



Protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church

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Celebration of the Holy Mysteries

RECITATION OF THE HOLY ROSARY AND CONFESSIONS: ½ HR BEFORE DIVINE LITURGY

BAPTISM & CHRISMATION / ANNOINTING OF THE SICK / COMMUNION CALLS & VISITATIONS:
CONTACT FR. IHOR TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS

MARRIAGE PREPARATION:
CONTACT FR. IHOR AT LEAST SIX MONTHS PRIOR TO SETTING THE ACTUAL WEDDING DATE

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN:
CONTACT MRS. CHRISTINA VOGEL AT (603) 686-2092 TO REGISTER YOUR CHILDREN

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE LITURGIES:
SUNDAYS: 10 AM (September thru May) MON THRU SAT: AS NOTED IN WEEKLY BULLETIN
 9 AM (June thru August) HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION: 7 PM

DIVINE LITURGY AND VESPERS SERVICES SCHEDULE FOR WEEK OF JULY 21, 2024

Sunday, July 21st – Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Divine Liturgy: **9 AM** Propers: Tone 8
Epistle: 1Corinthians 3: 9-17
Intention: For all Parishioners

Vestments: Bright
Gospel: Matthew 14: 22-34

Saturday, July 27th (7 PM): Vespers Service

Divine Liturgy Intentions and Vespers Service Schedule for August and September

Sunday, July 28th (9 AM): For all Parishioners

Saturday, August 3rd (7 PM): Vespers Service

Sunday, August 4th (9 AM): For all Parishioners

Tuesday, August 6th (7 PM): Solemnity of the Lord's Transfiguration (Blessing of Fruit)

Saturday, August 10th (7 PM): Vespers Service

Sunday, August 11th (9 AM): For all Parishioners

Thursday, August 15th (7 PM): Feast of the Dormition of the Holy Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation);
Blessing of Flowers

Saturday, August 17th (7 PM): Vespers Service

Sunday, August 18th (9 AM): For all Parishioners

Saturday, August 24th (7 PM): Vespers Service

Sunday, August 25th (9 AM): For all Parishioners

Saturday, August 31st (7 PM): Vespers Service

Sunday, September 1st (10 AM): For all Parishioners

Saturday, September 7th (7 PM): Vespers Service

Sunday, September 8th (10 AM): For all Parishioners

Saturday, September 14th (10 AM): Solemnity of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (Day of fasting from meat)

Saturday, September 14th (7 PM): Vespers Service

Sunday, September 15th (10 AM): For all Parishioners

Saturday, September 21st (7 PM): Vespers Service

Sunday, September 22nd (10 AM): For all Parishioners

Saturday, September 28th (7 PM): Vespers Service

Sunday, September 29th (10 AM): For all Parishioners

Saturday Services

Fr. Ihor is celebrating Vesper services every Saturday at 7 PM. All parishioners are invited to attend this service. Those who wish to have a Divine Liturgy celebrated for a loved one whether living or deceased or for a private intention are still able to do so. Please request your Divine Liturgy by contacting Fr. Ihor at (860) 617-6357 or cantor Jaroslaw Maksymowych at (603) 391-8819. Please note that Saturday Divine Liturgies will now be celebrated only at 10 AM (9 AM June thru August) whenever they are requested. If no Divine Liturgy has been requested for a particular Saturday, then none will be celebrated on that day. The Divine Liturgy schedule in the bulletin will only show Divine Liturgies on Saturdays when they have been requested. If the bulletin does not show a Divine Liturgy for a given Saturday, then this means that particular Saturday is available for your request.

Суботні Богослужіння

Отець Ігор святкує Вечірню кожної суботи у 7-мі годині вечером. Ласкаво просимо усіх парафіян до участі. Парафіяни які бажають замовити Божественну Літургію в суботу для померших або на особисті інтенції можуть дзвонити до о. Ігоря на номер (860) 617-6357 або до дяка п. Ярослава Максимовича на номер (603) 391-8819. Суботні Божественні Літургії будуть відслужені тільки о годині 10-тій ранком (9-тій ранку з червня по серпень) коли замовлені. Якщо Літургія в певну суботу не буде замовлена, то в цей день не буде жодна відправлена. Порядок Богослужінь в бюлетені покаже тільки ті суботні Служби Божі які є замовлені. Якщо в бюлетені не відображається Божественна Літургія на дану суботу, то це означає, що ця субота доступна на Ваше замовлення.

