

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
SECOND SUNDAY OF MATTHEW



*Icon of the Call of the First Apostles*

## A REFLECTION ON OUR READINGS FOR THIS WEEKEND

On this second weekend after the feast of Pentecost, our readings are taken from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans and Matthew's Gospel.

Paul suggests that humans have been created with an "interior law" written in their "hearts" and that this interior law can be equated with what we call "conscience." What a person has to do during this lifetime is to learn how to "listen" to his/her conscience and heed its insights.

Our conscience is informed by God's own Spirit, Who is infused within us. His Spirit does more than just provide us with the various powers that make us "images" of God. The Holy Spirit also helps and guides us if we pay attention to His movement within us. He empowers us to instinctively know what is right and wrong if we pay attention to His insights.

Our Gospel reading relates the calling of the first disciples. There are, of course, several different versions of the calling of the disciples in the three synoptic Gospels.

What Matthew's version of the story stresses, I believe, is that God's Spirit within the first disciples - Simon, Andrew, James and John - moved them to just freely respond to the words of Jesus: "Come after me and I will make you fishers of men." Matthew's version simply states that they "dropped their nets" and immediately followed Jesus. What compelled them to do this?



This version of the story, I think, truly highlights the working of God's Spirit within the disciples. It is meant to encourage us to listen to the insights and inspirations of the Spirit for He will always lead us to something good.

The one caution is, however, that we have to always make sure that it is God's Spirit that is giving us the insights and not our own ego-centered spirit. We can always tell that it is God's Spirit if it calls us to patience, kindness, unconditional love and, of course, selflessness. If these insights call us to magnanimity and greater kindness and nobility, then we know it's God's Spirit and we should follow His insights.

If we follow the insights of the Spirit Who is within us, we will become followers of Jesus. We will also truly become the "children of God."

# St. Michael's Parish News

A Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church in Dearborn Michigan



## OPENING THE CHURCH

If you are reading this Bulletin it is important that you contact us so that we have a way of communicating with you. I would like to hear the thoughts of all members and interested people in the way that we reopen our church for services.

If you don't have Internet access, you can access our discussions via phone. But we have to know how you want to be included. If you have not been receiving direct contact from us, please let us know how you want to be included in our future discussions about opening the church building.

This Bulletin is sent out digitally as well as through snail mail. Please let us know if you want to be included in our discussions. I truly want this to be a "community" decision.

My email is: [wruhgy@gmail.com](mailto:wruhgy@gmail.com) and my phone is 313-580-4412. Please do not hesitate to contact me. I want the opinions of as many people as I can get. I will honor your input, even though the final decision may be different than you desire.

This is OUR PARISH! I want to honor the fact that it is a parish which you have chosen to belong. Give me your feedback. I want this to be as fair and equitable as possible.

## LIVING THE NEW LIFE

I think that in order to live the "New Life", a person has to feel that he/she is "called." On the weekend when we remember Jesus calling His first disciples, I feel that the call has been given to all of us, whether we realize it or not.



I know I am writing to "Catholics," and people who are committed to the Church. I wonder, however, how many really "feel" that they are "called" to be followers of Jesus.

Ask yourself this question: *Why do I belong to the Catholic Church?* Is it only because that is how I was raised? Is it because I fear that something bad will happen to me if you don't go? Answer this question: *Why do I go to church?* And, if you aren't a regular church goer, how does the church figure into your life? What value does it have for you?

I truly don't judge or criticize anyone who doesn't go to church. Why? Because I don't believe that we have an obligation to go to church. I only know that church is important to me because it has helped me to understand the

(Continued on page 6)

## BEING HUMAN - BEING IN THE IMAGE OF GOD

What does it mean to be created in the image of God? Often enough, we find the Fathers giving an answer in terms of human qualities, and these turn out to be qualities of the soul. The “according to the image”, says John Damascene, ‘is manifest in human intelligence and free will. Being in the image means being a rational, or intelligent, being with free will. Sometimes the answer is much more complex. Athanasius talks about God creating us and that we have been given something more: *creating human beings not simply like all the irrational animals upon the earth, but making them according to his own image, and giving them a share of the power of his own Word, so that having as it were shadows of the Word and being made rational, they might be able to abide in blessedness, living the true life, which is really that of the holy ones in paradise.*

Being in the image, however, is not, for Athanasius, simply a matter of being rational for otherwise the angels would be in the image, too, something that he denies: being in the image is a gift to humanity, body and soul, which grants rationality to the human, but

must mean more than this. The more is, I think, for Athanasius, tied up with the fact that the image of God is Christ, the word of God, whom we cannot understand apart from the Incarnation. It is in some way according to the image of God, understood as the Word of God Incarnate, that humankind was fashioned. This more complex notion unfolds in two ways.

