

# THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

{Reflection on the Gospel Lesson of The Feeding of the Five Thousand}

Who is in this crowd upon whom Jesus has compassion/mercy? Some who are sick, lost souls, some seeking God, the walking wounded, those who have lost their faith, the downcast and the outcasts. But also, there were curiosity seekers, non-believers, some who are hostile to Christ – His enemies.

Throughout the Gospel His enemies follow Him everywhere, listening to His words, gathering evidence against Him – but they are in the mix and often very near Christ for they engage Him in conversation.

Christ ministers to all of them. His grace, love, mercy, compassion is not limited to His disciples, but extends to all whom He sees. Jesus teaches us by His own example to love and commands us to love one another in the same way that He loves us. He is moved by compassion when He looks on us. We have to be aware of how Christ loves us and to see the world through the eyes of Christ.

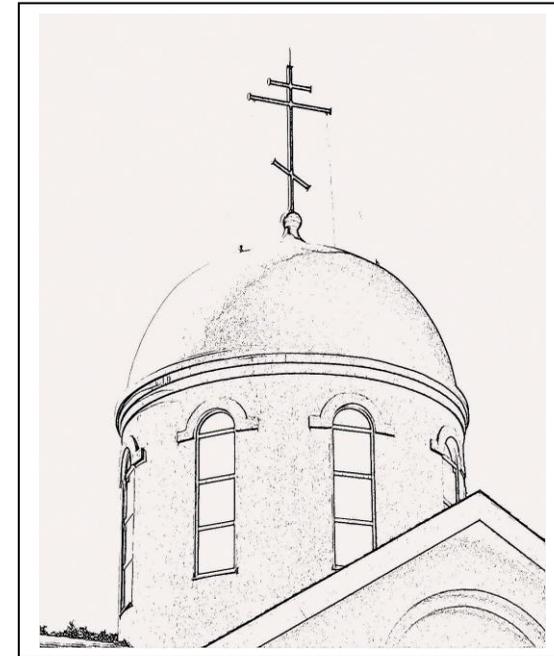
How are we to love others? With compassion. Any who come to Christ, who seek Christ for any reason are to be welcomed by us and blessed by us. This is how the Lord Jesus loves us. He expects us to love as He loves us. Is it hard? Yes. Is it impossible? Hardly.

Jesus does not simply make their hunger go away by divine magic. Rather, Christ feeds them. He blesses the only food they had, and feeds 5,000 men besides women and children from this food. The food doesn't miraculously appear on each plate, but rather the disciples distribute it. The disciples have to work to make sure the people are fed. Christ receives from His disciples the food which some people had worked to make possible – bread and fish. He takes this human made food and blesses it. There is synergy between the disciples and Christ, working together for the good of all the people. This is the Church.

Christ entrusts some problems to us His disciples and asks us to deal with the problems. He doesn't miraculously make the problems go away. He says to us: I am not taking hunger away, but I empower you to do the work necessary for these people to feel cared for and to be fed. The disciples themselves had to provide the food and distribute it.

We obey Christ not by having problems go away but by dealing with them. The Gospel lesson began with Jesus seeing the crowd and feeling compassion for them. The Gospel lesson ends with Jesus feeding them. It is the work of the Church.

WEEKLY



BULLETIN

*Today is the beginning of our salvation, the revelation of the eternal mystery. The Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin as Gabriel announces the coming of Grace. Together with him let us cry to the Theotokos: Rejoice O Full of Grace, the Lord is with you!*

*Troparion of the Annunciation to the Theotokos*

## ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION

*A Parish of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey of the Orthodox Church in America*

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Very Rev. Fr. Gary Joseph Breton, *Rector*

Very Rev. Fr. Sergius Kuharsky, *Retired Attached Priest*

Very Rev. Fr. Paul Kucynda, *Retired Attached Priest*

Rev. Fr. Michael Pejovic, *Attached Priest*

Matthew Petrides, *Senior Warden*

Matushka Mary Buletza-Breton, *Choir Director*

**August 7, 2022**  
**EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**Afterfeast of the Transfiguration**

*Tone 7. Holy Martyr Mercurius of Smolensk (13th c.). Martyr Dometius of Persia and two disciples (363). Finding of the Relics of St. Mitrophanes, first Bishop of Voronezh (1832). Ven. Pimen (Pæmen) the Much-ailing, of the Kiev Caves (Near Caves—1110). Ven. Pimen, Faster, of the Kiev Caves (Far Caves— 13th-14th c.). St. Mercurius, Bishop of Smolensk (Kiev Caves—Near Caves—1239). Martyrs Marinus the soldier and Asterius the Senator, at Cæsarea in Palestine (260). Ven. Hor (Horus) of the Thebaïd (Egypt—ca. 390). Virgin Potamia the Wonderworker. Ven. Dometius of Philotheou, Mt. Athos (16th c.). The “VALAAM” Icon of the Mother of God (1897).*

**Today’s Readings:**

**Epistle:** 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

**Gospel:** Matthew 14:14-22

**Upcoming Service Schedule:**

Today – **9:00am Divine Liturgy**

Saturday – **6:00pm Great Vespers**

Sunday – **9:00am Divine Liturgy**

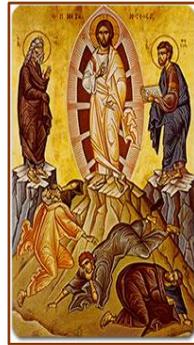
Sunday – **10:30am Great Vespers w. Blessing of Flowers**

Monday – **9:00am Divine Liturgy w. Blessing of Flowers**

**Next Sunday’s Readings:**

**Epistle:** 1 Corinthians 3:9-17

**Gospel:** Matthew 14:22-34



*Transfiguration of  
Our Lord*

**Special Prayers**

We pray for all our parish family members, but we pray especially for those who are ill and afflicted. Among them are **Fr. Sergius Kuharsky, Linda Washenko, Zoran Pejovic, Lidia Zemlanicky, Ingrid Kopec, Betty James, Manya Shark, Deryl Tczap, George Stavrou, Rdr. John Economou, Margaret Makara, Dennis & Ann Marie Gahr, Michael Getmanov, Lori Ratushnuk, and Dorothy Studier.**

We are happy that you have joined us for worship today and hope that you will join us for coffee hour after the service. Please note that **reception of the Holy Eucharist** is only for baptized members of the Orthodox Church who have prepared with prayer, fasting, and periodic confession. You are encouraged to receive the blessed bread that is **offered at the end of the service and which may also be offered to you by one of your neighbors during Communion.**

Annunciations

**TODAY** – **Team #2** is in charge of today’s Coffee Hour. **Team #1** is scheduled for next Sunday.

**TODAY** – A planning meeting for the **Parish’s Ethnic Fair** will be held during Coffee Hour. All are welcome.

**Next Monday, August 15** is the Great Feast of the **Dormition of the Most-holy Theotokos**. Services for the feast are listed on the opposite page. Parishioners are encouraged to bring flowers to be blessed both at the Festal Great Vespers and the Divine Liturgy.

**Saturday, August 20** – A **Diocesan Youth event** will take place at TreEscape Aerial Adventure Park in Vernon Township, NJ. Please see the flyers posted in the parish hall and sent out electronically to our bulletin distribution list. Event registration ends this Wednesday, August 10.

Please pray especially for **Reader John Economou** who is now seriously ill.

**Dessert Rolls** in various flavors are available for sale at \$15 each. **Pierogis** (potato & cheese) are also available at \$12/dozen. Please see Cathy Berger or Olga Pasick to make your purchases.

**Grocery Gift Cards** are available for sale. Please see Olga Pasick or Cathy Berger to make purchases.

We continue to pray for **peace in Ukraine**, for the withdrawal of Russian troops from that land, and for the wellbeing of the Ukrainian people. Lord, have mercy!

*Keep up on OCA news by visiting [www.oca.org](http://www.oca.org), diocesan news by visiting [www.nynjoca.org](http://www.nynjoca.org), and parish news by visiting [www.occa-brick.org](http://www.occa-brick.org).*

***Please pray for vocations to the Holy Priesthood!***

***MANY YEARS***

**Birthdays this week:**

Wednesday – Ingrid Kopec

Wednesday – Gambal Price

**Wedding Anniversaries this week:**

Friday – Paul & Susan Gill (#33)

*The Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors program is an essential vehicle for funding the activities and programs of our diocese. Please consider participating in the program. More information is available at the diocesan website at [www.nynjoca.org](http://www.nynjoca.org).*