

From the Writings of the Fathers

“Does a poor man approach you? Remember how poor you once were, and how rich you were made. One in want of bread or of drink, perhaps another Lazarus, is cast at your gate; respect the Sacramental Table which you have approached, the Bread of which you have partaken, the Cup in which you have communicated, being consecrated by the sufferings of Christ. If a stranger fall at your feet, homeless and a foreigner, welcome in him the One who for your sake was a stranger, and that among His own, and who came to dwell in you by His grace, and who drew you towards the heavenly dwelling place.

“Be a Zacchaeus, who yesterday was a Publican, and is today of liberal soul; offer all to the coming in of Christ, that though small in bodily stature you may show yourself great, nobly contemplating Christ.”

A sick or a wounded man lies before you; respect your own health, and the wounds from which Christ delivered you. If you see someone naked clothe him, in honor of your own garment of incorruption, which is Christ, “for as many as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” If you find a debtor falling at your feet, tear up every document, whether just or unjust. Remember the ten thousand talents which Christ forgave you, and be not a harsh exactor of a smaller debt — and that from whom? From your fellow servant, you who were forgiven so much more by the Master. Otherwise you will have to give satisfaction to His mercy, which you would not imitate and take as your copy.

St Gregory the Theologian, Oration 40



**FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
JULY 5, 2020**



Jesus Healing the Gerasene Demoniacs

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Divine Liturgy: Sunday 10:00 AM

Antiphon (3rd)

1: Come, let us sing joyfully to the Lord; let us shout with joy to God our Savior.

O Son of God, who are risen from the dead, save us who sing to You, Alleluia

2: Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving and let us joyfully sing psalms to Him.

Khallisna Ya-Bnallah, Ya Man qama min baynil-amwaat, nahnu muranneemeena Laka. Haleloueya.

3: For God is a great Lord and a great King over all the earth.

O Son of God, who are risen from the dead, save us who sing to You, Alleluia.

Entrance Hymn

Priest: Come let us worship and bow down before Christ.

People: O Son of God, who are risen from the dead, save us who sing to You, Alleluia.

Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 4, pg. 40)

The women disciples of the Lord, having learned from the angel the joyful announcement of the resurrection, and having rejected the ancestral sentence, proudly told the apostles: Death is despoiled. Christ God is risen, bestowing to the world great mercy.”

Patronal Troparion (Tone 1, pg. 15)

In giving birth, you have preserved your virginity and in falling asleep, you did not forsake the world, O Mother of God. You have passed to life, being the Mother of Life. Through your intercessions, save our souls from death.

Kondakion (Tone 2, Pg. 16)

O never-failing Protectress of Christians, and their ever-present intercessor before the Creator, despise not the petitions of us sinners, but in your goodness extend your help to us who call upon you with confidence. Hasten, O Mother of God, to intercede for us, for you have always protected those who honor you.

The Legend of the Two Saints

There is a Russian folk tale about Saints John Cassian, the ascetic and Nicholas the Wonder-worker. While the story does not depict the saints in any historical way, it tells us a good deal about the writer’s desire to follow Christ through service.

It is said that St. John Cassian and St. Nicholas were sent by God to survey the Slavic lands, to see what condition the Church and the people were in. As they completed their mission and were preparing to return to heaven, St. Nicholas spotted a farmer whose wagon had gotten stuck in the mud. “Come on!” said St. Nicholas. “Let’s give this poor man a hand.”

St. John surveyed the scene. The wagon was in the muck up to its axels. The horses could hardly move. The farmer and at least a half a dozen people had waded into the mud, pushing and pulling and sweating and swearing.

“We can’t do that,” St. John said firmly. “Our robes will get filthy. We’ll be unfit to enter the Kingdom.”

But while the words were still on his lips, St. Nicholas had waded in. He first calmed the horses, then, putting his shoulder to the wagon with the men, he pushed. The other men pushed with him, others pulled, and one guided the horses. St. John stayed back a respectful distance, watching.

The wagon at first held firm, then, little by little, it moved out of the muck.

St. Nicholas walked over to St. John, who took a quick half-step away from him. “Well, that’s done,” St. Nicholas said. “Let’s head home.”

White Robes and Mud

When they got to the gates of Heaven, God saw St. John Cassian’s sparkling white robe, and he saw St. Nicholas so covered in mud that it was impossible to tell what color his robe had once been. “Tell me what happened,” He said.

“There was this farmer,” St. Nicholas said, “and his cart and his horses were mired in the mud. I just took a few minutes to help them out before we came back.”

God turned to St. John. “And how did you manage to help this man without getting your robes soiled?”

“I didn’t, of course. You have clothed us in garments for the heavenly banquet, and I couldn’t possibly get them soiled with earthly cares.”

God looked at both of his saints, and his love flowed over them. “John Cassian, my beloved, you have indeed kept your heart in heaven, and your hands are clean of all things of the earth. And the heart of my beloved Nicholas is turned toward the people, however earthly their cares might be, and his hands are quick to help them when they call on him. And this,” he said, “this is why Nicholas, my beloved, has feast days in both summer and winter, and why he’s honored every Thursday besides. And this is why you, my beloved John Cassian, have but one feast day every four years.”

DIVINE LITURGY INTENTIONS

Today Health and wellbeing of Elaine and Paul Syseskey. Requested by Tom Syseskey.

+ Bertha Peters. Requested by Michael & Virginia Mischitelli and Antonio & Karen Solitro.

+James (Jimmy) Halal

+Gordon McNeil. Requested by Fr. Bryan & family.

+Jeanne Jenkins. Requested by Eric Ewanco.

Flowers donated by Joe and Bonnie Najemy in memory of Robert & Alice Najemy and Dey & Donald Harvey.

