

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OCT. 16 ANNOUNCEMENTS: Church council meeting following divine liturgy

OCT. 9 DONATIONS:

For Health of (FHO): FHO BLAGOJA JOSIFOVSKI – BARBARA STOYEK

FHO: FAMILY –ANGIE PANZOFF;

FHO: FAMILY – JANN & PETE PETROFF;

FHO: FAMILY-RODERICK & VALARIE LAZAR

FHO: ALL MY DEAR FRIENDS – HELEN ARNAUT

FHO: FAMILY & MY CHURCH FAMILY – DONALD & CHERYL TRAVIS

In Memory of (IMO): PANDORA – RODERICK & VALARIE LAZAR

IMO: THE ARNAUT FAMILY – SANDRA ARNAUT

UPCOMING EVENTS

OCT. 23 – PARISH BREAKFAST - \$10/person, children under 12 free

30- Ladies Guild meeting following Divine Liturgy

NOV. 6- PARISH THANKSGIVING DINNER – Price to be determined

13 – ODO Dinner @ 2 p.m. – St. Peter Paul Orthodox Cathedral -
- GENERAL MEMBERSHIP ANNUAL MEETING

DEC. 10 – Church Bake Sale

A Prayer for the morning:

O treasury of good things, fountain eternal, O Father, all-holy, who work wonders, all-powerful and all-mighty: we adore you and entreat you, calling your mercies and your aid to the defense of our loneliness. Call to remembrance your servants, O Lord; accept the morning prayers of us all as incense before you; and let none of us be found reprobate, but encompass us with your bounties. Call to remembrance, O Lord, all those who watch and sing praises to your glory, and to the glory of your only-begotten Son, who is our God, and of your Holy Spirit. Be their helper and support. Receive their supplications upon your most heavenly and spiritually discerning altar. For you are our God and to you we ascribe glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and Ever and to the ages of ages, amen.

SAINT PAUL ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

Rector: Rev. Fr. Robert J. Royer Email-robertjroyer@gmail.com
(810) 919-9485 Website: stpaulorthodoxcathedral.org

Sunday, October 19, 2016

17th Sunday after Pentecost



**TODAY WE WILL CELEBRATE THE DIVINE LITURGY OF
ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle – 2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1

Brothers and sisters, what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will live in them and move among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore come out from them, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch nothing unclean; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, and make holiness perfect in the fear of God.

Gospel – Luke 8:5-15

"A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell along the path, and was trodden under foot, and the birds of the air devoured it. And some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns grew with it and choked it. And some fell into good soil and grew, and yielded a hundredfold." As he said this, he called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear." And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, he said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; but for others they are in parables, so that seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand. Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, that they may not believe and be saved. And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy; but these have no root, they believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. And as for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience.

What is Enlightenment? Where Can I See God?

"Enlightenment is to see and touch the big mystery. The Big pattern. The Big Real. Jesus called it the Kingdom of God...Philosophers might call it Truth. Most of us just call it love. Here is a mantra you might want to repeat throughout your day:

God's life is living itself in me. I am aware of life living itself in me.

There's no answer, no problem solving, simply awareness. You cannot *not* live in the presence of God. You are totally surrounded by God as you read this. St. Patrick said:

God beneath you,
God in front of you,
God behind you,
God above you,
God within you.

You cannot earn this God. You cannot prove yourself worthy of this God. Feeling God's presence is simply a matter of awareness. Of enjoying the now. Deepening one's presence. There are moments when it happens. Then life makes sense. Once I can see the Mystery here, and trust the Mystery even in this piece of clay that I am, in this moment of time that I am – then I can also see it in you. I am able to see the divine image in myself, in you, and eventually all things. Finally, the seeing is one. How you see anything is how you will see everything.

Jesus pushes seeing to the social edge. Can you see the image of Christ in the least of your brothers and sisters? He uses that as his only description of the final judgment. Nothing about commandments, nothing about church attendance...simply a matter of our ability to see. Can we see Christ in the least of our brothers and sisters? ...When we can see the image of God where we don't want to see the image of God, then we see with eyes not our own.

Finally Jesus says we have to love and recognize the divine image even in our enemies. He teaches what many thought a leader could never demand of his followers: love of the enemy. Logically that makes no sense.. But soulfully, it makes absolute sense, because in terms of the soul, it really is all or nothing. Either we see the divine image in all created things, or we don't see it at all." [Fr. Richard Rohr, *Everything Belongs*, 56-58.]