



September 25, 2016

**NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**Divine Liturgy Schedule**

<b>Sept. 24 (Sat) Divine Liturgy</b>	<b>5:00pm</b>
<b>Sept. 25 (Sun) 19th Sunday After Pentecost</b> <b>Divine Liturgy</b> <i>+Ann Frenzel req by Helen &amp; Carl Magdic</i>	<b>10:30am</b>
<b>Sept. 26 (Mon) Divine Liturgy</b>	<b>8:30am</b>
<b>Sept. 29 (Thur) Divine Liturgy</b>	<b>8:30am</b>
<b>Sept. 30 (Fri) FEAST OF THE PROTECTION OF THE THEOTOKOS</b> <b>Vigil Divine Liturgy</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>
<b>Oct. 1 (Sat) Divine Liturgy</b> <i>+Joseph Dubyak req by Mary Errett</i>	<b>5:00pm</b>
<b>Oct. 2 (Sun) 20th Sunday after Pentecost</b> <b>ECF Classes</b> <b>Divine Liturgy</b> <i>+Ann Frenzel req by Mike &amp; Ann Andrejczak</i>	<b>9:00am</b> <b>10:30am</b>

*Our Tithe to our Church*

*September 18, 2016 — \$2,759.00*



The Sanctuary Lamp continues to burn before the presence of Our Risen Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ in our church during the week of Sept. 25 thru Oct. 1 for ECF students and teachers.



*Let us remember in our prayers all of our friends and parish family members who are sick at home or in a nursing facility and for all who are in need of our prayers.*

James Abraham, Tillie Abraham, Diana Abraham, Rosella Busko, Marian Campbell, Rose Chomanics, Ted Druga, John Fekete, Marie Klotz, Carl Magdic, Fran Mogush, Clarence Rizzi, Helen Rizzi, Joseph Rusinko, Maria Rusinko, Ed Sudzina, Mary Soltis, Terry Soltis, Cecelia Stephen, Margaret Weber, John Voron, Sr.

**PARISH UPDATES**



In our on-going efforts to maintain and improve our parish properties. We have had some new glass-block windows installed in the Educational Wing of the church. These will offer protection from any potential dangers in the rear of our parish property, the area that is most isolated and vulnerable. They also match the glass-blocks that are in the kitchen windows and thus enhance the appearance of the building also.

You may remember, also, that last year we had new gutter-guards installed on the sides and rear of the Educational Wing, the areas where most of the leaves tend to gather. This will prevent the clogging of the gutters and relieve the necessity of continually cleaning them out.

## PAUL THE APOSTLE

### FEAST OF THE HOLY PROTECTION

Among the Marian feasts that we celebrate in our Byzantine Tradition, the feast of the Holy Protection of the Mother of God carries special warmth.

The protective warmth of a mother ... the care and concern for her children ... the comforting embrace that a mother offers her children ... these are all deeply-imbedded images in the human psyche. Indeed, those who have been privileged to experience such warmth and tenderness truly know the power of a mother's care.

The same is true of nations and peoples. In the Christian Tradition, whenever there have been times of danger and difficulty, turmoil and turbulence, Christians have instinctively turned towards Mary, the Mother of God, the Theotokos, for solace and protection.

Once when the great city of Constantinople was besieged by enemies, the terror-stricken people gathered in the church dedicated to the Most Holy Mother of God ... the church where the relic of her mantle was preserved. There they kept an all-night prayer vigil.

The church was filled to capacity with the distressed people.



Among the worshippers was St. Andrew (known as "the Fool for Christ", since he pretended to be an illiterate fool ... so as not to draw attention to his holiness); his disciple Epiphanius was also there with him.

After the service, St. Andrew saw the Mother of God approaching from the main doors of the church, in the company of St. John the Baptist and St. John the Theologian. She proceeded towards the altar where she knelt in prayer, amid many tears. Then she arose, removed the bright veil from her head, and stretched it out in protection over the people in the church.

News of the miracle spread like a flash throughout the city, and the people realized it was a sign of her maternal protection for them. The enemy was quickly routed and the city saved.

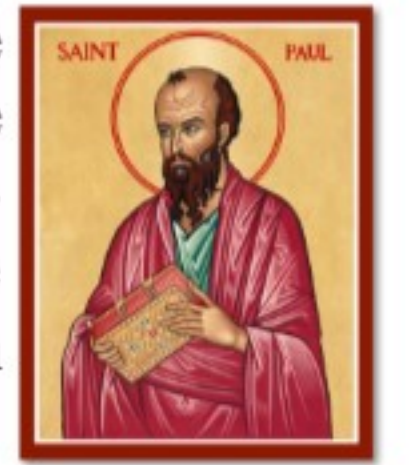
This incident is the source of our present feast. It reminds us also that we are not alone ... that we have a Mother in heaven who is constantly praying for us and protecting us.

Life was not easy for St. Paul.

After all, he was not one of the original twelve apostles ... in fact, he never met Jesus in the flesh.

He describes himself as an ardent young member of the Pharisee party ... the group who represented the most progressive scholars of the Law in his day. He was an outstanding leader in that group ... one of its most promising figures.

His enthusiasm for the purity and quality of religious observance led him to seek out and track down those who would compromise the faith and the traditions of his ancestors. For, the new Christians had begun to introduce practices and innovations that were not acceptable to the great rabbis of Jerusalem ... the group upon whom Paul and the other Pharisees relied for sound teaching.



Thus, Paul was a persecutor of this early Christian movement; he was out to try to destroy it ... when he had that fateful experience that changed his life completely.

On the road to Damascus (to track down a group of Christians) ... he was struck down by a blinding light ... and a voice which spoke to him from the heavens. However it was that Christ spoke to Paul ... it did have a profound effect on him. It was both wrenching and disorienting to him.

For he had to rethink all his ideas about the religious practices that he supported ... in the past, he had been so zealous in promoting the traditions of his ancestors. As he himself said, he was "more Jewish than all the other Jews!"

Now, in the light of what Christ had revealed to him ... Paul became the champion of spreading the Gospel to the foreigners, the Gentiles. Such a turn-around in his vision and attitude could only come through Paul's prayerful contemplation of all that Christ had shown to him.

Yet, as we all know ... change is never easy ... As it has been said: *To live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often.* (John Henry Newman)