

July 26, 2020 ~ Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture Readings: Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1: 10-18

Gospel: Matthew 14: 14-22

August 2, 2020 ~ Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture Readings: Epistle: 1 Corinthians 3: 9-17

Gospel: Matthew 14: 22-34

G **WE HEAR** in St. Matthew's Gospel on the Eighth Sunday after Pentecost how Jesus sprang into action because His heart was moved to pity and compassion at seeing the hungry crowd. The word 'compassion' comes from a Greek word which means the 'inner parts' of the body; your guts. Compassion refers to something deep inside of us. So, to have compassion, indicates a strong inner feeling. And that's our cue. If you feel compassion in your gut, that is a call from God to help someone — and God will multiply your efforts.

THE GOSPEL ACCOUNT on the Ninth Sunday after Pentecost is a story about taking a leap of faith. Peter took a leap of faith by literally getting out of the boat when he heard Jesus' call. This same call goes out to all of us, today and everyday. We are called to take a leap of faith when Jesus calls us. It means getting out of the boats that we call our comfortable lives. Peter left the safety and security of the boat to face the uncertainty of Jesus' call. When we leave our boats, we have to keep our focus on Jesus. Peter began to sink when he took his eyes off of Jesus, and like Peter, we will fail in our mission if we lose sight of the reason for our mission ~ Jesus.

~ from sermons by Paul Andrew and Craig Condon

Your Return Gift to God

Let us strive to live as Christian stewards, receive God's gifts gratefully, cultivate them responsibly, share them generously and lovingly with others, and return them with increase to the Lord.

PLEASE NOTE:

Due to a directive from the Chancery Office re: parish security issues, weekly collection numbers will no longer be published online.

Thank you for your support and understanding!

Дякуємо за вашу щедрість! Thank you for your generosity!

Please note: The Mission Collection for Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre's "Our Hearts at Home" cardiovascular campaign has been extended until the end of August 2020. *Thank you for your support.*

Holy Cross Parish News & Activities

Dr. Janet DeMille, Medical Officer of Health at the Thunder Bay District Health Unit has issued instructions to employers, business owners and operators to have a policy in place requiring the use of a mask or face covering for everyone entering public areas of their premises effective **Friday, July 24, 2020**. These rules include church and other places of worship. Therefore, all who enter will be required to wear a mask of some kind when attending the Divine Liturgy until further notice. Masks will be mandatory in all indoor public spaces in Thunder Bay as well. You are reminded to bring the completed Church Attendance Screening Form with you (one per household) each time you attend (accessible on our parish website to print out a copy at home). Forms will still be available in the narthex. This will avoid line-ups; however, you are encouraged to come early enough to be tested by non-contact thermometer, sanitize your hands, and get installed in your pew in a timely manner. Those who do not wish to attend can continue to watch services online or on television from the comfort and safety of their homes.

We extend our sincerest condolences to the Luby family on the passing of their beloved **†Florjan (Floyd)** on Thursday, July 16. May the Lord accept His soul into His heavenly kingdom, grant him eternal rest, number him among the just, and may his memory be eternal ~ вічна йому пам'ять.



Due to the continuing threat of COVID-19, St. George's Society regrets to announce that the annual Corn Roast has been cancelled for this year. See you in 2021!

The Parish Council has also made the difficult decision to cancel this year's Parish Praznyk in September. In the future, when we are allowed to meet safely in larger numbers, we will, once again, gather to share a meal and enjoy each other's company as we have done so at Holy Cross for many years.

STAY SAFE AND HEALTHY!

Schedule of Liturgical Services

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9

10:00 a.m. ~ **Tenth Sunday after Pentecost**
(Post-feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16

10:00 a.m. ~ **Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost**
(Post-feast of the Dormition of the Mother of God)

Note: the use of Epistle Readers and Eucharistic Ministers is discontinued until further notice. Our cantor will proclaim the Epistle Reading and Father Stepan will administer Holy Eucharist himself. *Thank you for your understanding.*



ST. GEORGE'S SOCIETY

The summer issue of **The Plentiful Harvester** is now ready and will be electronically sent to those who have given us their e-mail addresses. Hard copies will also be available. Call Michael Watral or send him an email and he'll be glad to drop one off to you. Let's continue to stay connected!

Superior Shores Gaming Hall has re-opened, but not for bingo sessions. Check out the bingo report in the current issue of our newsletter for more information.

On a more promising note, golf courses are once again open and we have decided to go ahead with our annual Golf Tournament. A date, time, and venue has been set: **Saturday, September 19** at Chapples Golf Course at 3:00 p.m. Sign-ups for this year will have to be done by phone and/or e-mails, so we ask that you bear with us for the time being. We are hoping to have the traditional steak dinner and award/prize presentation in the parish hall (observing social distancing, of course) as well, so non-golfers will still be able to join in. More information will come later in August.

Love and Service to God since 1960!

HOLY CROSS GOLDEN AGERS

Although it may appear that our world is slowly returning to normal, the threat of the coronavirus is still prevalent. Again, we remind all members to continue practicing social distancing, limiting gatherings and visits at this time, and remaining at home. If you must go out, wearing a mask is now mandatory in all public areas as of Friday, July 24. It is understandable that this can be an inconvenience to some, but there are three reasons to do so: **1) Humility** — you may not know you have COVID-19 as it is clear than people can spread the disease before having symptoms. **2) Kindness** — you don't know if the person you are near may be battling cancer or caring for an elderly family member. While you might be fine, he or she might not. **3) Community** — it's important to keep our community thriving. As businesses re-open, we need the employees to stay healthy. Keeping a lid on COVID-19 helps us all.

We want to see everyone back when we are allowed to gather once more. During this uncertain time, do your best to practice proper hygiene, exercise, stretch, and eat balanced meals. Maintain contact with family members, and if possible, allow them to do your grocery shopping, banking, and other errands. Stay safe and healthy until we meet again!

*"Do not regret growing older.
It's a privilege denied to many."*

LOCAL EVENTS OF INTEREST

Slovak Legion Take-Out/Curbside Pick-up - Every Sunday from 12 noon to 5 p.m. Call 623-3354 ext. 2 for more information. A different meal is featured every week. Visit www.slovaklegion.com for more information.

Many community events and gatherings remain cancelled or postponed at this time. Please check our local newspaper or online version for updates. The City continues to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Watch community updates from the Mayor, find out how City services are affected using the A-Z service directory, access City contacts, and read the latest City media releases. For more information, please visit www.thunderbay.ca/coronavirus.

READINGS FOR THE TENTH AND ELEVENTH SUNDAYS AFTER PENTECOST

Tenth Sunday (August 9) Eleventh Sunday (Aug. 16)

1 Corinthians 4: 9-16

Apostles of Christ

1 Corinthians 9: 2-12

Rights and Duties of an Apostle

Matthew 17: 14-23

Jesus Heals a Boy with a Demon

Matthew 18: 23-35

The Unforgiving Servant

Five Ways to Make Summer More Spiritual

It's generally accepted that summer is our time to de-stress, unwind, relax, and maybe even (God forbid) let go of a few commandments. Yet if we think about it, summer is also an opportunity to flex our spiritual muscles a little.

God has already given us His Spirit, a spirit of self-control and discipline (2 Timothy 1:7). This summer we can ask Him to develop within us the fruits of self-discipline.

Here are five ways that many of us can try to make more spiritual.

1. Commit to a new daily prayer.

Choose a prayer to a special patron saint and say it daily this summer. It can be a short, simple one. The point is to inspire, not to overwhelm!

2. Tell God you are sorry.

Take a little time this summer to evaluate how things are going. It can be a time to refresh and ask God to forgive us and give us His grace so that we can attain a deeper growth.

3. Make a Holy Hour.

Summer schedules shouldn't really be that hectic and in reality, we can all find an hour to pray or to meditate, other than attending Divine Liturgy.

4. Be grateful.

Summer is the time to be grateful for the many gifts that God has given us. We just have to look around. It's a season full of blessings: the smell of fresh-cut grass, the sound of children playing and laughing, ripe fruit in abundance, fresh vegetables from the garden...there are so many things we can easily overlook. Don't let these blessings pass by unnoticed!

5. Read the Psalms.

Continuing the theme of the previous point (#4), we can discover words of gratitude when we read the Psalms. Here's an idea; read one psalm every day for the rest of the summer. Try Psalm 118, a beautiful psalm of David.

Words of Inspiration and Hope

*No matter what may be the test,
God will take care of you;
Lean, weary one, upon His breast,
God will take care of you,
Through every day, o'er all the way!*



The Children's Corner is now on hiatus. Enjoy the nice weather, and always remember to keep Jesus as the centre of your lives in the summer.

What Can We Learn from Jesus' Feeding of the 5,000?

Aside from the Resurrection, the story of Jesus feeding the 5,000 is the only miracle recorded in all four Gospels. Obviously, the Gospel writers considered this a significant miracle. When Christ fed the masses that day, He began with only "five barley loaves and two fish," borrowed from a boy's lunch (John 6:9). To feed 5,000 people with five loaves and two fish is indeed miraculous, but the Greek term used in Matthew 14:21 specifies males, and Matthew further emphasizes the point by adding, "Besides women and children." Many Bible scholars believe the actual number fed that day could have been 15,000—20,000 people.

Jesus' disciples had wanted to send the people away because evening was approaching and they were in a remote place (Matthew 14:15). They knew the people needed to reach surrounding villages soon to buy food, find lodging, etc., or they would likely go hungry (Mark 6:36). But Christ had a better idea: "You give them something to eat" (Matthew 14:16). At this point, the disciples should have recalled the many miracles they had seen Jesus do. Perhaps some of them did, but Andrew asked, "What are [five loaves and two fish] for so many?" (John 6:9). And Philip exclaimed, "It would take more than half a year's wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!" (verse 7).

God will shatter the pint-sized expectations of what His followers can do if they would learn to bring Him what they have already been given. "Little is much when God is in it." When Christians are willing to offer their lives sacrificially, relinquishing their hold on whatever God has given them in terms of time, money, talents, etc., God will use these ordinary things to create extraordinary things. Christians must never believe their resources are too little to serve God. God delights in taking a humble, seemingly insignificant person and using him or her for His glory (see 1 Corinthians 1:27).

Christians should be reminded that their problems are never too large (the "many" of John 6:9) for God to handle. Surely, Andrew was wondering, "What good are we going to do with only five loaves and two fish?" Of course, theoretically, believers know God can easily multiply whatever He wants, to feed as many people as He wants — He is God. The problem comes when we are faced with a practical outworking of the theory; we tend to doubt that God will *want* to meet *our* need.

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All persons entering or remaining in these premises must wear a mask or face covering that securely covers the **nose, mouth, and chin** as required by the Medical Officer of Health under the authority of the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act (EMCPA) Ontario Regulations 263/20, 364/20.

*Exemptions include children under two years old, people who cannot wear a mask or face covering for medical reasons, those who require accommodation in accordance with the Ontario Human Rights Code, the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, and others as listed in the organization's required mask policy. Proof of exemption is not required.

For more information, visit [TBDHU.COM/coronavirus](https://www.tbdhu.com/coronavirus)
or call 625-5900, toll-free 1-888-294-6630 or your nearest branch office.



July 17, 2020