

THE LIGHT OF THE EAST



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

1117 South Blaine Ave. Indianapolis, IN 46221

Website: www.saindy.com Email: 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,

Business Manager: John Danovich

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

Cell Phones [Fr. Bryan]: 216-780-2555 [Fr. John] 412-378-0308

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 JULY 5, 2015

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST.

Our Ven. Fr. Athanasius of Mt. Athos.

**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].**

<u>SAT. JULY 4</u>	7:00 PM	FESTAL EVENING PRAYER
	8:00 PM	<i>Mystery of Holy Repentance [CONFESSIONS]</i>
<u>SUN. JULY 5</u>	9:00 AM	MORNING PRAYER
	10:00 AM	<i>FOR THE PEOPLE</i>
	11:30 AM	PARISH LUNCHEON
<u>MON. JULY 6</u>	<u>Our Ven. Fr. Sisoës the Great.</u>	
	7:00 AM	FIRST HOUR
	7:30 AM	<i>FOR THE PEOPLE</i>
<u>TUE. JULY 7</u>	<u>Our Ven. Frs. Thomas of Maleum and Acacius, mentioned in the Ladder.</u>	
	7 AM	FIRST HOUR
	7:30 AM	<i>Int. of Margaret & Culver Eyman</i>
<u>WED. JULY 8</u>	<u>The Holy Great Martyr Procopius.</u>	
	7 AM	FIRST HOUR
<u>THU. JULY 9</u>	<u>The Holy Martyr Pancratius, Bishop of Taormina.</u>	
	7 AM	FIRST HOUR

**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. JULY 10

The Holy 45 Martyrs in Nicopolis in Armenia. Our Ven. Fr. Anthony of the Kiev Lavra. The three Maronite Franciscan Brothers, Francis, Abd-el-Mooti, Raphael Massabki and 8 others martyred with them by Muslims in Damascus [1860].

7 AM

FIRST HOUR

7:30 AM

Intention of Reader Bryan Scotton

SAT. JULY 11

The Holy Mother the Illustrious Euphemia. The Passing of Olha, Princess of Kyyv, baptized Helen.

7AM

FIRST HOUR

7 PM

FESTAL EVENING PRAYER

8 PM

MYSTERY OF HOLY

REPENTANCE [CONFESSIONS]

SUN. JULY 12

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. The Holy Martyrs Proclus & Hilarion. Our Ven. Fr. Michael of Malein.

9:00 AM

MORNING PRAYER

10 AM

FOR THE PEOPLE

11:15 AM

PARISH LUNCHEON

Tithes for the month of June 2015

Date	Collection	Candles	Holy Day	Building Fund	Raising	Weekly Totals
6/7/15	\$1,940.00	\$115.00	0.00	\$0.00	\$903.86	\$2,958.90
6/14/15	\$1,202.54	\$52.31	0.00	\$0.00	\$1,012.10	\$2,266.95
6/21/15	\$902.04	\$20.00	0.00	\$0.00	\$882.23	\$1,804.27

6/28/15

Totals \$4,044.62 \$187.31 0.00 \$0.00 \$2,798.19 \$7,030.12

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!

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED! PLEASE consider volunteering some time to regularly working on the Baking, making Pierogies, or selling our various creations at various Farmer's Markets. Please talk to John Danovich to volunteer and find out what times we need you to help.

ETERNAL MEMORY~ The Servant of God Albert Macek, 77 fell asleep in the Lord on Saturday June 27, 2015 fortified with the Holy Mysteries of the Church. The Divine Services of Christian Burial began at the Funeral Home in Plainfield, IN on Tuesday evening. The Office of Christian Burial was held on Wednesday at St. Athanasius the Great Church. Al Macek and his late wife were among the founders St. Athanasius the Great Parish in 1980. Al was a true handyman around the Parish until his stroke several years ago. He is survived by his daughter Sharon and son Bryan and two grandchildren. The Traditional 40th Day Memorial Liturgy will be served on Sunday August 9, 2015 at 10 AM. **Grant, O Lord, to Your servant the Albert blessed repose and eternal memory.**

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, JULI HALL, SHIRLEY MICRCZEJHWSKI, SONIA DOUGLAS.

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.



