

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Icon of Saint Michael and all the Angels -- November 8th

November 3, 2013

24TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – TONE 7

THE HOLY MARTYRS ACEPSIMUS, BISHOP; JOSEPH, PRIEST; AND AITHALAS, DEACON;
 COMMEMORATION OF THE DEDICATION OF THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY GREAT
 MARTYR GEORGE IN LYDDA, WHEREIN HIS PRECIOUS BODY WAS PLACED

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 4 – NOVEMBER 10

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7

7:00 PM – Great Vespers (**Note:** Celebrated at Holy Angels Church, 2235 Galahad Road in San Diego)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9 – THE HOLY MARTYRS ACINDINUS, PEGASIU, APHTHONIUS, ELPIDEPHORUS AND ANEMPODISTUS;

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

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10 – 25TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; THE HOLY APOSTLES ERASTUS, OLYMPUS, RODION, SOSIPATER, TERTIUS AND QUARTUS

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy For All Parishioners

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.

SAVE the DATE!

The Parish Life Committee of Holy Angels Ruthenian Church invites all parishioners to celebrate their Patronal Feast day on Thursday, Nov. 7 with Vespers at 7:00 PM. A festive evening reception will follow with Angelic desserts. Holy Angels is located at 2235 Galahad Road in San Diego

For information on reception:

Virginia Bowden

500 Sea World Drive San Diego, CA 92109

P 619-225-4236 * F 619-225-4252

Speak more to God about your children than to your children about God.

– Elder Epiphanius of Athens

Sunday offering for October 27

Amount	Number
\$10.00	1
\$20.00	3
\$22.00	1 (loose)
\$30.00	1
\$40.00	1
\$50.00	1
\$75.00	1
\$100.00	3
\$160.00	1
\$747.00	

Parishioner Total: \$727.00

Guest Total: \$20.00

Average / parish household (42): \$17.31

Weekly Stewardship Goal: \$2125.00

Shortfall: **-\$1398.00**

November Birthdays:

Yaroslav Lozovyj	–	11/02
Luke Miller	–	11/02
Myroslava Heltsley	–	11/07
Darlene Loznycky	–	11/10
Alexandra Tooma	–	11/15
Justin Petrovych	–	11/24
Marianna Ivasyk	–	11/26
Maria Lozovyj	–	11/27

Многая і благая літа!

Many blessed years!

EDGING THE CHRISTIAN GARDEN

July 21, 2013 - *royaldoors.net*

*The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.
(Gen 2:15)*

Quality edging is one of the tell-tale signs between a well tended garden and one that has been neglected. A well edged garden not only looks neater in that it has defined borders, but also has fewer weeds and grass that can creep in. The beauty on the inside of the garden is protected from whatever surrounds it. Edging a vegetable or flower garden is very similar to managing the garden of one's soul. Proper boundaries in our lives between maintaining the good and keeping out evil is essential to growth in the Christian life.

Edging requires hard work. Anyone who has taken to gardening seriously has realized that you have to dig deep, carefully and frequently to maintain a good edge to your garden. You have to be persistent and vigilant in order to protect what you have planted. We can recognize this calling to edge the



garden of our souls in some of the first psalms we recite in the morning (from First Hour, traditionally prayed an hour after sunrise): “I have walked within my house in innocence of heart. I have set no lawless deed before my eyes; I have hated those who do wrong. No twisted heart has cleaved to me; the evil man who avoided me I have not acknowledged. The one who secretly slanders his neighbour, him I have banished. With a man of proud looks and an insatiate heart, I have not eaten. I look with favour on the faithful in the land, that they might dwell with me; the man who walks on a blameless path, he has served me” (*Psalms 100*).** We begin the day by re-establishing our behaviours: Do I slander people secretly? Am I proud? Am I content with what has been given to me? We know that to live the Christian life requires us to have certain borders

around our behaviour and we re-edge our souls every morning while we chant the psalms.

