

SS. PETER AND PAUL

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Rev. Joseph McCartney, Rector

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Gospel Reading ~ Luke 17:12-19
Epistle Reading ~ Ephesians 6:10-17
Martyrs Menas, Hermogenes & EUGRAPHUS of Alexandria

This Week at a Glance

Thurs, Dec. 14th

9:30 am - Akathist to the Mother of God Healer of Cancer

Sat, Dec. 16th

6:00 pm - Great Vespers

Sun, Dec. 17th

9:00 am - The Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

Chrismation of Kendra Kormos

Christmas Concert and Yolka

Christmas Concert/ Yolka

Our annual parish Christmas Concert & Children's Yolka will be held immediately after liturgy on 12/17.



Gospel Meditation

What can we learn from this short, little story, just a few lines? We can certainly see that one should give thanks to God, but more fundamentally, the inner meaning is that this leper had eyes to see, and ears to hear, and saw the God-man, and ACTED upon what he learned and what he knew then, the God-man, truly healed him, and made him filled with knowledge, so that he would grow to fruition.

It is the same principle for us. The church gives us so many wonderful gifts, so many incalculable riches, and many times, we do not value them very much at all. We don't understand what a great thing we have been given. On an intellectual level, perhaps we understand, but we don't act with fervent faith because of them. The gifts we have been given are so tremendous that they should spur us on, and make us live in Christ.

Brothers and sisters, living in Christ is not only knowing those things that God has revealed to us in the books and the traditions of our church. Those are all God inspired, and God breathed, but we must make these things to be the definition of who we are, not just what we know. We should have such a mastery of God's mercy in our life so that we would react in ways that are good and holy naturally. It was natural for this leper.

For us, just as for this leper, this comes through labor, through effort. The leper was sick for a long time, he had to endure much for a long time. So do we, unfortunately, mostly because of our sins. So, let us endure, let us proceed, and let us try to capture God's mercy in our hearts, and let it warm us and enlighten us.

This coming Sunday, December 17th, we will have the service of Chrismation for Kendra Kormos.

Questions for Annual Parish Meeting

The annual parish meeting will be held on Sunday, January 28th, following the Divine Liturgy. In preparation, we have put a box in the back of church near the bulletins for you to write your questions or concerns. Having them ahead of time will ensure the meeting goes smoothly and questions can be adequately answered.

Holy Martyrs Menas, Hermogenes and Eugraphus

The Holy Martyrs Menas, Hermogenes, and Eugraphus suffered for their faith in Christ under the emperor Maximian. Saint Menas was sent by the emperor from Athens to Alexandria to suppress the riots that had arisen between the Christians and the pagans. Distinguished for his gift of eloquence, Menas instead openly began to preach the Christian Faith and he converted many pagans to Christ. Learning of this, Maximian sent Hermogenes to Alexandria to place the saints on trial. Moreover, he gave orders to purge the city of Christians. Hermogenes, although he was a pagan, was distinguished by his reverent bearing. And struck by the endurance of Saint Menas under torture and by his miraculous healing after the cruel torments, he also came to believe in Christ. Maximian himself then arrived in Alexandria. Neither the astonishing stoic endurance of Saints Menas and Hermogenes under torture, nor even the miracles manifested by God in this city, mollified the emperor. Instead, they vexed him all the more. The emperor personally stabbed Saint Eugraphus, the secretary of Saint Menas, and then gave orders to behead the holy Martyrs Menas and Hermogenes. The relics of the holy martyrs, cast into the sea in an iron chest, were afterwards found and transferred to Constantinople in the ninth century. The emperor Justinian built a church in the name of the holy Martyr Menas of Alexandria. Saint Joseph the Hymnographer composed a Canon in honor of these holy martyrs.



For Sale

There are still left over food items from our Cookie Walk including: stuffed cabbage, nut and poppy rolls for sale. If you would like any, please see Midge during coffee hour.

Amazon Smiles

With the holidays coming up, and online shopping becoming more and more popular, don't forget to support our parish by making your purchases through Amazon Smiles. It works exactly the same as regular Amazon, but our parish receives a donation of .5% of your total purchase. Shop at smile.amazon.com and choose Ss Peter and Paul Orthodox Church (Lorain, OH).

