

Christ The Saviour Orthodox Church
American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese
Ecumenical Patriarchate

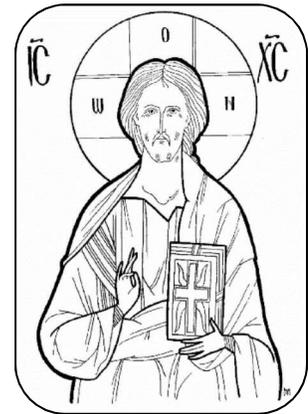
10000 State Road
North Royalton, OH 44133

Parish Website: www.christsaviour.weebly.com

Diocesan Website: www.acrod.org

Church Phone: (440) 237-9196

Church Email: christsaviour@live.com



Schedule of Services:

Sunday July 22nd: Obednitsa Service at 10 am

Sunday July 29th: Obednitsa Service at 10 am & Council Meeting

Sunday August 5th: Obednitsa Service at 10 am & Parish Meeting

Sunday August 5th: Picnic at Memorial Park at 1 pm

Sunday August 12th: Obednitsa Service at 10 am

For more dates of services check out the parish website's calendar.

If you wish to have someone added or removed from the Prayer list, please contact a member of the Royko family or send an email to:

- christsaviour@live.com

Prayer List:

Living		
Theodore (Bunevich)	Theresa (Popovich)	Frank (Popovich)
Penney (Royko)	Sally (Hubiak)	Ethel (Rusyniak)
Eileen (Bunevich)	Virginia (Shymske)	Rosalie (Strachan)
Kathryn (Royko)	Thomas (Royko)	James (Strachan)
Tiana (Hosta)	Logan (Gatchell)	Doris (Gatchell)
Marsha (Will)	Emerson (Sirilla)	Fr. Andrew (Harmon)
Dolores (Royko)	Pani Donna (Smoley)	Jane
Gerard (Mosback)		

Departed		
Matushka Catherine (Jula)	Very Reverend Father Doctor Stephen (Jula)	Pani Magdaline (Blaschak)
Joey (Jarvis)	Vicky (Zabala)	

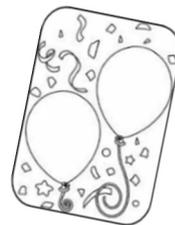
“Not every quiet man is humble, but every humble man is quiet.”

+St. Isaac the Syrian

Birthdays & Anniversaries:

Nancy & Emery- July 18th

John & Mary Youngblood- July 29th



The North Royalton Picnic is welcome to all and is being held at Memorial Park on August 5th at 1 pm. There will be entertainment and free food. The address is 14600 State Road, North Royalton, Ohio 44133.

Epistle Reading: St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 1:10-17

Brethren, I appeal to you by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no dissensions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brethren. What I mean is that each one of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispos and Gaius; lest any one should say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized any one else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 14:14-22

At that time, Jesus saw a great throng; and he had compassion on them, and healed their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a lonely place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They said to him, "We have only five loaves here and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass; and taking the five loaves and the two fish he looked up to heaven, and blessed, and broke and gave the loaves to the crowds. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children. Then he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds.

Saints and Feasts

8th Sunday of Matthew; Mary Magdalene, the Holy Myrrh-bearer and Equal to the Apostles; Markella, the Virgin-martyr of Chios

Sermon for Feeding the 5,000

One day, in a nice neighborhood in an upscale suburb, a beggar showed up on the doorstep of a family's home. The children playing in the front yard were curious with the different looking person. He was of a different race; his clothes were ragged, and he smelled a bit because he had not bathed for a few days. He even talked a little funny. When he rang the doorbell, the wife came to the door, saw him through the window, became frightened, and before even answering the door, turn and ran upstairs to get her husband, telling him that a very strange person was at the door. The husband rushed down the stairs, carefully opened the door and gruffly asked, Can I help you? The beggar asked for something to eat. The husband directed the beggar to go downtown where they have some food shelf and soup kitchen. As the beggar walked away, the husband kind of followed him making sure that he left his property and the street they lived on. Does this sound familiar? It should, it happens a lot.

The Miracle of Feeding the 5,000 that we heard in today's gospel (8th Sunday of Matthew 14:14-22) is kind of like the story I just told. It is a paradigm or model for each of us to follow. Even more so, it's model for parish church communities to follow. The miracle passage tells us how to be missionaries of the Gospel or more succinctly, missionaries of God's love.

First, we heard that Jesus saw the great multitude, thousands of people, and had compassion and healed the sick (v.14). Jesus cared deeply for them and was willing to work to help them. The husband and wife mentioned earlier did not have compassion for the beggar. Rather they were dominated by fear. That shouldn't be surprising though, considering how many television dramas are about criminals and murder. The very same dynamic of fear happens often with parishes and churches, with our parish of St. George. Strangers come in and we look cautiously at them.

Secondly, let's say for a moment that we did overcome our fear of strangers and we welcomed them, talked with them, became acquainted with them, but then time arrives to practically help them, what do we do?

The disciples of Jesus saw that it was getting late and the multitudes had not eaten. The disciples came to Jesus and told Him to send them away, so they could go into the villages and buy something to eat (v.15). Are we no different than them? We might not even be willing to practically help our own friend, neighbor, and family, let alone strangers. And is not that what we do hear at St. George? We welcome people, we talk with them, get to know them but as soon as they need something, we say, I'm sorry I cannot help but you go elsewhere, and they might be able to help you.?

Thirdly, how does Jesus respond to His disciples' request? He says, You give them something to eat? (v.16). Jesus says the very same thing to each of us, You give them something to eat? and He doesn't mean start a Greek Festival and charge people to eat and turn the church into a restaurant for one weekend a year. Jesus wants us to help others and not just for the benefit for others but for the benefit of ourselves because when we help others, especially those who have real, substantial need, we become conduits of God's love. Some people say, there is no God? or God doesn't love me. Maybe that's because they never truly tried to love and help anyone else.

Fourthly, how do the disciples respond to Jesus command to feed the multitudes? We don't find out till the end of the passage that well over 5,000 people were in the crowd following them. But knowing that now, we understand that the disciples were incredulous when they said, we have only five loaves and two fish? (v.17). It's like saying, what are you crazy?? Often, we get overwhelmed by the number of needy people we encounter and that's just a few here and there. We think, If I feed or help this one person, then that means I need to help all of them.? Or if I feed them this time, they'll be right back here tomorrow asking again.

Fifthly, how does Jesus respond to the disciples' consternation? He says, Bring them here to Me? (v.18). The disciples were obedient, then Jesus tells the multitude to sit down which meant that they should become calm and comfortable because they were going to stay for a while. If we help a stranger, how often do we tell them to wait outside, don't sit down because I'm going to give this to you and ask you to leave right away afterwards?

After the multitudes sit, Jesus takes the loaves and fish and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples and the disciples gave to the multitudes? (v.19). And the passage goes on to tell us that all ate and were filled and that there was more food left over than before they fed the 5,0000 plus people.

These last two points are very important. Jesus knows that we don't have enough to feed or take care of everyone who comes into our midst. He doesn't expect us to help all the needy by ourselves. What Jesus does expect is for us to offer what little we have to Him, the Lord of all, for the service of others. Then He will work the miracle to make sure that it is enough, in fact He makes sure that it is more than enough. Our problem is that we often don't offer all that we have. We may offer one loaf and keep the other four for ourselves. Or we may offer the five loaves, but we forget to ask Christ for help and guidance and then it's not enough or something goes wrong because we didn't place our faith and trust in God.

I cannot help but think of our God-given opportunity to buy the property next door. How we focused too much on what little we had instead of focusing on God and miraculous grace, how He could multiply our little bit into something great. We can't change that now; the opportunity is gone. However, we can change ourselves so that we are more faithful and trusting. So that we can be ready the next time God asks us to reach into our pockets, offer it up to Him and then offer it to His needy people. Who knows, the house may come up for sale again. God's tried to sell it to us three or four times now and we keep saying no. When are we going to stop being a community that says, We can't do this or we can't do that? When will we start becoming a community of faith that says, Here I am God, what do you want us to do? We're ready for you to lead us and inspire us. We trust in you. We can do it with your help. We will never become this type of community unless we are willing and ready to offer our five loaves and two fish, everything we have.

+Rev. Fr. Richard Demetrius Andrews