

SUNDAY BEFORE THE
EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS



Icon of the Birth of the Theotokos, the Mother of God -- September 8th



September 7, 2014

SUNDAY BEFORE THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS

*PREFEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS;
THE HOLY MARTYR SOZON; ZHYROVYTSI ICON OF THE MOTHER OF GOD*

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 1 – SEPTEMBER 7

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 – NATIVITY OF THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS

10:00 AM – DIVINE LITURGY (**NOTE TIME CHANGE**)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 – SATURDAY BEFORE THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS; COMMEMORATION OF THE DEDICATION OF THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY RESURRECTION OF CHRIST OUR GOD IN JERUSALEM; THE HOLY HIEROMARTYR CORNELIUS THE CENTURION

9:00 AM – DIVINE LITURGY (**NOTE TIME**) ☩ WALTER BACHYNSKY; REQ: BACHYNSKY FAMILY

6:00 PM – GREAT VESPERS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 – *THE UNIVERSAL EXALTATION OF THE PRECIOUS AND LIFE-GIVING CROSS*

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!*

September Birthdays

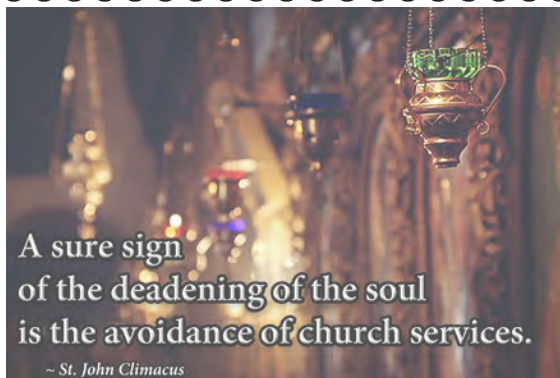
Emma Hirniak	–	September 4
Maria Hughes	–	September 13
Brandon Avant	–	September 17
John Heltsley	–	September 25

Last Sunday's Bulletin

If you haven't yet picked up last Sunday's bulletin, it is available in the church hall, or on our website, stjohnthebaptizer.org.

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.



A sure sign
of the deadening of the soul
is the avoidance of church services.

~ St. John Climacus

Did You Know We're on Facebook?

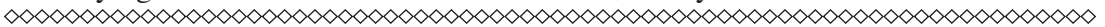
“Like” us to receive our posts, and so that your friends can get to know your church a little. Who knows who else may “Like” us too? <https://www.facebook.com/pages/St-John-the-Baptizer-Ukrainian-Catholic-Church/137098752989860>

Warm Welcome!

We warmly welcome all of our visitors!
It's good to have you with us!

DID YOU KNOW?

- Most people come to church because of a personal invitation.
- Only 2% of church-going people invite someone to church in a given year. That means 98% of church-goers never extend an invitation in a given year!
- 7 out of 10 unchurched people have never been invited to church in their whole lives.
- 82% of the unchurched are at least somewhat likely to attend church if invited.
- The top “rational” reason adults seldom or never attend church is they don’t agree with organized religion or what they preach (24 percent).
- The top “practical” reasons for hardly attending or missing church altogether, 21 percent said they don’t have time or they don’t get around to it.
- Children and youth who attend religious services weekly, exhibit fewest behavior problems, are more likely to have high-quality relationships with their parents, and are more likely to exhibit positive social behavior, including showing respect for teachers and neighbors, getting along with other children, understanding other people’s feelings, and trying to resolve conflicts with classmates, family or friends.



Open House Saturday, October 4th

11AM - 3:30 PM

I encourage all of you to come to our open house on Saturday, October 4 - and - to bring a guest!

Invite your neighbors, family, friends. There will be a church tour every hour informational display in the church hall covering topics such as: Liturgical items, Music, Iconography, Parish Life, and, of course, food.

Patriarch Sviatoslav, echoing the desire of our Lord Himself reminds us that, as Christians, we have the responsibility to believe, live, serve, and share the witness of our faith in Christ, not just among our family members, but with our neighbors, wherever we may live.

Let us all take to opportunity to put the words of the Gospel into action and to show all that we are a “Vibrant Parish - a place to encounter the Living Christ!

If you would like to volunteer to help, please contact Fr. James or a member of the Pastoral Council.

Eternal Memory!

SAN DIEGO — Bishop Cirilo Flores, a spiritual leader for the almost 1 million Catholics living in San Diego and Imperial counties, died on Saturday. He was 66.

The Diocese of San Diego released a statement saying the bishop passed away at 2:47 p.m. at Nazareth House in San Diego.

No details about funeral rites were immediately available.

His cousin Dr. Tom Martinez, Msgr. Steven Callahan and the Sisters of Nazareth were at his bedside, said Rodrigo Valdivia, diocese chancellor.

Flores had been ailing since April 17, four days before Easter, when he suffered a stroke. While under treatment, he was diagnosed with prostate cancer.

The disease moved aggressively, eventually attacking the bishop’s bones and leaving him too weak for chemotherapy.

SPIRITUAL COMBAT: A CALL TO ARMS

by *The Catholic Gentleman*, catholicgentleman.net May 22

“Fight or die.” – Dom Lorenzo Scupoli

Perhaps one of the greatest temptations in the Catholic life is that of complacency. We go through the motions, attending Mass on Sunday and maybe going to a parish program or two, but the Faith never really penetrates deep into our souls. It remains a superficial reality; just another thing to do in our comfortable, civilized lives.

We love to complain about the problems in the Church—rending our garments over this bad bishop or this corrupt priest. We ask: Where are the saints of the modern Church? Where are the holy men and women who can be shining lights in this dark world? We lament the state of things, never realizing that it is us that God has called to be saints. It is we who must strive for sanctity as if our life depended on it—because it does.

FIGHT FOR THE CROWN OF ETERNAL LIFE

Jesus Christ is calling you and me to rise above lukewarmness and mediocrity and to pursue greatness. He does not want us to muddle through the Christian life. He wants to fight nobly for the crown of eternal life. “Fight your way in at the narrow door,” he tells us, “There are many who will try and will not be able to enter.”

Now, realize that this spiritual combat does not necessarily mean grandiose outward actions. Most of us are not meant to found a religious order or to convert a far flung nation. The saints constantly tell us that holiness is found in sanctifying our everyday actions, however small they may be.

But the point is, no one coasts into heaven effortlessly. It doesn’t work that way. We have a powerful enemy who works day and night to destroy us. Every day we encounter temptations internal and external that, if consented to, will destroy our souls.

Men, a survey has revealed that 50%—that is 1 in 2—Christian men are addicted to pornography. If you think I am exaggerating the spiritual dangers, you are wrong. There is a war for your soul, and if you are not watchful, if you are not vigilant,

if you are not intensely focused on the pursuit of holiness, you will fall away.

CHOOSE TODAY WHO YOU WILL SERVE

Holiness begins with a choice: God or the world. Whom will you serve? You can’t have it both ways. As with any war, there is no middle ground. You either fight or die.

“You cannot please both God and the world at the same time,” says St. John Vianney, “They are utterly opposed to each other in their thoughts, their desires, and their actions.”

In other words, you can’t pursue the world’s values and ideals while calling yourself a Christian and a Catholic. You can’t hold on to pet sins, abusing God’s mercy by asking his forgiveness, but with no real intention to change. You must choose.

TAKE UP YOUR CROSS

Christ is calling you to take up your Cross and follow him. Doing so will bring you more happiness and more joy than you can possibly imagine. But it will also cost you the comfort and ease the world promises. Do you have what it takes?

“You are like crusaders united to fight against the world,” said St. Louis de Montfort, “not like Religious who retreat from the world lest they be overcome, but like brave and valiant warriors on

the battlefield, who refuse to retreat or even yield an inch. Be brave and fight courageously.”

Men, if you’ve been mediocre, if you’ve been comfortably complacent, I challenge you today to follow Christ passionately, with all that you are and have. Clothe yourselves in the armor of God and take up the weapons of prayer and penance, calling on the powerful intercession of Our Lady, Help of Christians. Purpose in your heart to do battle for eternal life, and then “Be brave and fight courageously.” You will not regret it.



NOETIC FACULTY

The energy of the mind inside the heart
Abbot Tryphon

In the patristic tradition of the Church, the heart is the center of our self-awareness. This self-awareness is the energy of the mind inside the heart, something the holy fathers referred to as our “noetic faculty”. There is an important distinction that must be noted concerning the difference between the Western and Eastern understanding of how we come to know God. The scholastic approach that places emphasis on the use of logic and reason in the acquisition of the knowledge of God, as seen in the teachings of Augustine of Hippo and Thomas Aquinas, is unknown in the East.

The Ancient Church taught that knowledge of God comes only through the noetic science of the heart. From the standpoint of Orthodox theology, the mind and logic are not the same thing, since logic functions within the brain, while the mind functions within the heart. Thus, the noetic faculty of the heart is the energy of the mind inside the heart. This important distinction results in the Eastern Church seeing herself not as a religious institution, but rather a hospital of the soul, wherein one comes for therapeutic procedures that restore the health of the soul, and allow for the ultimate goal of union with God (*theosis*). For those who wish further understanding of these ancient Christian teaching, the writings of my favorite modern theologian, Metropolitan Hierotheos of Nafpaktos, are a worthy read.

It is within the life of the Church that we enter into ascetic struggle, “working out”, just as an athlete, through fasting and prayer, and the reception of the Holy Mysteries (Holy Communion), in order to be made well. We are restored to health within the walls of this hospital of the soul,

the Church, and trained to this athletic/ascetic dimension of living.

Our mishandling of the memory of God that led to the fall, is now corrected and reactivated through the healing of the “nous” (the eye of the soul), and that memory is restored. This memory is not the reclamation of something of an historical nature, but rather the opening up of a knowledge that has always been there. This healing is not of a juridical nature whereby an angry God has decided to overlook the evil and fallen nature of our souls by the bloodletting of His Son, but by the cleansing of the nous that has been darkened, restoring us to health and wholeness. The memory of God is thus restored, and we are again in full communion with the Most High, freed from the permanency of death by the trampling down of the power of death through Christ’s Holy Resurrection.

The purpose of the Church’s presence in the world is for the cure of humankind, and the restoration of the hearts of men and women. The Church thus functions as a therapy centered hospital, and the priests function as therapists. This Divine-human Organism is the living Body of Christ, the Church, and is life itself. The healing of the nous that comes within the life of the Church returns us to our true nature. In this state of wholeness our faculties are able to use logic and reason as it was meant to be used. Our reason and logic becomes the rightful vehicle by which we can explore the universe, and behold all that God has created, and science, nature, and even the cosmos, can be seen in the light of a heart is the center of our self-awareness.

Sunday offering for August 10

Amount	Number
\$10.00	3
\$20.00	2
\$40.00	2
\$50.00	4
\$75.00	4
\$80.00	1
\$100.00	1
\$160.00	1
\$200.00	2
\$300.00	1
<hr/>	
\$1690.00	

Parishioner Total: \$1395.00
Guest Total: \$295.00

Average / parish household (42): \$33.21
Weekly Stewardship Goal: \$2125.00
Deficit: **(\$730.00)**

Sunday offering for August 17

Amount	Number
\$10.00	2
\$20.00	1
\$40.00	1
\$50.00	1
\$75.00	1
\$300.00	1
<hr/>	
\$505.00	

Parishioner Total: \$505.00

Average / parish household (42): \$12.02
Weekly Stewardship Goal: \$2125.00
Deficit: **(\$1620.00)**

Sunday offering for August 24

Amount	Number
\$2.00	1 (loose)
\$5.00	1
\$10.00	4
\$25.00	1
\$40.00	2
\$50.00	3
\$75.00	1
\$200.00	2
\$300.00	1
<hr/>	
\$1077.00	

Parishioner Total: \$867.00
Guest Total: \$210.00

Average / parish household (42): \$20.64
Weekly Stewardship Goal: \$2125.00
Deficit: **(\$1258.00)**

Sunday offering for August 31

Amount	Number
\$5.00	1
\$8.00	1 (loose)
\$10.00	2
\$15.00	2
\$20.00	2
\$25.00	1
\$30.00	1
\$40.00	1
\$50.00	2
\$200.00	2
\$300.00	1
<hr/>	
\$998.00	

Parishioner Total: \$913.00
Guest Total: \$85.00

Average / parish household (42): \$21.74
Weekly Stewardship Goal: \$2125.00
Deficit: **(\$1212.00)**

The acquisition of holiness is not the exclusive business of monks as certain people think. People with families are also called to holiness, as are those in all kinds of professions who live in the world, since the commandment about perfection and holiness is given not only to monks, but to all people.

– Hieromartyr Onuphry



"[To have Faith in Christ] means, of course, trying to do all that He says. There would be no sense in saying you trusted a person if you would not take his advice. Thus if you have really handed yourself over to Him, it must follow that you are trying to obey Him. But trying in a new way, a less worried way. Not doing these things in order to be saved, but because He has begun to save you already. Not hoping to get to Heaven as a reward for your actions, but inevitably wanting to act in a certain way because a first faint gleam of Heaven is already inside you."

– C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity

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:

Vacant: Please consider volunteering as chairperson.

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

Pastor: Fr. James Bankston
frjames@mac.com

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

Nativity of the Theotokos

The time is always right to make a beginning of a way of life that will lead to salvation. ... Today a paradoxical book has been made ready on earth, which in an indescribable way can hold, not the imprint of words, but the living Word Himself ... But who is the new world, the mysterious paradise, the paradoxical book, the inspired Tabernacle and Ark of God, the truth sprung from the earth, the much extolled rod of Jesse? It is the Maiden who before and after childbearing is eternally virgin, whose birth from a barren mother we celebrate today ...

Why did she come from a barren womb? In order to put an end to her parents' sorrow, transform their disgrace, and prefigure that deliverance from the grief and curse of the Forefathers of the human race, which was to come about through her. She alone dwelt in the Holy of Holies, and she alone became the abode of the

Creator of the natural order, so how could nature dare profane the womb in which she rested, and from which she came forth? ...

Let us fear God, abstain from everything evil, return to Him through good works, and strive by self-control and prayer to wipe out the evil accretions within us, to change our inner thoughts for the better, and, according to the Prophet, to be in labor with the spirit of salvation and bring it to birth, having as our helper, through invoking her name, the Virgin who was today bestowed upon her parents through prayer and a manner of life pleasing to God. She transformed their sorrow, annulled the ancestral curse, and brought our first mother's pangs to an end, painlessly bearing Christ as a Virgin.

St. Gregory Palamas