

ON THE CONSCIENCE

Yes, we are seen by a countless number of eyes – the saints and angels of heaven. See how many stars there are in the sky! The number of eyes that look at us is greater still.

Indeed, we ourselves are able, if not to see, then to determine what we are. Our conscience, the incorruptible judge, tells us. It may become suppressed with time, but it always manages to free itself from this yoke, and raises its voice even in those who are shameless. In those who are innocent, its voice is always pure and like a bell.

The conscience is also known as the divine voice in the human spirit. In it is also reflected whatever opinion or view the inhabitants of heaven have of us. Thus, when the conscience says we are pure in everything before God and man, then this testimony of the conscience reflects the light near our soul, and everyone in heaven sees us as bright. If the conscience reproaches us, however, telling us that we are impure, then we appear dark. But the Guardian Angels are closer to us than anyone, and they know who is dark and who is bright, and are able to judge by the inner attitude whether it is a permanent or temporary condition.

- St. Theophan the Recluse

The hand in the vase...

I once heard of a child who was raising a frightful cry because he had shoved his hand into the opening of a very expensive Chinese vase and then couldn't pull it out again. Parents and neighbors tugged with might and main on the child's arm, with the poor creature howling out loud all the while. Finally there was nothing left to do but to break the beautiful, expensive vase. And then as the mournful heap of shards lay there, it became clear why the child had been so hopelessly stuck. His little fist grasped a paltry penny which he spied in the bottom of the vase and which he, in his childish ignorance, would not let go.

- Helmut Thielicke



January 31, 2021

Sunday of the Prodigal Son, Tone 2; The Holy Wonderworkers and Unmercenaries Cyrus and John (284-305)

Changeable Part: Pages 2-4

In the Booklet of Changeable Parts (Small white book)

Announcements:

All Souls Saturday

The 1st All Souls Saturday will be celebrated on Saturday, February 6th, at 9:00 a.m. On these All-Souls Saturdays it is tradition in our Holy Church to prayerfully remember our beloved departed family members, loved ones, etc. Divine Liturgy will be celebrated followed by a Panikhida when the names of all those deceased are commemorated out loud. Amongst your offertory envelopes you have a yellow envelope for the commemoration of departed souls marked SOROKOUSTY. Please write the names of your deceased loved ones on this envelope and drop the envelope in the collection basket or bring it to the parish office.

PAC Meeting

On Thursday, February 18th, the meeting of the Parish Advisory Council will take place at the church hall at 7:00 p.m. I ask all members of the PAC to please be present for this important meeting.

Easter Candy Order forms are available. They are due February 28, 2021

Holy Water

Holy Water that was blessed on the Feast of the Theophany of Our Lord is available in the center of our Church. I ask that you please be careful when you are filling your containers so to not spill it on the floor. Remember that this Holy Water is sanctified by the Holy Spirit, so that we by partaking of it may be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Prayer List:

Make a point of praying for everyone on the prayer list. If you don't have one, contact the office and we'll send you one. In a special way, at this time, remember the following members of our parish family: **Mihaylyna Spak, Barbara Fedora, Mary Senchesen, Helen Fedenko, Patricia Della-Regione, Dolores Loser, Alice Mcilwane, Meghan Fossaceca, Bryan Madeya, Arlene Grzybowski, Maria Perkun, Orysia & David Barshowski.**

Pyrohy

Our total income from last week's sale was \$1,076.00. Thanks to all our dedicated women and men that come faithfully to be part of this parish activity.

Collection- May God bless you...

The grand total for Sunday of January 17, 2021 was **\$685.00**

(Collection: \$565.00, loose & candles: \$20.00, Online donation: \$100.00)

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

WHY DOES THE PRIEST CENSE US?



During the Divine Services, the priest censes many things in Church. He also censes the people. Why does he cense the people?

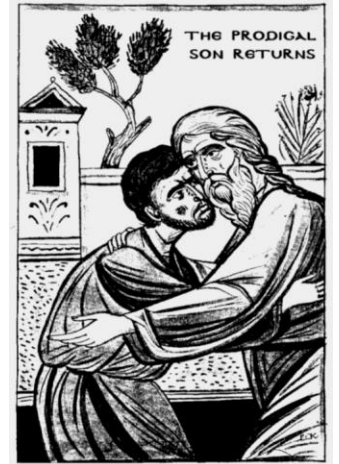
As clouds of smoke from the burning incense rise up, we are reminded that we were created in the "image and likeness of God." It is this image in us that the priest censes. Just as he censes the icons of the saints, he censes each of us.

We are called to be saints. When we turn to God and tell Him we are sorry for our sins, He visits us and blesses us. He encourages us to grow and become more like Himself who is both holy and good. When the priest censes us, he reminds us to keep the divine image in us pure and God-like.

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

I have recklessly forgotten Your glory, O Father; and among sinners I have scattered the riches which You had given me. Therefore, I cry to You like the Prodigal: "I have sinned before You, O compassionate Father; receive me a penitent and make me as one of Your hired servants."

On the third Sunday of preparation for Lent, we hear the parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32). Together with the hymns on this day, the parable reveals to us the time of repentance as man's return from exile. The prodigal son, we are told, went to a far country and there spent all that he had. A far country! It is this unique definition of our human condition that we must assume and make ours as we begin our approach to God. A man who has never had that experience, be it only very briefly, who has never felt that he is exiled from God and from real life, will never understand what Christianity is about. And the one who is perfectly "at home" in this world and its life, who has never been wounded by the nostalgic desire for another Reality, will not understand what repentance is.



Repentance is often simply identified as a cool and "objective" enumeration of sins and transgressions, as the act of "pleading guilty" to a legal indictment. Confession and absolution are seen as being of a juridical nature. But something very essential is overlooked - without which neither confession nor absolution have any real meaning or power. This "something" is precisely the feeling of alienation from God, from the joy of communion with Him, from the real life as created and given by God. It is easy indeed to confess that I have not fasted on prescribed days, or missed my prayers, or become angry. It is quite a different thing, however, to realize suddenly that I have defiled and lost my spiritual beauty, that I am far away from my real home, my real life, and that something precious and pure and beautiful has been hopelessly broken in the very texture of my existence. Yet this, and only this, is repentance, and therefore it is also a deep desire to return, to go back, to recover that lost home....

- Excerpt from Great Lent, by Fr. Alexander Schmemmann

"Let your prayer be completely simple, for both the publican and the prodigal son were reconciled to God by a single phrase."

- St. John Chrysostom