Edging is not only hard work, but it is sacrificial by nature. Your garden has to have a border, not everything can be your garden. Your garden begins in a certain place and ends in another. Establishing the border around your garden means reducing the size of it, cutting away what shouldn't be there, and making a line that will not be passed by other plants. In our Christian lives we set up boundaries against evil, and establish a line in our own personal behaviour to help us not participate in evil. Things that we might want to do or say in a certain situation must be "cut off," just like how we would cut the border around a garden. We give up part of the garden to act as a wall or moat around it. When we establish borders in our souls against evil are are also called to sacrifice things that endanger our souls.

As much as we love the garden of souls, we must keep in mind that we have been hired to take care of Someone else's garden. We did not plant this garden, it was the Lord who constructed and weaved us together in our mother's wombs (*Psalms 139:14*). We must listen to the program the Lord has laid down for us in the Holy Scriptures and live by these boundaries, giving up things we have been told to give up. No matter

how much we would like to determine the dimensions of our own garden and decide what we should accept and what we should reject, ultimately it is the Lord who has given us the dimensions. We need to follow His design faithfully in order to be healthy and joyful Christians. This can be a painful process, just as all growth is, but it will benefit us much come harvest time.

If you recall, we can remember the tale of the First Gardener, who planted a garden in Eden and placed the Man there to till and protect it. This Master Gardener passed on some of the gardening responsibility to Adam and asked him to "till and protect it" (*Gen 2:15*). Adam and Eve decided to redefine the edge of their garden however, deciding to do things their own way instead of following the boundaries of the Master of the garden.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, we need to remain faithful to the boundaries the Lord has established for our Christian lives, striving to keep growing in the good and keeping far from evil! Glory be to Jesus Christ! Glory forever!

***With the Christian interpretation of the psalms, the emphasis is on self judgement of behaviour, and not focusing on the sins of others. The appropriate question which should be reflected on when reading this psalm is "do I act like this?"*

WEEDING THE CHRISTIAN GARDEN

August 13, 2013 – royaldoors.net

So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. And the servants of the householder came and said to him, ‘Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then has it weeds?’ He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ – *Matthew 13:26-28*

Sometimes it does not seem to matter how hard we try to weed a garden, the things keep coming back. There are times, even after doing what I thought was a thorough job at pulling up weeds I would come back even a few days later, still with an aching back and hands, to discover the garden once again full of weeds! Sometimes it just makes you wonder “do I really need to worry about these weeds? Why don’t I just let them grow in with my flowers or veggies?” That thought withers almost as quickly as your flowers if you leave those weeds in there.

If we continue with our analogy of gardening in relationship to the human

soul, we will quickly discover that weeds are to gardens what passions are to the the soul. Passions are the result of allowing evil thoughts (in Greek, *logismoi**) take root in the soil of our souls. Weeds come from planted and watered seeds, and passions come from encouraged evil thoughts. Once a certain thought is revisited and reinforced, it becomes harder and harder to control,



and we realize that we start acting certain ways that we don’t like almost automatically – like we are on “autopilot.” The thought of lust becomes an affair and the desire for

money becomes an all-out gambling problem. Our Lord warned us about this connection in His Sermon on the Mount, “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that every one who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart” (*Matthew 5:27-29*).

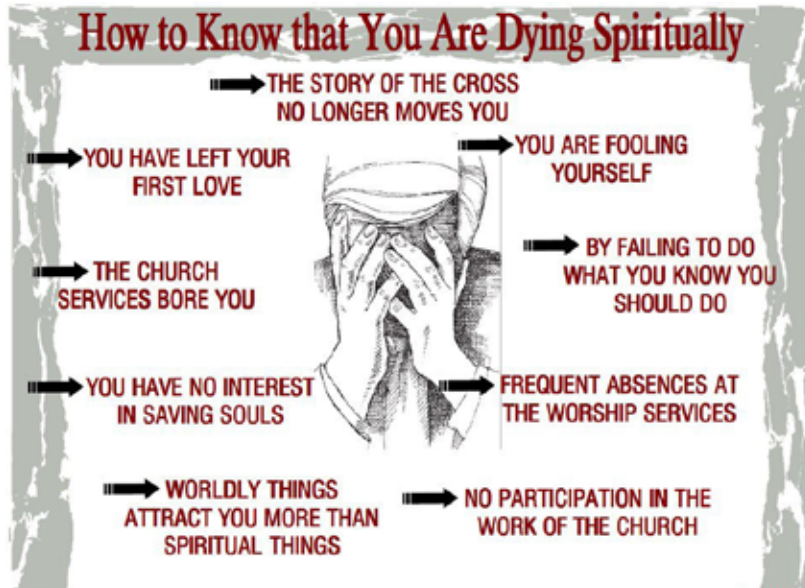
Weeds wreck gardens and passions (sinful behaviours) wreck souls. How do we ‘weed’ our souls? This process

