

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Icon of Saint Luke -- October 18th



October 18, 2015

21ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – *TONE 4*

THE HOLY APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST LUKE

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 19 – OCTOBER 25

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24

6:00 PM – GREAT VESPERS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25 – 22ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; THE HOLY APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST LUKE

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!*

Fr. James will be away...

Fr. James will be out of town Tuesday thru Friday. In case of an emergency please contact either Fr. Brian Escobedo of Holy Angels Byzantine Catholic Church at (858) 277-2511 or Fr. James Babcock at (714) 600-3660.

GOD'S EXTENDED HAND

FOCUS (Fellowship of Orthodox Christians United to Serve) has provided us with a special bin for collecting donations of clothing, toiletries, etc. to be distributed at GEH. It is located near the door of the church hall.

Cards for sale

Various Greeting Cards are available for sale in the church hall following each Divine Liturgy. See Mary Kitt to purchase.

Keep vigil over yourself and do not let your imagination and memory remember things previously seen, heard, smelt, tasted and touched, especially if there was something shameful and unseemly in them. .. it is very difficult to control the imagination and memory of it, once it is accepted.

– Unseen Warfare

St Mary's Ukrainian

Orthodox Parish

*cordially invites our parish to
join them in celebrating their*

Parish Feast Day

Sunday October 25, 2015

10:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy

Luncheon in the Church Hall

after Liturgy

PARISHIONERS THAT ARE HOME BOUND



If you or a loved one cannot make it to Church, Fr. James would be more than pleased visit at your home, in the hospital, at a nursing home, or any other place. It is no inconvenience at all.

Please be sure to schedule a visit.



THE ICON CORNER – THE HEART OF THE FAMILY CHURCH

Every Sunday, feastday and other holy day, when we go into our parish temple, we see the heart of the parish which is the sanctuary, where the Holy Table is. When we go into an Orthodox home, we hope to see the heart of the family, which is the icon corner.

Just like the sanctuary is the heart of the parish church, the icon corner is the heart of the family church. In the parish church, the parish family prays together before the sanctuary and the iconostas; in the family church, the family prays together before the icon corner.

What is an icon corner? An icon corner is a shelf or table or cabinet, where icons are placed and where a lamp is kept burning. Many people have icons of Jesus Christ, the Theotokos and icons of the patron saints of the family members. There are many ways to set up the icons and the important thing is just to do it. The icon corner doesn't have to be a corner, it can be a wall or other place in the house where the family can go to pray. It is best if the icon corner faces the east, to remind us of the second coming of Jesus Christ.

Besides the icons and the lamp, it is traditional for pious Orthodox people to keep a Bible and prayer book, holy water, and blessed bread from church. Many people also have holy oil, the palms or

willows from Palm Sunday, and other holy things from the services of the church year. The icon corner can be very simple or very fancy but the main thing is that the icon corner is not just a decoration for the house but that it is the heart of the

family and that the family uses it. In many pious Orthodox homes, the icon corner is arranged so that it can actually be used for celebrating the Divine Liturgy, if the priest needs to do this. This reminds us of the

history of our Orthodox Faith and that we must always be ready for times when the churches suffer from those who are not believers.

If you do not have an icon corner, ask your priest to help you start one in your home. Members of the family can use it at any time. If you are not able to read the prayers from the prayer book because there is not enough time, then, at least go to the icon corner and ask for God's blessing before beginning whatever it is that you are doing.

Try to begin each day by going to the icon corner and reading the prayers from the prayer book for the morning, take some, holy bread and holy water. In this way, you are getting God's blessing for the new day. If you cannot read the prayers for some reason, still go to the icon corner, make the sign of the cross and take the holy bread and holy water, still asking God to bless the new day.

You will see that the icon corner makes a big difference in your home. When you see the lamp burning, you will remember that God is always near and that the saints are always praying for your family. When you use the icon corner every day, you will see that God is kept close to your heart and mind and this will help you to be closer to Him and His Orthodox Faith.



