

The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Matthew 22:1-14

And Jesus answered and spake unto them again by parables, and said, The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son, And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come. Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage. But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise: And the remnant took his servants, and entreated them spitefully, and slew them. But when the king heard thereof, he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy. Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage. So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests. And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment: And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness, there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. For many are called, but few are chosen. (KJV)

The Sunday before the Exaltation of the Precious Cross

John 3:13-17

And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. (KJV)

The Holy Gospel is centuries old and always relevant each day of each succeeding century. Believers are blessed to hear the Gospel. The Gospel contains the teachings and life of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Gospel describes the miracles of Christ and the impact of Christ. The Gospel is relevant and informative until Jesus Christ's Second Coming. Every day the world moves closer to the Second Coming.

The present Gospel reading for the Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost speaks about the invitation to the wedding banquet for the king's son. The invitations were readily declined.

The Divine Liturgy is the Lord's Banquet and many in the world choose not to come. If we went into the nearby communities and asked the residents why they did not attend the Divine Liturgy, many different answers would be given.

Many persons baptized into Christ in the Church have fallen away and no longer come to the Divine Liturgy. There are persons raised in the Church as youths who no longer attend the Divine Liturgy.

The Gospel on this Sunday before the Exaltation of the Precious Cross vividly brings to mind Jesus' Crucifixion and love for humanity. The Divine Liturgy provides for being unified with Christ in the Holy Eucharist.

The Divine Liturgy offers the Supreme Banquet of partaking of Jesus Christ's Precious Body and Blood. Individuals absenting themselves from the Divine Liturgy deny themselves the opportunity to be united with Christ.

Attending the Divine Liturgy requires a conscious decision and effort. Partaking of the Precious Body and Blood of Jesus Christ solidifies the unity with Jesus Christ.

Each person determines whether he or she will attend the Divine Liturgy and partake of the Precious Body and Blood of Christ. The Holy Gospel tells us Jesus Christ came into the world not to condemn it, but to save the world.

Great thought should go in to the decisions about attending the Divine Liturgy and about partaking of the Precious Body and Blood of Christ. The decisions made determine if unity with Jesus Christ occurs and continues.

God's Holy Church is where to experience unity with Jesus Christ. Believers' united with Jesus Christ in the Church serve as ambassadors and disciples of Christ in the communities where they live.

Believers united with Christ and fervent about Christ will attract and encourage others to attend the parish church. Each person has a hunger in the soul and is in need of Jesus Christ.

Believers filled with love of Christ and love for neighbor will share the love. Persons in the community coming to know of Christ's presence in the parish church will seek to accompany fervent believers.

Sharing the love of Jesus Christ is not only the priest's responsibility. Parishioners nourished in Christ seek to share the love and knowledge of the nourishment with others.

Thank God for the Church and the preservation and proclamation of the Holy Gospel. Thank God for active parishioners aiding the priest in the growth of the parish. Thank God for the opportunity of salvation.

The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost. The Sunday Before the Exaltation of the Precious Cross. September 13/26, 2021. Holy Hieromartyr Cornelius the Centurion. Forefeast of the Exaltation of the Cross. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic