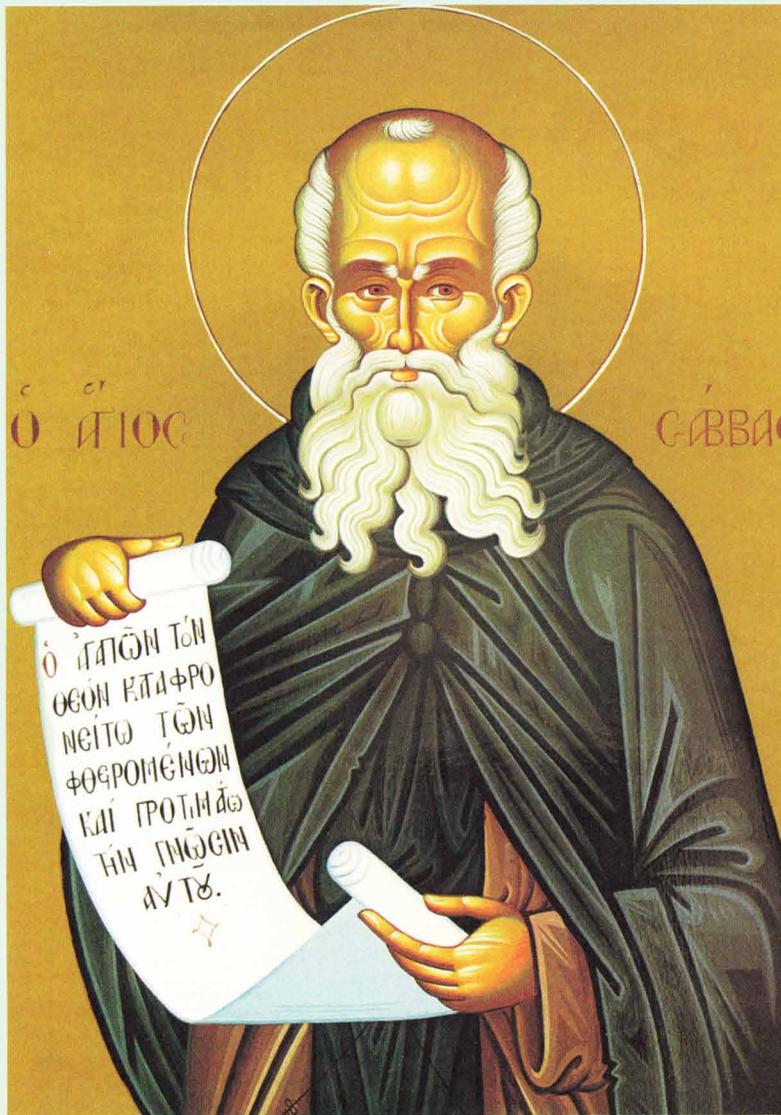


TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
TENTH SUNDAY OF LUKE



Icon of Saint Sabas -- December 5th

December 5, 2010
28th Sunday after Pentecost

Tone 3

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 6 – DECEMBER 12

MONDAY, DECEMBER 6 – FEAST OF ST. NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER

9:30 AM DIVINE LITURGY

FOR ALL PARISHIONERS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9 – FEAST OF THE CONCEPTION OF ST. ANNA

9:30 AM DIVINE LITURGY

FOR A SAFE DELIVERY BY SARAH WIGER; REQ:
 MARY KITT

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10 – FEAST OF PATAPIUS, VENERABLE

9:30 AM DIVINE LITURGY

+ NATALIA KRUPSKY – 40TH DAY; REQ: MYRA
 HELTSLEY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12 – SUNDAY OF THE HOLY ANCESTORS

9:30 AM DIVINE LITURGY

FOR ALL PARISHIONERS

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*Remember in your prayers*

*Remember Those In The Armed Forces*



Please remember in your prayers those members of our parish, our family and friends who are ailing, are in hospitals, nursing homes and those who are not

able to join actively in their community. Remember especially the following: Katherine Andrus, Sr. Marie Arendes, Susan Avant, Walter & Isabella Bachynsky, Susie Boyko, Sonya Cronin, Helen Davis, Maria Hughes, Natalie, Maria Leskiw, Lesya Loznycky, John Pasichny, Nadia Popov, Orysia Rosul, Peter Rutman, Sonia Shashkewych, and Sophia Skop. Please let Fr. James know if there is anyone else who should be remembered.