Liturgical Propers, Readings and Sermon for Sunday

Liturgical Propers for the Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

Resurrectional Tropar: Tone 8 – You came down from the heights, O compassionate Lord. You chose to lay buried for three days, so that we might be freed from our passions. You are our Life, our Resurrection! Glory to You, O Lord!

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and forever. Amen.

Resurrectional Kondak: Tone 8 – When You rose from the grave, You raised the dead. You lifted Adam, and Eve rejoices in Your resurrection. The world celebrates Your rising from the dead, O Lord. You are rich in mercy!

Prokimen: Tone 8 – Make promises to the Lord your God and always be faithful to them.

VERSE: In Judea God is known, His name is great in Israel.

Prokimen: Tone 8 – Make promises to the Lord your God and always be faithful to them.

9-а НЕДІЛЯ ПО ЗІСЛАННІ СВ. ДУХА

Апостоль: (1Кор 3: 9-17)

До Коринтян послання св. апостола Павла читання.

Браття, ми бо співробітники Божі, ви - Божа нива, Божа будівля. За благодаттю Божою, даною мені, я, мов мудрий будівничий, поклав основу, а інший на ній буде. Нехай же кожний вважає, як він буде. І ншої бо основи ніхто не може покласти, крім покладеної, якою є Ісус Христос. Коли ж хтось на цій основі буде з золота, срібла, самоцвітів, дерева, сіна, соломи, - кожного діло стане явне; день бо Господній зробить його явним; бо він відкриється в огні, і вогонь випробує діло кожного, яке воно.

І коли чиєсь діло, що його він збудував, устоїться, той прийме нагороду; а коли чиєсь діло згорить, то він зазнає шкоди; однак він сам спасеться, але наче крізь вогню. Хіба не знаєте, що ви - храм Божий, і що Дух Божий у вас перебуває? Коли хтось зруйнує храм Божий, Бог зруйнує того, бо храм Божий святий, а ним є ви.

Epistle Reading for the Ninth Sunday after Pentecost (1Corinthians 3: 9-17)

Brethren: We are God's co-workers, while you are His cultivation, His building. Thanks to the favor God showed me I laid a foundation as a wise master-builder might do, and now someone else is building upon it. Everyone, however, must be careful how he builds. No one can lay a foundation other than the one that has been laid, namely Jesus Christ. If different ones build on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay or straw, the work of each will be made clear. The Day will disclose it. That day will make its appearance with fire, and fire will test the quality of each man's work.

If the building a man has raised on this foundation still stands, he will receive his recompense; if a man's building burns, he will suffer loss. He himself will be saved, but only as one fleeing through fire. Are you not aware that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, and you are that temple.

Alleluia: Tone 8

VERSE: Come, let us rejoice in the Lord; let us joyfully sing to God our Savior.

Alleluia: Tone 8

VERSE: Let us come before Him giving thanks, with songs let us hail the Lord.

Alleluia: Tone 8

VERSE: Прийдіте, радісно заспіваймо Господеві, воскликнім Богу, Спасителеві нашому.

Alleluia: Tone 8

VERSE: Прийдімо з похвалами перед обличчя Його, і псалмами воскликнім Йому.

Alleluia: Tone 8

Євангелія: (Мт 14: 22-34)

У той час, Ісус зараз же спонукав учнів увійти до човна й переплисти на той бік раніше від Нього, тим часом як Він відпускав народ. І коли відпустив народ, пішов на гору помолитися насамоті. Як звечоріло, Він був там сам один. Човен уже був посеред моря і його кидали хвилі, бо вітер був супротивний. О четвертій сторожі ночі (Ісус) прийшов до них, ступаючи морем. Учні, побачивши, що Він іде морем, жахнулись. “То привид!” - заговорили й закричали з переляку. Та Ісус тієї ж миті мовив до них: “Заспокойтесь, - це я, не страхайтесь!” Аж тут Петро озвався до Нього й каже: “Господи, коли це Ти, повели мені підійти водою до Тебе!” “Підійди,” - сказав Ісус. І вийшов Петро з човна, почав іти по воді і підійшов до Ісуса; але, побачивши, що вітер сильний, злякався, почав потопати й крикнув: “Господи, рятуй мене!” Ісус же притьмом простягнув руку, вхопив його і мовив до нього: “Маловіре, чого засумнівався?” І як увійшли до човна, вітер ущух. А тоді ті, що були в човні, вклонилися йому до ніг, кажучи: “Ти істинно - Син Божий!” І перепливши, прибули в землю генезаретську.

