



August 5, 2018

**ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

Liturgical Schedule

**Aug. 4 (Sat) Divine Liturgy 5:00pm**  
*Intention of the Living and Deceased of the Belak Family*

**Aug. 5 (Sun) Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost**  
**Divine Liturgy 10:30am**  
*+Bryan Mihalick req by George & Diane Mihalick*

**Aug. 6 (Mon) FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD**  
**Divine Liturgy 7:00pm**

**Aug 11 (Sat) Divine Liturgy 5:00pm**  
*+Rosalind Bache req by William Bache & Family*

**Aug 12 (Sun) TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**Divine Liturgy 10:30am**  
*+John Wesdock req by Julee Lindberg*



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 August 5 thru August 11 for +Douglas Liebel req by daughter Janet Belliveau Yarosik ~ ~ *Eternal Memory* .

Our Tithe to our parish  
July 29, 2018 - \$1,159.00



*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, Rosella Busko, Marion Campbell, John Fekete, Carl Magdic, Clarence Rizzi, Helen Rizzi, Joseph Rusinko, Sue Sabol, Mary Soltis, Terry Soltis, Margaret Weber, John Voron Sr.

***FEAST OF THE HOLY TRANSFIGURATION***

*Through your Transfiguration  
You returned Adam's nature to its original splendor,  
restoring its very elements  
to the glory and brilliance of your divinity.  
Therefore, we cry out to you:  
O Creator of all, glory to you!*

**BLESSING OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLES**

The feast of the Holy Transfiguration occurs in the beginning of our harvest season. As a sign of the transfiguration of all creation, we bring the first fruits of the earth to the church to be blessed on this feast.



Each family is encouraged to bring a basket of fruit or vegetables ... from your own gardens, if possible ... and these will be blessed at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy next Monday.

In this way, our daily lives are brought into the Liturgy ... and the Liturgy reaches out to touch and transfigure our daily lives.



Congratulations to Paul on his Ordination to the Lectorate. We are all proud of you Paul and we are very happy that you and your family are part of our parish. May God bestow many blessing on you and your family.

84th ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE

IN HONOR OF

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP



The 84th Annual Pilgrimage in honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help is being held over the Labor Day Weekend September 1-2, 2018.

We invite you to come to visit your heavenly Mother this year at Mount St. Macrina as we join together as one family.

Brochures which include a brief schedule are available.

NORWIN ART LEAGUE

44TH ANNUAL ART EXHIBIT

This annual event will be held at Redstone Highlands Clubhouse in North Huntingdon on September 6-9, 2018. A reception will be held on September 6th between 7-9PM.

Registration deadline for entries is August 13, 2018



“The Value of Forgiveness”  
Matthew 18:23-35  
Seminarian Paul Varchola West

Today’s Gospel reading affords us a fine example of justice, mercy and forgiveness. Albeit a rather harsh lesson, it is clear that Christ is teaching the utmost importance of forgiveness. He presents us with a slave who owes a rather significant debt to his master. When confronted by his master to “pay up,” the slave is unable to do so and begs for mercy that he not be punished and be given more time to collect the money. Showing mercy, the king forgives the man his debt instead of selling him and his family. As this slave leaves the presence of his master, he runs into a fellow slave who owes him a far less significant debt and is ruthless in demanding the money owed to him. When the king receives word of this from other slaves who are simply horrified by this merciless slave’s actions, the king is furious and immediately calls for this slave to be brought to him. The king confronts the slave, saying, “You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?” (Mt 18:32-33) The king subsequently has this slave taken away and tortured until he can pay the entire debt he owes. I would have to say that this story has a pretty heavy lesson to say the least.

It is clear that the slave in this story is each and every one of us. We each owe God, our King, Master and Heavenly Father, a significant debt. We owe him our very existence. Given the events that unfold in Genesis 3 regarding Adam, Eve and a certain piece of fruit, it is clear that humanity had no intention of repaying this debt any time soon. Regardless, God is merciful and gives us every chance to repay this debt, so much so that He sent His only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to die for the sole purpose of the forgiveness of this debt. Each time we receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, each time we say, “Lord, have mercy” during the Divine Liturgy, each time we say in our hearts, “God, I’m so sorry I just did that,” we are asking our debt to God to be forgiven. Each and every time He does so, lovingly. So what do we do in return? Often times we tend to hold our fellow humans to an unreasonable standard of repayment for a transgression far less significant than the one we have committed against God, just as the slave in today’s Gospel. I am by no means saying that people should not be held accountable for their earthly financial debts. What I am saying is that it is up to us to show mercy and compassion when dealing with people in our daily lives.

The story we have heard today gives us an example to live by. We are to forgive our fellow humans in the way God forgives us. We are not to harbor evil in our hearts. Even if someone owes us a debt, tangible or otherwise, we are to have mercy upon them and show them the kindness of forgiveness. To be just, kind, merciful and forgiving is to live out the example that God and Christ have placed before us. Genuine forgiveness will take us very far as we journey down this path of salvation.