

August 3, 2014: The 8th Sunday after Pentecost (The multiplying of 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish)

Epistle: I Cor. 1:10-17:

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought. My brothers and sisters, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you. What I mean is this: One of you says, "I follow Paul"; another, "I follow Apollos"; another, "I follow Cephas;" still another, "I follow Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, so no one can say that you were baptized in my name. (Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I don't remember if I baptized anyone else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with wisdom and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

Gospel: Matthew 14:14-22:



When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick. As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food." Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat." "We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered. "Bring them here to me," he said. And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then

he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children. Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd.

During the course of the past 4 Sundays the gospel readings presented us a series of miracles performed by our Lord upon people who were in suffering or in bondage of the evil spirits. On this Sunday, we witness the miracle of multiplying the 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish so that over 5000 people were satisfied in the wilderness.

This miracle was interpreted by the Church Fathers as an anticipation of the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. The gospel is telling us that after the disciples brought the 5 loaves and the 2 fish to Him, Christ, *looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people.* This is exactly what He was going to do at the Last Supper, when He instituted the Holy Eucharist.

May God make us worthy participants in the Holy Eucharist!

Fr. George Bazgan

Back to the normal schedule

As of Saturday, August the 2nd, our Church Services will resume their normal schedule.

Please see the posting bellow of the special services during the Holy Virgin's Domition Fast.

Holy Virgin's Dormition Fast

Between August 1-15, the Orthodox Church observes the Dormition Fast.

During the two-week fast, beside the regular Sunday Liturgy, the following services will be held in our church:

- Saturday, August 2: Vespers at 6:00 PM.
- Wednesday, August 6: Divine Liturgy at 10:00 AM.
- Friday, August 8: Akathist to the Holy Virgin at 7:00 PM.
- Saturday, Aug. 9: Vespers at 6:00 PM.
- Thursday, August 14: Vespers at 6:00 PM.
- Friday, August 15: Divine Liturgy at 10:00 AM.

Those who want to have their confession heard, can do so after any of these services.