

PARISH NEWS - January 19th, 2020

31st Sunday after Pentecost
31-ша Неділя після Зіслання Святого Духа

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS / ПРОСИМ О МОЛИТВУ ЗА ЗДОРОВ'Я

... all our parishioners who are in the hospitals, care homes, shut-ins and those who are not able to join us actively due to health reasons. Remember, if you would like a hospital or home visit, please call the parish office and let us know. Due to privacy laws, all requests must come from the individual or the immediate family.

Divine Liturgy:

Sunday 9:30 a.m. (Eng. & Ukr)

Weekdays: Please see Divine Liturgy Intention Schedule

Your Return Gift to God:

Last Sunday's Offering: \$625.00 (17 envelopes)

Thank You for Your Generosity! Щиро Вам Дякуємо!

~ Parish and Community Announcement ~

Your 2020 Church Envelops are ready for pick up in the narthex.
If you don't see a set with your name on them, please contact the parish office.

January 19th - Divine Liturgy and Great Blessing of Water

Parish Kutia (Christmas Meal) will take place on this Sunday, January 19th after Liturgy.

This is a community version of the traditional family Christmas Eve supper. There are no tickets to purchase for the meal, but a goodwill offering will be taken that day. All invited to attend.

GOSPEL REFLECTION: Luke 18:35-43

Have you ever encountered a special moment of grace, a once in a life-time opportunity you knew you could not pass up? Such a moment came for a blind and destitute man, named Bartimaeus (Mark 10:46-52). He was determined to get near the one person who could meet his need. He knew who Jesus was and had heard of His fame for healing, but until now had no means of making contact with the *Son of David*, a clear reference and title for the Messiah. It took a lot of "guts" and persistence for Bartimaeus to get the attention of Jesus over the din of a noisy throng who crowded around Jesus as He made His way out of town. Why was the crowd annoyed with the blind man's persistent shouts? He was disturbing their peace and interrupting Jesus' discourse. It was common for a rabbi to teach as He walked with others. Jesus was on His way to celebrate the Passover in Jerusalem and a band of pilgrims followed Him. When the crowd tried to silence the blind man he overpowered them with his emotional outburst and thus caught the attention of Jesus.

This incident reveals something important about how God interacts with us. The blind man was determined to get Jesus' attention and he was persistent in the face of opposition. Jesus could have ignored or rebuffed him because he was disturbing His talk and His audience. Jesus showed that acting was more important than talking. This man was in desperate need and Jesus was ready, not only to empathize with his suffering, but to relieve it as well. A great speaker can command attention and respect, but a man or woman with a helping hand and a big heart is loved more. Jesus commends Bartimaeus for recognizing who He is with the *eyes of faith* and grants him physical sight, as well.

Do you recognize your need for God's healing grace and do you seek Jesus out, like Bartimaeus, with persistent faith and trust in His goodness and mercy?



Why you should keep holy water in your home

Francis Phillips

I have just been reading Holy Water and its Significance for Catholics by Rev Henry Theiler. First published in 1909 and republished last year by *Sophia Press*, it is written in the rather formal, pious style of devotional books published before the modern era ushered in by Vatican II. However, it is good not to dismiss such a work as old-fashioned and thus out of date. The author reminds us of eternal truths that can never go out of fashion.

Holy water, like holy oils, blessed salt and the sign of the cross, is a sacramental. This means that unlike the Sacraments, it does not confer grace - but its usage can obtain it. What this means, as Fr Theiler explains in his measured style, is that the regular use of holy water can incite piety, put to flight - the Devil, and often, bring about bodily health.

It is much more powerful than we think: the author quotes the famous passage written by St Teresa of Avila, a Doctor of the Church, in which she relates that the devil once appeared to her. "I was struck with great fear and blessed myself as best I could; he disappeared but returned right away...I didn't know what to do. There was some holy water there, and I threw it in that direction; he never returned again...I often experience that there is nothing the devils flee from more - without returning - than holy water."

Diabolical visitations are mercifully rare for Catholics but ordinary piety indicates that it is prudent as well as a good custom to keep holy water in the home. Theiler advises making use of it when we get up in the morning and when we go to bed: "When a new day dawns, who will say what it may bring with it?" he asks solemnly, reminding us also that "Satan plants ruin to the soul of man" particularly at night.

