

St. Mary Magdalene Byzantine Catholic Church

5390 West 220th St., Fairview Park, OH 44126

Parish: 440-734-4644 □ Parish Cell: 216-926-2791 □ Hall: 440-734-8974

Web Page: www.stmarymagdalenebyzantine.org

Email: mmbyzantinechurch@gmail.com

Rev. Nathan Adams, Administrator

Father Deacon Daniel Surniak

AUGUST 30, 2020

13th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sat. 5:00 pm +Nancy Ganim – Carol Koziol
Sun. 9:30 am For the Christian Family of St. Mary Magdalene

Sat. 5:00 pm For the Christian Family of St. Mary Magdalene
Sun. 9:30 am +John Koenig – Koenig Family

ATTENDANCE AND OFFERING: (8/22-8/23) Saturday: 18 Adults, 0 children;
Sunday: 32 adults 7 children. **OFFERING:** \$1295.00.

SANCTUARY LIGHT: +John Koenig – Koenig Family

WELCOME TO OUR NEW ADMINISTRATOR Fr. Nathan Adams and his wife, Alison; and children, Sydney, Savannah, Roselyn, Abigail, and Molly. We hope that your stay here is a pleasant one as you care for the Parish Family of St. Mary Magdalene.

My Dear Parishioners:

I know I have written you a letter concerning my retirement and the new Administrator, but I just wanted to thank you again for all that you do for your Parish and for all of your help while I was your Pastor. It has been a great joy to serve you. I wish all of you a most happy and blessed life. I will always remember you in my prayers and Liturgies. May God be with you and bless you.

Fr. John

Governor DeWine has issued a mandate that anyone in a public place must wear a mask (unless health issues are a factor). Bishop Milan is affirming this mandate and asks that all parishioners attending Divine Liturgy wear a mask.

GROCERY CHECKOUT



I was checking out at the local grocery store with just a few items and the lady behind me put her things on the belt close to mine. I picked up one of those “dividers” that they keep by the cash register and placed it between our things so they wouldn’t get mixed. After the girl had scanned all of my items, she picked up the “divider”, looking it all over for the bar code so she could scan it. Not finding the bar code she said to me, “Do you know how much this is?” I said to her “I’ve changed my mind; I don’t think I’ll buy that today.” She said “OK,” and I paid her for the things and left. She had no clue to what had just happened.

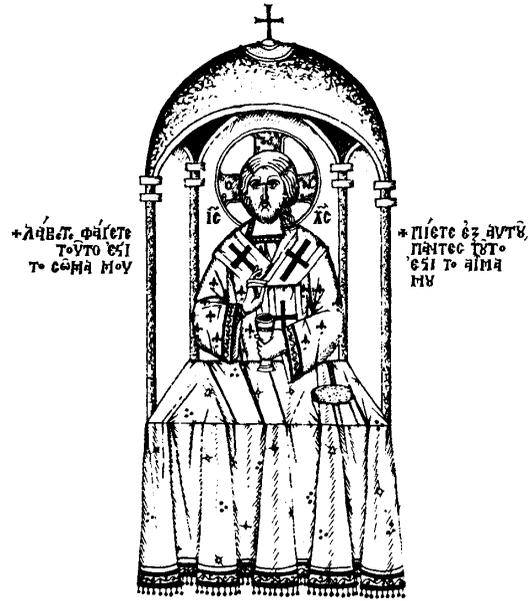
SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

A holy man was having a conversation with the Lord one day and said, “Lord, I would like to know what Heaven And Hell are like.”

The Lord led the Holy Man to two doors. He opened one of the doors and the Holy Man looked in. In the middle of the room was a large round table. In the middle of the table was a large pot of stew which smelled delicious and made the Holy Man’s mouth water.

The people sitting around the table were thin and sickly. They appeared to be famished. They were holding spoons with very long handles that were strapped to their arms and each found it possible to reach into the pot of stew and take a spoonful. But because the handle was longer than their arms, they could not get the spoons back into their mouths. The Holy Man shuddered at the sight of their misery and suffering. The Lord said, “You have seen Hell.” They went to the next room and opened the door. It was exactly the same as the first one. There was the large round table with the large pot of stew which made the Holy Man’s mouth water. The people were equipped with the same long-handled spoons, but here the people were well nourished and plump, laughing and talking. The Holy Man said, “I don’t understand.” It is simple” said The Lord, “it requires but one skill. You see, they have learned to feed each other, While the greedy think only of themselves.

INDICTION, BEGINNING OF THE LITURGICAL YEAR



On September 1 we start the new church year. We often hear that it is the start of the indiction. What is the indiction? It is a proclamation made by Constantine the Great in which he started a cycle of 15 years as a period of taxation. Constantine had reduced the time which Romans were obligated to serve in the army to 15 years and he imposed a tax or tribute at the end of that term to pay the troops who were discharged. But, in honor of his great victory over Mezentius on September 24, 312, by which Christianity was more effectually established, the Council of Nicea ordained that accounts of years should no longer be kept by Olympiads (a period of four years reckoned from one celebration of Olympic games to another), but that the indiction should be used as the point from which to reckon and date years. This was to begin on September 1, 313. At the present time, the custom is still maintained as the method

reckoning of the Church Calendar. This year it is the beginning of year 7527.

How does this affect us?

