



**ST. PETER & ST. PAUL
UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**105 CLIFTON AVE
ANSONIA, CT 06401**

Rectory Phone 203-734-3895

Church Hall 203-732-2414

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Fr. Ed Cell 413-218-6404

Email: YoungE8073@aol.com

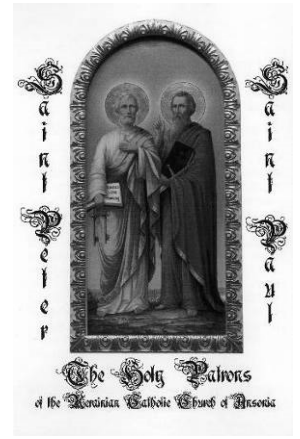
Web Site: www.stspucc.org.

Very Rev. Archpriest Edward Canon Young, Pastor

June 14, 2020

2nd Sunday after Pentecost. The Holy Prophet Elisha

Epistle: Romans 2:10-16 Gospel: Matthew 4:18-23 Tone: 1



Leaders of the Apostles and teachers of the world, pray to the Master of all to grant peace to the world and great mercy to our souls.

DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE

WEEKDAYS: MONDAY–FRIDAY 9:00AM

SATURDAY: 4:00PM (Vigil Sunday-Eng.)

SUNDAY: 8:30 AM (Ukr.) & 10:00 AM (Eng.)

Confessions are heard before each Divine Liturgy:

Saturday 3:00PM to 3:30 PM

Sunday 8:00AM to 8:30AM and

9:30AM until 10:00AM

Religious Education – Saturday 10:00AM – 11:00AM

Call Alice O'Doy @203-734-3055 for more information.

Preservation – Please use the form in church vestibule, mail it to the church or bring it to Bob Jaskilka, Michael Wysowski, Jr. or Fr. Edward Young

Address or Name Change/New Phone Number –

Please update your records. See Bob Jaskilka, or Michael Wysowski, Jr. to update this info. Returned checks are subject to a **\$35.00 fee**.

Bulletin Notices – Notices for the bulletin must be in writing by Wednesday @6PM to be included in that week's bulletin.

Parish Council meets every 3rd Wednesday of every month @7:15pm in the church hall.

**Rectory Office Hours - Thursday 10AM – Noon
or by Appointment on other days**

******Please Note ******

Mass Offerings , Sorokousty

Mother's Day, Father's Day

**Checks must be made out to the Fr. Young
not the Church ! Thank You...**

Baptism Arrangement for baptism is to be made personally at the Parish Office. Please call rectory for an appointment.

Marriage – Arrangements for marriage are to be made at least **6 months prior to the Wedding date. Please call rectory for an appointment.**

Sick Calls – To arrange for Sacraments for the elderly and sick at home, please call Parish Office Fr. Young at 203-734-3895, **Please advise the rectory of any hospitalization.**

In your Estate planning – Remember Sts. Peter & Paul Church in your will.

Stewardship - "As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace" (1 Peter 4:10). All Catholics, should give generous support—time, money, prayers, and personal service according to their circumstances—to parish and diocesan programs and to the universal Church

Special Share in the Eucharist *– Bread & Wine

offered for a week, month, or year. Donations: one week - \$20.00 Donors/intentions will be listed.

Bob Jaskilka, or Michael Wysowski, Jr. or Fr. Edward Young

Eternal Light *– offered to light for a week \$10.00.

Bob Jaskilka, or Michael Wysowski, Jr. or Fr. Edward Young

Virgin Mary's Lamp and Sacred Heart Lamp* also available

for offering! Offered to light for a week is 10.00, each.

Bob Jaskilka, or Michael Wysowski, Jr. or Fr. Edward Young

All start on Monday to Sunday!

***Offering must be made when dates are reserved!**

A **Welcome to St. Peter and St. Paul Parish** to all who are worshipping with us today. If you are over twenty-one years of age and have not yet registered, have moved or will be moving, or have a new telephone number, **please fill out the form below**. Each household **must be registered** at St. Peter and St. Paul and every adult receives a set of stewardship envelopes. Registration also entails an annual dues to the parish. If a parishioner is not registered, it is difficult for church authorities to issue him or her a sponsor certificate, reference, or any other certification.

Name _____ Phone# _____

Address _____ E-mail _____




City _____ State _____ Zip _____

(Please come down to the Basement to be properly registered after or before liturgy)

From Sunday Vespers Honor the memory of the Prophet Elisha: Today the divine coming of the prophets shines forth!* It calls mystically to the souls of those who love the feasts of the Church!* The one who mounted the chariot which crosses the heavens,* the star of the unfading east,* together with Elisha, the wondrous man,* broadens the streams of the new Jordan,* proclaiming the faith with purity!* They openly portray by a double image* the twofold blessing of the harmony and glory of the covenants, both old and new* for those who celebrate the feast of their memory with faith

Bread and Wine Offering - None Offered

06/13	Saturday	Liturgies closed to the Public	Good Health & God's Blessing of 90 th Birthday Julia Gyba req. by Niece
06/14	Sunday	↑	Asking God's Blessing and in Thanksgiving for 2020 Graduates
06/15	Monday		+Sr. Mary Ann Botko SSMI 9 th day
06/16	Tuesday		+William & Clementina Stevenson
06/17	Wednesday		+ Michael Pawlyk req. by Mrs. Luba Lypen
06/18	Thursday		+Olga Lar Susla
06/19	Friday		Special Intention
06/20	Saturday	↓	Pro Populo (For All Parishioners) - За Всіх Парафіян
06/21	Sunday	Liturgies closed to the Public	God's Blessing on All Fathers Living & Deceased

ETERNAL LIGHT		<i>None Offered</i>
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY LAMP		<i>None Offered</i>
SACRED HEART of JESUS LAMP		<i>None Offered</i>

Bread and Wine Offering Reserved Dates 6/22/20-6/28/20 7/6-7/12/20 8/3-8/9/20 9/7-9/13/20 10/5-10/11/20 11/2-11/8/20 11/9/20-11/15/20 12/7-12/13/20 12/14/20-12/20/20 12/21/20-12/27/20	Eternal Light Offering Reserved Dates 8/3/-8/9/2020 7/13/20-7/19/20 9/7/20-9/3/20 9/21-9/27/20 10/5/20-10/11/20 10/12/20-10/18/20 11/2/20-11/8/20 11/9/20-11/15/20 11/23-11/29/20 12/14/20-12/20/20 12/21-12/27/20	BLESSED VIRGIN MARY LAMP OFFERING RESERVED DATES 7/13/20-7/19/20 8/3/20-8/9/20 8/17/20-8/23/20 8/31/20-9/6/20 9/28/20-10/4/20 10/12/20-10/18/20 11/9/20-11/15/20 11/23/20-11/29/20 12/21/-12/27/20	SACRED HEART OF JESUS LAMP OFFERING RESERVED DATES 8/3/20-8/9/20 8/17/20-8/23/20 8/24/20-8/30/20 11/9/20-11/15/20 12/7/20-12/13/20 12/21/20-12/27/20
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2020 & Past Church Dues (Blue Book) (Kollekta)

During Lent & every Saturday & Sunday dues current & past will be collected in the church hall after the 4:00 PM Vigil and 8:30 AM & 10AM Sunday Liturgies.
 Please bring your dues book to the church hall *dues will not be collected in the rectory* Back on January 25, 2005 the Parish Council voted to increase the yearly dues to \$75.00 per member. This is the first increase since 1998. The number of upcoming projects that are needed to keep the church building in good repairs, such as painting, doors, walls, fixing the roof, warranted this increase.
Do not place dues in your weekly envelope offering !
Please remember - this is not our church but YOUR church!
Please fulfill your responsibility to your Church!!