Gospel Reading for the Ninth Sunday after Pentecost (St. Matthew 14: 22-34)

At that time, while dismissing the crowds, Jesus insisted that His disciples get into the boat and precede Him to the other side. When He had sent them away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray, remaining there alone as evening drew on. Meanwhile the boat, already several hundred yards out from shore, was being tossed about in the waves raised by strong headwinds. At about three in the morning, He came walking toward them on the lake. When the disciples saw Him walking on the water, they were terrified. “It is a ghost!” they said, and in their fear they began to cry out. Jesus hastened to reassure them: “Get hold of yourselves! It is I. Do not be afraid!” Peter spoke up and said, “Lord, if it is really You, tell me to come to You across the water.” “Come!” He said. So Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water, moving toward Jesus. But when he perceived how strong the wind was, becoming frightened, he began to sink and cried out, “Lord, save me!” Jesus at once stretched out His hand and caught him. “How little faith you have!” He exclaimed. “Why did you falter?” Once they had climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Those who were in the boat showed Him reverence, declaring, “Beyond doubt you are the Son of God!” After making the crossing they reached the shore at Gennesaret.

Sermon for the Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Glory to Jesus Christ! My Dear Brother and Sisters in Christ!

Last Sunday’s Gospel reading told us of a great miracle: the feeding of an enormous crowd of many thousands with five loaves and two fish. The disciples of Christ themselves, through whose hands this miracle was performed, were dumbfounded. And as the Gospel says, Christ at once compelled them to enter a boat and go before Him to the other shore while He dismissed the crowd. “And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up to a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening came, He was there alone. But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary. And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea” (Mt. 14:22-25).

“And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, “It is a spirit”; and they cried out for fear. But straightway Jesus spoke unto them, saying, “It is I; be not afraid.” And Peter answered Him and

said, "Lord, if it is You, bid me come to Thee on the water." And He said, "Come." And when Peter came down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus (Mt. 14:26-29).

Notice this moment: Christ did not call Peter, but only permitted Peter to come to Him. Here obedience changed to boldness, which came from Peter himself. He felt such a surge of faith, such elation, that everything seemed possible to him. But here something happened. A wave, a high wave for a second hid Christ from Peter. He found himself alone. At once cold reasoning set to work. It was as if he came to his senses and thought, what was he doing? Foolishness! Reason took from him the light of faith in which he walked, and he started to drown. A desperate cry rang out: "Lord, save me." And immediately Christ stretched forth His hand to him (Mt. 14:30-31).

What happened to Peter? Well, what happened to him can happen to each of us: he became frightened and as a result his faith was shaken. And this happened because he stepped over the side of the boat. What a profound lesson is hidden for us here: in Christian living there should be evenness, there should be quiet. And for this to be so, we must never step over the side of the Church boat. We must keep the statutes of the Church; we must live the life of the Church. And then, even if we find ourselves amid the stormy seas of life, we will be able to cry out, "Lord, save me." And He, the Merciful One, will stretch out His saving hand to us too, as He did to Peter, and we will find ourselves in the boat of the Church, and a great calm will come over us.

St. Peter shows us a better way of responding to the sudden awareness that we are sinking. He simply calls out, probably at the top of his lungs, "Lord, save me!" This is surely a genuine acknowledgement that he knows his life is collapsing under its own weight, that on his own he is headed to the bottom of the sea. In crying out for Christ's help, Peter shows that he does have some level of faith, but it's not the strength of his faith that saves him. Instead, it is the mercy of the Lord. And even though none of us walks on water, we all stand in constant need of the mercy of Jesus Christ. That's why we sing "Lord, have mercy" so many times in our services. It is why the Jesus Prayer, "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner" is at the heart of spiritual vision. We focus on the Lord's mercy so much because, like Peter, we are constantly tempted to turn our attention elsewhere, to think that what is really important, necessary, and urgent in life is something else of our own creation.

