

# HOLY SPIRIT BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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**SUNDAY, JULY 31, 2022**

**EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

## SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

**Sunday, July 31:** 8am Confessions

9am Divine Liturgy for Judith Mackin and her birthday by Priscilla Fello

**Monday, August 1:** 9am 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Hour

4:30 Confessions, 5:30 Akathist and Procession for the Feast of the Procession of the Holy Cross

**Friday, August 5:** 9am 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Hour

*Pius X: 4:30pm Vespers, 5:30pm Divine Liturgy for the Solemnity of the Transfiguration*

**Saturday, August 6:** 7am Confessions, 8am Selections from Matins for the Feast

9am Divine Liturgy for the Solemnity of the Transfiguration

Intention for the deceased Catherine and Michael Warhola by their daughter Catherine Warhola

**Sunday, August 7:** 8am Confessions

9am Divine Liturgy for Ruth Cavanaugh and her birthday by Mary Dzurichko

Confessions are available before Divine Liturgy. All divine liturgies are open for intentions. Call the office or fill out the request form in the back of church and leave it in the sacristy.

**AT THE DIVINE LITURGY TODAY...** Jesus is the eternal Bread of Life, and this spiritual nourishment is provided for His followers in the Divine Eucharist. Paul rails against the factions among the Corinthians, since such divisiveness is antithetical to the Eucharistic Jesus, who is the essential bond of unity among all Christians. The miracle of the multiplication of the loaves is a prefiguration of the Eucharist – the sustenance given for eternal life.

**ECUMENICAL SERVICE.....** On September 17 we will host an ecumenical prayer service for an end to the conflict in Ukraine. Stay tuned for more details.

**PARISH DIRECTORY.....** We're looking to update the parish directory. Please remember to fill out the directory information form found in the back (narthex) of the church. You can submit forms to Fr. Michael or Pani Janine.

**THE DORMITION FAST.....** August 1 begins the Dormition Fast, a brief penitential season in preparation for the Dormition (Assumption) of the Blessed Mother on August 15. The faithful are generally encouraged to fast and abstain from animal products, wine, and oil on Wednesdays and Fridays. Please ask your spiritual director what level of observance is best for you.

**PLEASE NOTE** – Father Michael and Pani Janine will be out of town briefly between August 7 (after Divine Liturgy) and 11. You will be able to reach them at ja9mtg@gmail.com, though they cannot guarantee an immediate response. This will not impact Sunday Liturgies.

### **EPISTLE: 1 Corinthians 1: 10-18 (Section 124)**

Brethren, I beg you, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to agree in what you say. Let there be no factions; rather, be united in mind and judgment. I have been informed, my brethren, by certain members of Chloe's household that you are quarreling among yourselves. This is what I mean: One of you will say, "I belong to Paul," another, "I belong to Apollos," still another, "Cephas has my allegiance," and the fourth, "I belong to Christ." Has Christ, then, been divided into parts? Was it Paul who was crucified for you? Was it in Paul's name that you were baptized? Thank God, I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so there are none who can say that you were baptized in my name. Oh, and I baptized the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I am not aware of having baptized anyone else. For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel – not with wordy "wisdom," however, lest the cross of Christ be rendered void of its meaning!

~~~~~In this section of his first letter to the early community of Christians in the Greek city of Corinth, the Holy Apostle Paul expresses anxiety of the "divisions" that have risen among the Corinthians. Paul sternly warns them about being split into various factions and parties within their church, for such divisiveness negates the very idea of unity that must characterize the Church established by the Lord Jesus. Christians are united first and foremost by virtue of their common belief in Jesus as the true Son of God, and they are bonded to each other in Christ's Mystical Body: the Church. In a genuine Christian community, there is no place for divisions, dissension, disunity, or discord. This unity of purpose and existence within the Church of Christ is manifested most vividly through our participation at the communion table and from our partaking of the common cup: the Holy Eucharist – the Body and Blood of Christ.

### **GOSPEL: Matthew 14:14-22**

Then he disembarked and saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, and he cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples approached him and said, "This is a deserted place and it is already late; dismiss the crowds so that they can go to the villages and buy food for themselves." [Jesus] said to them, "There is no need for them to go away; give them some food yourselves." But they said to him, "Five loaves and two fish are all we have here."

Then he said, "Bring them here to me," and he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, he said the blessing, broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, who in turn gave them to the crowds. They all ate and were satisfied, and they picked up the fragments left over —twelve wicker baskets full. Those who ate were about five thousand men, not counting women and children. Then he made the disciples get into the boat and precede him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds.