Preservation Fund Donation - \$25.00 in memory of +Judith Walker by Joseph & Carol Stumpf

Responding to the outbreak of the global pandemic virus COVID-19, Public Services: All weekday and Sunday services will be celebrated temporarily without the participation of the assembly of the faithful. Our clergy will continue to celebrate and pray for you and with you vicariously. У зв'язку з пандемією вірусу COVID-19, Усі щоденні та недільні богослужіння тимчасово служитимуться в наших церквах без фізичної присутності громади вірних. Священники продовжуватимуть молитися за Вас і заочно з Вами

Glory be to Jesus Christ! Dear parishioners of St Peter and St Paul Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church according to the directives of Ukrainian Catholic Bishops of the USA all services will be done privately until further notice. The Divine Liturgy will be celebrated by the parish priest for all parishioners but without presence of the faithful. Sundays Fr. Edward is now live streaming Divine Liturgy from his Facebook page Edward Young Sunday Liturgy 10:00 AM, note Eparchy Stamford Site has information concerning Liturgies. If you and your family are not able to see Divine Liturgy online you must take time read the Holy Bible and pray at home as a family. Please call me on my cell or email whenever you need a priest. Confessions can be scheduled by appointment. Church will be open daily for prayer 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM each day of the Monday through Friday for prayer. May Almighty God Bless and Keep you all Safe and in Good Health. **God Save and Protect!**

St. Peter & St. Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church will open for Sunday Liturgy for the Faithful the same Sunday as the other two Catholic Parishes in Ansonia will be opened. This will be last Sunday on June.

DEAR PARISHIONERS: DURING THIS TIME THAT THE CHURCH BUILDING IS CLOSED TO PUBLIC WORSHIP. WE ASK THAT YOU CONTINUE TO REMEMBER THE NEEDS OF YOUR PARISH. PLEASE EITHER SEND YOUR DONATION BY MAIL WITH YOUR ENVELOPES OR YOU CAN USE THE PARISH WEBSITE (WWW.STSPPUCC.ORG) TO MAKE YOUR DONATION PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR ENVELOPE NUMBER ON YOUR PAYPAL DONATION. THANK VERY MUCH FOR YOUR KIND GENEROSITY. FATHER EDWARD YOUNG
One-Time Online Donation To make a One-Time online donation please use the following Donation Link.

Third Week After Pentecost Reading for this coming week

Monday	Romans 7:1-13; Matthew 9:36-10:8
Tuesday	Romans 7:14-8:2; Matthew 10:9-15
Wednesday	Romans 8:1-13; Matthew 10:16-22
Thursday	Romans 8:22-27; Matthew 10:23-31
Friday	Romans 9:6-19; Matthew 10:32-36; 11:1
Saturday	Romans 3:28-4:3 Matthew 7:24-8:4
Third Sunday After Pentecost	Romans 5:1-10; Matthew 6:22-33



Baccalaureate Service

Religious ED News:, Baccalaureate Sunday is June 14th 2020 at the 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy of Thanksgiving.

Baccalaureate this Sunday June 14th, 2020

This Baccalaureate Service is Celebrated without our Beloved Graduates in attendance but we all pray Almighty God for their continued success with very Grace and Blessing and Many Happy and Health Years. Многая літа!