July 19 +Bishop John Adel Elya (1 year anniversary).

Bishop Nicholas has requested that all parishes in the Eparchy have a memorial service on this day for our Eparch Emeritus, John Adel Elya.

Feast Day Liturgical Schedule

Mon. 7/20, 7PM - Divine Liturgy for the feast of the Great Prophet Elijah

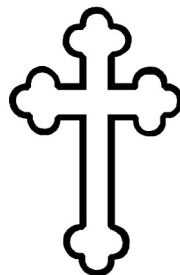
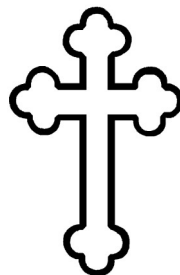
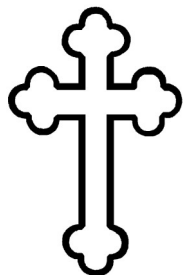
Wed. 8/5, 7PM - Great Vespers for the feast of the Transfiguration

Thu. 8/6, 7PM - Divine Liturgy for the feast of the Transfiguration and Blessing of Grapes

Mon. 8/10, 7PM - Paraclisis

Fri. 8/14, 7PM - Great Vespers for the feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos

Sat. 8/15, 10AM - Divine Liturgy for the feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos



If you have family news you would like to share with the parish, please contact Fr. Bryan so that he can put it in the bulletin. Also, if you need help with anything during this uncertain time, please contact Fr. Bryan so that he can assist or put you in contact with parishioners who have volunteered to help.

- ◆ Please remember in your prayers **Jimmy Halal**, who fell asleep in the Lord on June 30. Our condolences to the family. May his memory be eternal!
- ◆ Please continue to pray for all those infected with Covid-19 as well as those who care for them. Let us also remember those who have lost their lives to the virus. Memory eternal!
- ◆ Please remember in your prayers all the members of our parish who are sick or suffering in any way. Please contact Fr. Bryan with the names of those folks whose names you would like to include in the bulletin so that we can all pray for them.
- ◆ Let us also pray for our country and for our public authorities, that that may be strengthened in every good deed.

FINANCIALS

June 2020

YTD (10.2019-6.2020)

Revenue \$6,121

Revenue \$75,138

Expenses \$7,530

Expenses \$79,645

Net (\$1,409)

Net (\$4,507)

As you can see, we ran a small deficit for the month of June as our collections fell short of the \$8,000 we need each month to operate the parish. In July, I will pay off the 2019 balance to the Eparchy (\$1,600) as well as June's assessment & retirement (\$1,600). I am very grateful to those of you who have continued to send in your offerings during this time. If you have not done so and are able, please prayerfully consider mailing in your offerings. I have still not had to access our savings to cover monthly expenses. With your help, we can keep it that way!

God bless your generosity!

Another Lazarus at Your Gate

BEFORE JESUS BEGAN HIS PUBLIC MINISTRY, He prayed and fasted for forty days (see Mt 4:1-11). The Church's ascetics look to His experience as the model for their spiritual life. They devote themselves to prayer throughout the night and fasting every day. But even though they may live at a distance from others, they do not neglect almsgiving. What little they have they share with visitors or give away to poor in the area. Even solitaries have ways of serving the needy.

Christians in the world may have more occasions to help the needy. Even if they do not, there are always opportunities to serve the others in their own circle: family, friends, neighbors, co-workers. Before Jesus ended His public ministry, He provided a way for Christians to model their lives on His by serving those closest to them. He washed His disciples' feet, saying: "*If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet*" (Jn 13:7). The image of the Lord washing His disciples' feet has become the foremost icon of service for the Christian world. Few remember, however, that Christ actually urged His disciples to mutual service: washing one another's feet. The followers of Christ are to imitate Him by serving one another.

Elsewhere Christ told His followers that caring for the needs of the poor is caring for Him, whether one knows it or not. "*I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me*" (Mt 25:35, 36).

It is often said that the Eastern Churches have focused on prayer and fasting as their prime spiritual practices, while the West has stressed serving Christ in the poor as their foremost way of imitating Christ. This does not do justice to either East or West. The West has its share of ascetics and the East has an equally strong tradition of seeing Christ in the face of the poor. The life in Christ lived by the Church involves both asceticism and a rich liturgical life, as well as ministry to those in need.

St John Chrysostom is chiefly known for the way he influenced the liturgical life of the Byzantine Church. He also was outspoken in insisting that the Church embrace serving those in need as a way of glorifying the Lord. In his fiftieth Homily on Matthew *he* equates serving the poor with venerating the Eucharist! "Do you want to honor Christ's body? Then do not scorn Him in His nakedness, nor honor Him here in the church with silken garments while neglecting Him outside where He is cold and naked. For he who said: *This is my body*, and made it so by His words, also said: *You saw me hungry and did not feed me, and inasmuch as you did not do it for one of these, the least of my brothers, you did not do it for me*" (Hom 50, 3-4).

Prokimenon

Reader: How great are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you have wrought them all.

People: How great are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you have wrought them all.

Verse: Bless the Lord, O my soul! You are very great indeed, O Lord my God!

People: How great are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you have wrought them all.

Reader: How great are your works, O Lord!

People: In wisdom you have wrought them all.

Epistle: Rom 10:1-10

Alleluia Verses

String your bow, go forth, reign for the sake of truth, meekness and righteousness, and your right hand shall lead you wonderfully.

Verse: You loved righteousness and hated iniquity: therefore God, your God, anointed you with the oil of joy above your companions.

Gospel: Mt 8:28-9:1 - Healing of the Gerasene Demoniac

Hirmos— It is truly meet...

Kinonikon: Praise the Lord from the heavens...

After Communion: We have seen the True Light...

