

# **THE LIGHT OF THE EAST**



## **ST. ATHANASIUS THE GREAT** **BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**1117 South Blaine Ave. Indianapolis, IN 46221**

**Website: [www.saindy.com](http://www.saindy.com) Email: [sabcc@indy.rr.com](mailto:sabcc@indy.rr.com)**

**Pastor: Very Rev. Protopresbyter Bryan R. Eyman. D. Min. D. Phil.**

**Pastoral Associate: Father Deacon John Russell, M. Div.**

**Cantors: John Danovich, Brian Goshorn, Marcus Loidolt,**

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**Phones: Office: 317-632-4157; FAX: 317-632-2988**

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**Victim Assistance Coordinator: Sharon DiLauro Petrus M.D. : 216-741-8773**

### **WEEKEND DIVINE SERVICES**

**Sat.: 7 PM [Festal Evening Prayer]**

**Sun.: 9 AM [Morning Prayer] 10 AM [Divine Liturgy]**

**Mystery of Holy Repentance [Confessions]: AFTER Saturday  
Evening Prayer or ANYTIME by appointment**

**SERVICES FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 7, 2015**

**SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST.**

**SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS OF CARPATHO-RUS &  
NORTH AMERICA.**

**The Holy Martyr Theodotus, Bishop of Ancyra.**

**The Holy Martyrs Cyriaca, Valeria and Maria.**

**PLEASE COME FORWARD AFTER THE DIVINE LITURGY;  
KISS THE HOLY ICONS, KISS THE HAND CROSS [OR RECEIVE  
THE HOLY ANOINTING], & PARTAKE OF THE ANTIDORAN  
[BLESSED BREAD].**

<b><u>SAT. JUNE 6</u></b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>FESTAL EVENING PRAYER</b> <i>NO Mystery of Holy Repentance this week</i> <b>[NO CONFESSIONS]</b>
<b><u>SUN. JUNE 7</u></b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>MORNING PRAYER</b>
	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<i>FOR THE PEOPLE</i>
	<b>11:30 AM</b>	<b>PARISH LUNCHEON</b>
<b><u>MON. JUNE 8</u></b>		<b><u>Translation of the Relics of the Great Martyr Theodore the Recruit. Our Holy Father the Presbyter John of Kronstadt.</u></b> <b>NO DIVINE SERVICES ~ OFFICE CLOSED</b>
<b><u>TUE. JUNE 9</u></b>		<b><u>Our Holy Father Cyril of Alexandria.</u></b>
	<b>7 AM</b>	<b>FIRST HOUR</b>
<b><u>WED. JUNE 10</u></b>		<b><u>The Holy Martyr Timothy, Bishop of Prusa.</u></b>
	<b>7 AM</b>	<b>FIRST HOUR</b>
<b><u>THU. JUNE 11</u></b>		<b><u>The Holy Apostles Bartholomew and Barnabas.</u></b>
	<b>7 AM</b>	<b>FIRST HOUR</b>
	<b>7:30 AM</b>	<i>Health of Al Macek</i>

**WE WELCOME OUR VISITORS TO THIS MORNING'S  
DIVINE SERVICES. PLEASE LOOK FOR THE  
CHANGEABLE PARTS, HYMN NUMBERS, AND  
PROPERs ON THE COLORED INSERT.**

**FRI. JUNE 12**

**Our Ven. Fr. Onufrius the Great. Our Ven. Fr.  
Peter of Mt. Athos.**

**7 AM FIRST HOUR**

**7:30 AM *Int. of Parma Eparchial Clergy***

**SAT. JUNE 13**

**The Holy Martyr Aquilina. Our Holy Fr.**

**Triphyllus, Bishop fo Leucosia.**

**7AM FIRST HOUR**

**7 PM FESTAL EVENING PRAYER**

**8 PM MYSTERY OF HOLY  
REPENTANCE [CONFESSIONS]**

**SUN. JUNE 14**

**THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. The  
Holy Prophet Eliseus. Our Holy Father,  
Patriarch of Constantinople.**

