

A WORD FOR THE DAY

Christ says, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (Luke 10:27). Yes, these are Christ’s words themselves. With these words in mind, we must ask ourselves whether it’s right to quarrel, to hold grudges, to bicker, to be be harsh with one another, and to close our hearts off to those who look and appear to be unlovable to us, and even to those who may have hurt us.

Remember, the kingdom of heaven is built on the the pillars of forgiveness. Christ inaugurated that kingdom by his death on the Cross—the ultimate act of forgiveness itself. If we really believe in the crucified Lord and his saving act of love and forgiveness on the Cross, then we have no choice but to pray and sweat with blood and tears to strive love as Christ loved. As this kind of love is present amongst all of us then we will never scandalize, for the wrong reasons, anyone who enters the doors of this holy household. The Cross is the only scandal that is blessed by God. So, love unconditionally.

Also, strive to make peace with one another. As Paul says, “Make love your aim,” (1 Cor. 14) and “help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” (Acts. 20:35). This is the calling of the Church, and as members of the body of Christ, we never do anything to be recognized or glorified by others. Instead, everything we do in the Church and for the Church is for nothing less than the glory of God, and and every offering of time and talents and money that we make in the Church is nothing less than a free gift offering on our part with no strings attached.

Never be enslaved by the sins, shortcomings, and dysfunctions of others. We all have our own sins, shortcomings, and dysfunctions, and they’re enough to deal with. But deal with them, indeed. Reach out and ask for help. We must ever be content with our own bad attitudes, anger, resentment, and dysfunctions.

As we strive to allow Christ to fix who we are, in all honesty, being aware all the time of our own sins, it becomes impossible to judge others. In this way, we bring peace, and we ourselves are truly joyous people. With these qualities—love, kindness, meekness, gentleness, humility, patience, courage, respect, forgiveness, hope, joy, and faith, we live up to that calling that the light within us, the light of Christ, may shine among all men and women as a beacon to draw the world into the presence of Christ and his kingdom.

Fr. Joseph

ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish Of The New England Diocese ✦ Orthodox Church In America

July 9, 2017

5th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 4. Hieromartyr Pancratius, Bishop of Taormina in Sicily (1st c.). Hieromartyr Cyril, Bishop of Gortyna in Crete (3rd-4th c.). Martyrs Paternuthius, Coprius, and Alexander the Soldier, in Egypt (4th c.). St. Theodore, Bishop of Edessa (9th c.). Ven. Paternuthius and Coprius, Ascetics, of Egypt (4th c.). Ven. Dionysius the Orator of St. Anne Skete (Mt. Athos—1606). Ven. Metrophanes, disciple of Ven. Dionysius.



Divine Services

Saturday, July 15th...Reader's Vespers6:00 p.m.

Sunday, July 16th..... Typika Lay Led Prayer Service..... 10:00 a.m.
(Hours Begin at 9:40 a.m.)

Today's Readings

Epistle: Romans 10:1-10

Gospel: Matthew 8:28-9:1

Next Week's Readings

Epistle: Romans 12:6-14

Gospel: Matthew 9:1-8

For Next Week, July 16

Hours and Thanksgiving PrayersIrene Vassos

Epistle:Tanya Bogaevskaya

Coffee Hour:Paula Colbert

In Memory of: John, Maria, Nancy

For the health and well-being of Archpriest Joseph and Matushka Julia, Abdullah, David, Tony, Stanislav, Leonard, Timothy, Helen, Fenaeda, Raya, Irina, Katia, Dennis, Svetlana, Konstantin, Vladislav, Galina, Nancy, Maria, Al, and Michael.

July Birthdays

George Fiscu (07/19), Diane Dunn (07/24), Lilliana Gadoury (07/27) Alla Yefremova (07/30). Anniversaries: Diane and Greg (07/03), Galina and Simeon (07/27)

Announcements

Today is our Parish Picnic. Please stay after church today for our parish picnic. Hamburgers and Hot Dogs are provided by the parish. This is the last Sunday Fr. Joseph, Mat. Mary, and baby John will be at the parish.

Please continue to pray for Nick Bobrovsky. Nick will be having a procedure done on his heart at the end of this month. It's a procedure that replaces one of his heart valves. For this reason, we will be praying for Nick during our services that God's will be done for the healing of Nick's soul and body.

Fr. Igor Burdikoff of Christ the Savior Orthodox Church in Ballston Spa, NY will be serving the parish of St. Nicholas for Divine Liturgies in July and August. His first Divine Liturgy at the parish will be on July 23rd. Fr. Igor will not be the Administrator of the Pittsfield Parish, nor will he be the contact person in cases of

emergencies that require the ministry of a parish priest. Soon, His Eminence, Archbishop NIKON will officially assign one or more active CT Deanery rectors for that task. Fr. Igor will simply be presiding at Sunday morning Divine Liturgies in order to maintain the proper rhythm of the week-to-week Lord's Day worship. As some of us may know, Fr. Igor has been a priest for 52 years. He was widowed last September, when his wife of 51 years, Matushka Cecilia, entered into blessed repose.

July Charities will go to Orthodox Christian Prison Ministries (OCPM). OCPM provides an essential need to minister to those in prison, as our Lord Jesus Christ commanded. There have been many converts of those held in prison to the Orthodox Faith due to the work of the OCPM. Therefore, to support this ministry is worthy. Please give!

Collections

Last Sunday's Collection	\$1,481
2017 Budget	\$96,142
Progress Towards Budget	\$43,058