

July 8, 2018

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Liturgical Schedule

July 7 (Sat) Divine Liturgy 5:00pm  
*For the Parishioners*

July 8 (Sun) Divine Liturgy 10:30am  
*+Teresa Spudik req by Pasternak Family*

July 14 (Sat) Divine Liturgy 5:00pm  
*+Ted Druga*

July 15 (Sun) Divine Liturgy 10:30am  
*+Richard Heckel*

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The Sanctuary Lamp continues to burn before the presence of Our Risen Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ in our Church during the week of July 8 thru July 14 for +Teresa Spudik ~ *Eternal Memory*.

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July 1, 2018  
Our Tithe tour Parish - \$1,726.00

Let us remember in our prayers all of our friends and parish family members who are sick at home or in a nursing facility and for all who are in need of our prayers.

James Abraham, Tillie Abraham, Diana Abraham, Ron Bishop, Roselia Busko, Marion Campbell, John Fekete, Carl Magdic, Clarence Rizzi, Helen Rizzi, Rose Marie Rupnik, Joseph Rusinko, Sue Sabol, Mary Soltis, Terry Soltis, Margaret Weber, John Voron, Sr.

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**A Celebration of Marriage**

There will be a Divine Liturgy on September 9, 2018, at 3:00pm at St. Elias Church for those celebrating wedding anniversaries. Following the Divine Liturgy of Thanksgiving, a banquet dinner will be served in the church social hall. Each couple will receive a certificate and is photographed with Archbishop William. The photograph will be mailed at a later date. (Certificates are sent to those who are unable to attend.) If you plan to attend, please let Fr. John know as soon as possible. Names must be submitted to the Chancery by Friday, July 27

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**PARISH SERVERS "FAITH & FUN DAY" IS TUESDAY, JULY 31ST**

Open to all active altar servers (elementary through high school)  
Let Fr. John know if you would like to attend.

Mercy can go by many other names. Some of my favorites are compassion, grace, pity, charity, forgiveness, tenderheartedness, kindness, sympathy, tolerance and generosity, to name a few. I think it is safe to say that each and every one of these qualities was embodied by Jesus Christ as he carried out his earthly ministry. As Christians, we are called to live a life in Jesus Christ, which includes acting in a manner similar to Him. Every day, as I drive to and from Shadyside Hospital I pass at least two people, some times more, who are begging for change at a busy intersection. Sometimes I will give someone a dollar. Other times I will say a prayer or simply tell the person that I sincerely have nothing to give that day and I will wish them well. Some days, a simple wave or smile needs to suffice. You would not believe how many times the person smiles and waves back! We do not need grand displays of charity to be merciful. Nor do we need to always give money. Sometimes I'll give an apple. Sometimes, we need to give nothing more than ourselves. One of the most merciful things one can do is to look at someone who is penniless, dirty, downtrodden and forgotten and recognize their humanity. The simple act of acknowledging the fact that someone is human through something as common place as a smile is perhaps the greatest act of mercy one can show. Just as we ask God to have mercy on us for our human frailty, let us all make an effort to have mercy on one another for the same reason.

### **POPE FRANCIS REFLECTS ON THE BEATITUDES**

#### ***Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth***

In a world of conflict, Jesus proposes the way of meekness. "Learn from me: for I am gentle and humble of heart, and you will find rest for your souls." (Matthew 11:29)

If we are constantly upset and impatient with others, we will end up drained and weary," says Francis. "But if we regard the faults and limitations of others with tenderness and meekness, without an air of superiority, we can actually help them and stop wasting our energy on useless complaining."

This meekness should be displayed "even when we defend our faith and convictions." writes Francis. "In the Church we have often erred by not embracing this demand of God's word."

### **"Lord, Have Mercy!" Matthew 9:27—35 Seminarian Paul Varchola West**

In today's Gospel from Matthew, we hear two blind men cry words we know all too well: "Have mercy on us, Son of David!" (Mt. 9:27) How many times do we exclaim "Lord, have Mercy!" during any given divine liturgy? It is a common phrase that we use to show our praise to God or as a supplication when we are asking something of the Lord. It is so pervasive, this phrase is even uttered as a reaction when something frightening, shocking, surprising or scandalous is said or occurs. We certainly say, "Lord, have mercy!" quite a bit, but do we ever stop to think about what this phrase actually means? More so, do we ever stop and wonder what role mercy plays in our lives?

According to Merriam—Webster, mercy is primarily defined as:

1. compassion or forbearance shown especially to an offender or to one subject to one's power.
2. a blessing that is an act of divine favor or compassion
3. compassionate treatment of those in distress

Following these definitions, we are certainly asking for a lot when we ask for God's mercy. We are bowing down before an authority figure, asking Him to bless us and treat us compassionately, perhaps even to take pity on us for being so unworthy of such a merciful Lord. To me, this is quite a humbling take on a rather simple phrase. At the beginning of each and every divine liturgy, the very first thing we do is praise God and ask for His mercy. Before we ask for anything more tangible in nature, we praise God by exclaiming His glory when the priest says, "Blessed is the Kingdom ..." immediately followed by "Lord, have mercy." If mercy is so central to our worship, as well as Christ's teachings, one must certainly be wondering, "How does mercy play a role in my daily life?"