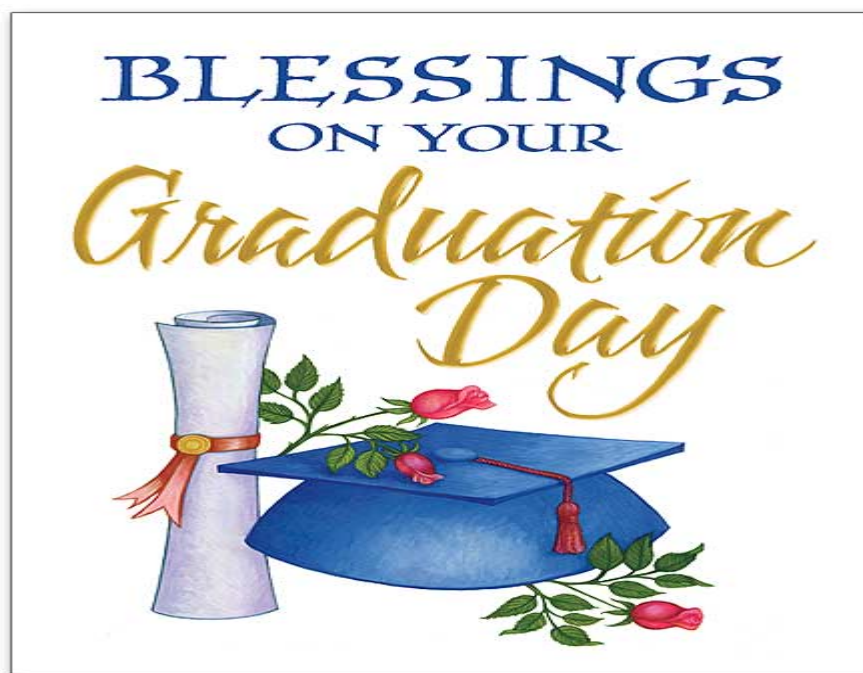
2020 GRADUATES

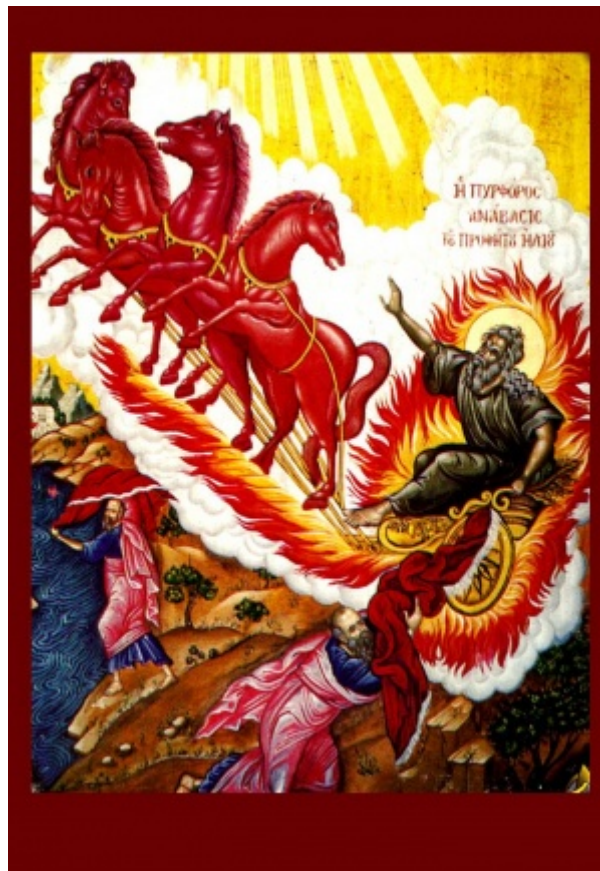
1) Claire Morgan Douglas, the daughter of Audrey Douglas, is graduating from Derby High School and will attend Iona College in New Rochelle, N.Y.

2) Georgia Kathryn Kral, the daughter of George and Alison Kral, has graduated Magna Cum Laude from Syracuse University with a B.A degree in Economics and a Minor in Psychology. She is starting her post graduate career as a Financial Representative at Northwestern Mutual.

3) Alek Wojcieszjes, the son of Peter and Deborah Wojcieszjes, has graduated from Herkimer Junior College and is presently employed at La Bonnes.

4) Peter Thaddeus Monks, the son of Thomas and Susan Monks, has graduated from Madison Middle School in Trumbull and will attend St. Joseph High School in the fall.





Prophet Elisha Commemorated on June 14: The Holy Prophet Elisha lived in the ninth century before the Birth of Christ, and was a native of the village of Abelmaum, near Jordan. By the command of the Lord he was called to prophetic service by the holy Prophet Elias (July 20).