2015 EPARCHIAL “COMING TOGETHER” GATHERING ANNOUNCED

Save the date for **Saturday, October 10** for the **"Coming Together"** events that will take place in each region of the eparchy. These day-long gatherings will provide inspiration and support to parishes through the four priorities of the Pastoral Plan: discipleship, sacramental practice, vocation, and vibrant parishes. Our

Parish will be participating in the “Coming Together” Gathering at St. Nicholas Church in Munster, IN. More details and registration in early September.

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

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

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. Please do it if you expressed this desire.

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 Parish's most important asset is YOU!

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

WEDNESDAY JULY 15TH 7 PM

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 19TH 7 PM

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 16TH 7 PM

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 11TH 7 PM

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 9TH 7 PM

ST. ATHANASIUS THE GREAT BYZANTINE

CATHOLIC CHURCH 1117 S. BLAINE AVE. INDIANAPOLIS.

PLEASE INFORM FR. BRYAN OF ANY PEOPLE YOU WISH ADDED TO THE LIST OF THOSE IN NEED OF PRAYER.



**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]

NO SERVICE SCHEDULED FOR JULY.

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!

July 4th

By Patrick Henry

Bad men cannot make good citizens.

It is when a people forget God that tyrants forge their chains.

A vitiated state of morals, a corrupted public conscience, are incompatible with freedom.

No free government, or the blessings of liberty, can be preserved to any people but by a firm adherence to justice, moderation, temperance, frugality, and virtue; and by a frequent recurrence to fundamental principles.

I am sure that Patrick Henry would be unable to recognize our republic today. This is not because of the overwhelming number of technological advances we have made in our Country. He would be unable to recognize a nation that has abandoned the very notion that our rights come from God. He would be amazed at a nation that has redefined marriage to include couples other than one man and one woman. He would be sickened by a nation that has murdered over 55 million of its own children in the womb. He would clearly reject the notion that the people would abandon their own responsibilities, and expect the government to take care of themselves and their children from cradle to grave. And yet in many ways this is just what our Republic has become, where even the Little Sisters of the Poor are forced to sue the Federal Government to fully practice the Catholic Faith!

Whatever happened to the men who signed the Declaration of Independence?



Have you ever wondered what happened to the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence? Five signers were captured by the British as traitors, and tortured before they died. Twelve had their homes

ransacked and burned. Two lost their sons serving in the Revolutionary Army; another had two sons captured.

Nine of the 56 fought and died from wounds or hardships of the Revolutionary War.

They signed and they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor.

What kind of men were they?

Twenty-four were lawyers and jurists. Eleven were merchants, nine were farmers and large plantation owners; men of means, well educated. But they signed the Declaration of Independence knowing full well that the penalty would be death if they were captured.

Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter and trader, saw his ships swept from the seas by the British Navy. He sold his home and properties to pay his debts, and died in rags.

Thomas McKean was so hounded by the British that he was forced to move his family almost constantly. He served in the Congress without pay, and his family was kept in hiding. His possessions were taken from

Whatever happened to the men who signed the Declaration of Independence? [page 2]

him, and poverty was his reward.

Vandals or soldiers looted the properties of Dillery, Hall, Clymer, Walton, Gwinnett, Heyward, Rutledge, and Middleton.

At the battle of Yorktown, Thomas Nelson Jr, noted that the British General Cornwallis had taken over the Nelson home for his headquarters. He quietly urged General George Washington to open fire. The home was destroyed, and Nelson died bankrupt.

Francis Lewis had his home and properties destroyed. The enemy jailed his wife, and she died within a few months.

John Hart was driven from his wife's bedside as she was dying. Their 13 children fled for their lives. His fields and his gristmill were laid to waste. For more than a year he lived in forests and caves, returning home to find his wife dead and his children vanished. A few weeks later he died from exhaustion and a broken heart.

Norris and Livingston suffered similar fates. Such were the stories and sacrifices of the American Revolution. These were not wild-eyed, rabble-rousing ruffians. They were soft-spoken men of means and education.

They had security, but they valued liberty more. Standing tall, straight, and unwavering, they pledged: "For the support of this declaration, with firm reliance on the protection of the divine providence, we mutually pledge to each other, our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor."

They gave you and me a free and independent America. The history books never told you a lot about what happened in the Revolutionary War. We didn't fight just the British. We were British subjects at that time and we fought our own government!

Some of us take these liberties so much for granted, but we shouldn't. So take a few minutes while enjoying your 4th of July holiday and silently thank these patriots. It's not much to ask for the price they paid.

Remember: freedom is never free!

