

ST. NICHOLAS BULLETIN

Sunday, June 21st 2020

2nd Sunday after Pentecost/Tone 1

All Saints of America & Russia

Epistle: Romans 2:10-16 | Gospel: Matthew 4:18-23;
25-5:12

A blessed Father's day to all the dad's in our parish, and memory eternal to the many fathers who labored long in the establishment and life of St. Nicholas. And many years to our beloved Fr. Igor!

We are about halfway through the **Apostles Fast**, until Monday **June 29th**. This is one of the four major fasts, during which it is good practice and "good standing" to give confession (Especially as we were not able to do much in the way of confession during the Shutdown). As always, I am available for confession any time during the week if we discuss a time.

SERVICES AND EVENTS THIS WEEK

Monday, June 22nd @ Holy Resurrection, Belle Vernon: Divine Liturgy, 9:00 AM—Fr. John will be celebrating the liturgy at Holy Resurrection. Fr. Gresh has said that all are welcome—give him a heads up if you're coming.

Saturday, June 27th 6:00pm—Great Vespers

Sunday, June 28th 9:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, hours @ 9:10

Monday June 29th @ Feast of the apostles TBD

Prayer List June 14th

Mary Behanna—in memory of parents Andy & Petrina Gernat

Ginny & David Casciani—for health of Fr. Igor

Dimitri & Pauline Petro—For birthday of son-in-law Adam / in memory of Uncle George Levandovich / in memory of Dottie Priatko / for health of Fr. Igor / for health of daughter Kyra and grandsons Luke and Noah / for health of daughter Christine, granddaughter Alexandra and grandson Nicholas / for health of Ralph Prystash / for health of Matushka Nadia / for health of Gregory Nescott / for health of Metropolitan Theodosius

Vlad Kash—birthday of son, Daniel

John Joseph Hanna—for health of Albert Hanna / for loving memory of al Hanna Sr.

Tom & Elaine Backstrom—in memory of Mom & Dad / special intentions / God's healing hand be upon sister Michele / God's blessings on grandchildren Sydney, Luke, Freddy, and Madison

Nick & Christine Milchovich—For health of daughter Alexandra / for health of Fr. Igor / Happy Father's day to father, Dimitri Petro
Alexandra and Nicholas—Happy Father's Day for our dad
Sandy Carroll—health of mother-in-law, Erma Carroll / in memory of parent Mae & Pete Ruev / health of Greg Nescott & Met. Theodosius

Sticheron Verses from Last Night's Vespers

Rejoice, O mountains of **Pennsylvania**;
leap for joy, O waters of the **Great Lakes**;
rise up, O fertile plains of **Canada**;
for the elect of Christ who dwelt in you are glorified,
men and women who left their homes for a new land!
With faith, hope, and patience as their armor,
they courageously fought the good fight.
Comforted by the beauty of the Orthodox Faith,
they labored in **mines and mills**, they tilled the land,
they braved the challenges of the great cities,
enduring many hardships and sufferings.
Never failing to worship God in spirit and truth
and unyielding in devotion to His most pure Mother,
they erected many temples to His glory.
Come, O assembly of the Orthodox,
and with love let us praise the holy men, women, and children,
those known to us and those known only to God,
and let us cry out to them:
"Rejoice, all Saints of North America and pray to God for us!"

As the brightest sun,
as the brilliance of the Morning Star,
the precious feast of the saints of North America
has dawned for us,
to illumine us and to set **our hearts** on fire,
to imitate their godly lives,
and to **follow their example** of zeal for God.

Prayer for the World...

"The other day a little girl came with her mother and was crying. I said to her mother, "Step out so I can speak with her." When the mother left the room I asked the girl, "Why are you crying, my child?"

She responded, "I'm crying because I want everyone to be saved; I feel great pain because the world is in a very terrible state!" A small, twelve-year-old child was saying this! What could she know about the state the world was in?

And she continued, "This gives me so much pain, and tears come to me without my wanting it." She then fell crying on my shoulder.

I asked, "What do you feel when this overcomes you?"

She replied, "I feel so much love, so much love for people, and I don't want God to chastise them. I don't want them to perish. I want all people to repent and be saved!"

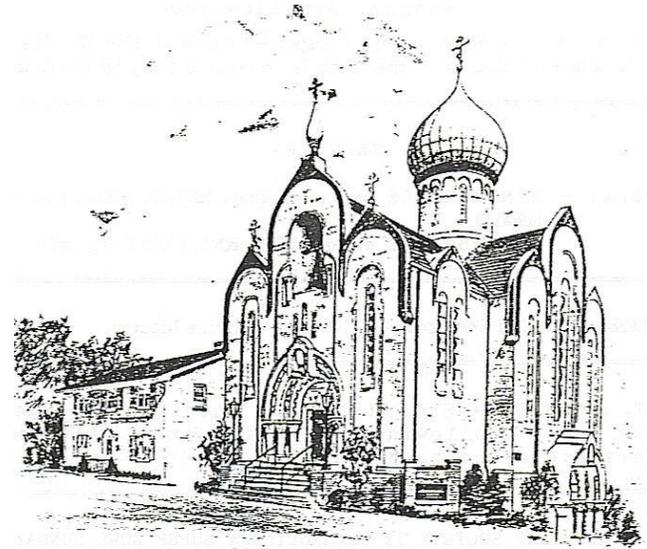
This is what we should feel in our souls since we are Christian.

Unfortunately, the devil robs us of this. God loves us so much and gives us so many opportunities to acquire this, if only we would ask for it.

I remember one time there was a man who prayed for the politicians. He went to church every day and lit a candle for each government minister, senator, etc. He would kneel before the Mother of God, praying for our country's situation to improve and be corrected. It made an impression on me how he prayed with tears and lit candles every day. This is what the grace of God enlightened him to do. Father Markellos of Karakallou tells us about the ascetics he finds in the wilderness who pray continually for the world.

What a shame to be deprived of Christ because we do not have humility and cannot humble ourselves! "Why did she do that to me?" "Why did she say that to me?" The "why" and the "how" will never end. I am telling you this again so you will understand. When we don't have humility, we don't have Christ! This is why one needs to labor spiritually as much as possible, struggling for his salvation and acknowledging his passions and faults. Let us advance in kindness, love, compassion, and all that God desires. May we have kindness in our souls and avoid self-love."

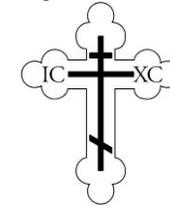
- Gerondissa Makrina: Words of the Heart



"The power of God is effective when a person asks for the help from God, acknowledging his own weakness and sinfulness. This is why humility and striving towards God are the fundamental virtues of a Christian."—St. John of San Francisco

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