

The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Luke 5:1-11

And it came to pass, that, as the people pressed upon Him to hear the word of God, He stood by the lake of Gennesaret, And saw two ships standing by the lake: but the fishermen were gone out of them, and were washing their nets. And He entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And He sat down, and taught the people out of the ship. Now when He had left speaking, He said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught. And Simon answering said unto Him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at Thy word I will let down the net. And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake. And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink. When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord. For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken: And so was also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men. And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed him (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)

Venerable Mother Paraskevi-St Petka

Matthew 25:1-13

Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh. (KJV)

A Triple Celebration Today!

Believers are abundantly blessed today in God's Holy Church. Three Gospel readings are prescribed. Believers hear the readings for the Eighteenth Sunday, the Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the 7th Council and for St. Paraskevi-St. Petka.

The Gospel readings nourish believers and are an integral part of the triple celebration taking place. Each Sunday is a mini-celebration of Jesus Christ's Resurrection.

Today the Church is very mindful of the Holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council. St. Paraskevi-St. Petka is dear to the hearts of believers and her feast day is today.

Believers benefit by opening their hearts, minds and souls to the triple celebration taking place. Thank God for being ever-present. Thank God for the freedom to come to the Church.

Nourishment for the heart, mind and soul exists in God's Church today and all times. Authentic nourishment is within reach of each person approaching the Lord Jesus Christ in faith.

Peace and joy result for believers embracing the Lord Jesus Christ in the Church today. Abundant life and eternal life await all seeking to faithfully follow the Lord Jesus Christ.

God's Church stands against the wiles of the devil. God's Church is a haven against the evils of the world. God's Church brings the peace of Christ to the heart, mind and soul.

Believers turning to Jesus Christ experience the peace that passes all understanding. (Phil. 4:7) Believers seeking Christ come to know of His immeasurable love for each person. (Jn. 3:16)

The Gospels for today offer the lessons of listening to Christ, the hope of eternal life and the importance of being ready for Christ's Second Coming. The Church is where believers continue to learn about Jesus Christ and fully experience Christ.

Believers are subjected to stress in today's world. Perils to the soul exist throughout earthly life. The hunger in the soul requires constant nourishment. Jesus Christ provides the authentic nourishment accompanied by peace and love.

It is always timely in life to cling to Christ. It is never too late in life to turn to Christ. Danger exists to the soul in falling away from Christ. Yearning constantly exists for the nourishment from Jesus Christ.

Thank God for always being present. Thank God for immeasurable love. Thank God for the opportunity to always repent and the guidance to begin anew in Christ. Peace, joy and love abound in the life in Jesus Christ.

The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost. The Holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council. St. Paraskevi-St. Petka. October 14/27, 2024. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic