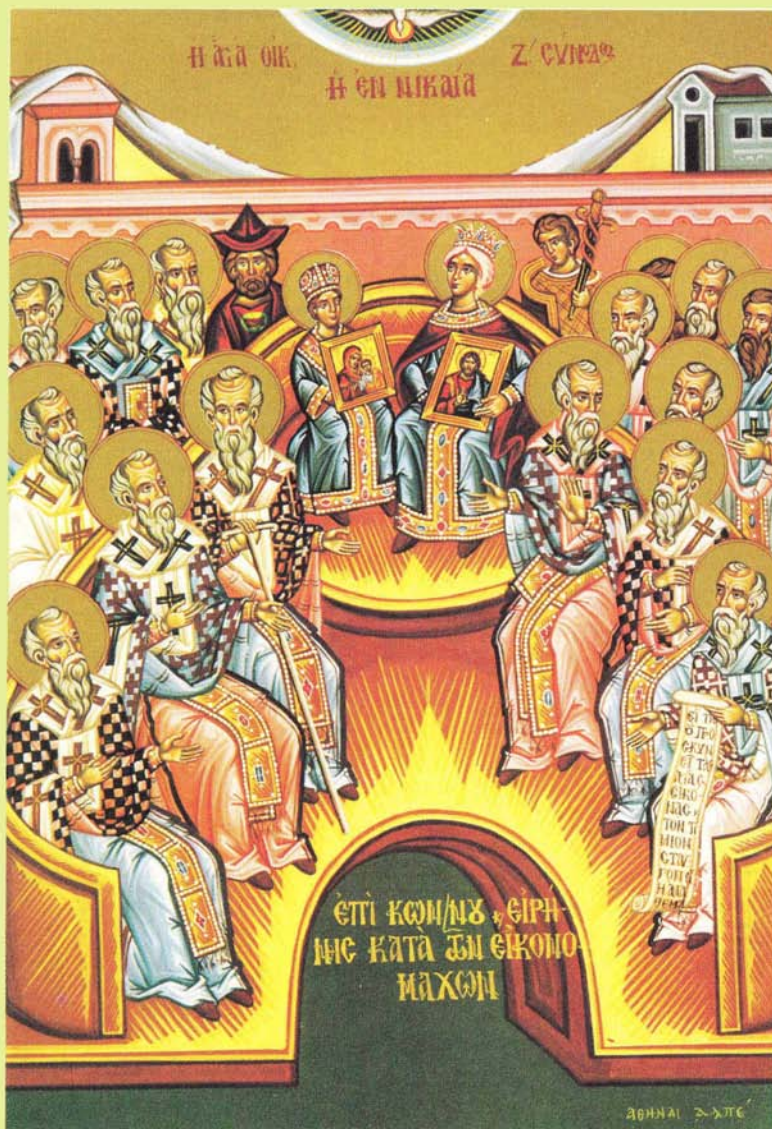


SUNDAY OF THE SEVENTH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL



Icon of the Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council

October 17, 2010
21st Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday of the 7th Ecumenical Council

Tone 4

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 18 – OCTOBER 24

MONDAY, OCTOBER 18 – FEAST OF ST. LUKE, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST

9:30 AM DIVINE LITURGY

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22

7:00 PM MOLEBEN AND SPIRITUAL TALK BY BISHOP NICHOLAS (SAMRA)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23

10:00 AM SPIRITUAL TALK SPECIALLY GEARED FOR YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS.

2:00 – 4:00 PM SPIRITUAL TALK BY BISHOP NICHOLAS (SAMRA)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24 – 22ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9:30 AM DIVINE LITURGY

FOR ALL PARISHIONERS

~~~~~

**Remember in your prayers**



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, Walter & Isabella Bachynsky, Susie Boyko, Sonya Cronin, Helen Davis, Maria Hughes, Lorene Lagrone, Natalie, Maria Leskiw, Lesya Loznycky, John Pasichny, Nadia Popov, Orysia Rosul, Sonia Shashkewych, and Sophia Skop. Please let Fr. James know if there is anyone else who should be remembered.

**Remember Those In The Armed Forces**



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, Elizabeth Heltsley, Oksanna Hirniak, Andrew Hrynkiw, Zenon and Susan Keske, Michael Lopes, Vasyl Lylak, Thomas Orr, Paul Richelmi and Brian Tuthill. Please give any names of those you would like remembered in the Liturgies to Fr. James.

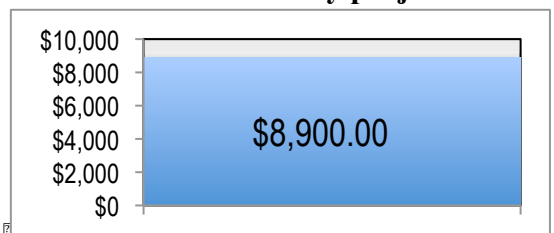
**Parish Work Days** to prepare for the Anniversary Celebration will be Saturday, November 6<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, November 13<sup>th</sup>. Please come and help either day

### **Anniversary Invitations**

Invitations have been mailed out however, several were returned without addresses. Apparently, the labels came off in the mail. If you did not receive an invitation, please see Fr. James after Liturgy.



### **50<sup>th</sup> anniversary project**



**Please Note:** Due to the retreat Friday and Saturday, there will not be Vespers Saturday evening.

## ***Anniversary Retreat***

All too often, a celebration becomes centered on the social event of the banquet. Let's not forget the more important thing – that which Martha's sister Martha's chose – to sit at the feet of our Lord. Please make time this Friday and Saturday to come and hear Bishop Nicholas (Samra) as he speaks to our community. Don't miss this opportunity to refocus on the work of the Lord in our lives. See the schedule of services for the times of the talks. The Saturday morning session (10:00) will be especially geared to the youth and young adult. ***Take advantage of this opportunity!***

## **KIDS AND GOD**

A wife invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to their six-year-old daughter and said, "Would you like to say the blessing?" "I don't know what to say," the girl replied. "Just say what you hear Mommy say," the wife answered. The daughter bowed her head and said, "Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"



## ***About St. Luke the Evangelist whose feast is tomorrow, October 18.***

*The holy, glorious and all-laudable Apostle and Evangelist Luke is the author of the Gospel of Luke, the companion of the Apostle Paul (Phil 1:24, 2 Tim 4:10-11), and is numbered among the Seventy Apostles. He was a native of Syrian Antioch and a physician, and is the founder of iconography.*

## **WORDS EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD KNOW**

**Holiness** consists not only in the absence of evil or sin: holiness is the presence of higher spiritual values, joined to purity from sin. God is the only one holy by nature. He is the Source of holiness for angels and men. Men can attain holiness only in God, "not by nature, but by participation, by struggle and prayer" (St. Cyril of Jerusalem).

**Asceticism** is man's struggle to keep the commandments of Christ. It encompasses not only his bodily and spiritual effort, but also the method by which he passes through the three stages of the spiritual life, namely: purification, illumination, and deification (union with God).

**Purification** refers to the process by which one is cleansed from the passions through: 1) the rejection of all evil thoughts and desires from the mind and heart, 2) the turning of the soul's three powers (reason, desire, and will) towards God, and 3) the overcoming of self-love by love for God and neighbor.

**Illumination** refers to the process by which the grace of the Holy Spirit, received in Baptism, enlightens the person purified (or at least being purified) of the passions to the true knowledge of God and creation. Illumination is seen primarily in the gift of discernment by which one distinguishes between 1) what is from God or above nature, 2) what is according to nature or good, and 3) what is unnatural or evil.

**Deification** is union with God, the goal of Christian life; experienced in part during this life, but more fully and unendingly in the next. Scripture says that God is a consuming fire. When man is united with God in the state of pure prayer, he becomes entirely engulfed in the flame of divine love and sees the Un-created Light of Divinity. This state cannot be described in words but is known only through experience. Union with God imparts immeasurable love, humility, and thankfulness. Deification is what man was created for from the beginning; it is what makes man truly man.

## OUTREACH

Adapted from Fr. William DuBovik

**What do we do now?** It's a question many may ask when assessing their parish and its direction as they seek to witness for Christ in their parish and in their local community.

Desiring to respond to the call of Christ, to Baptize all nations, and with a love for all of our sisters and brothers in Christ to bring them to the fullness of God's call, we have begun to implement parts of a program that helps us visibly witness for Christ, sharing His message with others. We share these ideas, not as new, earth-shattering revelations, but as an outline that might be of use in helping to further enliven our parishes.

Outreach, with the goal of bringing more people into the true faith as expressed in the historic church of Eastern Christianity, is accomplished in many ways. We do this, or seek to do this, so that others may be transformed and may come to know God in the fullest way possible—the only true and fruitful motivation for such efforts. Of course, each one of us must grow ourselves as Christians so that we can reflect Christ in our lives to others. This is a true missionary effort. Still, it is good to make efforts to give our Church greater visibility and to let people know what the Orthodox faith can offer.

Studies show that of those who join a Church, from 70 to 90 percent come because of family or a friend. We need to keep this in mind in any efforts we make to share our faith with others. Even with this statistic, we are left with some 20 percent who come for other reasons—moving into an area, attracted by programs, seeking a new faith, looking for truth, church school, etc., and we need to find ways to appeal to them.

### Outreach For The Right Reasons

Ideas and the voluntary efforts to carry out Outreach programs are welcome as long as they are consistent with our Faith. Traditionally, through parish bazaars, special programs and activities that are publicized, people in the community learn of our presence. We need to do more, however, and a parish needs to decide, prayerfully with the Father's guidance, the Son's love and

the Holy Spirit's inspiration, in what direction we want to go. Let us be careful as we embark that our goal is to share Christ's truths and not just to share our budgetary expenses with others, seeking persons to fill seats and to pay their fair share or dues. Why would God guide us in growth if our motivations are not out of love, but are selfish?

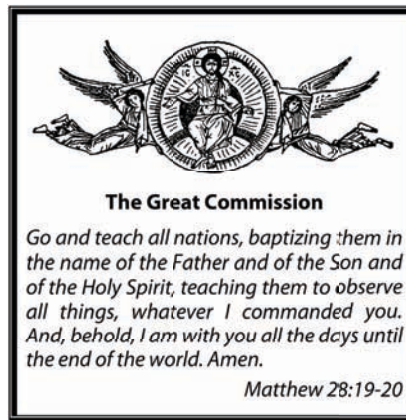
The following are proposals for Outreach, some of which our parish has attempted, others to which we are aspiring:

- ❖ **Outreach-Liturgical Life:** Our liturgical life is the reason for our being, and if we enthusiastically come to as many services as possible, we are in a position to invite others and encourage others to come. Lukewarm adherents will not attract others. Only those with a passion to worship will. Imagine

creating a traffic jam, not for a tag sale or bazaar but for Liturgy! For major feast days and special church observances, we should make a statement by taking the day off from work and by keeping our children home from school to attend the Liturgy... Overall, liturgical life must be renewed, and this does not involve a committee or a meeting, but each person making a commitment to Christ. This is of utmost importance for our lives as well as our witnessing for the Lord. Will

some lead the way and encourage others to follow their example?

- ❖ **Outreach-Car-Pooling:** There are people who cannot come to church because they do not drive, or no longer drive. Forms can be distributed to find those who need and would like a ride, and to identify others who would be willing to drive someone from their area to church.
- ❖ **Outreach-Telephone:** Many people enjoy talking on the telephone. How about calling someone who has not been seen in church lately, or someone who comes sporadically whom we may feel is in danger of falling away? How about calling a non-Catholic friend or acquaintance, inviting them to come and see?
- ❖ **Outreach-Welcoming:** Our parish needs to do a



good job of welcoming guests. Each of us should move out to welcome guests. Don't wait for guests to approach you.

- ❖ **Outreach-Education:** We learn through our worship as we listen to the hymns and prayers, especially from the verses for the appointed feast days. Our icons also tell us about the meaning of what we commemorate. In our worship, God speaks to us in many ways and feeds us – body and soul.
- ❖ **Outreach-Advertising:** A society that a number of years ago got excited over a stuffed red animal that produces an electronic laugh when you press on its stomach-otherwise known as "Tickle Me Elmo"-is a society that attests to the effectiveness of advertising. Our parish has allocated funds and earmarked contributions to increase advertising in the local news-papers-not just that we are here, but with messages of who we are and what we believe. We have seen some fruits from this effort, at least as far as having persons visit us for services, even if they have not yet joined the parish.
