

### *Listening to the Word of God*

In the icon of the Parable of the Sower on the front cover of the bulletin we see Jesus sowing seeds of Divine Wisdom – His words – to four groups of people. Only one group, however, is listening attentively. The other three hear but do not listen. Rather, they are preoccupied with the “anxieties, riches and pleasures of this life.” (Luke 8:14)

Which group are we in? We hear the Word of God spoken and preached in church each week, but do the cares and concerns of life and living cause us to quickly forget the lessons and examples taught by Jesus?

If we fail to integrate the teachings of Christ into our daily life, are we very different than the members of those three groups who heard but did not act on the Word of God? Consider the simple lesson from the following illustration:

Young Johnny reached for the ringing phone one Saturday evening, and his father told him, “If it’s that guy from work calling, tell him I’m not home!” Later that evening, the family went out for dinner. Johnny’s mother noticed that the waitress had undercharged them. “That’s bad for them but good for us!” laughed mom. On the way home, dad explained to Johnny that the new radar detector he recently had installed on his car was to “beat the police” and avoid speeding tickets. Later that night, as Johnny finished his Sunday school lesson, he reflected on what a good Saturday it had been. It was much better than last Saturday when his parents grounded him for cheating on his math test.

What lessons do we teach by the examples we set?

## SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE SEVENTH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL



*Icon of the Parable of the Sower (Luke 8:5-15)*

**UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE HOLY FAMILY**

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**IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY PLEASE CALL: 202-262-5040**

***Pastoral Care entrusted to:***

**Father Robert Hitchens**

**Father Wasyl Kharuk**

**Sunday – October 17, 2021**

**Слава Ісусу Христу – Слава на віки Glory to Jesus Christ – Glory to Him Forever**

**Our Church is open for Divine Liturgies. We will continue to Livestream our 9:00 a.m. English Divine Liturgy and our 11:30 a.m. Ukrainian Divine Liturgy. The dispensation from attending Sunday Divine Liturgy and Holy Days of Obligation throughout the Archeparchy is still in effect until further notice.**

**All Services will be Live Streamed at 9:00 AM and 11:30 AM**

**Platform: <https://www.facebook.com/holyfamilyshrine/>**

**OUR CHURCH IS OPEN FOR LITURGIES**

<b>Sunday October 17</b> <b>9:00 a.m.</b> <b>11:30 a.m.</b>	(For the Parish) (+Helen Caldwell from the Mulvey Family)
<b>Monday October 18</b> <b>9:00 a.m.</b>	(+Roman Mac from Family)
<b>Tuesday October 19</b> <b>9:00 a.m.</b>	(+Frank Fisanich from Ferne)
<b>Wednesday October 20</b> <b>9:00 a.m.</b>	(+Michael Homa from Friend)
<b>Thursday October 21</b> <b>9:00 a.m.</b>	(+John Fedack from Eleanor)
<b>Friday October 22</b> <b>9:00 a.m.</b>	(+Fr. David Clooney from Friend)
<b>Sunday October 24</b> <b>9:00 a.m.</b> <b>11:30 a.m.</b>	(For the Parish) (+Sophia Danyluk from Marijska Druzhyna)

**CONCERNING FUTURE PARISH EVENTS**

**District of Columbia Mayor Bowser announced July 29 that the District is re-instituting a universal, indoor masking mandate for everyone, even those fully vaccinated. Persons attending Church in the District, even if they are fully vaccinated, must wear a mask. Fellowship with Cake and Coffee after the Sunday Divine Liturgies will also continue to be suspended.**

**Everyone is kindly asked to return to wearing a mask during the Divine Liturgies.**

**Prayer List**

Our prayer list of the sick or elderly and friends of our parish: **Theresa Aranda, Liana Arnold, Fr. Frank Avant, Susan Avant, Chuck Basile, Charles Belanger, Barbara Blendy, Bluey Family, Yevhenia Borys, Taisia Bullard, Michele Burns, Robert Matthew C., Mary Connors, Jack Davis, Darlene Dossick, Solomia Dutkewych and Theresa, Ruth Fedack, Bernard F, Lindsey Fedyk, Lilian Garland, Thomas Gutmann, H.H., Josie Hacker, Catherine Hetmansky, Bernadell Rita Higgins, Daniel Horeczko, Nila Iwaskiw, Kateryna Jurach, Oksana K, Sarah Kelt, Dorothy Kozmoski, Suzanne Krumpelman, Fr. Mykhailo Kuzma, Mr. Marko, Michael Joseph Little, Mark Pidlusky, Michele Pretka Litvar, Yaroslava L., Mufada and Family, Sallie Miller, John Moeller, Deborah Pickering, Alexandra Pohorecka, Ron#119, Michael Joseph Radigan, Roman Rusynko, James Salandro, Maria Sawkiw, Lisa Schaible, Christopher Sell, Shliakhta Bogdana, Shliakhta Mark, Shliakhta, Andrew, Timothy Stock, Lindsey Sydnor, Thomas Sydnor, Helen Lefcheck Torre, Lisa Pretka Turner, Gloria and Luis Vega, Jennifer Wilson.** If you know of someone who should be on this list, please email or call with the name of the individual. Our intercessory prayer for the sick and the aged is truly helpful and comforting. In your Christian Charity, kindly remember our sick parishioners in your prayers and perhaps a card or note.

**God With Us Catechism**

Today we remember the Fathers who defended the Orthodox faith at the Second Council of Nicea. It was in the 8th century that some men who were not Christians gained power and influence at the imperial court in Constantinople and began to say that we should not have icons of Jesus and the saints in the church. These men wanted nothing more than to cause division in the Church of God. Ultimately, the root of the error which they promoted was the denial that the material, created world could be a bearer of divine life. This is so important because it separates the apostolic and orthodox churches from the rest of Christianity today. First, it is important to remember that we do not worship wood but rather we honor the one depicted in the icons. Just as we hang pictures of our loved ones, so we do well to paint images of the saints who are very much present to us today. We do so not because they are dead, but because they lived and continue to live the divine life. The saints are the men and women that are filled with divine life and bear the image and likeness of God himself. And when Divine Life is our life, then our life is no longer mortal life but eternal life. We heard in the Gospel today about the seed which falls on bad ground and that which falls on good ground. As the Lord explained to his Apostles, and explains to us today, the ground represents the heart, and the seed is the Word of God. The seed is Christ himself who comes and makes his dwelling within us. The seed is Christ who makes his life our life. It is for this reason that we celebrate today the memory of the Fathers of the Second Council of Nicea and also that we paint and honor and reverence the Saints depicted in the holy icons, because their heart was the “good soil” into which the seed, the Word of God, was planted deeply. They were filled with Divine Life and now live with God forever.