of weeding the garden of our souls has been called by the Fathers of the Church 'purifying the heart.' The solution in gardening sheds light on how this process works in our spiritual lives.

Firstly, you are going to have fewer weeds if you don't let the seeds land in the first place, or you make the soil an inhospitable place for the weeds to take root. This is the function of mulch. Weeds have a much more difficult time in gardens that have mulch. How do we provide mulch for our souls and make them a place where sin can't take root? By controlling the places we go and the things we see and hear. If we know that we will inevitably gossip if we hang out with a certain group of people at the office, maybe take some time

to get to know a different co-worker today. If you know that you will wind up lusting after some of the magazine pictures at the till in the supermarket, use one of the self-serve checkouts, etc. Basically, if there is a bunch of dandelions growing on the edge of your garden and you let them stay there, you can be assured that dandelions will start growing in your garden too. Remove them before they become a problem. Seeking out these problems and dealing with them is what the Desert Fathers called watchfulness (*nepsis*). We need to be good at watching over our souls and protecting them from a distance.

* *Evagrius lists the eight evil thoughts as gluttony, greed, sloth, sorrow, lust, anger, vainglory and pride.*



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

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

The three locations and dates are:

Monday, November 4 at the home of:

Askold and Nadia Haywas
1466 Avocado Rd.
Oceanside CA 92054

Friday, November 15 at the home of:

Taras Konrad
Address to be announced

Wednesday, 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. Response to these meetings

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.

WHAT IS A FIRST-PORTION GIVER?

A First-Portion Giver is a believer who offers a first-portion of his time, talent, and financial resources out of grateful recognition of the fact that all he has, he holds in trust from God.



TIME

A First Portion Giver offers a first portion of his *time*.

“Let us spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing. But let us encourage one another...”

Hebrews 10:24-25



TALENT

A First Portion Giver offers a first portion of his *talent*.

“There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men.”

1 Corinthians 12:4-6



RESOURCES

A First Portion Giver offers a first portion of his *treasure*.

“Concerning the collection for the saints..., on the first day of the week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in proportion to the income God has given you...”

1 Corinthians 16:2



**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

The Holy Angels

“Do not be surprised that you fall every day, do not give up, but stand your ground courageously. And assuredly, the angel who guards you will honor your patience. While a wound is still fresh and warm, it is easy to heal; but old, neglected and festering ones are hard to cure, and require for their care much treatment, cutting, plastering and cauterization. Many from long neglect become incurable, but with God all things are possible.” (*St. John Climacus, The Ladder of Divine Ascent*)

“The angel who is always near us is by nothing so distressed and made indignant as when, without being constrained by some necessity, we deprive ourselves of the ministration of the Holy Mysteries and of reception of Holy Communion, which grants remission of sins. For at that hour the priest offers up the sacrifice of the Body of Him Who gives us life, and the Holy Spirit descends and consecrates the Body and

Blood and grants remission to creation. The Cherubim, the Seraphim, and the angels stand with great awe, fear, and joy. They rejoice over the Holy Mysteries while experiencing inexpressible astonishment. The angel who is always by us is consoled, because he also partakes in that dread spectacle and is not deprived of that perfect intercourse.” *St. Isaac the Syrian*

“When you close the doors to your dwelling and are alone you should know that there is present with you the angel whom God has appointed for each man. ... This angel, who is sleepless and cannot be deceived, is always present with you; he sees all things and is not hindered by darkness. You should know, too, that with him is God, who is in every place; for there is no place and nothing material in which God is not, since He is greater than all things and holds all men in His hand.”

St. Anthony the Great