**9:00 AM MORNING PRAYER**

**10 AM *FOR THE PEOPLE***

**11:15 AM PARISH LUNCHEON**

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:** *our parishioners, family members, friends and others who are ill or infirm:* AMY CHIAPPE, ETHAN EYMAN, CULVER "RED" EYMAN, MARGARET EYMAN, BOBBI SPAK, JAY MURTAUGH, BJ NOVAK, ELAINE WILSON, DR. CHARLOTTE NEUMANN, RON ZELLER, NICHOLE RICHARDS, BR. JAMES BROWN S.M., WILLIS WILLIAMS, DAVID BLEVINS, FR. DEACON MICHAEL GEORGE, KATHERYN LOIDOLT, EVIE KOBUS, JOHN BORGERT, LAUREN FIORELLI, CLARE HUNTER, IGNATIO ROMERO, MAGDELINA CHAUBY, ALEXANDER YOUNG, RICHARD MEDWIG, MEGAN ZAHN, JOSEPH COSGROVE, BARB & PHIL LINK, DAVE WILSON, TOMMY CAITO, REBECCA MALY, LILAH NICHOLE MALY, AL MACEK, LINDA STENGER, MATT HIZNAY, ANTHONY JESKO, JENNIFER GOLC, TOMMY SMITH.

***IF YOU KNOW SOMEONE TO ADD TO THE LIST PLEASE WRITE IT DOWN AND GIVE IT TO FATHER. PLEASE ALSO TELL HIM WHEN SOMEONE HAS RECOVERED AND CAN BE REMOVED.***

## **Tithes for the month of May 2015**

Date	Collection	Candles	Holy Day	Building Fund	Raising	Weekly Totals
5/3/15	\$860.93	\$140.50	\$10.00		\$625.54	\$1,636.97
5/10/15	\$863.98	\$177.00	\$5.00		\$1,031.58	\$2,077.56
5/17/15	\$714.02	\$17.99	\$25.00		\$ 928.12	\$1,685.13
5/24/15	\$794.67	\$149.00	\$25.00		\$1,167.35	\$2,136.02
5/31/15	<b>WILL APPEAR IN AND UPCOMING BULLETIN</b>					
Totals	\$3,233.60	\$484.49	\$65.00		\$3,752.59	\$7,535.68

***Many thanks to those who sacrificially contribute to St. Athanasius the Great Parish. Please consider it your personal spiritual goal to donate a full tithe [10% of your income] for the support of YOUR parish.***

*Bring the full tithes into the storehouse [of the Temple], that there may be food in my house; and thereby put me to the test, says the LORD!*

<b><u>Candles Available</u></b>	<b><u>Monthly Donation</u></b>	<b><u>Intention</u></b>	<b><u>Sponsor</u></b>
Eternal Lamp	\$40.00	Ukraine	Danny & Olga Vaughn
Icon Screen (6)	\$40.00	Alison Hendricks	Judy Ernst
Tetrapod (2)	\$30.00	Sonia Douglas	Judy Ernst
Nativity Icon	\$25.00	Family/Friend	Danny & Olga Vaughn
Theotokos of Vladimir Icon	\$25.00	Special Intention	Glen Grabow
Resurrection Icon	\$25.00	Healing	Danny & Olga Vaughn
St. Athanasius Icon	\$25.00	+Fr. Sid Sidor	Richard Medwig
Holy Table	\$40.00	Peter/Christine Majanja	Judy Ernst

**Give a spiritual Gift to someone in need.** We have candle Gift Cards you can send or give to a loved one, friend or someone in need of prayers. A single 6-day candle is \$5. For an entire month the cost is \$25. When giving your donation use the candle envelope in the back of the Church. Paired with it, take the candle card to give as a gift. In addition to the name on the candle, please specify a start date if you would like the Church to light the candle[s] in front of the Icons of our Lord or the Theotokos for you on a future date. Thank you!





## **PARISH REPAIR, RENOVATION AND RENEWAL PROJECTS**

We need your help in the continuation of the repair, renovation and renewal of our Parish Property. The following projects need to be completed or performed:

- 1] Complete the repair, replacement and painting of the Buttressing around the Church, and on the bell-tower.
- 2] Complete the construction and instillation of the room partitions in the Parish Hall.
- 3] Clean the siding on the Rectory and scrap and repaint the exposed wood especially on the porches and around the windows.

