

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 Fathers of the Seventh Council John 17:1-13

These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was. I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word. Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee. For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me. I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine. And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled. And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves. (KJV)

The Gospel is proclaimed in God's Holy Church where believers come to learn about and seek eternal life. The Church offers the opportunity for repentance of sin and unity with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Believers receive nourishment for the soul and body when coming to God's Holy Church. The Church offers hope, peace and love in a world where violence, depression and depravity can be found.

Believers coming to God's Holy Church are expected to learn from and strive to be like the Lord Jesus Christ. Church leaders are expected to be examples striving to live faithfully in Christ.

Every person is a sinner and will fail in following Christ each day. Christ welcomes believers to repent with every fall and to begin again. Prayer is essential in the effort to follow Christ and to beneficially repent.

St. Luke's Gospel for today describes the way of relationships pleasing to the Lord. St. John's Gospel for today speaks about eternal life. Each Divine Liturgy is an opportunity to improve personal relationships and seek eternal life.

Christians are expected to remain active in the journey to God's Kingdom from the time of Baptism until departure from this life. Actively seeking God's

Kingdom and eternal life require effort throughout life.

The Church offers teachings in each Divine service to strengthen the believer in life's journey. Priests offer sermons to benefit the soul. The contents of the services which are chanted or sung provide rich nourishment for the soul.

Being attentive to the content when attending the Divine Liturgy and other services helps the believer form a life pleasing to the Lord. Unity with Christ comes through repentance and receiving the Precious Body and Blood of Christ.

Believers getting married in the Church begin their lives together on a solid foundation. Parents raising their sons and daughters in the Church strengthen their children for the rigour and challenges of adulthood.

Parents do well to be concerned about nourishing the souls of their sons and daughters, Responsible parental upbringing of children includes teaching about loving Christ and learning Christ's love in the Church.

Both Gospels for today have lasting messages for life. Faithful believers work at having healthy relationships in everyday life. Faithful believers earnestly seek the Kingdom of God and eternal life.

The Divine Liturgy offers a foretaste of God's Kingdom. When the heart, mind and soul are open to Jesus Christ during the Divine Liturgy, Christ and the believer are united.

The Holy Spirit is at work during the Divine Liturgy and brings about a transformation in attentive believers. Welcoming Jesus Christ into the heart, mind and soul benefits each believer.

The Divine Liturgy is offered every Sunday and on major feasts and on other occasions during the year. The Divine Liturgy is to always be appreciated and held in highest honor in the heart, mind and soul.

The Divine Liturgy is not to be taken for granted nor to be viewed as common place. The Divine Liturgy has been protected through the centuries by many sacrifices and innumerable martyrs and faithful believers.

Make the best of each opportunity to attend and participate in the Divine Liturgy. Be grateful to experience Jesus Christ in the Church. Cherish every Divine Liturgy as the foretaste of God's Kingdom.

The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost. The Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council\ October 10/23, 2022.Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic