



Words of Wisdom

From the Saints & Teachers

Today Readings

Epistle: Ephesians 2:14-22

Gospel: Luke 13:10-17

Ephesians 2:14b (ACCS Ga-Php): 2:14b Breaking Down the Wall of Hostility The Wall Between Jew and Gentile Broken Down. Ambrosiaster: The passion of the Savior made peace between the circumcision and the uncircumcision. For the enmity, which was between them like a wall and divided the circumcision from the uncircumcision and the uncircumcision from the circumcision, was abolished by the Savior. His command is that the Jew should not so presume on his circumcision as to reproach the Gentile, nor should the Gentile trust in his uncircumcision, that is, his paganism, so as to abhor the Jew. Both, made new, should maintain in Christ their faith in the one God. **Epistle to the Ephesians 2.14.1.**

Luke 13:10-13 (ACCS Lk): Jesus Overcomes Death and Destruction. Cyril of Alexandria: The incarnation of the Word and his assumption of human nature took place for the overthrow of death, destruction and the envy harbored against us by the wicked Serpent, who was the first cause of evil. This plainly is proved to us by facts themselves. He set free the daughter of Abraham from her protracted sickness, calling out and saying, "Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity." A speech most worthy of God, and full of supernatural power! With the royal inclination of his will, he drives away the disease. He also lays his hands upon her. It says that she immediately was made straight. It is now also possible to see that his holy flesh bore in it the power and activity of God. It was his own flesh, and not that of some other Son beside him, distinct and separate from him, as some most impiously imagine.

Commentary on Luke, Homily 96.



From The Ambvon

ST MICHAEL ORTHODOX CHURCH,
OLD FORGE, PA

Priest Michael Shepherd (frmichael@stmichaelof.org)

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24th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 7. Greatmartyr
James the Persian (421).

Birthdays & Anniversaries for October

Birthdays: Emily Krenitsky (11/5); Diane Buranich (11/17)

Nameday: Michael Keklak (11/8); Michael Jadick (11/8); Fr Michael Shepherd (11/8); Philip Pecuch Jr (11/14)

Anniversary:

Baptism:

Travelers:

Prospora Schedule: Please sign up to bake prospora. **Open dates:** Dec

Visitors: Please Stay for coffee hour that will be downstairs in the Church Do you have a birthday or anniversary this/next week? Please add it to our list on the shelf in the Vestibule/Narthex.

Service Attendance: Last weekend Divine Liturgy: 20

DEAR GUESTS AND FRIENDS: *A most sincere and heartfelt welcome to you from our community. According to the ancient traditions of the Orthodox Church, the Sacrament of Holy Communion is to be administered only to Orthodox Christians who have prepared to receive themselves by fasting and a recent (monthly) confession..If you have questions please ask Fr Michael!*



Service Schedule

THIS WEEK of 28Nov-04Dec

THURS, Dec 1st: @ 6:00 PM Vespers University of Scranton OCF

SAT, Dec 3rd: @ 5:00 PM Great Vespers / Decorating for St Nicholas Feast

SUN, Dec 4th: Hours @ 9:20 AM, Divine Liturgy for St Nicholas @ 9:30 AM

WEEK of 05Dec-11Dec

TUES, Dec 6th: @ 6:00 PM Vespers University of Scranton OCF

SAT, Dec 10th: @ 5:00 PM Great Vespers / Decorating for St Nicholas Feast

SUN, Dec 11th: Hours @ 9:20 AM, Divine Liturgy for St Nicholas @ 9:30 AM

UP COMING

SAT, Dec 24th: @ 9AM, Royal Hours for Nativity

SAT, Dec 24th: @ 5:00 PM Compline, Matins with Litya for Nativity of Christ

SUN, Dec 25th: Hours @ 9:20 AM, Divine Liturgy @ 9:30 AM



Announcements

& Upcoming Parish & Diocesan Events

Nov 29th: Church Mutual Boiler Inspection

Dec 14th: setup scaffolding for First Security

Dec 16th: First Security will be here to update our security system & fire Alarms.

Church Work Day: Every Friday is Church Maintenance day. Come help!

ST NICHOLAS DAY FESTIVAL - COME HELP DECORATE - SEE BEVERLY

Parish Steering Meeting: Dec 10th, @ 3:30 p.m. prior to Great Vespers

The Lot down the Street has been sold for \$35,000.00. We are waiting for the title search to be completed

Kontakion, Synaxis of Archangel Michael & all the Bodiless Hosts

Commanders of God's armies and ministers of the divine glory, princes of the bodiless angels and guides of mankind, ask for what is good for us, and for great mercy, supreme commanders of the Bodiless Hosts.