4] Replace and paint the window sill on the large west window in the Church.

5] A number of people expressed the desire to plant flower beds around the Church and Rectory. Father Bryan responds with: If you are willing to plant and take care of the flowers, please feel free to do so. Father has a brown thumb, and can only manage to kill plants and flowers either from "Kindness" or "Neglect." So if you wish to plant and take care of them, go right ahead.

*If everyone would volunteer to coordinate and/or take care of these projects we can get a lot accomplished this summer, even with our very limited financial resources.*

*Remember St. Athanasius the Great Parish's most important asset is YOU!*

## **UPDATE ON THE PROJECT TO DEMOLISH THE FORMER ASSUMPTION SCHOOL BUILDING**

*On Tuesday June 2<sup>nd</sup>, Father Bryan had a very positive meeting with City/County Council Member Jeff Miller and the Executive Director of the West Indianapolis Development Corporation [our Eastern neighbor]. We brainstormed and discussed various scenarios to seek and obtain the monies to demolish the former Assumption School Building. Incoming bids indicate that the costs of our tearing down the Building could be in excess of \$100,000.00. We will have to receive assistance from governmental organizations in order to tear down the structure. This MAY mean surrendering the property in order to have it torn down. Jeff Miller has promised his assistance in dealing with the Dept. of Code Enforcement.*



## **ST. ATHANASIUS THE GREAT PARISH LUNCHEON~**

**Parish Luncheon Donations ~** All of us enjoy the Post-Liturgy Parish Luncheon held every Sunday here at St. Athanasius the Great Parish. But we all also need to remember that this Luncheon does not appear “ex nihilo” [from nothing]. We need EVERYONE to share in providing our weekly repast. Please consider helping provide the various foods for the meal. You will find it helpful if you go to the Parish Page on the [www.perfectpotluck.com](http://www.perfectpotluck.com) website, to receive suggestions about what is needed for the upcoming Sunday. You can also



call Dr. Judy Ernst at (317-313-6144), to receive more information and instructions about using the Perfect Potluck website.

If you are unable to make food for the Potluck, we will also welcome donations of Cash, Milk, Coffee, Cookies, Crackers, Fruit Punch, Fruit Juices etc. Please also remember our parishioners who have gluten-intolerance, peanut-allergies, etc. There is a

donation basket on the buffet table to accept your cash donations to help pay for the various staples provided by the Parish. Please contribute \$5 or \$10 per family if you are NOT providing food for the potluck.

We also need help with food preparation and set-up either before Vespers Saturday Evening or before and after the Sunday Divine Liturgy.

Your assistance in cleaning up after the Luncheon is also greatly appreciate.

We need at least 8 people to help with clean up! If you didn't help with set up, please consider helping with clean up.

Please be sure to invite any of our visitors and guests to join us for the Luncheon.

Thank you for your help!

## **PARISH ADVISORY BOARDS MEETING**

**NEXT Meeting ~** The next Advisory Boards meeting will be after the Parish Luncheon on Sunday June 14<sup>th</sup> @ 1 PM. We will continue our discussions about our progress regarding our Pastoral Plan. This includes progress regarding a sign for the Church and tearing down of the former Assumption School!

**THE AKATHIST TO THE THEOTOKOS,**  
**THE INEXHAUSTIBLE CUP, HEALER**  
**OF ALCOHOLICS**

**WEDNESDAY JUNE 3<sup>RD</sup> 7 PM**  
**WEDNESDAY JULY 15<sup>TH</sup> 7 PM**  
**WEDNESDAY AUGUST 19<sup>TH</sup> 7 PM**  
**WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup> 7 PM**  
**WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup> 7 PM**

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**DO YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO IS TROUBLED BY THE DISEASE OF ALCOHOLISM OR CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY? THIS IS A POWERFUL PRAYER SEEKING THE INTERCESSION OF THE THEOTOKOS FOR THE HEALING OF THIS TERRIBLE AND DEBILITATING DISEASE. PLEASE GIVE THEIR FIRST NAME TO FR. BRYAN AND JOIN US FOR THIS LIFE-CHANGING AND HEALING AKATHIST.**

**Upcoming celebrations of the Paraclis to the Theotokos**  
**and Mystery of Holy Anointing "Ancient Healing Service" at 7 PM.**

*[This schedule may change due to changed circumstances]*

Wednesday June 24 Paraclis & Holy Anointing

Wednesday August 29 Paraclis & Holy Anointing

Wednesday September 30 Festal Evening Prayer & Holy Anointing

Wednesday October 28 Paraclis & Holy Anointing

Wednesday November 18 Paraclis [or Emanuel Moleben] & Holy Anointing

Wednesday December 16 Paraclis [or Emanuel Moleben] & Holy Anointing

**Please invite your friends and join us for this beautiful Healing Service!**



# **DIVINE SERVICES AND SPECIAL EVENTS**

## **AT ST. ATHANASIUS THE GREAT CHURCH**

### **3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST CELEBRATION**

<b><u>Sat. June 13</u></b>	<b>7 PM</b>	<b>FESTAL EVENING PRAYER</b>
	<b>8 PM</b>	<b>HOLY REPENTANCE</b>
<b><u>Sun. June 14</u></b>	<b>9 AM</b>	<b>FESTAL MORNING PRAYER</b>
	<b>10 AM</b>	<b>FESTAL DIVINE LITURGY</b>
	<b>11:30 AM</b>	<b>PARISH LUNCHEON</b>

### **4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST [FATHERS' DAY] CELEBRATION**

<b><u>Sat. June 20</u></b>	<b>7 PM</b>	<b>FESTAL EVENING PRAYER</b>
	<b>8 PM</b>	<b>HOLY REPENTANCE</b>
<b><u>Sun. June 21</u></b>	<b>9 AM</b>	<b>FESTAL MORNING PRAYER</b>
	<b>10 AM</b>	<b>FESTAL DIVINE LITURGY</b>
	<b>11:15 AM</b>	<b>WEEKLY SUNDAY LUNCHEON</b>

### **NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CELEBRATION**

<b><u>Tue. June 23</u></b>	<b>7 PM</b>	<b>FESTAL EVENING PRAYER</b>
<b><u>Wed. June 24</u></b>	<b>7 AM</b>	<b>FIRST HOUR</b>
	<b>7:30 AM</b>	<b>FESTAL DIVINE LITURGY</b>

### **4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST CELEBRATION**

<b><u>Sat. June 27</u></b>	<b>7 PM</b>	<b>FESTAL EVENING PRAYER</b>
	<b>8 PM</b>	<b>MYSTERY OF HOLY REPENTANCE</b>
<b><u>Sun. June 28</u></b>	<b>9 AM</b>	<b>FESTAL MORNING PRAYER</b>
	<b>10 AM</b>	<b>FESTAL DIVINE LITURGY</b>
	<b>11:30 AM</b>	<b>PARISH LUNCHEON</b>
	<b>12:30 PM</b>	<b>VESPERS OF SS. PETER &amp; PAUL</b>





## **Parma Eparchy Upcoming Ordinations~**

**From the Office of His Grace Bishop JOHN of the Eparchy of Parma**

**Father Deacon Kenneth M. Malley** will be ordained [*Cheirtonia*] to the Presbyterate on Sunday July 12, 2015 at a 4pm Hierarchical Divine Liturgy by His Grace Bishop JOHN Kudrick of Parma, held at the Cathedral of St

John the Baptist, 1900 Carlton Road Parma, Ohio.



**Seminararian Bryan Scotton** will be ordained [*Cheirothesia*] to the Holy Orders of Acolyte, Reader and Sub-Deacon on Sunday June 28, 2015 at the Shrine of Our Lady of Mariapoch, Mumford Rd. Burton Ohio at 11:00 am.

**WE WISH FATHER DEACON KENNETH AND SEMINARIAN BRYAN MANY HAPPY AND BLESSED YEARS!**

## **PARMA EPARCHY COMING TOGETHER**

During the recent Clergy Convention it was determined that the New Annual Parma Eparchy "Coming Together" is going to be held in three locations, one in each Protopresbyterate, this fall. All three gatherings will be held on Saturday October 10, 2015. OUR Midwest Region Gathering will be held in Munster, IN at St. Nicholas the Wonder-worker Parish Hall. The other Regions will gather at St. Mary Magdalene Parish Hall in Fairview Park, Ohio [Ohio Protopresbyterate] and St. Basil the Great Parish Hall in Sterling Heights, MI [Great Lakes Region]. A committee of Clergy & Laity has been identified and are developing plans for the day's schedule, including the possibility to use technology to connect the three sites for part of the day.

Please plan now to participate.



**Our Righteous Father John of Kronstadt** [born October 19, 1829, in Sura, Russia fell asleep in the Lord December 20, 1908, in Kronstadt, Russia) was an archpriest of the Russian Orthodox Church.

He was born as **Ivan Ilyich Sergiyev** in 1829. Having married the daughter of the Cathedral Rector, from 1855, he served as a priest in St. Andrew's cathedral in Kronstadt. Here, he greatly committed himself to charity, especially for those who were remote from the church, and traveled extensively throughout the Russian empire. He was

a member of the right extremist movement Sojuz Russkogo Naroda (Alliance of the Russian people) but did not commit himself politically. He was already greatly venerated at the time he died. He was glorified by the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia in 1964 and by the Russian Orthodox Church on June 8, 1990. St. John Maximovitch of Shanghai and San Francisco played an active role in preparation of St. John's canonization.

Many churches around the world and Ioannovsky Convent, the second largest monastery in St. Petersburg (by community size) are dedicated to St. John of Kronstadt.

His other feast days are commemorated on December 20 and October 19.

## Quotations

*"When you are praying alone, and your spirit is dejected, and you are wearied and oppressed by your loneliness, remember then, as always, that God the Trinity looks upon you with eyes brighter than the sun; also all the angels, your own Guardian Angel, and all the Saints of God. Truly they do; for they are all one in God, and where God is, there are they also. Where the sun is, thither also are directed all its rays. Try to understand what this means."*

## **St. John of Kronstadt: Quotations [Page 2]**

*"There is nothing impossible unto those who believe; lively and unshaken faith can accomplish great miracles in the twinkling of an eye. Besides, even without our sincere and firm faith, miracles are accomplished, such as the miracles of the sacraments; for God's Mystery is always accomplished, even though we were incredulous or unbelieving at the time of its celebration. "Shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect?" (Rom. 3:3). Our wickedness shall not overpower the unspeakable goodness and mercy of God; our dullness shall not overpower God's wisdom, nor our infirmity God's omnipotence." — My Life in Christ*

*"Oh, what great happiness and bliss, what exaltation it is to address oneself to the Eternal Father. Always, without fail, value this joy which has been accorded to you by God's infinite grace and do not forget it during your prayers; God, the angels and God's holy men listen to you."*

*"The enemy of our salvation especially strives to draw our heart and mind away from God when we are about to serve Him, and endeavours to adulterously attach our heart to something irrelevant. Be always, every moment, with God, especially when you pray to Him. If you are inconstant, you will fall away from life, and will cast yourself into sorrow and distress."*

*"Do not be despondent when fighting against the incorporeal enemy, but even in the midst of your afflictions and oppression praise the Lord, Who has found you worthy to suffer for Him, by struggling against the subtlety of the serpent, and to be wounded for Him at every hour; for had you not lived piously, and endeavored to become united to God, the enemy would not have attacked and tormented you."*

*"Prayer for others is very beneficial to the man himself who prays; it purifies the heart, strengthens faith and hope in God, and arouses love for God and our neighbor."*

## **Our Venerable Father Onuphrius the Great** commemorated on June 12



St Onuphrius had lived in complete isolation in the wilds of the wilderness for sixty years. In his youth he had been raised at the Eratus monastery near the city of Hermopolis. Having learned from the holy Fathers about the hardships and lofty life of the desert-dwellers, to whom the Lord sent help through His angels, St Onuphrius longed to imitate their exploits. He secretly left the monastery one night and saw a brilliant ray of light before him. St Onuphrius became frightened and decided to go back, but the voice of his Guardian Angel told him to go into the desert to serve the Lord.

After walking six or seven miles, he saw a cave. At that moment the ray of light vanished. In the cave was an old man. St Onuphrius stayed with him to learn of his manner of life and his struggle with demonic temptations. When the Elder was convinced that St Onuphrius had been enlightened somewhat, he then led him to another cave and left him there alone to struggle for the Lord. The Elder visited him once a year, until he fell asleep in the Lord.

At the request of St Paphnutius, Abba Onuphrius told him of his labors and ascetic feats, and of how the Lord had cared for him. Near the cave where he lived was a date-palm tree and a spring of pure water issued forth. Twelve different branches of the palm tree bore fruit each month in succession, and so the monk endured neither hunger nor thirst. The shade of the palm tree sheltered him from the noonday heat. An angel brought Holy Communion to the saint each Saturday and Sunday, and to the other desert-dwellers as well.

The monks conversed until evening, when Abba Paphnutius noticed a loaf of white bread lying between them, and also a vessel of water. After eating, the Elders spent the night in prayer. After the singing of the Our



**Venerable Father Onuphrius the Great [Page 2]** morning hymns, St Paphnutius saw that the face of the venerable Onuphrius had become transformed, and that frightened him. St Onuphrius said, “God, Who is Merciful to all, has sent you to me so that you might bury my body. Today I shall finish my earthly course and depart to my Christ, to live forever in eternal rest.” St Onuphrius then asked Abba Paphnutius to remember him to all the brethren, and to all Christians.

St Paphnutius wanted to remain there after the death of Abba Onuphrius. However, the holy ascetic told him that it was not God’s will for him to stay there, he was to return to his own monastery instead and tell everyone about the virtuous lives of the desert-dwellers. Having then blessed Abba Paphnutius and bid him farewell, St Onuphrius prayed with tears and sighs, and then he lay down upon the earth, uttering his final words, “Into Thy hands, my God, I commend my spirit,” and died.

St Paphnutius wept and tore off a portion of his garment, and with it covered the body of the great ascetic. He placed it in the crevice of a large rock, which was hollow like a grave, and covered it over with a multitude of small stones. Then he began to pray that the Lord would permit him to remain in that place until the end of his life. Suddenly, the cave fell in, the palm tree withered, and the spring of water dried up. Realising that he had not been given a blessing to remain, St Paphnutius set out on his return journey.

After four days Abba Paphnutius reached a cave, where he met an ascetic, who had lived in the desert for more than 60 years. Except for the two other Elders, with whom he labored, this monk had seen no one in all that time. On the each Saturday and Sunday St Paphnutius together with the monks was granted to receive the Holy Mysteries from the hands of the angel and to hear these words, “Receive the Imperishable Food, unending bliss and life eternal, the Body and Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, our God.”

***May we have such a Great Belief in the Eucharist!***



*Second Sunday after  
Pentecost*

**Revealed Guidance  
and Conscience**

IN HIS EPISTLE TO THE ROMANS St. Paul speaks of a distinction between Jews and Gentiles. Jews, he indicates, have the Law (the Torah), the record of God's revelation to Moses, as their guide, unlike the Gentiles. This does not make them superior or holier in any way, "*For there is no partiality with God*" (Rom 2:11).

St Paul goes on to note that there are sinners and righteous people among both Jews and Gentiles. Sinful Jews "*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 who will be justified*" (Rom 2:12-13). Gentiles, "*who do not have the Law,*" (v.14) have another standard by which they are judged. Gentiles, who "*by nature do the things in the Law ... who show the work of the law written in their hearts,*" (v .15) are judged by whether their conscience is in accord with the way of God. "*In the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ*" (v. 16) Gentiles will be judged by the witness of their conscience.

