

THE SOCIAL VIRTUES TO BE PRACTICED

Almsgiving: “When you give alms, do not sound a trumpet as do the hypocrites, that they might receive praise from men. Let not your right hand know what your left hand is doing. And your Father who sees in heaven shall reward you openly.”

Giving without hesitation: “Give to him that asks, and do not turn away the one who desires to borrow from you.” (Mt 5:42) Give all in the name of Christ and for the brotherhood’s sake.

Loving your enemies: “Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you” (Mt 5:44). There is no other way to cooperate with Christ, or to establish peace and brotherhood.

Forgiving your brother: “If your brother trespasses against you, rebuke him, and if he repents, then forgive him. And if he trespasses against you seven times a day, and seven times a day turns to you and says, “I repent”, then you shall forgive him” (Lk 17:3-4). Try to experience the joy of forgiving.

Humbleness: Christ was born in a stable. Why should we then strive after the highest honors and the first places? “Go down and sit in the lowest seat.” “For whoever exalts himself shall be humbled, and he that humbles himself shall be exalted” (Lk 14:10-11).

Show pity to sinners: That is the way to help and reform them. Ridiculing and condemning them is of no avail. Christ considered them sick. He visited them (Zacchaeus), ate with them (Matthew), spoke kindly to them (sinners), and thereby restored their spiritual health and human dignity.

Reconciliation: Before going to Church, and also before being drawn before a court of law, a Christian should try to reconcile himself with his adversary (Mt 5:23-25). However, “If your brother shall trespass against you,” take action gradually, as was clearly prescribed by the Lord (Mt 18:15-17).

Hopefulness, or Christian optimism: In all afflictions, calamities, persecutions, and even tortures and death, a Christian is hopeful. For he remembers Christ’s words: “Great is your reward in heaven.” “Fear not them who kill the body but are not able to kill the soul.” “I have overcome the world.” “All power is given unto Me in heaven and on earth.”

Dear Parishioners of St. George’s:

*Слава Ісусу Христу!
Glory to Jesus Christ!*

Next Sunday will be my last Sunday here at St. George’s. As of September 1st, I will begin my new assignment within the Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh. First and foremost together with my family we ask for your prayers as we begin a new chapter in our lives. You have been part of my family for these past eleven years, praying and supporting each other on this wonderful journey following Our Lord Jesus Christ. You have all been a blessing to us!

With that, I am happy to announce to you that my successor will be Fr. Ihor Hohosha. Father Ihor is currently pastor of our parish of St. John’s in McKees Rocks. He and I have met and he is very much looking forward to being with you as your parish priest. I will be working with him to make this transition as smooth as possible. Please offer a prayer for Father Ihor and his family as they come to St. George’s.

Together with my family we have been blessed to be a part of this parish family of St. George’s. May God bless you as much as you have been a blessing to us!

In Christ,

Fr. Valerian

Announcements

Sincere Thanks!

From the bottom of my heart I wish to thank you for your participation in the celebration of the Vigil of the Dormition of the Mother of God. It was a wonderful celebration that brought us together to praise the blessed passing of the Mother of God. Sincere thanks to our St. George’s Chant Group and the Archeparchial Choir for lifting us up in singing the beautiful hymns honoring the Most Holy Theotokos. Thanks to the Subdeacons, our Acolytes and our children for serving during this Divine Service. Thanks to all who prepared the Church hall, offered baked goods and helped during the reception. Once again thank you for making this a wonderful celebration honoring Mother of God.



Collection- May God bless you...

The total for Sunday, August 12, 2012 was \$1107.50.