Of course, we must give attention to our work, our education, our family, our friends, and many other significant things in the course of a day. But these objects of our attention do not have to distract us from the Lord. In our daily prayers, we should ask for God's mercy upon our loved ones and in our daily responsibilities and undertakings. Whenever we are tempted to sinful words, deeds, or thoughts, we may call upon the Lord's aid silently. And we can do many things in life quite well while offering short prayers, such as the Jesus Prayer, whether spoken aloud or not.

Now let's be honest, it takes effort to guard our thoughts and to pray from the heart when we are tempted. It's usually much easier for us simply to embrace anger, pride, lust, fear, despair, and hatred than it is for us to reject them. That is why our Epistle passage today refers to us as fellow workers with God. Effort is required and it's not easy. But the more we struggle and perhaps fail, the greater awareness we will have that our situation is like that of St. Peter. Apart from the mercy of Christ, we will sink and drown. Apart from Him, we are like a building without a foundation, which will collapse under its own weight.

Let us use our freedom to become God's fellow workers in making ourselves holy temples. Let us embrace the divine power that enables us to walk across the stormy seas of our lives, even to share in the Savior's victory over sin and death. We will be able to do so only when we embrace personally the glorious truth that our nature and purpose is to grow in holiness and union with the Lord. Anything less is a path to the despair of sinking like a stone or collapsing like an ill-constructed building under its own weight. True freedom comes in accepting who we are in God's image and likeness, His beloved sons and daughters, and living our lives accordingly. Amen.

ПРОПОВІДЬ НА ДЕВ'ЯТУ НЕДІЛЮ ПО ЗІСЛАННІ СВЯТОГО ДУХА

Слава Ісусу Христу! Дорогі в Христі браття і сестри!

Ця євангельська історія про Ісуса та учнів має додавати нам певності, що є хтось такий, що, коли ми втомилися, але простягаємо руку з надією на рятунок, - він завжди чекає з простягнутою рукою, аби допомогти нам добре жити та рятувати нас від вічної погібелі. Учні втомилися, а Господь, котрий найбільше трудився, - відпустив народ. Своїм апостолам звелів плисти на другий бік озера. Коли вже не було нікого, а було пізно, Христос пішов на гору розмовляти з небесним своїм Отцем. Аж о четвертій сторожі ночі, тобто над ранком, пішов Ісус водою до своїх учнів, котрих у човні носили хвилі, порушені вітром. Апостоли налякались і кричали, що "то привид", а Син Божий додає їм певності і відваги, звертаючись до них, щоб не боялися.

І тут відразу швидкий на слова Петро бажає йти до Христа по воді. "Підійди!" - розпорядив Ісус, і той пішов, але навіть тоді, коли вже був біля Ісуса, учень злякався сильного вітру більше, ніж довіряв Богові. І сумнів маловірного Петра почав топити його у водах. Він був добрий рибалка, напевно, умів чудово плавати, але в цю мить страх перекреслив усі його надії та вміння. Одне добре - що зі страху вирвалися слова малої довіри: "Господи, рятуй мене!" (Мт 14, 30).

Найперше, ми бачимо, що Ісус має абсолютну владу. Ми бачимо, як Він іде морем, немов сушею. Бурхливі хвилі, котрі кидали зі сторони в сторону човен Його учнів, стали в Нього під ногами, немов твердий ґрунт. Для нашого розуму слова про це чудо звучать на грані фантастики. Проте нам достатньо пригадати собі, що для Того, Хто створив море та сушу не буде великої проблеми в тому, щоби піти по хвилях.

Із цього чуда ми бачимо, яку силу може дати Ісус тому, хто вірує в Нього. Ми бачимо, як Симон Петро виходить із човна та йде по хвилях, подібно до Свого Вчителя. Це показує кожному із нас, що Господь може подати нам чимало благословень, якщо ми будемо слухати Його голосу та йти слід за Ним. Він допоможе нам перейти через усі труднощі та перемогти будь-якого ворога. Води можуть здаватися нам глибокими, але, якщо Ісус говорить до нас: «Іди!», - то нам не слід нічого боятися. «Істинно, істинно говорю вам: Хто в мене вірує, той так само діла робитиме, що іх я роблю» (Ів. 14:12).

