

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost



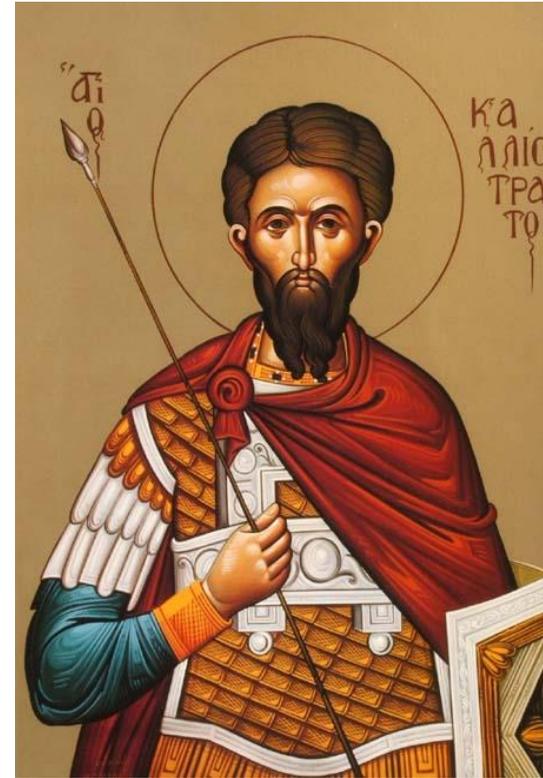
In today's Gospel reading we are told of one of the miracles of Christ. That miracle is a great haul of fish. The Gospel starts with a scene of fishermen washing their nets. We learn that one of the fishermen is Peter. Our Lord tells Peter to take Him out in one of the boats for a catch of fish. Peter explains his doubt because they were fishing all night and caught nothing. However, Peter follows the Lord's command. When Peter drops his net at the Lord's command, it is filled to the breaking point. Peter's response to this miracle is to ask the Lord to depart from him because he is a sinful man. Our Lord's response is that from now on, Peter and his partners,

James and John, will catch men instead of fish.

God performs miracles to remind us that He is watchful over the world, that God governs the world and orders it. Thus, what may seem to be the natural order of things in the minds of people is disturbed by the action of God. God is the creator and order of the world. As our Lord says, "With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26). Miracles also remind us that without God they can do nothing. Saint Paul reminds us of this when he says, "I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that plants anything, neither he that waters; but God that gives the increase" (1 Corinthians 3:6-7).

There is a proverb that is similar to this that says, "Men propose, but God disposes." We often have many desires in our hearts and minds. We plan many things. Many of these plans remain as unrealized ideas. Other plans get put into action, ending in failure, while still other plans are put into action, ending in success. These plans are those that were adopted by God.

The plans that are adopted by God are His, are like Him, and come from Him. All that is not from God, like God, and are not God's, are rejected by God. We are reminded of this in the Psalms, where it says, "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it" (Psalms 127:1). If we plan or build something in our own name, it will fail; but if we plan and build to honor God, it will be successful.



Sep. 27, 2020

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost, Tone 8; Holy Martyr Callistratus and His Companions; Our Venerable Father Nilus, Founder and Hegumen of the Grottaferrata Monastery

Changeable Part: Pages 9-11

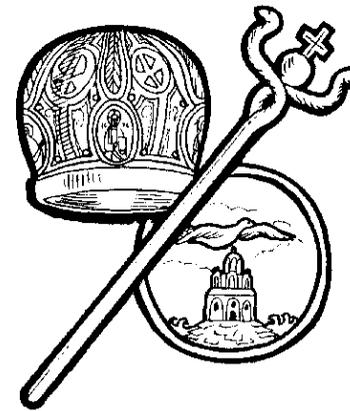
In the Booklet of Changeable Parts (Small white book)

Announcements:

We welcome His Grace Bishop Bohdan!

It is with great joy that we welcome to our parish family, His Grace, Bishop Bohdan Danylo, Eparch of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of St. Josaphat. As a parish family we ask Our Lord to grant to His servant, Bishop Bohdan, peace, health and happiness for many years!

Μногая Літа! Еις Πολλά έτη Δέσποτ



October: Cancer Awareness

We continue during this month of October on Tuesday evenings with the celebration of the Akathist Hymn to the Mother of God "Healer of Cancer." We invite all to come who are in need of the healing touch of the Queen of Heaven. The hymns of this particular Akathist Service will console anyone who is suffering from cancer, or who has loved ones that are ill. Come and bring a friend for this Divine Service that gives strength and hope during a time of suffering and pain.

Pyrohy

After almost half a year of the break, we are back to our pyrohy production. As you know we cancel our Pyrohy Festival instead we would like to concentrate on a Christmas sale. So, we are planning every week to make extra, freeze it and have it ready for pre-Christmas sale. Help is very much needed with our pyrohy activity!

Our total income from last week's sale was **\$581.00** Sincere thanks to all our dedicated pyrohy workers for their hard work. Thank you.

Collection- May God bless you...

The total for Sunday of September 20, 2020 was **\$1,311.00**

(Collection: \$775.00, loose & candles: \$36.00, Special donation by Kevin & Michelle Sebolt in memory of Michael & Pauline Mosur: \$500.00)

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



The Holy Protection of the Mother of God October 1



The Feast of the Protection commemorates the appearance of the Most Holy Theotokos in the Church of Blachernae in Constantinople in the early sixth century, as recorded in the life of Saint Andrew the Fool for Christ's sake. While the multitudes of the faithful were gathered in church, Epiphanius, the friend of Saint Andrew, through the Saint's prayers, beheld the Virgin Mary above the faithful and spreading out her veil over them, signifying her unceasing protection of all Christians. Because of this we keep a yearly feast of gratitude, imploring our Lady

never to cease sheltering us in her mighty prayers.

WORDS EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD KNOW

Holiness: consists not only in the absence of evil or sin: holiness is the presence of higher spiritual values, joined to purity from sin. God is the only one holy by nature. He is the Source of holiness for angels and men. Men can attain holiness only in God, "not by nature, but by participation, by struggle and prayer" (St. Cyril of Jerusalem).

Asceticism: is man's struggle to keep the commandments of Christ. It encompasses not only his bodily and spiritual effort, but also the method by which he passes through the three stages of the spiritual life, namely: purification, illumination, and deification (union with God).

Purification: refers to the process by which one is cleansed from the passions through: 1) the rejection of all evil thoughts and desires from the mind and heart, 2) the turning of the soul's three powers (reason, desire, and will) towards God, and 3) the overcoming of self-love by love for God and neighbor.

Illumination: refers to the process by which the grace of the Holy Spirit, received in Baptism, enlightens the person purified (or at least being purified) of the passions to the true knowledge of God and creation. Illumination is seen primarily in the gift of discernment by which one distinguishes between 1) what is from God or above nature, 2) what is according to nature or good, and 3) what is unnatural or evil.

Deification: is union with God, the goal of Christian life; experienced in part during this life, but more fully and unendingly in the next. Scripture says that God is a consuming fire. When man is united with God in the state of pure prayer, he becomes entirely engulfed in the flame of divine love and sees the Uncreated Light of Divinity. This state cannot be described in words but is known only through experience. Union with God imparts immeasurable love, humility, and thankfulness. Deification is what man was created for from the beginning; it is what makes man truly man.