*** Appeal Letter Donations: Olga Perkun (\$500); Rose Engel (\$70).

Prayerful intentions of our parishioners who donated towards the Flowers for our Lady: Katherine Midianka (\$60); Gregory & Dorothy Waslo (\$35); Mary S. Siweckyj (\$20) in memory of Siweckyj & Fuchs and Winghart families; Maria & Olga Perkun (\$20); Michalina Spak (\$20); Katherine Wyko (\$20) in memory of Mary & Michael Wyko; Shedno Sisters (\$20) in memory of Catherine Gardini; Dolores Lozer (\$15) in memory of John & Julia Lozer; Dolores Lozer (\$15) in memory of Robert E. Fisher; Maria Pyptyk (\$20); Anna Merritt (\$10); Stephanie Assisi (\$10) in memory of Olga Siweckyj; Eva Hlovchic (\$10); Darrell & Carol Chulack (\$10) in memory of Andrew, Mary, Harley and Frances; Joseph Salo (\$5); Poloka Family (\$5); Michael & Alexandra Kozak (\$5); Helen Danyla (\$5); Kendall McElrath (\$5) Health for Shannon and Doug.

Sincere thanks to all for your kindness and generosity to our Holy Church!

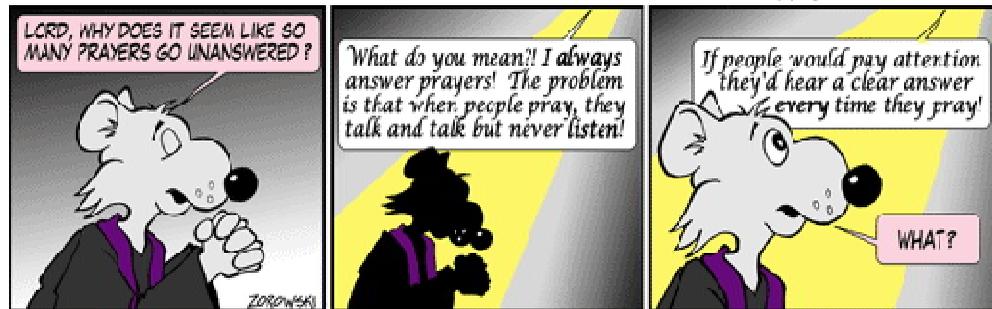


RICHERS IN CHRIST

“I have now disposed of all my property to my family. There is one thing more I wish I could give them and that is faith in Jesus Christ. If they had that and I had not given them a single shilling, they would have been rich; and if they had not that, and I had given them all the world, they would be poor indeed.”

- Patrick Henry

Church Mice



Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Happiness, what is it, and how to reach it? Happiness is in justification of life. Happiness isn't momentary pleasure, isn't temporary transient satisfaction. Happiness is permanent joyful state of spirit which a person takes with him crossing the border of a new life.

A young man asked Christ about happiness. “What must I do to possess eternal life?” “Keep the commandments”, Christ said to him. What does it mean, “Keep the commandments” The commandments show us the way of our ascension to God, the way leading to spiritual maturity, getting the power of the Holy Spirit by means of free, voluntary merging of a person's heart and will with God's will. And this way ends by confirmation of a person in love: “Love you neighbor as yourself”. This is the way to happiness.



“If you wish to be perfect, go and sell your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me” (Mt. 19, 21). “But when the young man heard these words, he went away sad, for he was a man of great wealth” (Mt.19, 22). Would he had gone away sad if, having got an answer to his question, he had kept hope to inherit eternal life? No, this young man refused not only his perfection, but the eternal life itself because he wasn't able to sell his possessions and didn't show proper resolution. Of course, the Savior knew how the young man would act, and so He showed what prevented him from inheriting the eternal life – his attachment to possessions. He exposed not possession itself, but the attachment to it. Possession is great temptation, but it can't be means to Christian deed, perhaps one of the most difficult one. A rich man who was able with God's help to kill in himself the attachment to temporary wealth for the sake of brotherly love and love of God, becomes as if the Lord's steward converting possessions given to him by God for the good of people.

Jesus said to his disciples, “In truth I tell you, it is hard for someone rich to enter the kingdom of Heaven” (Mt. 19, 23). This means that a person having attachment to something earthly practically can't enter the eternal life. Perfection is when you, having some earthly possessions, don't have any attachment to them: To get rid of attachment to all earthly things, maybe even to something beautiful and kind, but less than love to God, is possible only with God's help.