Holy Archangel Michael Pray unto God for us!

“Your Nativity, O Christ our God, Has shown to the world the light of wisdom For by it those who worshipped the stars Were taught by a star to adore You, The Sun of Righteousness, And to know You, the Orient from on high. O Lord, glory to You!”

Some people fault the Christian Church for establishing the feast of Christ's birth on the day of the "birth of the sun." Certain Christian sects even oppose the celebration. Orthodox Christians believe that it was an act inspired by the Holy Spirit. God has sent His Son into the world for its sanctification and salvation. The Messiah has com "not to condemn the world," with its feeble and misguided attempts to find life's meaning, "but that the world might be saved through Him" (Jn 3:17). For, as the apostle Paul has written, "it is the God who said 'Let light shine out of darkness,' who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face [literally person] of Christ" (2 Cor 4:6).

“The Magi who had been led on their way by a divine star Stood before You in wonder at Your marvelous birth;
And bearing gifts, they see the sun Who rose form the Virgin cloud.
Let the people who sat in darkness See shining forth the Light that knows no evening,
Him whom the star once manifested To the fire-worshipping Persian kings.
You have shone forth from a Virgin, O Spiritual Son of Righteousness,
And a star revealed You, Whom nothing can contain, Contained within a cave.
You have led the Magi to worship You, And joining with them we magnify You.
O Giver of Life, glory to You.
Our savior, the Dayspring from the East, has visited us from on high;
And we who were in darkness and shadow Have found the Truth.
For the Lord is born of a Virgin!”

Parish Prayer List

Please remember in your prayers LIVING
Captive Hierarchs PAUL and JOHN

All those caring for the sick and suffering at this time throughout the world, especially our families and friends: Mike Jadick, Bernie Elko, Margaret Pregmon, Marie Buranich, Helen Wytovich, Tammy Wytovich, Rosemary Kuzmich, Sandra Pritchky, Marie Pasternak, Sandy Batton, Paula Stavisky, Al Pritchky, Eli Stavisky, Evelyn Bunevitch, Nadia Macheska, John Pritchky, Paulette Ezbiansky, Andrew Lutzick, Daniel Jones, Charissa Voroziihchak

Ill-afflicted Archpriests John Nightingale & Fr Theodore Orzolek

Matushka Paula Soucek

Servants of God Dcn Nathan, Mat. Katherine, Miraiah, Evangeline, Gideon, Zacharias, Ignatius, Basil (Clausson), Mat. Emilia, Blaise, Maximus, Rodion, Savina (Shepherd), Barbara Sevensky, Bev Elko, Sandra Condon, Ann Tyrpak, Sandy & Danny Pregmann, Walter Pritchky, Michael & Euphemia (Mia) (Keklak); Amaya Jackson; Robert Kane; Maria & Vitaliy Rakovsky

Seekers: Jason, Emilia, Judah, Nadia, & Silas

DEPARTED

Newly departed: Peter Gyza Sr. (11/20); John Miseyko (11/5); Rose Krenitsky (10/19) **Departed:** Leo Howanetz (11/6); Helen Chesniak (11/14); John Wansacz (11/15); Mary Krenitsky (11/16); Harold Krenitsky (11/22)

Fund Raising vs Christian Stewardship - Richard Reidly

At the outset, I want to establish different definitions for fund raising and for Christian stewardship. Fund raising means getting people to give more money. Christian stewardship on the other hand helps people to be more giving. Christian stewardship could be defined as the effective commitment or investment of human and material resources in participation with Christ in his love for others.

There are two primary points to be made. The first point is that stewardship always has to do with a Christian's task of giving away gifts that have already been given to him by God. This presupposes, of course, acceptance of the belief that all things are conferred on us by God. The second point is that stewardship always has to do with a Christian getting free of what binds him. In our culture, nothing binds us more than money - the symbol of material things. The first point has to do with turning to a new life; the latter with turning away from an old life. In other words, stewardship is intertwined with conversion. One has to be turned away from what binds him, and turned towards what frees him. This is the test of genuine conversion.