CHEMO IN THE REAR VIEW MIRROR

Fr. Ted Bobosh

<http://www.pravoslavie.ru/english/86471.htm>

As Fr. Ted Bobosh, one of the authors we find so deep and inspiring, recovers from chemotherapy, he delves into the spiritual side of healing. May our readers also draw from this wisdom and pray for his speedy recovery.

Those who have gone before me and completed chemotherapy for cancer, offered me words of encouragement as I struggled to get through the months of chemo. They spoke about the time when the chemo would be in the rear view mirror, and life would look so different again.

The passenger side rear view mirror warns us that “Objects in the mirror are closer than they appear.” The chemo for me is still very close in my mind, even though it is now in my rear view mirror. My visit with the oncologist this week, the first since finishing the actual chemotherapy, was hopeful to me mostly because I didn’t face another dose of the toxins being used to try to kill the cancer cells. I just rejoice in not having to endure another dose of the chemo. The side and cumulative effects of the chemo continue. For me this means continued disruption in my digestive system, tiredness, low energy, and still not feeling well. Things are better for me spiritually and mentally. My white blood cell count while not quite normal has risen substantially. Red blood cell count is down and I am slightly anemic, but all

these conditions should improve with time. Thanks be to God! Thanks also to all of you who have offered prayers on my behalf. I look forward to returning to more regular activities, and hoping for some “normal” health days. I offer some words from Psalm 103:1-18 –

Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless his holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.

I’ve mentioned this before, but it is worth repeating here, words from a friend who is a doctor: **the purpose of medical science is to remove all the obstacles to healing, so that God can then heal the person.** This is actually the same goal for all healing ministries whether physical, mental or spiritual. **In confession, we aim to remove those things which prevent us from being healed by God.** Chemotherapy as harsh as it can be, also aims at eliminating those things which are preventing the body from being healed. Once we have cleansed our hearts, souls, minds, bodies, God can heal us. This is the synergy between God and us.

The Lord works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed. He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel. The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger for ever.

One of the most blessed features of our God is that God, unlike some of our family members, friends and neighbors, does not keep His anger forever. God is love, and God does not constantly chastise us or punish us. God forgives, God is merciful, God uses every means for our salvation. We thank God for everything, not just things we think are good. We thank God for all that we experience in this world, knowing that God loves us and is not eternally angry with us. God is patient and ever awaits our repentance and our turning to Him to seek His love and great mercy.

He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor requite us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. As a father pities his children, so the Lord pities those who fear him.

God does not leave us in our sins, but removes our sins from us. This is part of how God heals us. God sending His Son into the world to die for us and because of our sins reveals exactly who God is and how God treats sin. God does not respond to sin as God is not limited by time. God acts towards us, God is not just reacting to us. God is



love and it is God's wish that everyone, including all sinners should turn to Him and receive life. This is what St. Paul experienced from God, which is why Paul became the great herald of God's grace and mercy.

For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust. As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field; for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more.

But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children, to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments.



TOP 10 TIPS TO LIVING AND ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN WAY OF LIFE

1) Attend the Divine Services

Participation in the liturgical life of the church is at the heart of the Orthodox way of life. Regular attendance on Sunday mornings, Saturday evenings, the 12 Great Feasts, and other special times throughout the year (like the Great Fast), is a must to living a healthy Christian life. Check the calendar.



2) Confess Your Sins

Ask God to help you see your own faults and weaknesses. Go to the Sacrament of Confession with sorrow for what you've done and hope for a new beginning through God's grace and mercy. Confession should be regular, once a month or more; at the very least during each of the four fasting periods.



3) Receive Holy Communion

Frequent and fervent reception of the Body and Blood of Christ is indispensable to growing closer to God. Be sure to follow preparation guidelines, make frequent confession, and remember to offer prayers of thanksgiving afterwards.



4) Keep the Fasts

Fasting on Wednesdays, Fridays, and other fasting days and seasons, helps us to deny ourselves, take up our crosses and follow Christ. Regular fasting helps keep the body healthy and the soul pure. Health issues, questions? Ask your priest.



5) Make Your Home a family Church

Maintain an icon corner where you say your morning and evening prayers. Place an icon or cross in every room so that you remember God during the day. Have your home blessed each year. Pray unceasingly.



