

## June 28, 2020: The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost (The cares of life)

### Epistle: Romans 5:1-10:

*Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.*

### Gospel: Mathew 6:22-33:



*“The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness! “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. “Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? “So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? “Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*

The gospel reading for this Sunday is a good reminder of God's providence for His creation and especially for His masterpiece: Man: *"For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things."* History shows very clearly that God has always been faithful to all of His promises. It is now our turn to recognize our dependence on God and be faithful to Him in complete allegiance: *"You cannot serve God and mammon."*

Just as man needs a good (healthy) eye for his physical eyesight (*If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light*), he also needs a good, healthy mind, which is the spiritual eye of his soul. Anxiety and obsession for acquiring material things result in clouding man's mind and his ability to discern on his priorities: *"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."*

**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.**

**Thank you all and may God keep us safe!**

## **Saints Apostles Fast**

**This year, between June 15 - 29 the Orthodox Church observes  
**Sts. Peter and Paul Fast.****

**On Saturday, June 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!

## LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR REPORT

In the last 4 months (March – June), as a result of our appeal for contributions toward the "LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR" project in order to help the most financially affected families by the coronavirus pandemic, to this day (June 22), the amount of \$13,740.00 was received from 23 contributing families.

12 families from our community have been assisted with the total amount of \$11,940.00, the remaining \$1,940.00 to be given out by the end of June.

Special thanks to Mrs. Corina Sasu who personally looked after this project in its entirety (money in and money out)!

Heartfelt thanks to all those who took part in this effort of Christian love!

May our good and merciful God multiply your offering and bless you with good health, peace and a good heart!

## 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!

## 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!