Citing the Gospels and the Church Fathers, the author examines the sacred historic significance of holy water. A modern appendix added later by the publishers, advises that parents bless their children with it at night - and also, to bless one's workspace, one's pets and one's car. I am ashamed to say that when a woman once told me that she was having her car blessed, I secretly dismissed this as a superstitious practice. Now, recalling all the narrow escapes I have had in my car, often through my own poor driving, I plan to have it blessed as soon as possible. A friend once gave me a car sticker with the words, "Never drive faster than your Guardian Angel can fly". Having my car blessed with holy water and driving under the influence of my guardian angel: what can go wrong? Seriously, and to quote Henry Theiler again, holy water is a proven way of helping to "avoid sin and the occasions of sin, to keep God's commands, to make use of the means of grace and to lead a pious Christian life."

Food for Thought:

A little shepherd boy was watching his sheep one Sunday morning and he heard the bells of the church ringing. And watching the people walk along the pasture where he was, he happened to think to himself, "I would like to communicate with God! But, what can I say to God?" He had never learned a prayer. So, on bended knee, he began to recite the alphabet. Repeating this prayer several times, a man passing by, heard the boy's voice and peaked through the bushes. He saw the young boy kneeling with folded hands, eyes closed, repeating the alphabet. He interrupted the boy. "What are you doing, my little one?" he asked. The boy replied, "I was praying sir." The man seemed surprised and said, "But why are you reciting the alphabet?" The boy explained, "I don't know any prayers, sir. But I want God to take care of me, and to help me care for my sheep. And so I thought, if I said all I knew, He could put the letters together into words, and He would know all that I want and should say!" The man smiled and said, "Bless your heart, God will!" And he went on to church knowing full well that he had heard the finest sermon he could possibly hear that day. Maybe if we thought like little children and let God put together the letters, what we should want and what we should say, things would probably work out a lot better than we planned.
- *Author unknown* -

Too many people miss the silver lining because they're expecting gold.

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Our Venerable Father Macarius of Egypt (c. 390)

Troparion, Tone 7: By Your cross You destroyed death;* You opened Paradise to the thief;* You changed the lamentation of the myrrh-bearers to joy,* and charged the apostles to proclaim* that You are risen, O Christ our God,* offering great mercy to the world.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Kontakion, Tone 7: No longer shall the dominion of death be able to hold humanity,* for Christ went down shattering and destroying it s powers.* Hades is bound.* The prophets exult with one voice.* The Saviour has come for those with faith, saying:* "Come forth, O faithful, to the resurrection!"

Now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Theotokion, Tone 7: O all-praised treasury of our resurrection, we hope in you,* bring us up from the pit and depth of sin,* for you have saved those subject to sin* by giving birth to our Salvation,* O Virgin before childbirth, and Virgin in childbirth,* and still a Virgin after childbirth.

Prokeimenon, Tone 7

The Lord will give strength to His people;* the Lord will bless His people with peace.

verse: Bring to the Lord, O you sons of God; bring to the Lord young rams. (*Psalm 28:11, 1*)

Epistle - 1 Timothy 1:15-17

Timothy, my son, this is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance. For to this *end* we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is *the* Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. These things command and teach.

Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.

Alleluia, Tone 7

verse: It is good to give praise to the Lord; and to sing to Your name, O Most High.

verse: To announce Your mercy in the morning, and Your truth every night. (*Psalm 91:2,3*)

Gospel - Luke 18:35-43

At that time, as Jesus was coming near Jericho, a certain blind man sat by the road begging. And hearing a multitude passing by, he asked what it meant. So they told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. And he cried out, saying, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Then those who went before warned him that he should be quiet; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be brought to Him. And when he had come near, He asked him, saying, "What do you want Me to do for you?"

He said, "Lord, that I may receive my sight."

Then Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight, and followed Him, glorifying God. And all the people, when they saw *it*, gave praise to God.

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens;* praise Him in the highest.* Alleluia, alleluia,* alleluia. (*Psalm 148:1*)

Divine Liturgies this week:

DATE	TIME	INTENTION	OFFERED BY
Monday, January 20 th	9:00 AM	Health & God's Blessings for Mathieu Beauchamp	Marc Beauchamp
Wed., January 22 nd	9:00 AM	Special Intension for Barbara Edwards	Marc Beauchamp
Sunday, January 26 th	9:30 AM	For our parishioners	Fr. Bohdan