First, we need to remember that it was in Greek that these ideas were thought through and that something of what is meant is lost in translation, whether into Latin or into English. For the key word here is *logos*, which can be translated as word, or

reason, or meaning, or principle; and the word translated “rational” is, in Greek, *logikos*. So the translation “rational” only preserves part of the meaning of the Greek *logikos*, and disguises the link the Greek suggests between the Word, or *Logos*, and *logikos*.

I know that this sounds so very esoteric but it is important. I shall continue to expound on this in the coming issues.



## BECOMING A HEALING PRESENCE



As I begin this article I know that I failed to ask my readers something: *Do you want to become a healing presence?* If you don't, that's OK. Some people don't want to do this even though I believe that we are called to become "healing presences" to others. We always must realize that all are not ready to take on this calling of Jesus. There is no shame involved if you are not ready. The only idea that I would like to put to my readers is that I believe that we are called to be "healing presences" in our world. That doesn't mean that we might not be ready. *(I suspect that those who are not ready to become healing presences have already eliminated this article from their reading).* Please do believe that I am not

judging anyone who is not ready. It is just an idea that I have been thinking about and hoping that I might become. Please be assured that I believe that God accepts us all at the level of our development. He never expects more of us that He knows we are capable to achieve. He is a loving Father and knows the capability of each of His children and takes our abilities into account.

I would hasten to share that He doesn't love us any less if we are not ready to become people who are ready to be "healing" presences in our world. He is not, in my belief, that kind of God. He knows us. He accepts us as we are. He doesn't place unreasonable expectations on His relationship with us. If we can become "healing presences" in our world, I am sure that He is delighted but doesn't love us more than others. He loves all of His creatures equally and, definitely, unconditionally. I would ask you to not put constraints on the love of God for you.

There are always multiple reasons why we might be able to respond to God's call. We have life experiences and events which militate against this commitment to God's agenda to have all humans working in support of bringing about His Kingdom. He knows the exigencies that control our lives. If there is nothing more that I can share with you is that I believe that **GOD IS NOT UNREASONABLE**. He is not a dictator or an unreasonable judge. He does not judge us but only encourages us to respond to the teachings of Jesus to be the primary force in our lives.

So, I wonder what you think? I would like to get feedback on my thoughts. You can call me, email me, or send me a letter. What do you think about my thoughts?

# Schedule of Services

**Sunday, June 14 - 2nd Weekend After Pentecost**  
**10:00 AM +Simeon Boyko; Bob & Corinne Boyko (Anniversary)**

## 3rd WEEK AFTER PENTECOST

**Monday, June 15 - Amos, Prophet**  
*No Service Scheduled*

**Tuesday, June 16 - Tychon the Wonderworker-Bishop**  
*No Service Scheduled*

**Wednesday, June 17 - Manuel, Sabel & Ishmael, Martyrs**  
*No Service Scheduled*

**Thursday, June 18 - Leontius, Martyr**  
*No Service Scheduled*

**Friday, June 19 - Jude, Apostle**  
*No Service Scheduled*

**Saturday, June 20 - Methodius, Bishop-Martyr**  
*No Service Scheduled*

**Sunday, June 21 - 3rd Weekend After Pentecost**  
**10:00 AM - Special Intention - Liturgy Streamed**

*(Continued from page 5 - Living The New Life)*

the meaning and purpose of my life. *(I probably don't sound much like a priest)*. I believe that going to church has to be a free choice and that church has to provide something to me when I go. I truly don't believe that it saves me from eternal damnation or punishment. I do believe that it helps me understand why I am here, what the main purpose of earthly life is about, and, as a bonus, it does tell me that I am loved by the Creator. This, I have come to realize, is probably more important than anything else. To know that you are loved by our Creator-God makes a difference in life.