Let us especially remember in our prayers those family members and friends who are actively serving their countries in the Armed Forces: Mark Belcher, Gratian Fredricks, Carl Haines, Jr., Adrian, Luke and Slavamira Haywas, Oksanna Hirniak, Andrew Hrynkiw, Zenon and Susan Keske, Michael Lopes, Vasyl Lylak, Thomas Orr, Paul Richelmi, Michael Stefanyshyn and Brian Tuthill. Please give any names of those you would like remembered in the *Liturgies to Fr. James.*



**Greeting Cards**

Christmas Cards and various other greeting cards are for sale in the Church Hall. Please see Mary Kitt to purchase.

**On "Shopping Market" Faith**

- *"If you believe what you like in the gospels, and reject what you don't like, it is not the gospel you believe, but yourself."*

– St. Augustine

### ***Pancake Breakfast and Bake Sale***

On Sunday, December 19th we will have our annual pre-Christmas Pancake Breakfast and Bake Sale. This will take place after Liturgy.



### ***Let's go Caroling!***

Between December 25 and February 2 we will be organizing visits to our parishioners, shut-ins, and nursing homes. If you are interested in participating or you would like to be visited or you know of someone who would like to be visited, please contact Fr. James.

### ***Church Decorating***

Please come on Monday, December 20th at 10:00 AM to help decorate the Church for the feast of the Nativity of our Lord.

### ***Help make Varenyky!***



We need volunteers to help make varenyky for the upcoming Christmas season. If you would like to help, please see Mary Kitt so we can schedule a time.



*Troparion of St. Nicholas (Tone 4):* The truth of your deeds made you for your flock a rule of faith and an image of meekness, a teacher of continence. And so you gained the heights through humility, riches through poverty, father and bishop Nicholas. Intercede with Christ our God for the salvation of our souls.

Тропар Миколаєві (гл. 4): Правилем віри й образом лагідности, учителем повздержности явила тебе твоєму стаду всіх речей істина. Ради цього придбав ти смиренням високе, убогістю багате, Отче, священноначальнику Миколаю, моли Христа Бога, спаситися душам нашим.

*Kontakion of St. Nicholas (Tone 3):* In Myra, O holy one, you proved yourself a priest. You fulfilled the Gospel of Christ, O venerable father. You laid down your soul for your people and saved the innocent from death. And so you were sanctified as a great initiate of God's grace.

*Кондак Миколаєві (гл. 3):* В Мирах, святий, священнослужителем показався ти, бо Христове Євангеліє, преподобний, словнивши, положив ти душу твою за людей твоїх і спас неповинних від смерти. Ради цього освятив ти себе, як великий таїтник Божої благодаті.

**WHAT DOES IT MEAN WHEN WE SAY:  
“I am maturing in LIVING THE CHURCH’S LIFE”? or  
“I am learning how to “LIVE THE SACRAMENTS”?”**

In the Bible footnotes supplied by the St Athanasius Academy for Hebrews 5:11-14 and 6:12 we learn that “when Christians are not growing spiritually, doctrine is difficult to explain to them. Let us repent of being **dull of hearing** - a constant criticism Christ and the prophets had of God’s people – and habitually and vigorously exercise ourselves in spiritual matters.” St John Chrysostom taught persistently that “The primary spiritual exercise is the study and knowledge of the Scriptures.”

Like the physical growth of our bodies, or the development of our feelings-emotions and thoughts-minds, our growth “in life, in faith and in spiritual understanding” also comes in overlapping stages.

