

5 2nd Street
Herminie, PA 15637
<http://pokrov.iksnazul.com/>

Cantor
Joseph Luzanski

Liturgical Schedule

Divine Liturgy
Sunday: 8:30 am
Holyday: 9:00 am

Confessions

One half hour before
the divine liturgy or
by appointment

Served By

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Third Sunday after Pentecost

Tone 2

Menologion

St. Leontius, Martyr, suffered torture and death for Christ in Tripoli in Phoenicia about A.D. 76 in the reign of Vespasian, Emperor.

Propers
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Divine Liturgy intention is for the Parish
Family

St. Paul reminds us of this truth today: we are justified by faith. It's faith which is life-saving for us because it is faith, which gives us access into the deifying, life-changing, transformative grace of God.

Now faith is one of those theological concepts in the Church that's sometimes difficult to understand or apply. Consider then this definition of faith from St. Paul in Hebrews: "faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen" (Heb. 11:1).

St. Paul says in today's Epistle that it's faith that enables us to rejoice in hope of the glory of God. In other words, just like our definition out of Hebrews, St. Paul is here linking faith and hope, hope and faith.

Happy
Fathers
Day

WELCOME TO
SUMMER.

OUR AC HAS
BEEN HAVING
ISSUES.

PRAY FOR A
GENTLE SUM-
MER.

Fasts & Feasts

June 5-29 The Apostles' Fast (The fast begins with the vespers on Sunday evening and concludes on June 29th)

June 24 Nativity of the Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John (9 am)

June 29 The Holy Glorious and All-Praised Leaders of the Apostles, Peter & Paul (9 am)

Ours is an age of anxiety. Many people are overcome with worry about matters large and small. Some certainly do need the help of physicians and psychological counselors in order to cope with their fears. The sickness of our souls remains, however, at the very heart of all our collective and personal brokenness. If our souls are not healthy, we will never find the peace that truly satisfies us as God's children who bear His image and likeness.

The Lord spoke of the health of our souls in terms of vision: "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is sound, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is evil, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!" Christ taught that, if our spiritual vision is clear and focused, we will see ourselves and our problems in light of God's kingdom. Then we will be able to serve our one true Master and gain strength for being at peace, regardless of the circumstances of our lives.

If our spiritual vision is clouded and unfocused, however, we will not have the strength to see our problems and challenges in light of the Kingdom. We will instead stumble in the darkness to the point that we make the passing things of this life our constant obsessions, which is a path only to greater worry, anxiety, and fear. For example, many people make money and possessions false gods for which they will sacrifice just about anything. Jesus Christ teaches that we are

not to worry about our food, drink, and clothing. Instead, we are to trust that our Heavenly Father knows that we need these things. "Seek first His kingdom and righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well."

This teaching does not condemn reasonable provision for a decent life for ourselves and our families. It does not deny that the necessities of life are God's good blessings. Instead, it gives us a clear example of how spiritual blindness enslaves us to idolatry, which leads only to constant worry. Poverty, hunger, and famine are always possibilities in our world. Economic depression, natural disaster, war, crime, disease, and disability are obvious threats to having adequate food, clothing, and shelter. There is simply no way that we can protect ourselves completely from such dangers. If we make the physical necessities of life our gods, we cannot avoid being consumed by worry about them. That kind of idolatry inevitably fuels anxiety.

When we are overcome with worry about any problem or threat in life, we must use our weakness as an opportunity to gain greater spiritual strength: as a reminder to guard our thoughts as we turn our attention from obsessing about what we cannot change to an earnest, humble plea for the Lord's healing mercy. That is how we will open ourselves to greater participation in His life and, thus, find true peace.

The Gospel passage begins: The Lord said, "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is sound, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is evil, your whole body will be full of darkness."

According to St. John Chrysostom, "Christ does not here speak of an exterior, but an interior eye. He, therefore, who directs all his thoughts to God, may justly be said to have his eye lightsome, and consequently his heart undefiled with worldly affections; but he who has all his thoughts corrupted with carnal desires is, beyond a doubt, enveloped in darkness."