles

Sunday, July 20<sup>th</sup>

It is a custom of Eastern Christians to have their cars blessed both when newly acquired and on or near the feast of the Prophet Elias (July 20<sup>th</sup>), as he ascended as if into heaven on a fiery chariot.



## CONCERNING AFFLICTIONS

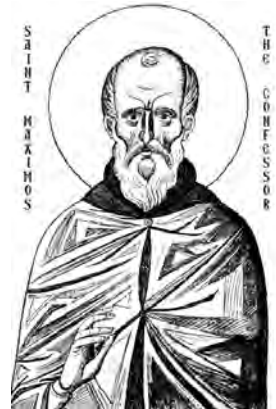
*St. Alexis of Senaki*

Everyone who loves God, shows himself patient and steadfast in times of suffering. Whoever bears them bravely, becomes strong and obedient to God; and whoever enters the path of following the will of God, conquers his natural weakness. On the other hand, whoever does not recognize his own powerlessness, is proud and not inclined to submit himself to the will of the Lord. Whoever does not submit to it and hopes only in his own power, does not receive the power and help of God; and not having been strengthened in spirit, cannot become patient. Whoever does not endure misfortune and afflictions, has no faith; and whoever does not have faith, does not love God.

## ON LOVE

*St. Maximos the Confessor*

Do not neglect the commandment of love; for through it you will become a son of God, but transgressing it you will become a son of Gehenna. Love between friends is destroyed if you envy or are the object of envy; if you cause or suffer loss; if you revile or suffer revilement; and finally if you feed and keep suspicious thoughts against your brother... Do not be conquered by hatred but conquer it by love... Pray God sincerely about him. Accept his excuses or cure yourself by excusing him, regard yourself as the cause of the trial and resolve to endure until the cloud has passed by. Pay heed to yourself lest it be in you and not in your brother that lurks the evil that cuts you off from him; and hasten to make your peace with him, lest you forsake the commandment of love. Fear keeps the old commandments, but love keeps the life-giving commandments of Christ.



## ON MARRIAGE, FAMILY LIFE, AND CHURCH ATTENDANCE

*Elder Paisios*

- "Some men tell me, 'I don't agree with my wife; we are complete opposites! How does God allow for such strange matches? Couldn't He provide so that couples would be compatible and live spiritually?' But I tell them, don't you understand that in this very difference of character lies hidden the harmony of God? It is the different characters which create harmony. God forbid that you should be the same in character. Think of what would happen if, for example, both of you had a short fuse; you would tear the house down! Or, if both of you were mild in character, you would fall asleep standing up! If you were both stingy, you might have been suited to each other; but you would both go to hell..."
- "In the family, one person must be humble before the other; one must imitate the other's virtues and also be patient and endure the other's peculiar idiosyncrasies. To make this possible, it helps to think of how Christ sacrificed Himself for our sins; and that He bears with us all - billions of people - even though He is without sin..."
- "The Church is like a ship. One person is sleeping, while another is just hanging around. The ship proceeds on its course. Another person is struggling, fighting above with the waves. All together they move forward. It is enough that you are within the Church. For this reason see that you are at the services. Do not be absent."

## LIFE IS A SERIES OF PROBLEM-SOLVING OPPORTUNITIES

The problems you face will either defeat you or develop you – depending on how you respond to them. Unfortunately, most people fail to see how God wants to use problems for good in their lives. We react foolishly and resent our problems rather than pausing to consider what benefit they might bring.

Here are five ways God wants to use the problems in your life:

### **1. God uses problems to DIRECT you.**

Sometimes God must light a fire under you to get you moving. Problems often point us in a new direction and motivate us to change. Is God trying to get your attention? "Sometimes it takes a painful situation to make us change our ways." Proverbs 20:30

### **2. God uses problems to INSPECT you.**

People are like tea bags 'if you want to know what's inside them, just drop them into hot water!' Has God ever tested your faith with a problem? What do problems reveal about you? "When you have many kinds of troubles, you should be full of joy, because you know that these troubles test your faith, and this will give you patience." James 1:2-3

### **3. God uses problems to CORRECT you.**

Some lessons we learn only through pain and failure. It's likely that as a child your parents told you not to touch a hot stove. But you probably learned by being burned. Sometimes we only learn the

value of something (health, money, a relationship) by losing it". "It was the best thing that could have happened to me, for it taught me to pay attention to your laws." Psalm 119:71-72

### **4. God uses problems to PROTECT you.**

A problem can be a blessing in disguise if it prevents you from being harmed by something more serious. Last year a man was fired for refusing to do something unethical that his boss had asked him to do. His unemployment was a problem – but it saved him from being convicted and sent to prison later when management's actions were eventually discovered. "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good." Genesis 50:20

### **5. God uses problems to PERFECT you.**

Problems, when responded to correctly, are character builders. God is far more interested in your character than your comfort. Your relationship to God and your character are the only two things you're going to take with you into eternity. "We can rejoice when we run into problems; they help us learn to be patient. And patience develops strength of character in us and helps us trust God more each time we use it until finally our hope and faith are strong and steady." Romans 5:3-4

**Here's the point:** God is at work in your life – even when you do not recognize it or understand it. But it's much easier and profitable when you cooperate with HIM!