Ми бачимо тут, що Господь, немов та мама, котра, не дивлячись на всі пустощі дітей, піклується про них та рятує їх від усіх небезпек. Він знає наші немочі та бажає показати нам, що наші сумніви не свідчать про те, що у нас немає віри, а тільки показують, що віра у нас є малою. Якщо у нас є мала віра, то Господь готовий нам допомогти: «Коли я кажу: «Хитається нога моя», - ласка твоя, о Господи, підтримує мене» (Пс. 94(93):18). Якщо ми навіть впадемо, то Він нас підніме та не позбавить нас Свого милосердя.

Багато із нас можуть налякатися хвиль та води. Уявімо на хвилю себе на морі, в човні, серед бурхливих хвиль, де не чути нічого, окрім завивання вітру. Напевно, саме так мала б почуватися людина, котра намагається принести Божу любов, Бога в темряву нашого світу. І саме тоді нам важливо почути слова Ісуса: «Де віра ваша? Чому ви засумнівались?». Саме тоді, коли ми вже готові опустити руки, коли немає жодної надії, допомога знаходиться близько від нас. В такій ситуації, рано чи пізно, опиняється кожен християнин.

Ісус завжди намагається заспокоїти наші страхи, вселити нам надію. З першими кроками апостола Петра по воді, Господь давав йому зрозуміти, що віра проганяє страх. Але як часто у нашому житті стається так, що віра та надія є недовговічними. Як тільки-но стихія почала збивати апостола Петра з ніг, а проливний дощ був настільки сильним, що він не бачив зовсім нічого, то він втратив і надію, і віру, і тоді почав тоніти. В нас, подібно до апостола Петра, є два шляхи: можна покликати на допомогу Господа або потонути в

бурхливому морі. На жаль, досить часто ми покладаємося на себе, замість того, щоби попросити Господа.

Дуже часто Ісус вимагає від нас, здається, неможливого. Як ми можемо відкликнутися на Його поклик, як ми можемо перемагати гріх, якщо ми такі немічні. Проте це дійсно є можливим, якщо ми, як Петро, не будемо страхатися хвиль. Ісус закликає нас вдивлятися тільки в Нього. Це буває іноді досить важко в реальному житті. Проте наша воля, наше серце мають бути готовими виконати цю Божу волю навіть, якщо вона видається нам безумною. Амінь.

Communion Verse:

Хвалить Господа з небес, хвалить Його на висотах. Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest. Allelulia, alleluia, alleluia.

Parish Announcements

We Welcome You!

If you are visiting our church today, our parish family is delighted to welcome you here! Thank you and God bless you for visiting with us today! We welcome all our visitors and guests who worship at our parish. We invite families and individuals who wish to become members to register by calling Fr. Ihor at (860) 617-6357.

Вітаємо Вас!

Якщо Ви відвідуєте нашу церкву сьогодні, наша парафіяльна громада рада вітати Вас тут! Щире спасибі Вам, і нехай Бог благословить Вас за Ваші відвідини з нами сьогодні! Ми запрошуємо сім'ї та осіб, які бажають стати членами, зареєструватися у нас по телефоні о. Ігоря на номер (860) 617-6357.

Please Pray for our Sick and Homebound Parishioners, Family Members and Friends

Fr. Ihor Papka, Fr. Zbigniew Brzezicki, Stephen Atamanchuk, Oleh and Valentina Babski, Michaelle Baker, Rick Barr, Marylou Blaisdell, Tracy Crews, Claire Gagnon, Carmel Horangic, Jim Harmon, Josephine Housty, Christine Kolagji, Helen Kucman, Martha and Ray Majkut, Karen and Jaroslaw Maksymowych, Jean Mandych, Sherri Martel, Katherine Masso, Jennifer McMillan, Katharine McNaughton, Jackie Morales, Lauren Morales, Jonathan Morales, Tanya and Ronald Morales, Elizabeth Mozina, Dean and Terri Nilson, Alan Pasicznyk, Lina Puciw, Mary and Albert Schaefer, Billie Sheesley, Derek Stanley, Pauline Stanley, John Terninko, Elisha Wallace, Cindy Wilson, Dr. Mark Windt, Lenora Zelenski. Please contact Fr. Ihor if you would like to add a friend or loved one to this prayer list.

July Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries

The following parishioners are celebrating a birthday or wedding anniversary this month:

July 4 – Maria B.

July 6 – Tracy C.

July 15 – Karina O.

July 16 – Sierra H.

July 21 – Amelia M.

July 22 – Luba P.

July 22 – Joe B.

July 26 – Iryna & Laurent M. (wedding anniversary)

July 29 – Edward C.

Our parish community wishes this month's birthday and anniversary celebrants peace, joy, love and good health on their special day as well as throughout the year. May our dear Lord grant all of you many more healthy, happy and blessed years. Happy Birthday, Happy Anniversary and На Многая літа! (Na Mnohaya Lita!).

Weekly Reflection:

Learning about our Catholic Faith – A Different Kind of Messiah

*The Pharisees went out and took counsel against Jesus to put him to death. When Jesus realized this, he withdrew from that place. Many people followed him, and he cured them all, but he warned them not to make him known. **Matthew 12:14–16***

This passage goes on to say that Jesus withdrew to a more deserted place to fulfill the prophecy of Isaiah the Prophet (Isaiah 42:1–4). That prophecy is the first of what is referred to as “The Songs of the Suffering Servant.” In these songs or poems of Isaiah, the Messiah is presented to us as one who would be sent on a mission from God, would suffer injustice for the sake of others, would be rejected, and ultimately be vindicated and exalted. The mission of the Suffering Servant was to bring justice and salvation to all, including to the Gentiles.

At that time, the idea of a messianic king was still prominent in the minds of many. They anticipated the coming of a messiah who would be a political leader and would lead the people of Israel out of oppression, making them a free, prosperous and powerful nation. But Jesus acts in the opposite manner. Instead of raising up an army to combat the evil intentions of the Pharisees and to overthrow the Romans, Jesus withdrew from them and invited people to come to Him for healing and to receive His teachings.

Jesus perfectly fulfills the prophecy of Isaiah by becoming the Suffering Servant. And because His messianic role was much different than what many people had anticipated, Saint Matthew points us to the Old Testament prophecy of Isaiah as a way of clearly showing that Jesus truly was the promised Messiah. He was just not the form of messiah that many expected. He was One Who was humble and gentle of heart. He was One Who would redeem people by the Blood of His Cross. And He was One Who would extend salvation to all people, not only the people of Israel.

One lesson this teaches us is that even today we can have false expectations of God. It is easy for us to set forth our own idea of what God should do and what true justice demands. But we also read in Isaiah, “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts” (Is. 55:8–9).

Just as it must have been difficult for the people of Israel to come to accept the promised Messiah as a servant Who suffers and Who redeems all people through that suffering, so it is often difficult for us to accept our Lord as He is. It is difficult to shed our own ideas of what we want God to do and this is especially difficult when He calls us to share in His own suffering and servanthood. To serve, suffer, sacrifice our lives, and the like can be difficult to accept. But this is the way of our Lord—it is the way of the Suffering Servant of God.

Reflect upon your own expectations of God. Do you have a long list of things that you think God should do? Do you pray for that list of your ideas, thinking that if you only ask enough, God will grant your requests? If your requests flow from His perfect will, then praying for them in faith will bring them about. But if they flow more from you and your own ideas of what God should do, then all the prayers in the world will not bring them to be. If this is your struggle, then try to start anew by turning your eyes to the Servant Who Suffers for the salvation of all. Reflect upon the fact that God’s thoughts and ways are most often very far above your own thoughts and ways. Humble yourself before the Suffering Servant and abandon all ideas that do not flow from His heart.

Let us pray: *My Suffering Servant, I thank You for Your suffering and death and for the redemption that flows from Your sacrifice of love. Help me to shed all false expectations that I have of You, dear Lord, so that I will be guided by You and Your mission of salvation alone. Jesus, I trust in You. Amen.*