**STAGE 1.** Our "Everyday Time" is interrupted now and then by "Church Times". “When do I have to go to church?” is a big deal at this “spiritual baby” stage of Christian development. This is done when – if we are able to – we go to Church on Sundays and not on all of the 12 major Feast days, but only some of them, which are called “holy days of obligation”. Also, very important at this stage are the questions, “When is the service going to begin?” “When is the service going to end?” “Why is it so long?” Our involvement stays utterly passive. The underlying motivation for attending church services and living a Godly life is like that of having an uncomfortable job working in a factory, but one that pays my bills, so: I’m not attached to this factory and will work here only so long as the benefits are good to me; I don’t know, and don’t really want to know the boss or owner, all I want is to punch the time clock so as not to get into trouble; I get it over with, out of the way, as soon as possible; this is what I have to do in order to get back to the things I actually like and want to do; tell me what is the least that I have to do in order not to get kicked out, etc. We are still so infected with modern spiritual illnesses (for example: minimalism, individualism and hedonism) that we do not yet even realize that we are suffering from them.

**STAGE 2.** When we become more actively involved in worship and prayer, we are like “spiritual children”. We start attending services regularly. We celebrate days other than merely the “Obligatory” Sundays and feasts, for example: All Soul’s, Wednesdays and Fridays of Lent, minor feast days, Major Feast days that are not obligatory, etc. We begin and maintain a daily discipline of prayer. We only just begin to realize that God has a time all His own that is different from our own time and that even if we have not yet figured it all out, our intuition tells us that God has a good reason for it, and it has nothing to do with His being a Taskmaster, or factory foreman, over us. It begins to dawn on us that we may have picked up willy-nilly from our surroundings some “spirits” (i.e. ideas) which are inconsistent with a true Life in Christ, for example: individualism (What’s in it for me?), hedonism (If it feels good, do it, if it feels bad, run from it!) and minimalism (What’s the least I have to do in order to be a member of the Church and to squeeze into heaven?). It begins to dawn on us that we need to do something about disentangling ourselves from “the spirit of this age” because it is not at all a healthy way of being, thinking, feeling, etc.

**STAGE 3.** We start accepting – rather than explaining away or fighting against – there being a “God’s time” and “our time” which are different. This reality becomes OK with us. We no longer fuss over it, but live by two calendars: our "Everyday Calendar" and our "Church Calendar." At first, one of the calendars will dominate. We are like “spiritual teenagers”, not yet really adults, but not really children anymore. Gradually we begin to put the two calendars together through (a) daily prayer, (b) regular and willing attendance at most worship services, which we now begin to understand and participate in, (c) seeking to do the will of God at all times. Good deeds and the so-called “Precepts of the Church” start becoming more and more second nature to us, rather than being a target, which we merely hit every now and then. We choose to fight daily against the prevailing evil spirits of our day and age: the spirits of minimalism, individualism and/or hedonism. We do not pray, fast and accomplish works of mercy because we have to, but because we choose to do them for the glory of God.

**STAGE 4.** We become fully “orthodox” (true in faith, relationship with Christ is relationship with

Truth itself, I believe what He believes) and catholic (universal in love, relationship with Christ is relationship with Love itself, I love the way He loves). Pope John Paul II, specifically said that our Ukrainian Catholic Church is called to be, in his words, "orthodox in faith and catholic in love" when he spoke to us at our Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on April 10, 1987. It is the will of God that all of us are meant to become "spiritual adults" who have reached full maturity: "the stature of the fullness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:13 and Hebrews 6:1-3). Our calendars should be integrated as one. In this stage of growth we become aware of how the "Church Time" penetrates the "Everyday Time". Our "Church Time" informs and brings hope of the Kingdom to our "Everyday Time". The practice of the Theological and Cardinal Virtues, and the Gifts of the Holy Spirit (Isaiah 11:2-3) and the Fruits of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) become more and more real in us.

Thus, Living the Church's Life, or Living the Sacramental Life, is about integrating a process, or what St. Paul calls "working out one's salvation with fear and trembling" (Phil. 2:12). Those who teach that salvation is a legalistic event, or a magical moment, or a one-time declaration of faith in Christ often intimidate unprepared Catholics and Orthodox by saying "Are you saved?", but they are unfortunately quite mistaken. We should learn to respond to such bully tactics by "living the Truth in Love" (Ephesians 4:15), saying firmly, but kindly, that:

*"I was saved when Jesus died for me on Calvary, I am being saved to the degree that I participate in the life of Christ and that of His Body, the Church, and I will be saved when Jesus returns to judge heaven and earth and it is He who will proclaim definitively that I did accept and live a real Life in Christ."*

A mature Life in Christ is about consistency and persistence in repenting for our sins as a result of embracing belief in the message of His Holy Gospel. Every baptized and chrismated Catholic Christian, is called to this Spirit-filled Life in Christ. It is not just for "professional Christians", like priests, deacons or monastics.