The Lord Jesus' parable of the last judgment (Mt 25: 31-46) expresses the same teaching in story form: "*When the Son of Man comes in His glory,*

## *Second Sunday after Pentecost [Page 2]*

*and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the Gentiles will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats”* (v. 31-32). Some are judged righteous because *“I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me”* (v. 35-36). While commentators usually stress the charitable basis of the judgment, the point of the parable is actually that the righteous Gentiles served Christ without knowing Him: *“Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You?”* (v.37). These righteous Gentiles were simply following their conscience, doing what they felt was right. But when a person’s conscience leads them to love God’s creation as He does, then *“inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me”* (v.40).

### **What Is Conscience?**

The idea that there is something within a person which leads them to decide what is right or wrong is found in many ancient cultures.

Conscience, as St Paul uses the term, comes from the thought of the Greek and Roman philosophers such as Socrates, Aristotle, Seneca and Philo. It is described as a sense of moral awareness or consciousness that enables a person to judge something to be ethically right or wrong.

Those with a well-developed conscience have a keen sense of right and wrong. People with no such beliefs may be amoral, even sociopaths with no principles governing their lives other than their own needs or desires.

Early Christian thinkers like St Clement of Alexandria and St Justin the Philosopher saw the truths in classical philosophy as preparing the Greeks to meet Christ, just as the Torah did for the Jews. They saw the best of human thought as leading inevitably to the teachings of the Lord Jesus. This is why in many Byzantine churches frescoes depicting the pagan Greek philosophers were placed on the outer porches. Thus it was natural

## *Second Sunday after Pentecost [Page 3]*

for St. Paul to use the philosophical term *conscience* when speaking about Greeks.

### **A Christian Conscience**

Christians are called to form their consciences, their sense of right and wrong, not from secular philosophy but according to the teachings of Holy Tradition. Thus, when Fathers like Sts. Ambrose, Cyril of Jerusalem or John Chrysostom instructed catechumens, they used as examples the Biblical figures who personified the virtues of wisdom, courage, temperance, and justice.

St Basil the Great developed a coherent system of Christian ethics in his works *The Judgment of God, Faith and Morals*. He, too, based his teaching on the Scriptures but not simply on isolated passages. The word of God, he insisted, had to be proclaimed all-inclusively so that people could correctly form their consciences. St Basil warned the clergy to be sure to preach the word of God in its fullness; if they omitted some necessary teaching they would be accountable for their hearers' transgressions.

For an Eastern Christian, that fullness is based, not on principles of philosophy, but on the mystery of our salvation in Jesus Christ. It consists ultimately in putting on what St Paul calls "*the mind of Christ*" (1 Cor 2:16) which we discover in the pages of the Gospels. We also understand this mind to be expressed in other elements of Tradition, the voice of the Holy Spirit in the Church. These include the Scriptures, as well as the creeds, the writings of the Fathers, the liturgy, the canons of councils, the icons, and the witness of the saints.

### **The Mind of Christ Today**

The heart of the authentic Tradition – in contrast to mere custom – is marked by its continuity with the practice of the Apostolic Church and by its agreement with the consensus of the Church's experience through the ages. Thus, for example, abortion has been condemned by the historic Churches since the first century. Similarly sexual activity outside the



## *Second Sunday after Pentecost [Page 4]*

marriage of a man and woman has never been accepted in the Church. Both are contrary to the natural and divine laws. The unbroken Tradition is that God's purpose for sexuality is directed at something greater than bodily pleasure, namely, the sanctity of the spouses and the procreation of children. In such cases we cannot claim to "put on the mind of Christ" if we pick and choose those teachings of the Tradition that suit us. Rather we are called to embrace the entire authentic Tradition which the Church has received and has passed on to us.

Other issues seem to fall into neutral areas where there is no clear or unwavering Tradition. Thus, for example, Christians can claim precedents in Scripture and Tradition both for pacifism and for supporting the armed forces. In addition, there are many issues regarding politics, economics, the environment and society, etc. about which well-meaning Christians can, in good conscience, take opposing views, for example: a free-market economy vs. governmental regulations; open borders vs. strict immigration policy; welfare vs. workfare, etc. Where there are no specific Church teachings, Christians must prayerfully make prudential judgments based upon their conscience that has been well formed in harmony with the Gospel and Church Tradition.