When I go to church I realize that I go to thank my Creator-God for creating me and loving me. I thank Him for revealing, through Jesus, how to live this life in order to gain the greatest benefit. These are just my thoughts. I wonder what you think?



St. Michael the Archangel  
Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church  
6340 Chase Road  
Dearborn, MI 48126

Rev. Wayne J. Ruchgy, Ph.D.  
Pastor

Rectory: (313) 582-1424  
Cell: (313) 580-4412  
WRuchgy@gmail.com

### LITURGY SCHEDULE

**Sundays @ 10:00 AM**  
Ukrainian & English

**Weekdays @ 8:00 AM**  
English

### SACRAMENTS

#### **Penance**

*By Appointment*

#### **Baptism & Matrimony**

*In most instances membership  
required for six months*

#### **Funerals**

*Membership of an immediate family  
member required*

### Parish Life Council

Bob & Corinne Boyko  
734.451.1893

John & Janet Dicky  
586.755.3129

Daria Drobny  
313.791-0292

Robert Krokosky  
248.734.7078

Leo & Mary LaDouceur  
313.278.7378

Gordon Malaniak  
734.564.9817

Rev Deacon Leonard Mier  
313.584-6795

Greg & Esther Petrovich  
734.453-4354

Rafic Vawter  
313.624.9867

<http://www.stmichaelarchangel.org> - and - [Facebook.com/stmichaelugccdbn](https://www.facebook.com/stmichaelugccdbn)



# THE EASTERN HERALD

## СХІДНЬЙ ВІСНИК

The Weekly Newsletter of Very Reverend Canon Wayne J. Ruchgy, Ph.D.  
Vol. 67 No 24                      2nd Weekend After Pentecost                      June 13-14, 2020

### THE IMPACT OF PENTECOST

The true impact of Pentecost is only realized when we come to a deeper understanding that we are loved by God and that nothing that happens to us during this lifetime is meant in any way to hurt us or punish us. All the events and experiences in life are meant to help us come to a deeper understanding of God's presence within our lives. Because He is within us, loving and helping us, we know that what transpires is for our good.

Think about what Jesus endured during His lifetime. The things that happened to Him were not punishments and brought about His nobility as a human (*the Heavenly Father didn't make Jesus suffer and die out some sick desire for retribution or atonement*). The challenges that Jesus faced and overcame in such a noble manner have confirmed that what He taught and how He lived is the way that God wants us humans to think and live.

The challenges that Jesus met also reveal to us that it is within our human power to grow from the challenges of life. With God's help we can endure many things and grow in the process of enduring them. It is all a matter of "listening to" God's Spirit within us. We can never go wrong if we follow the lead of God's Spirit.

Of course we have to believe that His Spirit IS WITHIN US. We have to learn how to listen for His insights and His urgings. He will always



show us the right way to live and He will strengthen us as we meet life's challenges.

The prayer we have to the Spirit is magnificent: *Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth, Who are everywhere present and fill all things, Treasury of Blessings, Giver of Life, come and dwell within us; cleanse us of all stain, and save our souls O Gracious One.*

Why not make this prayer a regular part of your prayer life. It can help transform you!

## *What Have We Left Behind?*

Most successful people would probably tell you that what separates great people from ordinary people is that great people are willing to risk making decisions, whether right or wrong, and then acting on those decisions. Great people are people who have made great choices, often very risky choices, but in the long run their choices have usually been right. Biblical history is peopled with folks who were confronted by decisions they had to make.

Just imagine the decision required of those fishermen on the shores of Lake Galilee. Simon Peter, Andrew, James and John were fishermen, true, but they were businessmen. Perhaps even prosperous businessmen. Fish was a staple in the diet, and fishermen could often make a very good living. The brothers Peter and Andrew were

probably business partners with the brothers James and John and most likely had a good business going. So when Jesus said to the two sets of brothers, "Follow me," He was not calling them to leave a sport, or a hobby; he was asking them to leave their careers, their livelihoods, and their families! They had everything to lose.

What have we left behind to follow Him? Unless there's some pain, some discomfort, some sacrifice, then most probably we haven't left anything. Perhaps we're still fumbling about in our boats, tossing our nets over the side, and business goes on as usual.

Yet, if we do that, the Great Fisherman might leave us and move on to someone else, and the choice might go by forever.