You will note in your prayer book that in the listing of major Holy Days the first immovable feast day is always the Nativity of the Mother of God on September 8 and that the last one is the Beheading of St. John the Baptist on August 29. So, the Birth of Mary starts the Year of the Lord. Many of the hymns for the services on September 1, state that the coming year is God's to give and God's to bless. A year of the Lord! These hymns are based on Psalm 64 especially verse 11: "You crown the year with your goodness; and your paths drop fatness." Another is: "Bless, O Lord, the crown (that is, the beginning). of the year with Thy goodness! The goodness of the Lord is His love, mercy and grace."

May the beginning of this church year mark a radiant beginning for each of us as we continue to sow and reap the abundant blessings of God, our Creator, and may our homes and hearts be filled with His grace, mercy and love throughout this "Year of the Lord."

GRACE AND DEIFICATION – EAST AND WEST



The aim of the Western Christian both in this world and the world to come, is to witness in some fashion the beatific vision; that is, to see God as He is. The Eastern Christian values this ambition of course, as a holy and noble thing. Yet for the Eastern Christian the purpose of this earthly journey is, according to the famous dictum of St. Seraphim, to "acquire the Holy Spirit." Why is this? For "the Holy Spirit, in coming to dwell in us, [note the opening prayer of every service] makes of our being the throne of the Holy Trinity, for the Father and the Son are inseparable from the deity of the Spirit."

These human activities of "beholding" and "acquiring" are, naturally, directly dependent upon the Grace of God communicated to us through the Spirit's gift of sanctification and deification. The Western Tradition has historically understood divine Grace to be something alien to the nature of God; something created; something not unlike God's external disposition. Grace in this respect may be, and often is, defined as "God's unmerited favor", reflecting the idea that it represents some sort of personal virtue. Thus in Western thought, the dynamic of divine Grace is still often understood according to the Old Testament dispensation: "an effect produced upon the soul by the divine will acting externally upon the person. For the Eastern Christian, however, Grace is neither created nor external to the nature of God. It is, rather, God Himself bringing repentant humans into the very life of the Trinity.

This act of deification (or theosis) is accomplished solely through the personal agency of the Holy Spirit, Who is ever dynamically abiding within the Body of Christ. Thus the spiritual ambition of the Western Christian is to see God as He is, while in the East the spiritual vocation of those reborn in Christ is to become a "partaker of the divine nature", to become, according to St. Athanasius, divinized through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. [Again, note the opening prayer to the Holy Spirit that begins all of our services, and should begin your day. Although these differences in emphasis are not inconsistent or theologically exclusive, they demonstrate well the differing approaches each tradition has assumed in defining the person and role of the Holy Spirit within the life of the Church.

WHAT'S A PENNY?



Several years ago, a friend of mine and her husband were invited to spend the weekend at the husband's employer's home. My friend, Arlene, was nervous about the weekend. The boss was very wealthy, with a fine home on the waterway, and cars costing more than her house.

The first day and evening went well, and Arlene was delighted to have this rare glimpse into how the wealthy live. Her husband's employer was quite generous as a host, and took them to the finest restaurants. Arlene knew she would never have the opportunity to indulge in this kind of extravagance again, so was enjoying herself immensely.

As the three of them were about to enter an exclusive restaurant one evening, the boss was walking slightly ahead of Arlene and her husband. He stopped suddenly, looking down on the pavement for a long, silent moment. Arlene wondered if she was supposed to pass him. There was nothing on the ground except a single darkened penny that someone had dropped, and a few cigarette butts. Still silent, the man reached down and picked up the penny. He held it up and smiled, then put it in his pocket as if he had found a great treasure. How absurd! What need did this man have for a single penny? Why would he even take the time to stop and pick it up?

Throughout dinner, the entire scene nagged at her; finally, she could stand it no longer. She casually mentioned that her daughter once had a coin collection, and asked if the penny he had found had been of some value. A smile crept across the man's face as he reached into his pocket for the penny and held it out for her to see. She had seen many pennies before! What was the point of this? "Look at it," he said. "Read what it says." She read the words, "United States of America." "No, not that; read further." "One cent?" "No, keep reading." "In God we Trust?" "Yes!" "And?" "And if I trust in God, the name of God is holy, even on a coin. Whenever I find a coin I see that inscription. It is written on every single United States coin, but we never seem to notice it! God drops a message right in front of me, telling me to trust him. Who am I to pass it by? When I see a coin, I pray, I stop to see if my trust IS in God at that moment. I pick the coin up as a response to God; that I do trust in Him. For a short time, at least, I cherish it as if it were gold. I think it is God's way of starting a conversation with me. Lucky for me, God is patient and pennies are plentiful!"

When I was out shopping today, I found a penny on the sidewalk. I stopped and picked it up, and realized that I had been worrying and fretting in my mind about things I cannot change. I read the words, "In God We Trust," and had to laugh. Yes, God, I get the message. It seems that I have been finding an inordinate number of pennies in the last few months, but then: Pennies are plentiful! And God is patient.

WHAT EQUALS 100%

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO GIVE MORE THAN 100%

Ever wonder about those people who say they are giving more than 100%?

We have all been in situations where someone wants you to give over 100%

How about achieving 101%? What equals 100% in life?

Here's a little mathematical formula that might help you answer these questions.

IF.....

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Is represented as:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26

Then

H-A-R-D-W-O-R-K 8+1+18+4+23+15+18+11= 98%

And

K-N-O-W-L-E-D-G-E 11+14+15+23++12+5+4+7+5= 96%

A-T-T-I-T-U-D-E 1+20+20+9+20+21+4+5= 100%

L-O-V-E-O-F-G-O-D 12+15+22+5+15+6+7+15+4= 101%

Therefore, one can conclude with mathematical certainty that ... While Hard Work and Knowledge will get you close, and Attitude will get you there, it's the Love of God that will put you over the top!

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