



AUGUST 18, 2019
TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Liturgical Schedule

Aug 17 (Sat) Divine Liturgy 5:00pm
+Joseph Hreha req by Shirley & Mike Andreyko

Aug 18 (Sun) Tenth Sunday After Pentecost
Divine Liturgy 10:30am
+Theodore Druga req by Charles & Catherine Zeleznik

Aug 20 (Tue) Divine Liturgy 8:30am

Aug 22 (Thu) Divine Liturgy 8:30am

Aug 24 (Sat) Divine Liturgy 5:00pm
Intention of our Parish Family

Aug 25 (Sun) Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost
Divine Liturgy 10:30am
Health & Blessings for Ruth & Ray Seech - 50th Wedding Anniversary

Our Tithe to our Parish—August 11, 2019 - \$1,477.00

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.



Tillie Abraham, Diana Abraham, Ron Bishop, Jude Bodnar, Marion Campbell, Steve Fekete, Kevin Ianni, Clarence Rizzi, Helen Rizzi, Joseph Rusinko Sr, Sue Sabol, Ruth Seech, Mary Soltis, Debbie Vasko



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 Aug. 18 thru Aug. 24 for +Marsha Chomanics. *“Eternal Memory”*

(The sanctuary lamp has many weeks open for special intentions or memorials. If you would like to schedule the lamp, please call the office on Monday mornings to check which weeks are available.)

THE UNIONTOWN PILGRIMAGE

From the earliest of times, pilgrimages have been an important part of the religious life of people.

A pilgrimage is a journey ... a journey to a shrine or a holy place. In the Old Testament, people went on pilgrimage to the various places where God had manifested himself or his power. Normally, people would build a shrine to mark the spot ... and to visit such a place was to participate, in some manner, in the event which had taken place there.

The New Testament does not speak much about pilgrimages ... since the writers were focused more on the presence of Jesus in their midst.



In the development of the Christian Tradition, Jerusalem and the places associated with the life and presence of Jesus became popular places of pilgrimages. The various sites that were sanctified by the presence and the sufferings of Jesus became the new Christian shrines. Often churches or chapels were built over these places, and people would then come to visit there and pray there ... thus allowing them to enter more deeply into the events that were associated with the sites.

A pilgrimage is also a time of *renewing our commitments*.

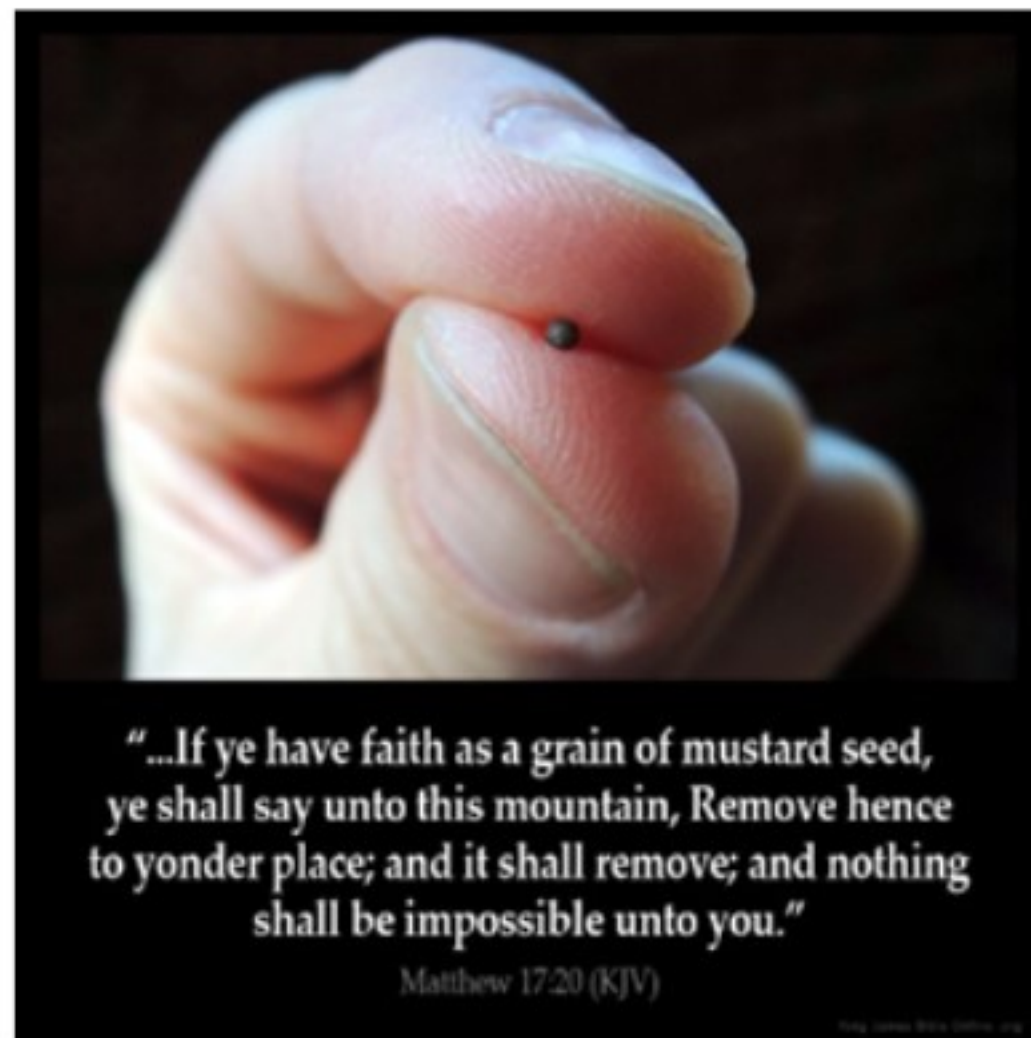
When people would visit a shrine, it was a time of returning to their origins ... to renew their covenants or commitments to God.

For us, the time of pilgrimage can also be a time of *renewal* ... to be surrounded by a large group of people at prayer ... to be a witness of such a demonstration of faith ... to participate in moving services ... and this can be the very atmosphere that we need to touch our hearts and bring us to renewal and recommitment.

Let's all plan to spend some significant time at Mount St. Macrina this Labor Day weekend!

In today's Gospel, Jesus accuses the disciples of "little faith" ... that is, of believing, but sometimes acting as if they did not believe. Matthew shows us a picture of a community that is sincere ... but sometimes makes mistakes. Sometimes they act as if they do not believe.

Such a portrait is realistic ... and it gives hope to our communities today ... communities of sincere people ... but people who sometimes act as if we do not believe. And it gives us courage to continue ... and to grow in faith and life and spiritual understanding.



NO WHITEWASH HERE

We normally like to show our best side ... whether this be in a photo or in our personality.

When we have a formal picture taken, we look over the proofs ... and go over them again and again ... until we find the one that looks most like the way we see (or want to see) ourselves.

When we tell stories about ourselves, our families or our groups ... we usually like to tell the ones that put us in a favorable light ... especially when we are talking with someone for the first time.

Brochures advertising a vacation site speak in glowing terms about all the assets of the place ... so much so that we sometimes do not recognize the place when we actually see it. We all like to put our best foot forward!

The Scriptures speak about the early Christian community ... and give us a type of portrait of these followers of Jesus. But, strikingly, the Gospel writers do not give us an "idealized" picture of this community. The disciples are portrayed in very human terms ... with all their warts and blemishes.

At the crucifixion, we see the disciples scattering and hiding themselves from the authorities ... the betrayal of Judas is not hidden away ... nor is the denial by Peter overlooked. The Gospel writers present the disciples just as they were remembered ... with their positive and their negative qualities.