When it became time for the Prophet Elias to be taken up to Heaven, he said to Elisha, “Ask what shall I do for you, before I am taken from you.” Elisha boldly asked for a double portion of the grace of God: “Let there be a double portion of your spirit upon me.” The Prophet Elias said, “You have asked a hard thing; if you see me when I am taken from you, then so shall it be for you; but if you do not see me, it will not be so” (4 [2] Kings 2: 10). As they went along the way talking, there appeared a fiery chariot and horses and separated them both. Elisha cried out, “My father, my father, the chariot of Israel and its horsemen!” (4 Kings 2: 12). Picking up the mantle of his teacher which fell from the sky, Elisha received the power and prophetic gift of Elias. He spent more than 65 years in prophetic service, under six Israelite kings (from Ahab to Joash). While Elisha lived, he did not tremble before any prince, and no word could overcome him (Sirach 48: 13 [“Sirach” is called “Ecclesiasticus” in Catholic Bibles]).

The holy prophet worked numerous miracles. He divided the waters of the Jordan, having struck it with the mantle of the Prophet Elias; he made the waters of a Jericho spring fit for drinking; he saved the armies of the kings of Israel and Judah that stood in an arid wilderness by bringing forth abundant water by his prayer; he delivered a poor widow from death by starvation through a miraculous increase of oil in a vessel. This Shunamite woman showing hospitality to the prophet was gladdened by the birth of a son through his prayer, and when the child died, he was raised back to life by the prophet. The Syrian military-commander Namaan was healed from leprosy but the prophet’s servant Gehazi was afflicted since he disobeyed the prophet and took money from Namaan.

Elisha predicted to the Israelite king Joash the victory over his enemies, and by the power of his prayer he worked many other miracles (4 Kings 3-13). The holy Prophet Elisha died in old age at Samaria. “In his life he worked miracles, and at death his works were marvellous” (Sir. 48: 15). A year after his death, a corpse was thrown into the prophet’s grave. As soon as the dead man touched Elisha’s bones, he came to life and stood up (4 Kings 13: 20-21). The Prophet Elisha and his teacher, the Prophet Elias, left no books behind them, since their prophetic preaching was oral. Jesus, son of Sirach, praised both great prophets (Sir. 48:1-15).

John of Damascus composed a canon in honor of the Prophet Elisha, and at Constantinople a church was built in his honor.

Julian the Apostate (361-363) gave orders to burn the relics of the Prophet Elisha, Abdia (Obadiah) and John the Forerunner, but the holy relics were preserved by believers, and part of them were transferred to Alexandria.

In the twentieth century, the humble priest Nicholas Planas had a great veneration for the Prophet Elisha, and was accounted worthy to see him in visions.



SECOND SUNDAY OF PENTECOST Epistle - Romans 2: 10-16 ~ Gospel - Matthew 4: 18-23

“Follow Me” Applies to Us All !

In today’s gospel reading, the Lord made His immediate requirements for Peter, Andrew, James, and John quite clear: “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” They left behind their occupation of fishing and their families in order to follow Christ as “He went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the Kingdom and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people.” As we know from elsewhere in the gospels, the disciples did not fully understand who Jesus Christ was until after His resurrection. They did not have a full grasp of His identity, teaching, and mission during the three years that they literally followed Him around. The Lord certainly chastised them for their spiritual confusion and weakness, but He never abandoned them or cast them out. Perhaps it was through their years of doubt and misunderstanding that they were prepared to receive the fullness of the truth of His resurrection with humility, joy, and gratitude.

It is a blessing and a challenge to have a strong and clear sense of what God wants you to do in life. How many holy people—from the very first Christians until this very day—die as martyrs or suffer abuse and persecution for their faithfulness to Christ? To take even small steps toward a holy life requires struggle, persistence, and a willingness to endure tension within our own souls and usually with other people. To lead a righteous life requires loving God with every ounce of our being and our neighbors as ourselves. Try to do that seriously and you will find yourself fighting many battles, especially in your own soul.