DIVINE SERVICES AND SPECIAL EVENTS
AT ST. ATHANASIUS THE GREAT CHURCH

7th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST CELEBRATION

<u>Sat. July 11</u>	7 PM	FESTAL EVENING PRAYER
	8 PM	HOLY REPENTANCE
<u>Sun. July 12</u>	9 AM	FESTAL MORNING PRAYER
	10 AM	FESTAL DIVINE LITURGY
	11:15 AM	WEEKLY SUNDAY LUNCHEON

8th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST CELEBRATION

<u>Sat. July 18</u>	7 PM	FESTAL EVENING PRAYER
	8 PM	HOLY REPENTANCE
<u>Sun. July 19</u>	9 AM	FESTAL MORNING PRAYER
	10 AM	FESTAL DIVINE LITURGY
	11:15 AM	BLESSING OF WHEELED VEHICLES
	11:45 AM	WEEKLY SUNDAY LUNCHEON

FEAST OF SAINT ELIAS CELEBRATION

<u>Mon. July 20</u>	7 AM	FIRST HOUR
	7 PM	FESTAL DIVINE LITURGY FOLLOWED BY THE BLESSING OF WHEELED VEHICLES

9th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST CELEBRATION

<u>Sat. July 25</u>	7 PM	FESTAL EVENING PRAYER
	8 PM	HOLY REPENTANCE
<u>Sun. July 26</u>	9 AM	FESTAL MORNING PRAYER
	10 AM	FESTAL DIVINE LITURGY
	11:15 AM	WEEKLY SUNDAY LUNCHEON

UPCOMING HOLY DAY CELEBRATIONS



Feast of the Holy Prophet Elias Celebration
***Blessing of Wheeled Vehicles will follow the
July 19th Divine Liturgy by Fr. Cyril O. Carm.***

Mon. July 20 [SIMPLE HOLY DAY]

7 AM

FIRST HOUR

7 PM

FESTAL DIVINE LITURGY

PLEASE NOTE SPECIAL TIME

VEHICLE BLESSING TO FOLLOW

**Saturday August 1st through Friday August 14th The Dormition
Fast**

***Please see upcoming bulletins for the schedule of the Paraklis
Service during the Dormition Fast.***



**FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR
LORD CELEBRATION**

[GREAT FEAST OF OUR LORD]

Wed. Aug. 5

7 PM FESTAL EVENING PRAYER

Thu. Aug. 6

7 AM FIRST HOUR

7:30 AM FESTAL DIVINE LITURGY

**BLESSING OF THE FIRST FRUITS
AND HERBS WILL FOLLOW BOTH
FESTAL EVENING PRAYER AND
THE DIVINE LITURGY**

Please plan now to join us for these Holy Day Divine Services

**Divine Services for the Feast of the Dormition of the
Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary & The Third
Anniversary of the repose of Father Sid Sidor**

<u>Friday August 14</u>	7 PM	FESTAL EVENING PRAYER & DIVINE LITURGY & <i>THIRD YEAR MEMORIAL OF THE REPOSE OF FATHER SID SIDOR</i>
	9 PM	MEMORIAL MEAL FOR FR. SID

<u>Saturday August 15</u>	7 AM	FESTAL MORNING PRAYER
---------------------------	------	-----------------------

Please invite former Parishioners, Family Members, Neighbors and friends to join us for this 3^d year Memorial Liturgy and Meal. The Blessing of Flowers and Herbs will follow each of the Divine Services.



Paraklis Service to the Theotokos during the Dormition Fast

In the various Byzantine Churches, the month of August is most properly called the “Marian Month.” The month begins with the



Dormition Fast from August 1st through August 14th inclusive. In many parishes the Paraklis Service to the Theotokos is served almost daily. Here at St. Athanasius the Great Parish we will approximate this tradition with the Paraklis beings served on a number of

evenings in preparation for the Great Feast of the Dormition.

All of these services are scheduled for 7 PM.

Tues. August 4th & 11th

Wed. August 12th

Thu. August 13th

Fri. August 7th

Annual Pilgrimage in honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help



The 81st annual Pilgrimage in honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help is a special ministry of the Sisters of St. Basil. It has been held every Labor Day weekend since 1934. This year’s Pilgrimage will be held Saturday September 5th and Sunday September 6th. It is held at Mount St.

Macrina 500 W. Main St. Uniontown, PA.

Please make plans now to participate in this exciting and spiritually enriching annual Pilgrimage.

SUPREME COURT DECISION ON MARRIAGE “A TRAGIC ERROR” SAYS PRESIDENT OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS’ CONFERENCE



June 26, 2015

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Supreme Court decision, June 26, interpreting the U.S. Constitution to require all states to license and recognize same-sex “marriage” “is a tragic error that harms the common good and most vulnerable among us,” said Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

The full statement follows:

Regardless of what a narrow majority of the Supreme Court may declare at this moment in history, the nature of the human person and marriage remains unchanged and unchangeable. Just as Roe v. Wade did not settle the question of abortion over forty years ago, Obergefell v. Hodges does not settle the question of marriage today. Neither decision is rooted in the truth, and as a result, both will eventually fail. Today the Court is wrong again. It is profoundly immoral and unjust for the government to declare that two people of the same sex can constitute a marriage.

The unique meaning of marriage as the union of one man and one woman is inscribed in our bodies as male and female. The protection of this meaning is a critical dimension of the “integral ecology” that Pope Francis has called us to promote. Mandating marriage redefinition across the country is a tragic error that harms

SUPREME COURT DECISION ON MARRIAGE “A TRAGIC ERROR” [PAGE 2]

the common good and most vulnerable among us, especially children. The law has a duty to support every child’s basic right to be raised, where possible, by his or her married mother and father in a stable home.

Jesus Christ, with great love, taught unambiguously that from the beginning marriage is the lifelong union of one man and one woman. As Catholic bishops, we follow our Lord and will continue to teach and to act according to this truth.



I encourage Catholics to move forward with faith, hope, and love: faith in the unchanging truth about marriage, rooted in the immutable nature of the human person and confirmed by divine revelation; hope that these truths will once again prevail in our society, not only by their logic, but by their great beauty and manifest service to the common good; and love for all our neighbors, even those who hate us or would punish us for our

faith and moral convictions.

Lastly, I call upon all people of good will to join us in proclaiming the goodness, truth, and beauty of marriage as rightly understood for millennia, and I ask all in positions of power and authority to respect the God-given freedom to seek, live by, and bear witness to the truth.

*Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz, Archbishop of Louisville
President United States Conference of Catholic Bishops*

45 Holy Martyrs at Nicopolis in Armenia **Commemorated on July 10**



The Forty-five Martyrs of the Armenian City of Nicopolis suffered during the reign of the emperor Licinius (311-324), then a coregent with Constantine the Great. Licinius, the ruler of the Eastern Empire, fiercely persecuted Christians and issued an edict to put to death any Christian who would not return to paganism. When the persecutions began at Nicopolis, more than forty of the persecuted of Christ decided to appear

voluntarily before their persecutors, to confess openly their faith in the Son of God and accept martyrdom. The holy confessors were headed by Leontius, Mauricius, Daniel, Anthony and Alexander, and were distinguished by their virtuous life. The procurator of the Armenian district, Licius, before whom the holy confessors presented themselves, was amazed at the directness and bravery of those who voluntarily doomed themselves to torture and death. He tried to persuade them to renounce Christ and offer sacrifice to the pagan gods, but the saints remained steadfast. They refuted all the arguments of the governor, pointing out to him all the falseness of faith in the vile and vice-filled pagan gods, leading those that worship them to ruin. The procurator gave orders to beat the confessors about the face with stones, and then shackle and imprison them.

In prison the saints rejoiced and sang the Psalms of David. St Leontius inspired and encouraged the brethren, preparing them to accept new tortures for the true Faith, and telling them of the bravery of all those formerly that had suffered for Christ. In the morning, after repeated refusals to offer sacrifice to the idols, the saints were again given over to torture. St Leontius, seeing the intense suffering of the martyrs and worrying that some of them might falter and lose faith, prayed to God that there might be a quick end of the matter for all.