The dilemma of conflicting consciences is a classic theme in Western literature. A recent example is *A Man for All Seasons*, the drama about St Thomas More who resisted King Henry VIII in his drive to separate the Church of England from Rome.

When Thomas refused to endorse the king's plan, his friend the Duke of Norfolk advised him, "Oh, just come along and do it." Thomas More responded, "Oh, that's fine for you. Your conscience allows you to do that. And when you die, you go to heaven. And as for me, I go to hell." And Norfolk says, "Well, do it for friendship's sake." And More responds, "When I go to hell, Norfolk, will you come with me 'for friendship's sake'?"

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR MEN AND WOMEN IN THE MILITARY ESPECIALLY THOSE SERVING IN AFGHANISTAN AND IRAQ.**

**Lt. COL. CRAIG M. EYMAN D.O.~** is Fr. Bryan's 2<sup>nd</sup> youngest brother. He has reentered the Army Reserve and is currently serving with the 848<sup>th</sup> FST [Forward Surgical Team] stationed in Twinsburg, OH. He has returned to his family in Solon, OH.

**CAPT. BRIAN HEWKO USA~** is a friend of Fr. Bryan and a parishioner of St. Anne Ukrainian Byzantine Catholic Church in Austinburg, OH. He is a 2008 graduate of West Point. Brian has returned from deployment to the Persian Gulf. He is now serving in South Carolina.

**CAPTAIN CHRISTINA MOMONIER~** is a friend of Fr. Bryan. Christina is from Baltimore, MD is a Byzantine Catholic. She is currently serving at Ft. Benning, GA.

**CAPTAIN [FATHER] JOSEPH BRANKATELLI USA ~** is a friend of Fr. Bryan and a priest of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Cleveland and the Archdiocese for the Military Services. Fr. Joseph is posted in Washington, DC.

**AIRMAN MICHAELA and AIRMAN FIRST CLASS JOHANN WELLER USAF ~** are friends of Fr. Bryan and members of St. Ann Byzantine Catholic Church in Harrisburg, PA. Before entering the Armed Forces they were active with the BYZANTEEN Youth Rallies.

**PRIVATE CODY ROMERO USA, STAFF SERGEANT NIKO ROMERO, and STAFF SERGEANT RORY ROMERO ~** sons of Sonia Douglas. Cody received the Military Blessing at our Church and is currently serving at Fort Bragg, NC. His brother Rory has been deployed to Afghanistan. Their brother Niko serves as an Army recruiter in Anderson, IN.

**PRIVATE JACKSON RUANE USA~** Jackson is formerly from St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Parish in Ashtabula, OH. He is currently serving at Ft. Polk, LA since September, 2014. He is getting married in July, 2015.

**PRIVATE ABIGAIL BROWN USA~** is the Grand Niece of parishioner Belinda Dorney. She was recently promoted to PFC and has completed training in Army Intelligence at a base in Arizona. She is serving in Oklahoma.

**2<sup>ND</sup> LT. AARON JACOBSON~** from Mounds View, MN is a friend of Fr. Bryan. He is a 2013 West Point graduate, who has just completed his special training as a platoon leader. He is serving in Ft. Drum, NY.

*May God, in His infinite Love and Mercy, guide and protect all of those serving our Republic in the Armed Forces.*

*Welcome to St. Athanasius Byzantine Catholic Church of Indianapolis, IN. We are a Byzantine Catholic Community that, as part of the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy [Diocese] of Parma, is in Communion with Pope Francis I and the other Catholic Churches. We welcome to Holy Communion all Orthodox and Catholic Christians, who are able to receive Holy Communion in their own parish Church.*

***In the Byzantine Catholic Church we give Holy Communion to infants and young children. If you bring your child forward at Communion time he or she will be given Holy Communion. If you do not wish your child to receive Holy Communion, please do not bring the child forward at Communion time.***

*At the conclusion of the Liturgy, all should come forward to kiss the Holy Cross, or be anointed with blessed oil, and share in the Blessed Bread. Then join us in our St. Mary Hall for our Coffee Social. THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!*