St. Paul was a Jewish convert to Christianity who knew that God had called the Hebrews for a unique role in the salvation of the world. The Jews certainly had an advantage over the Gentiles because of all that God had revealed to them through Moses and the prophets. But St. Paul also knew that God shows no partiality. Hearing the Law without obeying it was of no benefit at all, even as Christ’s disciples would have gained nothing by ignoring Christ’s call to follow Him. What matters is actually doing what God requires of us.

St. Paul knew that God had not abandoned the Gentiles, for He gave everyone a conscience, a knowledge of right and wrong engraved in our hearts; that is an important part of what it means to be a human being in God’s image and likeness. So whether Jew or Gentile, whether according to the Law of Moses or the dictates of conscience, St. Paul teaches that God holds us all accountable to the truth that we have received. The question for every human being, then, is whether we obey the Lord according to what we know of His purposes for us.

He was under no illusion that the Jews had perfectly obeyed the Law or that the Gentiles had lived fully in accordance with conscience. St. Paul taught that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. No one is in the position to boast of a privileged status before the Lord or to judge another, for both Jew and Gentile (namely, all human beings) stand in need of grace and mercy to the depths of our souls. Everyone is in need of a Savior Who conquers sin and death and brings us into the eternal life of God.

That was certainly true our Lord's disciples, who failed with some frequency to obey or even understand what Christ expected of them. They largely abandoned Him at His arrest and crucifixion, and it was not until He appeared to them after His resurrection and gave them a measure of the Holy Spirit that their eyes were truly opened. It was not until the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost that they boldly and effectively became "fishers of men" whose preaching and miracle-working ministry brought multitudes into the life of Christ. As a consequence of their apostolic ministry, they took up their crosses in suffering persecution, hardships of all kinds, and even death as martyrs. The Lord did not call them to an easy life of special privilege, but to an extremely demanding one of sacrifice for the sake of the Kingdom.

At the end of the day, He does the same with us all. Of course, the details will be different. We are not fishermen in first-century Palestine or the very pillars of the Church in the sense that they were. St. Paul surely did not have us in mind when he wrote to the Romans about Jews and Gentiles. It is possible to get so caught up in the particular callings and circumstances of others such that we miss the larger point. To be perfectly clear, the larger point is that we are all fully responsible for hearing and responding to God's calling in our lives, no matter how imperfectly we understand it or how difficult it is to obey.

In this season of the Apostles Fast, we want to become more like those blessed men who left everything behind in response to the Savior's call, even though they often fell short. Their understanding was imperfect and the same was true of their actions on many occasions. But the Lord did not abandon or reject them, even when they abandoned Him. He is merciful and calls us all to accept His mercy when we realize that we have not been doers of His will and have disregarded His calling. Like the apostles, we do not yet have perfect faith and obedience; but just like them, we are responsible to respond to the calling we have received as best we can. To do so will never be easy or without sacrifice; we will often stumble along the path of discipleship. But if we continue the journey with humble repentance, we will grow each step of the way in hearing Christ's calling more clearly and in gaining the strength to obey Him more fully.

As hard as it is to believe, Jesus Christ calls each of us with the urgency that He called those first disciples and apostles. We are every bit as responsible for obeying Him as they were, indeed even more responsible because we have the benefit of their example. They had to wait three years for Christ's resurrection and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, while we do not. Far more than the Jews of the Old Testament or the ancient Gentiles, God has opened the eyes of our souls to know what He requires of us. He has given us a great calling to share personally in His eternal and holy life. There is no question about that. The only question is how we will respond to the One Who says to each and every one of us: "Follow Me." We need to pay attention to that call daily and do what is necessary to strengthen ourselves spiritually so that we will be able to respond responsibly to the great blessings that we have been given in His Body, the Church. Remember what St. Paul wrote: "God knows no partiality... it is not the hearers of the Law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the Law who will be justified." So let us not only hear God's truth, but actually live it out each day of our lives. (*Excerpt from Ancient Faith website – Fr. Philip LeMasters*)

The Apostles' Fast is a prescribed fasting period of the Church, lasting from the day after the Sunday of All Saints, June 8, to the 29th of June, the feast of the Apostles Peter and Paul.