## Sunday offering for June 22

Amount	Number
\$10.00	2
\$15.00	1
\$20.00	4
\$25.00	1 (loose)
\$40.00	3
\$50.00	2
\$75.00	1
\$100.00	1
\$300.00	1
<hr/>	
\$835.00	

Visitors: \$10.00  
Parishioner Total: \$825.00  
Average / parish household (42): \$20.12  
Weekly Stewardship Goal: \$2125.00  
Deficit: **(\$1300.00)**

## Sunday offering for June 29

Amount	Number
\$15.00	2
\$20.00	3
\$40.00	1
\$50.00	2
\$75.00	1
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\$380.00	

Parishioner Total: \$380.00  
Average / parish household (42): \$9.27  
Weekly Stewardship Goal: \$2125.00  
Deficit: **(\$1745.00)**

## Sunday offering for July 6

Amount	Number
\$5.00	1
\$10.00	1
\$15.00	2
\$20.00	4
\$23.00	1 (loose)
\$40.00	2
\$50.00	3
\$80.00	1
\$100.00	1
\$135.00	1
\$300.00	1
\$600.00	1
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\$1658.00	

Visitors: \$20.00  
Parishioner Total: \$1638.00  
Average / parish household (42): \$39.95  
Weekly Stewardship Goal: \$2125.00  
Deficit: **(\$487.00)**

## Share 2014

We do not doubt the Resurrection of Christ, His gift of salvation to us all. How are we prepared to reciprocate for this most wondrous of gifts? Let us help our eparchy bring Christ's salvation to others by making a contribution to **Share 2014 – Annual Eparchial Appeal.**

Ми не сумніваємося у Воскресінні Христа і Його дару для нашого спасіння. Як ми готові віддячити Йому за цей найчудовіший із всіх дарів? То ж допоможемо нашій єпархії принести Христове спасіння до інших внесок в **Share 2014 – Єпархіальний Заклик.**

Goal:  
\$120000

2014

*Stewardship Pledges*

Pledges received: 18

Pledges:  
\$39116

***It is impossible to plan any sort of budget until all pledge forms are turned in. If you haven't returned your pledge, please do so.***

### Pastor:

Fr. James Bankston: (619) 905-5278

### Pastoral Council:

Fr. Deacon Frank Avant: (760) 805-1667

Vladimir Bachynsky: (619) 865-1279

Mark Hartman: (619) 446-6357

Luke Miller: (858) 354-2008

Jeanine Soucie: (718) 674-4529

### Social Committee Chairpersons:

Olga & Michael Miller:  
(858) 483-3294

### Finance Committee:

Bohdan Knianicky: (619) 303-9698

Fr. Deacon Frank Avant: (760) 805-1667





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

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

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

*The Works the Father Gave Jesus to Accomplish*

Those who believe in one God the Father Almighty ought to believe in His only-begotten Son. Jesus says: "I am the door. No one can come to the Father but by me" (Jn 10: 9; 14: 6).

Anyone who does not accept the door cannot possibly reach the Father. Anyone who wishes to pray to the Father should adore the Son, or his prayer is not accepted.

The Son is called Christ, which means anointed, that is, consecrated. He was not anointed by human hands but consecrated by the Father to become a priest forever. He died, but He did not remain, as all human beings do, in the underworld. He is the only one free among the dead.

The Savior becomes all things to all, according to the need of each: to those who

ask for joy, He becomes the vine; to those who wish to enter, He becomes the door; to those who are under the weight of sin, He becomes a lamb, a lamb slain for them. He becomes all things to all, but He remains nonetheless what He is.

He is called by a twofold name: Jesus because He gives us salvation, and Christ because He is priest. He is the healer of bodies and the doctor of souls. As He made whole those who were physically blind, so He gave light to their minds. As He gave the lame the chance to walk, so He urges the steps of sinners in the direction of the way of penitence.

*St. Cyril of Alexandria*