45 Holy Martyrs at Nicopolis in Armenia [Page 2]

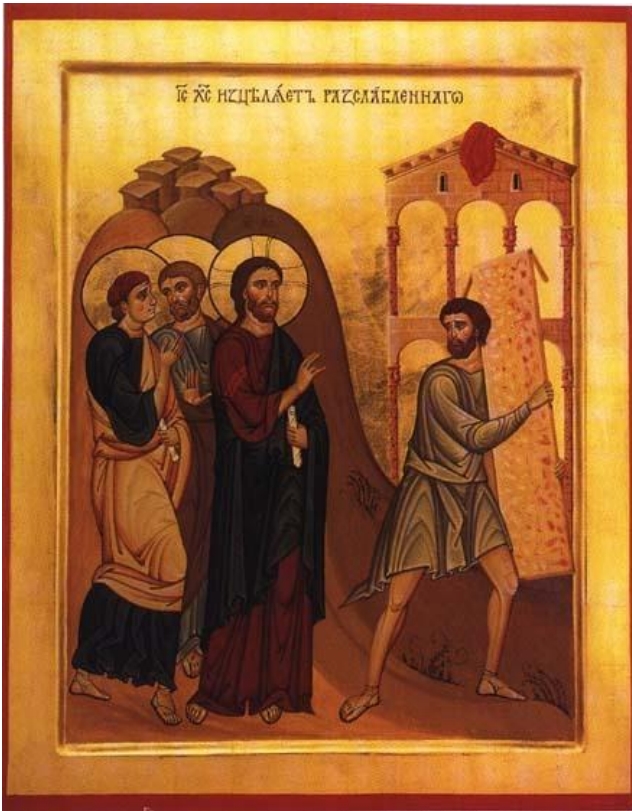
When the holy martyrs sang Psalms at midnight, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared to them, and the prison blazed with light. The angel declared to the martyrs that their contest was near its end, and their names already were inscribed in Heaven. Two of the prison guards, Meneus and Virilad, saw what was happening and believed in Christ. On the following morning, the governor decided to put the martyrs of Christ to death. After beastly tortures they burned them in a fire, and threw their bones in a river. Pious people found the relics, gathered them up and saved them. Later on, when freedom had been bestowed to the Church of Christ, a church was built on this spot in the name of the holy 45 Martyrs.

Hieromartyr Cyril the Bishop of Gortyna in Crete Commemorated on July 9

The Hieromartyr Cyril, Bishop of Gortyna, was bishop at Gortyna on the island of Crete for 50 years. He suffered either under the emperor Decius (249-251), or according to other historical sources, the emperor Maximian (284-305).

Brought to trial before a governor named Lucius, who demanded that he offer sacrifice to idols, the holy Elder steadfastly confessed his faith in Christ and refused to fulfill the soul-destroying command. The governor sentenced St Cyril to burning, but the flames did not touch him. Seeing this miracle, many pagans came to believe in Christ. Lucius himself offered up praise to the Christian God and set the saint free.

St Cyril continued with his preaching and led many pagans to Christ, but also he grieved that he had not been allowed to suffer for the Savior. It was reported to the governor that St Cyril would not cease his preaching, and that he continued to convert people from the darkness of paganism to the light of Christ. Hearing the sentence against him, St Cyril rejoiced that he was to be granted a martyr's death for Truth, and the 84-year-old Elder willingly placed his head beneath the sword.



Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

The Son of Man Forgives Sins

WE READ IN MATTHEW 9: 1-8 that, when people brought a paralyzed man to the Lord Jesus, He healed the man's paralysis, but not before telling him, "*Your sins are forgiven*" (Mt 9:2). The bystanders' initial thought that Jesus had blasphemed was replaced by wonder. As Matthew described it, "*they marveled and glorified God, who had*

given such power to men" (Mt 9:8).

The Lord Jesus, of course, was more than just a man. His full humanity was joined without confusion to the divine nature of the Word of God. He forgave sin, then, as the only-begotten Son of the Father. But the onlookers' amazement would be justified in time: God would give men the power to forgive sin, in the Church.

When the glorified Christ appeared to His disciples after His resurrection, He told them, "*Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained*" (Jn 20:22, 23). The Church was to extend the presence of Christ in the world both physically and spiritually by imparting the forgiveness of sins to those who came to it in faith.

The first place where the Church bestows forgiveness of sins is in the mystery of baptism. When we are buried with Christ in baptism we rise to a newness of life marked by deliverance from the power of sin. Infants brought for baptism, of course, have no sins of which they may be guilty; adults who receive baptism with repentance are freed from their past sins. As the priest announces at the eighth day removal of the baptismal

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost [Page 2]

garments, “you have been baptized, enlightened, chrismated, sanctified and cleansed in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit!”

The “Second Baptism”

The early Church recognized that believers might fall into serious sin, particularly when threatened with imprisonment and death during the Roman persecution of Christians. It began using its ability to forgive sin in a new way. Those guilty of serious sin would be reconciled to the Church after confessing their sin and undergoing a period of repentance – what came to be called the Mystery of repentance.

