

The Good News

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 7

JULY 2019

PASTORAL MESSAGE

When I first arrived here I was both excited in being among you and alarmed at the prospect of being in a new city. Will I be able to find the hospitals? Will I be able to find my way to the Church? Or will I just get lost. You see I knew my way around Chicago very well and it was kind of traumatic to come to another city and start from scratch. That was when a friend of mine suggested that I get a map of the city and in this way I will be able to find my way. Being able to find your way, without asking for directions, is very important for a man. Part of finding your way involves in knowing your destination. Another part of finding your way is to not getting sidetracked by distractions that do not help you on your trip. My brothers and sisters in the Lord, we are on a journey. The Church shows us both our way and our destination as we begin our voyage, a voyage that will last all of our lives. Let us then take a few moments and discuss what our path is, where our destination is and how we can get there.

“Through whom we have access by faith into this grace.” (Romans)

What is grace? Grace is God's actions specifically Jesus' death and resurrection and the descent of the Holy Spirit. This grace is taught to us by the prophets, the law, Christ himself, the Apostles and the Fathers. Knowing this grace, we are led to faith. What is faith? Our faith is concrete and not nebulous. Why? Because God is concrete, in other words, He is not an idea. God is Trinity, that is a unity of persons and hence particular in nature. What I mean is God is not one god among many but only god. Our faith is not individual expression of belief but personal expression of love. My brothers and sisters in the Lord Adam who was created a person, whose entire being is based on relating, chose individuality, which implies self-sufficiency. In other words since personhood is life and the individual is death Adam chose to die. The new Adam, Jesus Christ, is not only a person by nature, being the Son of God, but also by choice, being the Son of Man. Hence we can say that our faith shows us who we are. Praxis or action on the other hand shows us what it is that we do. Praxis is faith in action. St. James tells us in his epistle that faith without works is dead, yet it is also fair to say that work without faith is misguided. Faith leads us to the door of Salvation and Praxis opens that door.

“Seek ye first the Kingdom of Heaven and its righteousness and all these things shall be given to you” (Matthew)

The Kingdom of heaven is our goal or our destination. The world gives us many pleasant yet dangerous distractions. It makes us over concerned with food, shelter, family and friends. What can we do? We should ignore earthly things. Does this mean we should not work? Of course not! What we should not do is make them our main concerns and concentrate more on the heavenly things. God knows what we need and will supply that which we need if we can focus on Him.

Now we may ask the following questions: Are there ramifications to this life and how can we get to our destination? Are there ramifications? Yes! Faith and Praxis lead to tribulation, tribulation leads to perseverance, perseverance leads to hope, and hope leads to salvation. Well then how can we get to our destination? The answer is simple. By using the tools that the Church gives us. First is fasting which allows us to have proper attitude to God, fellow man and nature. Second is prayer which is communication with God. Third is almsgiving which allows us to both acknowledge the fact that God gave us our wealth and that we have a duty to distribute them to the world. Next is confession which removes the spirit of rejecting the grace of God from us. Fifth is Holy Communion which puts God within us

So we can see that through the actions of our God and through the teachings of our teachers we find for ourselves the road that we must travel on, that is the road of faith through God's grace. This is not an easy road; in fact there are many side roads that will lead us nowhere. Yet if we persevere, then we shall find our destination, which is the Kingdom of Heaven. The only way that we can travel on this road is through action of our own. Our action is fasting, prayer confession and communion. These keep us securely on the road, even though there is much to distract us. Let us then proceed down the road of faith. Let us draw strength in whatever persecutions lie in our way so that we may seek first the kingdom of heaven and its righteousness and we may hear from our Lord, “Well done o good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your Lord”. Amen.

July 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Note: Sunday Liturgy 8:00 a.m. Orthros 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy Divine Liturgy (Saint George) 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 Fast Day 2:00 p.m. Centennial Meeting (Assumption)</p>	<p>4 Independence Day 10:00 a.m. Bible Study (Assumption)</p>	<p>5 Fast Day 5:00 p.m. Rehearsal (St. George)</p>	<p>6 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy at Saint Elias in Dubuque, IA (Fr. Peter to Serve) +Sacrament (St. George)</p>
<p>3rd Sunday of Matthew Orthros and Divine Liturgy (Assumption and Saint George)</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 Fast Day 2:00 p.m. Centennial Meeting (Assumption)</p>	<p>11 Saint Euphimia and Olga Equal to the Apostles Father Michael's 20th Anniversary to his Ordination to the Holy Priesthood 8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy at the Assumption Church</p>	<p>12 Fast Day</p>	<p>13 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy at Saint Elias in Dubuque, IA (Fr. Michael to Serve)</p>
<p>14 Sunday of the Fathers Orthros and Divine Liturgy (Assumption and Saint George)</p>	<p>15 Saint Kyriakos 8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy at the Assumption Church 6:00 p.m. Parish Council Meeting (Assumption)</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 Fast Day 2:00 p.m. Centennial Meeting (Assumption)</p>	<p>18 10:00 a.m. Bible Study (Assumption)</p>	<p>19 Fast Day 11:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m. Summer Food Fest (Assumption) 6:00 p.m. Great Vespers at the Church of the Prophet Elias in Dubuque (New Ave.) Address: 419 N. Grandview Ave.)</p>	<p>20 The Prophet Elias 9:00 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy at the Church of the Prophet Elias in Dubuque (Fr. Peter to Serve) 11:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m. Summer Food Fest (Assumption)</p>
<p>21 5th Sunday of Matthew Orthros and Divine Liturgy (Assumption)</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 Fast Day 2:00 p.m. Centennial Meeting (Assumption)</p>	<p>25 Dormition of St. Anna, Mother of the Theotokos Fast Day 8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy at the Assumption Church 10:00 a.m. Bible Study (Assumption) 11:00 a.m. Senior Outing</p>	<p>26 Saint Paraskeve Fast Day</p>	<p>27 Saint Panteleimon 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy at Saint Elias in Dubuque, IA (Fr. Thomas to Serve)</p>
<p>28 6th Sunday of Matthew Orthros and Divine Liturgy (Assumption and Saint George)</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 Fast Day 2:00 p.m. Centennial Meeting (Assumption)</p>			

Epistle Readers

Sunday, July 7, 2019
3rd Sunday of Matthew
Alexa Florence

Sunday, July 14, 2019
Sunday of the Fathers
Loukia Constantinides

Sunday, July 21, 2019
5th Sunday of Matthew
No Reader/Services at Assumption

Sunday, July 28, 2019
6th Sunday of Luke
Scot Johnson

Parish Council Sunday Duty

Sunday, July 7, 2019
Joe Burmeister, Mary Kay Eckert, Gus Pappas, Mary Rankin

Sunday, July 14, 2019
Mariellen Crosson, Doug Kenyon, Ted Pitsoulakis

Sunday, June 28, 2019
Joe Burmeister, Mary Kay Eckert, Gus Pappas, Mary Rankin

Senior Citizen Group

Our Senior Citizen 1861 to 1865. If he still fits into it he will even wear his Union uniform! We will meet at church at 11:00 a.m., to introduce to you to Kevin Koski (a descendant of a 15th century Finnish Warlord) who has been teaching Civil War history for the past 30 years. He is a Civil War enthusiast and a collector of arms and equipment of the Union soldiers from 1861 to 1865. We will enjoy the presentation and view the artifacts, and then have a box lunch prepared by Arthur's Garden Deli at a cost per person of \$9.00. Please RSVP to Kay Coin at (309) 786-0240.

EVENING MEAL VOLUNTEERS

July 24, 2019: Chris and Randy Smith.

August 28, 2019: Kim and Mary Winters and George and Diane Karoules.

September 25, 2019: Alexa Florence, Dena Manta, Nancy G Coin.

Anyone interested in participating in this worthwhile ministry should contact Dena Manta at 332-1684.

Pastoral Note

Father Michael will be out of town. In the event of an emergency please contact either Deacon Paul (309) 883-9143 or Fr. Thomas (847) 927-3333

Coffee Hour Hosts for July 2019

Sunday, July 7, 2019: Open

Sunday, July 14, 2019: Pat and John Andrews

Sunday, July 21, 2019: No Coffee Hour/ Services at Assumption

Sunday, July 28, 2019: Open

Prospora Baking Schedule for July 2019

Sunday, July 7, 2019: Open

Sunday, July 14, 2019: Open

Sunday, July 21, 2019: No Prospora/ Services at Assumption

Sunday, July 28, 2019: Open

Parish Registry

WEDDING

Sean Speed and Alyx Stumpf were united in the Sacrament of Holy Marriage on July 6, 2019 and the sponsor was Cecily Edwards.

Funeral

The servant of God, Pascal Booras, fell asleep in the Lord and was buried on June 17, 2019

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Holy Royal Martyrs of Russia (July 4)

Tsar Nicholas II was the son of Alexander III, who had reposed in the arms of Saint John of Kronstadt. Having been raised in piety, Tsar Nicholas ever sought to rule in a spirit consonant with the precepts of Orthodoxy and the best traditions of his nation. Tsaritsa Alexandra, a grand-daughter of Queen Victoria of England, and a convert from Lutheranism, was noted for her piety and compassion for the poor and suffering. Their five children were beloved of all for their kindness, modesty, and guilelessness.

Amidst the political turmoil of 1917, Tsar Nicholas selflessly abdicated the throne for what he believed was the good of his country. Although he had abdicated willingly, the revolutionar-

ies put him and his family under house arrest, then sent them under guard to Tobolsk and finally Ekaterinburg. A letter written from Tobolsk by Grand Duchess Olga, the eldest of the children, shows their nobility of soul. She writes, "My father asks that I convey to all those who have remained devoted to him ... that they should not take vengeance on his account, because he has forgiven everyone and prays for them all. Nor should they avenge themselves. Rather, they should bear in mind that this evil which is now present in the world will become yet stronger, but that evil will not conquer evil, but only love shall do so."

After enduring sixteen months of

imprisonment, deprivation, and humiliation with a Christian patience which moved even their captors, they and those who were with them gained their crowns of martyrdom when they were shot and stabbed to death in the cellar of the Ipatiev house in Ekaterinburg in 1918.

Together with them are also commemorated those who faithfully served them, and were either slain with them, or on their account: General Elias Tatishchev; Prince Basil Dolgorukov; the physician Eugene Dotkin; the lady-in-waiting Countess Anastasia Hendrikova; the serving-maid Anna Demidova; the cook John Kharitonov; and the sailors Clement Nagorny and John Sednev

Mary Magdalene, the Holy Myrrh-bearer and Equal to the Apostles (July 22)

Saint Mary was from Magdala in Galilee on the Sea of Tiberias, and for this was named Magdalene. When the Lord Jesus cast out seven demons from her, from which she had been suffering, she became His faithful and inseparable disciple, following Him and ministering unto Him even to the time of His crucifixion and burial. Then, returning to Jerusalem together with the rest of the Myrrh-bearers, she prepared the fragrant spices for anointing the body of the Lord. And on the Lord's day they came very

early to the tomb, even before the Angels appeared declaring the Resurrection of the Lord. When Mary Magdalene saw the stone taken away from the tomb, she ran and proclaimed it to Peter and John. And returning immediately to the tomb and weeping outside, she was deemed worthy to be the first of the Myrrh-bearers to behold the Lord arisen from the dead, and when she fell at His feet, she heard Him say, "Touch Me not." After the Lord's Ascension, nothing certain is known concerning

her. Some accounts say that she went to Rome and later returned to Jerusalem, and from there proceeded to Ephesus, where she ended her life, preaching Christ. Although it is sometimes said that Saint Mary Magdalene was the "sinful woman" of the Gospel, this is nowhere stated in the tradition of the Church, in the sacred hymnology, or in the Holy Gospels themselves, which say only that our Lord cast seven demons out of her, not that she was a fallen woman. "Madeleine" is a form of Magdalene.

Panteleimon the Great Martyr & Healer (July 27)

This Saint, who had Nicomedia as his homeland, was the son of Eustorgius and Eubula. His father was an idolater, but his mother was a Christian from her ancestors. It was through her that he was instructed in piety, and still later, he was catechized in the Faith of Christ by Saint Hermolaus (see July 26) and baptized by him. Being proficient in the physician's vocation, he practiced it in a philanthropic manner, healing every illness more by the grace of Christ than by medicines. Thus, although his parents

had named him Pantoleon ("in all things a lion"), because of the compassion he showed for the souls and bodies of all, he was worthily renamed Panteleimon, meaning "all-merciful." On one occasion, when he restored the sight of a certain blind man by calling on the Divine Name, he enlightened also the eyes of this man's soul to the knowledge of the truth. This also became the cause for the martyrdom of him who had been blind, since when he was asked by whom and in what manner his eyes

had been opened, in imitation of that blind man of the Gospel he confessed with boldness both who the physician was and the manner of his healing. For this he was put to death immediately. Panteleimon was arrested also, and having endured many wounds, he was finally beheaded in the year 305, during the reign of Maximian. Saint Panteleimon is one of the Holy Unmercenarys, and is held in special honor among them, even as Saint George is among the Martyrs.