The spiritual benefit derived from the Apostles' Fast is great. Saint Leo the Great noted that, "*After the extended feast of Pentecost, the fast is particularly needed in order to cleanse our mind by ascetic labors, and to make us worthy of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.*" Saint Leo also reminds us, "*In the Apostolic canons inspired by God Himself, the Church fathers have, at the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, established first and foremost that all virtuous labors begin with fasting.*"

A PRAYER FOR THOSE SUFFERING PERSECUTION

Lord, bring an end to tragedy and suffering. Deliver Your Church and Your faithful people from every evil with Your mighty hand. Help us, O God, for You were crucified and died for the salvation of all. Help us, that among us, and in all the world, hatred may be replaced with love, unrest may be replaced with peace, and sorrow may be replaced with happiness, that we have a peaceful life as Your people and live as brothers and sisters with one another. Remember our enemies, those who hate us and oppress us, and repay them not according to their deeds, but rather give them reason and understanding, according to Your great mercy, so that they may see that evil cannot bring good. You are the God of mercy, goodness and the Lover of mankind, and unto You we ascribe glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

CATECHISM - CHRIST OUR PASCHA - TODAY'S GOSPEL LESSON :

VOCATION / CALLING: Page 235, Section 710, 711; Page 239, Section 725-727; Page 243, Section 744-746



Five things to know about Flag Day

1. Banner beginning. Flag Day is celebrated on June 14 and commemorates the adoption of the flag of the United States on June 14, 1777, by resolution of the Second Continental Congress.


2. Teach your children well. Wisconsin schoolteacher BJ Cigrand is believed to have been the first person to observe the holiday. In 1885, Cigrand had his students in the Fredonia, Wisconsin Public School district observe June 14 (the 108 anniversary of the adoption of the flag) as “Flag Birthday” or “Flag Day.” Other Flag Day observances followed in Philadelphia in 1891 at the Betsy Ross House, and in 1892 by the New York Society of the Sons of the Revolution. The American Flag Day Association organized for the purpose of promoting the holding of Flag Day exercises, held the first public school children’s celebration of Flag Day on June 14, 1894 in Chicago, with more than 300,000 students taking part.

3. Making it official. On May 30, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation that officially established June 14 as Flag Day. Pennsylvania, which hosted some of the earliest Flag Day celebrations, became the first to celebrate June 14 as a state holiday. But it was not until Aug. 3, 1949 that an Act of Congress signed by President Harry Truman designated June 14 as National Flag Day.

4. Long may it wave. The week of June 14-20 has been designated as “National Flag Week” during which the president issues a proclamation urging all U.S. citizens to fly the American flag for the duration of that week. The flag should also be displayed on all government buildings.


5. Local Flag Day love. While several U.S. cities and towns claim to have the largest (Troy, New York) or oldest Flag Day celebrations (Fairfield, Washington), Quincy, Mass. maintains its annual Flag Day parade, started in 1952 by Richard J. Koch, “is the longest-running parade of its kind in the nation.” The COVID-19 pandemic has cancelled this year’s banner celebration, traditionally held on the Saturday closest to Flag Day. While the parade and fireworks display at Pageant Field are off this year, the city will still provide an opportunity to salute the stars and stripes. On Sunday, June 14, Quincy Fire Department ladder trucks will raise Quincy’s 30-by-50-foot American flag over Merrymount Parkway near Veterans Memorial Park and families are encouraged to decorate their cars, trucks and bikes and drive or ride under the flag while it’s on display from 1-3 p.m.

(While several U.S. cities and towns claim to have the largest (Troy, New York) or oldest Flag Day celebrations (Fairfield, Washington), Quincy, Mass. maintains its annual Flag Day parade, started in 1952 by Richard J. Koch, “is the longest- running parade of its kind in the nation.” Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year’s parade and fireworks display has been cancelled, but the city will give people an opportunity to salute the stars and stripes on Sunday, June 14.)