Today we express repentance and experience the forgiveness of sins through the Church in a number of ways:

Daily prayer of repentance – For a member of Christ’s Body, the Church, prayer is the most basic way to experience God’s forgiveness. As St John of Kronstadt said, “Often during the day I have been a great sinner, and at night, after prayer, I have gone to rest justified and whiter than snow by the grace of the Holy Spirit, with the deepest peace and joy in my heart” (*My Life in Christ*, Part 1).

Regular Self-Reflection – Periodic, even daily self-examination helps us to see the direction of our lives. Our entire existence should be lived in the light of the Holy Spirit. We examine our actions, thoughts and feelings, affirming our true selves in Christ who has taught us to live for God’s glory and discerning where we have let sin draw us away from our true goal.

A Relationship with a Confessor/Spiritual Father – Each person is in a different place in his or her journey. We may on occasion find thoughts in the Scriptures or the Fathers that touch our hearts, but finding someone who knows you and knows the ways of Holy Tradition is like taking a giant step in the Christian life. The fullest dimension of spiritual guidance

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost [Page 3]

involves sharing our thoughts and yearnings, not just our sins with this spiritual guide.

Receiving the Eucharist – Several times during the Divine Liturgy we are reminded that the Eucharist is given to us “for the remission of sins.” To receive this gift we must approach “discerning the Body,” as St Paul says: sensing the depth of this Mystery and our unworthiness to take part in it. And so before receiving we say the prayer “I believe, Lord, and profess” specifically asking for the pardon of our offences – the deliberate and the indeliberate, whether committed knowingly or inadvertently – so that we may receive the remission of sins and eternal life in this Mystery.

Observing the Church’s Fasts - The Fasts are another liturgical expression of repentance. Rearranging our lives in obedience to the Church’s weekly and seasonal fasts is a most practical way of affirming our commitment to life in Christ, a daily reminder that “*Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God*” (Mt 4:4).

The Mystery of Confession – As we have seen, Confession was at first considered a “second baptism,” a starting over in the Christian life, when a person had committed serious sin. Over the centuries it became more widely used and is considered appropriate today whenever a person feels the need for it, particularly:

- When a serious sin has been committed;
- When a habitual sin has overwhelmed the Christian;
- When a Christian has stopped growing spiritually and needs a reorientation of priorities.

Confession, with prayer and fasting, is also a customary preparation for important spiritual experiences such as receiving the Eucharist or other Mysteries and observing the Great Feasts of the Church year as a part of the Christian’s ongoing repentance. Thus we read in the *Didache* (c. AD 65-80), “On the Lord’s Day come together and break bread...having confessed your transgressions that your sacrifice may be pure.”

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost [Page 4]

No “Cheap Forgiveness”

Some people think that for us to obtain forgiveness we simply need to say a prescribed prayer or undergo a stipulated rite without any real connection to one's heart. Obtaining God's forgiveness is not the religious equivalent of paying a traffic ticket. It requires an interior act of repentance--*metanoia*--a change of mind and heart. And such heartfelt repentance must be seen in our actions.



First, we must extend to those who may have hurt us the same forgiveness we seek from God. We agree to this each time we say the Lord's Prayer: "forgive us...as we forgive." Indeed, the Lord cautions us: *For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses (Mt 6:14, 15).*

Second, we must *do something* about our sin. This may mean that we make some kind of restitution: return stolen property, or try to rebuild another's reputation which we have harmed, or the like. And we must take steps to avoid repeating the same kind of sin in the future, particularly if our sin is habitual. As Cosmas the Aetolian remarked: "Even if every spiritual father, patriarch, and hierarch...forgive you, you are unforgiven if you don't repent in action." And in the words of St. Isaac the Syrian: "There is no unforgiveable sin, except the sin that is not repented."

To repent in action does not simply mean resolving not to sin again. Like New Year's resolutions, such declarations rarely are kept for long. Repenting in action means, first of all, turning to God in prayer and asking Him to deliver us from our sin. We are counseled to repeat continually the prayer of the Publican: "O God, be merciful to me a sinner!" Only God, who forgives us when we sin, can prevent us from falling into sin... and only if we continually desire Him to do so. The sincerity of our prayer to be delivered from sin is shown by how often our heart is moved to utter it.

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 2nd youngest brother. He has reentered the Army Reserve and is currently serving with the 848th 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.

2ND 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!