We must become deeply convinced that the relationship of a person and his money is fundamentally a spiritual matter, as fraught with implications for an individual's spiritual life as is his life of prayer or any other "religious" activity. Jesus said in Matthew 6:21, "Where your treasure is there shall your heart be also." Somehow, in some way, what a person does with his money, how he thinks about it, where he spends it, what he will do to earn it, and the things to which he will give it are some of the real clues to who he is inside, to what is essentially important to him, to what is really in his heart. It is significant to note the order of things in the words of Jesus. He does not say, "Where your heart is there shall your treasure be also." Try an experiment. Go out and buy a few shares of stock. Make it enough so the financial interest is important to you. Then notice what part of the newspaper you turn to first when you pick it up. I'd be willing to bet it will be to the financial page to check on your investment. Interest and enthusiasm follow money. "Where your treasure is there shall your heart be also."

To put it another way, the places where we make our most serious financial investments are the places where our real self, our inner self, is going to be most interested, most teachable, most responsive, and most open. To deal with a person in terms of what he does with his money is to deal with most people where they really live. A properly conceived stewardship effort in the Church can thus be an avenue to genuine spiritual growth. Good stewardship has that potential. That, I believe, is something of what Jesus meant when he said, "Where your treasure is there shall your heart be also." It is, therefore, extremely important that we begin to recover a soundly Orthodox theological base for our stewardship efforts.

The Winter Pascha, Chapter 26: The Sun of Righteousness

The following is an excerpt from **The Winter Pascha**, by Fr. Thomas Hopko

Originally there was but one festival in the Christian Church for the Lord's appearing. It was called the "festival of lights" and it was connected both to the Jewish festival of the season, as well as to the pagan celebration which took place at the time of year when the sun stopped its southern march and began to move again towards the north, symbolizing the victory of light over darkness in the natural order. This feast for the Christians was the feast of Epiphany, which literally means "appearing" or "manifestation," also called Theophany, which literally means the appearance or manifestation of God, and was kept on January 6. It was given this name, obviously, because God appeared on earth in the person of His Son, and manifested His glory in Him who called Himself the "light of the world."

The separate celebration of Jesus' Nativity apart from the one general celebration of His appearance on earth-- which originally included all aspects of His coming, from His birth to His public manifestation at His baptism in the river Jordan-- was consciously done by the Christian Church, first in the West and later in the East, to offset the pagan holiday of the "Nativity of the Invincible Sun." This pagan festival was celebrated on the twenty-fifth of December. It was a day of religious observance for those who worshiped the heavenly bodies, particularly the sun, as gods. When pagans were liberated from this worship and were blessed to adore the true God as Christians, it was only natural that the Church would replace the erroneous festival with the true one, thus giving genuine significance to a day which was already special in the life of many of its new members. It appears that the main hymn of the feast of Christ's Nativity in the Eastern Church was formulated as a conscious polemic against paganism, with a very pointed flaunting of the fact that those who formerly worshipped the stars, including the sun, were taught by a star to worship the True Sun, God's Son Jesus, who gives, and is, the True Light.

If your Annual Gross Income is:	Your Proportionate Weekly Gift Would Be:				
	3%	4%	5%	10%	12%
\$20,000	\$11.54	\$15.38	\$19.23	\$38.46	\$46.15
\$25,000	\$14.42	\$19.23	\$24.04	\$48.08	\$57.69
\$30,000	\$17.31	\$23.08	\$28.85	\$57.69	\$69.23
\$35,000	\$20.19	\$26.92	\$33.65	\$67.31	\$80.77
\$40,000	\$23.08	\$30.77	\$38.46	\$76.92	\$92.31
\$45,000	\$25.96	\$34.62	\$43.27	\$86.54	\$103.85
\$50,000	\$26.92	\$38.46	\$48.08	\$96.15	\$115.35
\$55,000	\$31.73	\$42.31	\$52.88	\$105.77	\$126.92
\$60,000	\$34.62	\$46.15	\$57.69	\$115.38	\$138.46

The Month of November (as of 26th)
WEEKLY GIVING UPDATE: We thank you for your continued giving in gratitude for all that our loving God does for each of us, for His Holy Church, and all the blessings we receive through her.
Octobers Expenditures: \$12,980.92
Collections Nov 2nd: \$1358.00
Collections Nov 8th: \$5921.00
Collections Nov 14th: \$1864.00
Collections Nov 21st: \$2891.70
Last Week's Expenditures: \$1,154.15
Current Bank Balance: \$22,270.53

Dear Parishioners, We have been falling below the monthly minimum we need to keep up with our expenses. We humbly request that you remember to maintain your tithes and offerings throughout these months when you may not be in church or are on vacation. Thank you for your continued support!