Jesus described the Kingdom of God as a seed. How is that seed implanted and nurtured in us? How does the seed grow, so that everything in our lives becomes a "means of grace"? How does the seed mature so that we see the whole world as a "sacrament" of God? How does the seed grow and make us partakers of the Kingdom of God? The answer is ... by our regular and faithful participation in the Sacramental Life of the Church! Through the "leaven" of the Holy Mysteries-Sacraments, our lives are filled with the Life of God, the world is transformed into God's Kingdom, and our reality is transfigured to reflect the reality of the radiance of the Glory of God.

If not the warning of Hebrews 5:11-14 and 6:12, then at let us at least heed the warning of St. Gregory the Dialogist (Pope St. Gregory the Great of Rome), +12 March 604, given in his "Sermon on the Gospels, Matthew 22:1-13," paragraph 8:

"And it should not frighten you that in the Church the bad are many and the good few. For the Ark, which in the midst of the Flood was a figure of this Church, was wide below and narrow above, and at the summit measured but one cubit (Genesis 6:16). And we are to believe that below were the four-footed animals and serpents, above the birds and men. It was wide where the beasts were, narrow where men lived: for the Holy Church is indeed wide in the number of those who are carnal minded, narrow in those who are spiritual. For where she suffers the morals and beastly ways of men, there she enlarges her bosom. But where she has the care of those whose lives are founded on spiritual things, these she leads to the higher place; but since they are few, this part is narrow. Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. How narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it (Matthew 7:13-14)!" The Ark is made narrow at the summit, so that it is but one cubit wide: because, of those in the Church, the holier they are, the fewer they are. She reaches her highest perfection in Him Who alone among men was born Holy, and there is none to be compared with Him Who, in the words of the Psalmist, has become as "a sparrow all alone on the housetop (Ps. 101 8)." And so the more must we suffer them in patience; for on the threshing floor few are the grains carried into the barns, but high the piles of chaff that are burned with fire."



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

**СВЯТКУЄМО 50-РОКІВ! Celebrating 50 Years!**

4400 Palm Avenue  
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Parish Office: (619) 697-5085

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

**Pastor:** Fr. James Bankston

**Парох:** о. Яків Бенкстон

[frjames@mac.com](mailto:frjames@mac.com)

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

***Yearning for a Cave but Received a Community***

**B**orn in Cappadocia (modern-day Turkey), Sabas (Sabbas or Savas) is one of the most highly regarded patriarchs among the monks of Palestine and is considered one of the founders of Eastern monasticism. After an unhappy childhood in which he was abused and ran away several times, Sabas finally sought refuge in a monastery. While family members tried to persuade him to return home, the young boy felt drawn to monastic life. At age 18 he traveled to Jerusalem, seeking to learn more about living in solitude. Soon he asked to be accepted as a disciple of a well-known local solitary, though initially he was regarded as too young to live completely as a hermit. Sabas lived in a monastery, where he worked during the day and spent much of the night in prayer. At the age of 30 he was given permission to spend five days each week in a nearby remote cave. Following the death of his mentor, St. Euthymius, Sabas moved farther into the desert near Jericho. There he lived for several years in a cave. Occasionally men brought him food and other items. Some of these men came to him desiring to join him in his solitude. At first he refused. But not long after relenting, his followers swelled to more than 150, all of them living in individual huts grouped around a church, called a *laura*. While functioning as abbot among a large community of monks, he felt ever called to live the life of a hermit. At the age of 91, in response to a plea from the Patriarch of Jerusalem, Sabas undertook a journey to Constantinople in conjunction with the Samaritan revolt and its violent repression. He fell ill and, soon after his return, died at the monastery at Mar Saba. Today the monastery is still inhabited by monks of the Eastern Orthodox Church.