

The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Luke 6:31-36

And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise. For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also love those that love them. And if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank have ye? for sinners also do even the same. And if ye lend to them of whom ye hope to receive, what thank have ye? for sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for He is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil. Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful. (KJV)

Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers. This parable spake Jesus unto them: but they understood not what things they were which he spake unto them. Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. (KJV)

The parish church is where believers normally enter into the life in Christ. Whether brought as an infant by parents or coming individually as an adult, the official entry into the life in Christ normally occurs at the parish church.

The parish church is where Baptism and Chrismation occur for the overwhelming number of believers. The parish church also provides the Holy Mysteries of Confession, Communion, Marriage and Holy Unction

Life from birth until departure from this life is connected with the parish church. The Lord Jesus Christ is always available and present in the parish church. Believers learn from and grow in Christ in the parish church.

The Christian home is an integral part of the Church. Parents are to nurture children in the way of Jesus Christ. Adults are to live in the home in ways pleasing to Jesus Christ.

The parish church and the Christian home affect the neighborhood and community in which they are located. Christ radiates from the parish church and the Christian home and reaches well beyond the walls and property boundaries.

Love grows and abounds in the parish church and in the Christian home. Individuals take on the responsibility of maturing in Christ and radiating the love of Christ in the parish, the home and the community.

The need for repentance is constant and the parish church and the Christian home encourage repentance. Christian husbands and wives, fathers and mothers learn to repent and return to Christ.

Prodigal sons and daughters find the welcoming love of the parish church and Christian home to be healing for the hurting heart and soul. The Gospel proclaimed at each Divine Liturgy nourishes and guides believers.

St. Luke's Gospel for today gives clear direction from Jesus Christ for dealing with difficult relationships in the church, the home and the community. Serious believers apply the Gospel reading to daily relationships.

Being loving and merciful in all relationships is an expectation for believers. The Lord Jesus Christ is the example of perfect love for believers to learn from and follow.

In St. John's Gospel for today, Jesus Christ identifies Himself as the door to enter for salvation. Jesus Christ's constant welcoming presence keeps the path to salvation open throughout life.

From Holy Baptism until departure from this life, believers have the opportunity to remain on the path to eternal life and God's Kingdom. When the believer strays and commits sins, returning to the narrow path is always possible.

Jesus welcomes believers seeking eternal life. Jesus welcomes sinners desiring to repent and begin anew. The parish priest is ever-ready to assist the believer in the journey to eternal life and the Heavenly Kingdom.

Attending the Divine services of the Church and adhering to the fasts keeps the believer united with Jesus Christ. Joy thrives in the minds, hearts and souls of believers united with Christ.

Jesus Christ the Shepherd is known to His followers and His followers are known to Him. Now is the time to rejoice in the Lord Jesus Christ. Now is the time to follow Jesus Christ.

Today's Gospel readings from St. Luke and St. John are instructive and nourishing. God's Holy Church provides the Gospel readings at each Divine Liturgy for instruction and nourishment.

Partaking of the Precious Body and Blood of Jesus Christ offered at each Divine Liturgy ensures unity with Christ. Grateful believers appreciate the presence of the parish church and celebration of the Divine Mysteries.

Believers demonstrate gratitude to Christ by adhering to the teachings from the Holy Gospel and Divine services. Now is the time to demonstrate gratitude to Jesus Christ in everyday life.

The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost. The Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke. October 18/31, 2021. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic