July 4, 2021: 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

We are live streaming the Liturgy

As we continue to operate under these restrictions, we are live streaming the Divine Liturgy on You Tube. To access the Sunday Services, <u>click here</u>.

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!

The Word Magazine

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