

Learning to Trust....

We have a light fixture over our front door that glints in the sun and is attractive to birds. Every year without fail, a bird tries to build its nest on that light. Because I know that any nest that is built there is bound to fall, I always break up the nests just as the birds begin to make them. After several frustrating attempts, they move to a large maple tree in our garden, and there safely build their seasonal home far from any danger of falling.

Like those unknowing feathered creatures, we too, oftentimes find that our dreams and plans are frustrated and lead to failure. We cannot help but wonder why God allows the earthly nests that we struggle so hard and work to build to fall apart and crumble before us. But the fact is that we cannot see as God does; if we too could judge events from the perspective of eternity, we would come to understand that God seeks for us a higher destiny, and a place of true serenity and provision for our deepest needs.

Scripture teaches us that God led his people of Israel out of Egypt and into a forty-year journey of hardship in a lonely and forbidding wilderness. And yet, at the end of that journey, they were led from bondage to a glorious land that flowed with milk and honey. From down trodden slaves, He transformed them into a mighty nation envied by others.

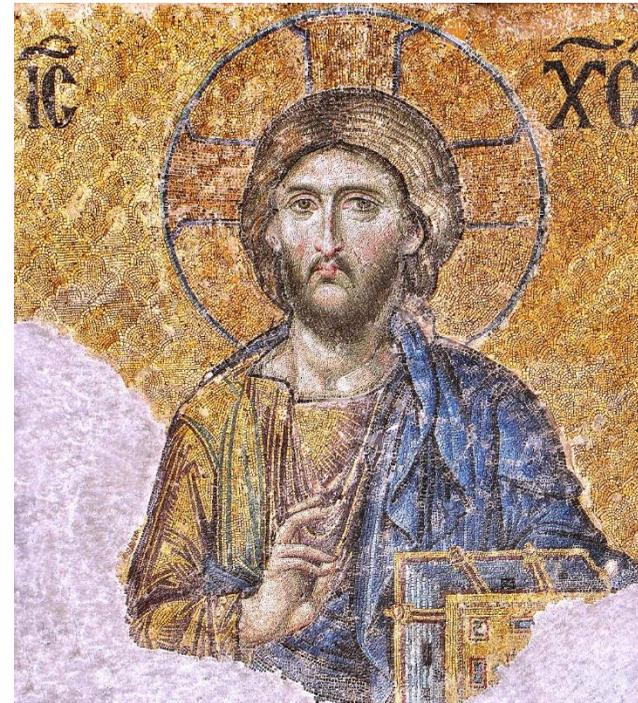
How wonderful it would be if we could each learn to trust God in those times when we too experience the dark passages that enter our lives. How reassured we would be if we never questioned God's wisdom and goodness, even at those times when we find him disturbing the nests that we try to build.

When we come to accept the providential care of God with childlike simplicity we soon discover that the barriers we encounter in our lives can in retrospect, come to be numbered among our greatest blessings.

-Rev. Andrew J Demotses

Preserve me, O God: for in Thee do I put my trust.

Psalm 16:1



August 30, 2020

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Tone 4; Our Holy Fathers and Patriarchs of Constantinople Alexander (336), John (577), and Paul the Younger (784)

**Changeable Part: Pages 26-27
In the Booklet of Changeable Parts
(Small white book)**

Announcements:

St. George Catechism Meeting

In preparation for the opening of the new school year, the meeting of our catechists will take place on Thursday, September 3rd at church rectory. I ask our catechists to please be present for this important meeting. Thank you.

Parish Picnic at St. George

We hope and planning that our Parish Picnic will take place on Sunday, September 13th following the Divine Liturgy. The picnic will be held on the parish grounds in front of the parish house. Please, if you are interesting put your name see sign-up sheet available in the vestibule. As we did in the past years, the Church will provide the hamburgers and hot dogs. **We ask that you provide side dishes and desserts.** Sign-up sheets are provided for this purpose in the Church vestibule. The set-up of the tables, chairs and all the food preparations for the picnic will take place on Saturday, September 12th, at 10:00 a.m. Please be part of these preparations for a happy and successful parish picnic. Thank you.

Attention to all parishioners:

Going forward, as precaution, we are suggesting that everyone wear a face mask. If you do not have one with you there are masks in the vestibule for the taking. It is for everyone's safety and protection. Thank you for your cooperation.

Collection- May God bless you...

The grand total for Sunday of August 23, 2020 was **\$1,156.00**
(Collection: \$1120.00, loose & candles: \$36.00)

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



Remember: Church Year begins on September 1st



Since pagan times, the civil year has begun on January 1st, the month named for the pagan god Janus. The First Ecumenical Council that took place in Nicaea in the year 325 decreed that the Church year should begin on September 1st. The month of September was, for the Hebrews, the beginning of the civil year (Exodus 23:16), the month of gathering the harvest and of the offering of thanks to God. It was on this feast that the Lord Jesus entered the synagogue in Nazareth (Luke 4:16-21), opened the book of the Prophet Isaiah and read the words: *The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me; because the Lord hath anointed Me to preach good tidings unto the meek; He hath sent Me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn (Isaiah 61:1-2).*

The month of September is also important in the history of Christianity, because Emperor Constantine the Great was victorious over Maxentius, the enemy of the Christian Faith, in September. Following this victory, Constantine granted freedom of confession to the Christian Faith throughout the Roman Empire. For a long time, the civil year in the Christian world followed the Church year, with its beginning on the first day of September. In the early days of the Church and the Christian Roman Empire, major decisions and policies were announced on this day. The New Year in the Latin Church is always on the first Sunday of Advent (the Philip's - Christmas Fast). As we begin this new Church year we pray: Creator of the universe, setting times and seasons by Your sole authority, bless the cycle of the year of Your grace, O Lord, guarding our rulers and Your nation in peace, at the intercession of the Theotokos, and save us.

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The Lord said this parable, "There was a householder who planted a vineyard, and set a hedge around it, and dug a wine press in it, and built a tower, and let it out to tenants, and went into another country. When the season of fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants, to get his fruit; and the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first; and they did the same to them..."



Today's Gospel reading is the parable of the vineyard. An owner built a vineyard, hedged it around, built a winepress and a tower and then let it out to tenants. When he sent servants to take the rent, they were beaten and stoned. He sent others, but they did the same. And when the owner sent his own son, they killed him.

This parable is addressed to each of us today in a personal sense. The vineyard is our own soul. It is hedged around with prayer, our guardian-angel, and our patron-saint. The wine-press is where we offer ourselves to Christ. The tower is our inner Church where we pray to God. We are tenants of our God-created souls. The servants sent to us are all those occasions when God speaks to us. He speaks to us in prayer, He speaks to us through the word of His Scriptures, He speaks to us through every opportunity, every meeting, and every event that comes into our lives. He speaks to us through the presence of His Church in the world.

And how do we react? Do we reject everything sent to us, everything allowed to us, as a chance to do better, to make good our weaknesses? Do we fail to heed God? Do we ignore the Church? If so, then we too beat and stone and kill the servants of God. We are warned today that the Heir is coming.

At the end of the parable of the vineyard, Christ says: *"The very stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner; this was the Lord's doing, and it was marvelous in our eyes?"* The stone rejected is of course the Rock of Faith, Christ Himself, for He was rejected and crucified. And yet He became the head of the corner and it is marvelous in our eyes. Let us too be rocks of faith then, and though the world will reject us, we too shall become heads of the corner, and it will be marvelous in the eyes of God and men. Glory to You, O God, glory to You!