6) Be a Good Steward

Give of yourself, always remembering that God will hold each of us accountable for the time, talents, and treasure He has entrusted to our care. Our stewardship indicates what we truly love (God or other things), for where our treasure is, there will our heart be also.



7) Study the Scriptures

Read from the Holy Bible every day without fail. This is God's Word to you. Your church wall calendar gives the appointed Epistle and Gospel reading for each day.



8) Assemble a Home Library

In addition to the Scriptures, we should read the Lives of the Saints, the writings of the Holy Fathers, and other spiritual texts. Ask your priest for some advice. What are you reading now?



9) Be Quick to Forgive and Slow to Judge

Always ask forgiveness when we hurt someone, even if it is unintentional. Remember that if we don't forgive others, then God won't forgive us. Likewise, don't judge your neighbor or you will fall under God's just judgment.



10) Trust in God – Not Yourself

Believe what the Lord teaches through His Church. Don't subject the Word of God to your own personal opinions; we don't know better than He does. The way to the Kingdom is to follow Christ; we cannot make it there ourselves.



“How are we going to live in these troubled times? There’s really only one answer. We have to become saints...so here we have the dilemma, that we have to become saints to be happy, and yet how to be one? Well, the Church has given us a saint for our times, and that is, the picture of this young nun, St. Therese, who gave us a way, first of all, that is very simple...she really had two rules. One was never to seek the satisfaction of the self, and secondly, to do everything, to bear everything, out of love for our Lord... the method of the little flower was to integrate sanctity with what we are doing...a saint is one who makes Christ loveable...it does not require much time to make a saint, it requires only, much love.”

– Venerable Fulton Sheen (*Treasured Love Story*)

Sunday offering for October 11

Amount	Number
\$12.00	1 (loose)
\$15.00	1
\$20.00	1
\$40.00	2
\$50.00	2
\$85.00	2
\$200.00	1
\$600.00	1
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\$1,197.00	

Parishioner Total: \$1197.00

Average / parish household (42): \$11.88

Weekly Stewardship Goal: \$2200.00

Deficit: (\$928.00)

Year-to-date deficit: (\$41,641.00)



The Sunday School teacher was describing that when Lot's wife looked back at Sodom she turned into a pillar of salt, when Bobby interrupted. "My mommy looked back once while she was driving," he announced, "and she turned into a telephone pole."

Another Sunday School teacher said to her children, "We have been learning about how powerful the kings and queens were in Biblical times. But there is a higher power. Who can tell me what it is?" Tommy blurted out, "I know - Aces!"

After explaining the commandment to honor your father and mother, a Sunday School teacher asked her class if there was a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters.

One boy, the oldest in his family, immediately answered, "Thou shalt not kill."

Lot again... A father was reading Bible stories to his young son. He read, "The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city, but his wife looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt."

His son asked, "What happened to the flea?"

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The Works of Jesus

Those who believe in one God the Father Almighty ought to believe in His only-begotten Son. Jesus says: "I am the door. No one can come to the Father but by me" (Jn 10: 9; 14: 6).

Anyone who does not accept the door cannot possibly reach the Father. Anyone who wishes to pray to the Father should adore the Son, or his prayer is not accepted.

The Son is called Christ, which means anointed, that is, consecrated. He was not anointed by human hands but consecrated by the Father to become a priest forever. He died, but He did not remain, as all human beings do, in the underworld. He is the only one free among the dead.

The Savior becomes all things to all, according to the need of each: to those who ask

for joy, he becomes the vine; to those who wish to enter, he becomes the door; to those who are under the weight of sin, he becomes a lamb, a lamb slain for them. He becomes all things to all, but He remains nonetheless what He is.

He is called by a twofold name: Jesus because He gives us salvation, and Christ because He is priest. He is the healer of bodies and the doctor of souls. As He made whole those who were physically blind, so He gave light to their minds. As He gave the lame the chance to walk, so He urges the steps of sinners in the direction of the way of penitence.

St. Cyril of Jerusalem

**For more information on Eastern spirituality, visit
www.ecpubs.com**