~~~~~The Holy Evangelist Matthew recounts this fifth in our summer series of seven miracles: "the multiplication of the loaves." This particular happening is a dynamic reality that took place not only in the historical past, but it is a miraculous event that occurs to this day at every Divine Liturgy. The Eucharistic Lord continues to nourish all who gather to hear His message expounded. Through the priestly offices of His Church, it is Jesus Himself Who feeds and satisfies all the hungers of mankind with the Divine EUCHARIST—the eternal Bread of Life, which is His own Body.

## **8<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – FEEDING OF THE FIVE THOUSAND**

*Bible Reflection by Helenanne Hochendoner, MAT*

This Sunday the Church looks at the story of Christ feeding the five thousand. In Scripture, prior to this miracle occurring, Jesus has learned that John the Baptist has been beheaded by Herod Antipas. After hearing this, Jesus withdrew to a “lonely place,” no doubt to pray and most likely to escape possible persecution by Herod. He (Herod) believed that Christ was John the Baptist raised from the dead.

But the crowds were not going to allow Jesus his solitude. As he got out of the boat, they were there to meet him. When he saw them, the throng of people stirred up emotion in our Lord. Jesus felt compassion on these people and proceeded to heal their sick.

Let us pause and look at this word compassion in the Greek and Hebrew. The word in both languages means mercy. But this is more than simply pitying those who require sympathy. *Splanchnizomai* (Greek) and *raham* (Hebrew) speak to a feeling of love, affection, pity, and favor that the Hebrews believed rested deep in the bowels and womb. These organs flow profusely with blood and blood provides nourishment and life. This speaks to a depth of feeling that is all encompassing, that cherishes life, is tender, caring, and soothing, much like a mother who cherishes and cares for the life growing within in her. This is the love Jesus showed to the crowd and he shows to us. We can be assured God loves us as his children, with just the same compassion he showed to the crowd. St. John assures us of this in his gospel. “To all that received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become the children of God” (John 1:12).

Now, evening is approaching, and the disciples are anxious for the day to end. They tell Jesus he should send the crowd away to find food in the surrounding towns. But, instead of doing what they have asked, he says something that sounds illogical and impossible. “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” They are stunned. In reply, the disciples give him a literal answer. They tell him what they have for their dinner – five loaves and two fishes.

We need to pause here again. Is this what our Lord wanted to hear? Of course not. What then may he expected them to say? Well, based on the number of miracles they have seen the Lord perform, for example, the centurion’s servant, the leper, the man with the withered hand, and the young girl restored to life, he may have hoped they would ask HIM to feed the crowd since they could not. They had faith in Jesus, but at this point, not enough. Jesus knows this. Quite a few times in the gospels he tells the disciples they have “little faith.” In addition, he has previously told them, “Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it will be opened to you”(Matthew 7:7). But they are not remembering this. But Jesus, as we know, is compassionate. He only asks for what they have, the 5 loaves and 2 fish, and commands the crowd to sit down. He blesses the food and it is distributed among the crowd. Everyone, including women and children eat until they are satisfied. In addition, twelve baskets are filled with leftovers. The crowd has more than enough. Jesus always gives us more than we need and even ask for.

To end, what may this story tell us? First, what God feels for us is a deep, abiding love. We are his children and therefore his mercy will endure forever, and his love knows no bounds. Second, He is attentive and will respond to our prayers when we present him with our concerns, needs, and desires. Third, his response is done with overabundance. God gives us what we need and more. We can turn once again to St. John, who tells us “And from his fullness have we all received grace upon grace” (John1:16).