<p>CUTTING EDGE LANDSCAPING, LLC</p>		<p>Little Angels Home Care LLC Agency EWA BORS Providing Elderly Care By the Hour, Companion, Live-in- Caregivers, Weekends 240 Myrtle Street Shelton, CT 06484 Phone 203-278-1436 Email: littleangelshomecare48@yahoo.com</p>
	<p>WAKELEE MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME John S. Zaleski Director Virginia K. Hylwa Administrator</p>	
<p>Support those who advertise in our bulletin!</p>	<p>203.734.1490 <i>Parishioners Serving Parishioners Over 80 Yrs</i></p> 	<p>Support those who advertise in our bulletin!</p>
<p>For your AD info, message Call 203-734-3895 or YoungE8073@aol.com</p>		<p>For your AD info, message Call 203-734-3895 or YoungE8073@aol.com</p>

Through **CHRIST..**
 God was reconciling
 the world to Himself,
 not counting their trespasses
 against them, and entrusting
 to us the message of reconciliation

2 Corinthians 5:20



Knowing-Jesus.com

PRAYER FOR RACIAL HEALING Catholic Charities of America

Opening Prayer

God of justice, In your wisdom you create all people in your image, without exception. Through your goodness, open our eyes to see the dignity, beauty, and worth of every human being. Open our minds to understand that all your children are brothers and sisters in the same human family. Open our hearts to repent of racist attitudes, behaviors, and speech which demean others. Open our ears to hear the cries of those wounded by racial discrimination, and their passionate appeals for change. Strengthen our resolve to make amends for past injustices and to right the wrongs of history. And fill us with courage that we might seek to heal wounds, build bridges, forgive and be forgiven, and establish peace and equality for all in our communities. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 130: 1-8": We cry to you, O Lord, from the depths of the earth. Out of the depths I call to you, LORD; Lord, hear my cry! May your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy. If you, LORD, keep account of sins, Lord, who can stand? But with you is forgiveness and so you are revered. I wait for the LORD, my soul waits and I hope for his word. My soul looks for the Lord more than sentinels for daybreak. More than sentinels for daybreak, let Israel hope in the LORD, For with the LORD is mercy, with him is plenteous redemption, And he will redeem Israel from all its sins.

Reading from Scripture: Isaiah 32: 15-18 In those days: The spirit from on high Will be poured out on us. Then will the desert become an orchard And the orchard regarded as a forest. Right will dwell in the desert And justice abide in the orchard. Justice will bring about peace; Right will produce calm and security. My people will live in a peaceful country, In secure dwellings and quiet resting places. Reflection An individual or group reflection on the scripture readings or the themes of racial healing and reconciliation may take place here.

Petitions: In hope that the arc of history bends toward justice, we lift up our prayers for racial healing, saying: Bind us together, O God of love.

For the Church, that its prophetic voice may proclaim to all the challenge to break the hopeless cycles of poverty, ignorance, prejudice, and despair which degrade the sacred dignity of humankind, we pray:

For our country, that we might celebrate our racial diversity and the distinctive and rich contributions of every fiber of our cultural fabric, we pray:

For wise and decisive action on the part of local and national leaders, that the scandal of racism may be eradicated from our society, we pray:

For an end to the subtle racism of economic oppression which permeates our society's structures and resides in many hearts, we pray:

For our faith communities, that they may not succumb to indifference or accept the status quo, but press on for fundamental change, we pray:

For the victims of racial discrimination, that they may be filled with hope for a more just future, healing from wounds received, courage to advocate for change and for peace, and the grace to overcome hatred with love, we pray:

For those who work for racial justice, that they may be sustained in hope, empowered with courage, and filled with the grace to persevere in love, we pray:

Other intercessions may be offered here.

Our Father...Closing Prayer

Jesus our brother, You revealed God through your wise words and loving deeds, and we encounter you still today in the faces of those whom society has pushed to the margins. Guide us, through the love you revealed, to establish the justice you proclaimed, that all peoples might dwell in harmony and peace, united by that one love that binds us to each other, and to you. Amen.