

June 21, 2020: The 2nd Sunday after Pentecost (The first Apostles)

Epistle: Romans 2:10-16:

But glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For there is no partiality with God. For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law (for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified; for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them) in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.

Gospel: Matthew 4:18-23:



And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." They immediately left their nets and followed Him. Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. He called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him. And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.

How amazing that the most important message in the history of mankind, the good news (the Gospel), brought to the world by the incarnate Son of God Himself, our Lord and Savior, was entrusted to a group of simple fishermen (for the most part), as a divine mandate, to be taken to all nations: **"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age"** (Matthew 28:19-20). This mandate could not have been implemented without the power and the work of the Holy Spirit, as the Orthodox Church sings at Pentecost: **"Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God, Who hast revealed the fishermen most wise sending down upon them the Holy Spirit and thereby catching the universe as in a net. O Lover of mankind, glory to Thee!"**

The evangelization of the world continues. That's why, the invitation addressed by the Savior to the fishermen is also addressed to us, Christians of the 21st century, making us active participants in this transformation of the world through the power and work of the Holy Spirit.

Fr. George Bazgan

Sunday Service Attendance

Due to the continuing State of Emergency, which limits to 50 (fifty) the number of people attending Church services, we are asking our members to make sure that, for time being, only 1 (one) person from each family attend our Sunday Divine Liturgy.

We apologize for this inconvenience and hope that the restrictions will continue to be relaxed in the near future.

Those who attend, are kindly asked to observe the recommendations of the experts, such as: washing their hands, social distancing, etc.

We also ask that those who attend fill out the attached form in order to conform with the new recommendations. [Click here to access the form!](#)

[Thank you all and may God keep us safe!](#)

Saints Apostles Fast

Between June 15 - 29 the Orthodox Church observes Sts. Peter and Paul Fast. On Saturdays of June 20 and 27, as well as on Sunday, June 28, there will be Vespers Service at 6:00 PM.

Following the Vespers, Confession will be heard.

MEMBERSHIP

The Board of Directors extends a warm appeal to all supporters of our parish, asking them to pay their membership as soon as possible.

This way we can ensure that we have the necessary funds to fulfill our financial obligations during the Summer months and for the rest of the year as well.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

CHURCH DIRECTORY PICK UP

The 2019 Church Directory is now available for those who participated in this project. If your family came to the Hall for a photography appointment or submitted your own family picture (for \$15), then you will receive a Directory. There is no rush to pick up your family directory.

Under the current unusual conditions, it is better to contact Fr. George (780-473-0029) to make arrangements for pick up.

We apologize for the delay and thank you for your patience and support for this Church project!

Have a happy and safe Spring!

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR!

During these trying times, we expect some of families (individuals) of our community to experience a higher degree of hardship, in terms of paying the rent, groceries, etc.

In order to help them cope with such difficulties, we are announcing the creation of a Humanitarian Fund, called "LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR."

Fr. George is committing \$500 per month for this cause until the current situation is resolved.

Those who want to contribute, with any amount, please call Mrs. Corina Sasu (780 – 200 – 1171) to make arrangements for payment.

Thank You and God Bless!

Prayer at the time of pandemic

O Lord, our God, who are rich in mercy and, with Your wise care, guard our lives, listen to our prayer, receive our repentance for our sins, stop this pandemic, as You have ceased the punishment of the people in the days of King David. You who are the Physician of our souls and our bodies, give healing to those contaminated with this disease, hastily raising them from their bed of suffering, to glorify You, the Most Merciful Savior, and protect those who are healthy from any disease.

Bless, strengthen and shield, O Lord, with Your grace, all those who, with love of people and sacrifice, care for the sick at their homes or in hospitals. Remove all disease and suffering from the people and teach us to value life and health as gifts coming from You.

Grant us, O God, Your peace, and fill our hearts with unwavering faith in Your protection, with hope in Your help, and with love towards You and our neighbor.

For Yours is to show mercy and to save us, O our God, and to You we give glorify: Father and Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen!