



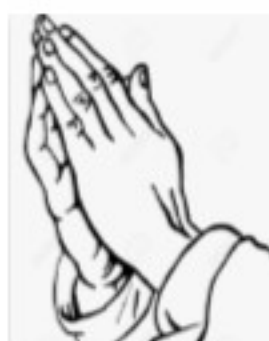
AUGUST 25, 2019
ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Liturgical Schedule

- 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
- Aug 27 (Tue) Divine Liturgy** **8:30am**
- Aug 28 (Wed) BEHEADING OF JOHN THE BAPTIST**
Vigil Divine Liturgy **7:00pm**
(Traditionally a day of fasting)
- Aug 31 (Sat) Divine Liturgy** **5:00pm**
+Helen Sabol req by Michael and Arlene Dzura
- Sept 1 (Sun) Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost**
Divine Liturgy **10:30am**
+Russell Prodan req by Anna Prodan

Our Tithe to our Parish—August 18, 2019 - NA

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. 25 thru Aug. 31 for all students returning to class.

(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!



We offer our prayerful congratulations to Ruth & Ray Seech as well as to Mickey & Arlene Dzura, who are both celebrating their golden wedding anniversaries this year.

We are grateful to them for their many years of faithful witness to the dignity and sanctity of married life. Anyone who has made such a lifelong commitment knows the joys as well as the struggles of faithfully living this, day after day. Yes, it is only one day at a time that we can faithfully live a committed life. And the rewards are a tremendous amount of gratitude for all the blessings that come to us for our fidelit

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

John, the Baptizer of Christ, is one of the really wild men of the Gospel tradition!

He is called *the last and the greatest of the prophets* ... and this puts him in the line of that great prophetic tradition that included such characters as Elijah the prophet.

Now, these prophets were not so much concerned with telling peoples' fortunes or foretelling the future ... that is known to God alone! They were more interested into *seeing the present as it really is* ... and calling it by name. They simply called a spade a spade! They were no nonsense people!



John cut through all the hypocrisy of his era. King Herod had done some unlawful things ... among them, he married the wife of his brother. John denounced him for this. Herod, seeking to be the "strong guy," had John put into prison and eventually beheaded. It is classic case of "if you do not like the message, kill the messenger!!!"

John represented the power of truth.

When something is true ... whether we like it or not ... it cuts through to the quick. The truth penetrates our heart. Oh yes, we can try to run away from it ... we can try to deny it ... we can even get rid of the messenger of truth ... but we cannot dull the impact of the truth on us.

In a society that seeks to hide behind so many masks ... in a culture that seeks to escape responsibility for our actions ... in a world that is often afraid to speak the truth for fear that it would hurt too much ... in such a world, we need the witness of people like John the Baptist ...

Even though he was beheaded for his boldness ... his mouth continues to speak to us today ... and his message still challenges us today.