- ❖ **Outreach-Community Relations:** How can we relate to the neighborhoods in which we find ourselves? Will we become just commuter churches? Some say the latter is impossible to sustain over a long period, and that a church needs to reach out to its neighborhoods. Don't we have an obligation as Christians to do just that-taking Christ's message to all people?
- ❖ **Outreach-Flyers:** Distributing flyers about the church is another possibility. Parishioners can go door-to-door, post them on store bulletin boards, give them out on corners and at stores.
- ❖ **Outreach-Libraries:** Are there books on Eastern Christianity at all libraries in the region? Let's check and see what libraries will accept in donations of books on Eastern Christianity as well as Orthodox newspapers and periodicals. Can we sponsor the appearance of an author who has written about Eastern Christianity at a library or bookstore?
- ❖ **Outreach-Computer Age:** We have a presence on the internet. We need to study

how we can best utilize our own website and other means to reach out in this advanced age of technology.

- ❖ **Outreach-Other Publicity:** Our parish needs to send a schedule of our services each year to the colleges, universities and hotels in the area, welcoming all. If one sees a calendar without Eastern Christian holy days, one can write to the company. School systems can be notified about holy days, but at least a year in advance. Significant church information can be sent to television and radio stations as well as newspapers. Making a "pest" of oneself can be fruitful. We also can correct erroneous statements. We can write letters to the editor.
- ❖ **Outreach-Ministries:** Perhaps there is a special ministry in which you would like to see our parish involved, such as a ministry to recovering alcoholics, to widows and widowers, to the abused. This is an excellent form of Christian compassion that can result in outreach.

My sisters and brothers in Christ, these are a few ideas that come to mind when we think of Outreach. You may want to add more, or eliminate some. What is important is that we do not just talk about ideas but that we act to bring them to fruition. How bold and determined will we be? What small mustard seeds of ideas are awaiting our nurturing so they will sprout and grow into huge trees?

We need with openness and most importantly with faith in the power of God to look at our parish-where it is and where it is going. Whether any or all of these projects results in even one new member will be according to God's will. Just as importantly, with the Grace of God, trying some of these ideas can reinvigorate us, and be a response to any lurking stagnation or backsliding that

threatens. We know, too, that an individual or family that focuses only on itself is one in danger. So, too, is a parish. Projects such as these will turn us outward. And, finally, we do need to try to respond to our Lord's command to "Go and Teach All Nations, Baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."





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

**Святкуємо 50-років!**

**Celebrating 50 Years!**

4400 Palm Avenue  
La Mesa, CA 91941  
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

***The Seven Sleepers of Ephesus***

**T**he story of the Seven Sleepers (commemorated October 22) is that during the persecutions of the Roman emperor Decius, around 250 AD, seven young men were accused of Christianity. They were given some time to recant their faith, but instead gave their worldly goods to the poor and retired to a mountain to pray, where they fell asleep. The emperor, seeing that their attitude towards paganism had not improved, ordered the mouth of the cave to be sealed.

Decius died in 251 and many years passed during which Christianity went from being persecuted to being the major religion of the Roman Empire. At some later time, probably during the reign of Theodosius II (408 - 450), the landowner decided to open up the sealed mouth of the cave, thinking to use it as a cattle pen. He opened it and found the sleepers inside. They awoke, imagining that they had slept but one day. One of their number returned to Ephesus. He was astounded to find buildings with crosses attached; the townspeople were astounded to find a man trying to spend old coins from the reign of Decius. The bishop was summoned to interview the sleepers; they told him their miracle story, and died praising God.

As the earliest versions of the legend spread from Ephesus, an early Christian cave came to be associated with it, attracting pilgrims. On the slopes of Mount Pion (Mount Coelian) near Ephesus (near modern Selçuk in Turkey), the 'Grotto' of the Seven Sleepers with ruins of the church built over it was excavated in 1927-28. The excavation brought to light several hundred graves which were dated to the 5th and 6th centuries. Inscriptions dedicated to the Seven Sleepers were found on the walls of the church and in the graves. The 'Grotto' is still open to pilgrims and tourists.