

Слава Ісусу Христу!

Слава навіки!



**Glory be to Jesus Christ!**

**Glory for ever!**

# УСПЕННЯ ПРЕСВЯТОЇ БОГОРОДИЦІ

## Dormition of the Mother of God

Sunday, June 7, 2026

“Second Sunday after Pentecost”

### Reflections for this Weekend

Matthew 4:18 to 23 is a quiet turning point in history, yet it happens in the most ordinary setting, along the shore of the Sea of Galilee. Jesus is walking, fishermen are working, nets are being cast into water as they have been for generations. Into this normal rhythm of labor and survival, Jesus speaks two simple words, follow me. Those words are not loud, not dramatic, yet they carry eternity inside them. They are an invitation, a calling, and a revelation of what it means to truly live.

Simon Peter and Andrew are casting a net into the sea, James and John are mending their nets with their father. These are responsible men, committed to family, committed to providing, committed to the familiar patterns of life. When Jesus calls them, he does not offer a detailed plan, a salary, or a guarantee of comfort. He offers relationship. Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. He speaks not only to their occupation but to their identity. He sees beyond what they do and calls forth who they can become.

There is something deeply spiritual in the immediacy of their response. Scripture says they immediately left their nets and followed him. Immediately they left the boat and their father. This is not impulsive recklessness, it is awakened recognition. Something in the voice of Jesus resonates with the deepest part of their being. The call of Christ always touches that hidden place in us that knows we were made for more than routine survival. It awakens purpose.

Nets in this passage are more than tools, they represent security, income, skill, and history. Boats represent stability and inheritance. Father represents tradition and expectation. To leave nets, boat, and father is to loosen the grip of identity rooted only in earthly definitions. It does not mean dishonoring family or despising work, but it means placing the call of God above every other attachment. Spiritually, this is the journey of every believer. We all have nets we cling to, roles, titles, comfort zones, fears. Jesus calls us beyond them.

Follow me is present tense. It is not follow my rules from a distance, not admire me from the shore, but walk with me. Christianity is first about companionship with Christ. Before ministry, before miracles, before preaching, there is walking with him. The transformation into fishers of men is his work. He says I will make you. Discipleship is cooperation with divine shaping. We bring availability, he brings transformation.

Jesus then goes throughout Galilee teaching in synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, healing every disease and sickness among the people. Teaching, proclaiming, healing. Word and compassion together. Truth and restoration together.

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The kingdom of heaven is not an abstract philosophy, it is a living reality breaking into human pain. When Jesus calls the fishermen, he is inviting them into this mission of restoration.

The deep insight here is that God meets us in the middle of our ordinary life and calls us into extraordinary purpose. He does not wait for us to become spiritually impressive. He walks along the shore of our daily routine. He calls accountants, teachers, parents, students, laborers. The miracle is not only in the healings that follow, but in the willingness of ordinary people to trust the voice of Christ.

Today, practically, this passage asks us what nets we are holding. What security feels too precious to surrender. Perhaps it is reputation, perhaps control, perhaps fear of change. Following Jesus in our time may not mean leaving a literal boat, but it does mean reordering priorities. It may mean choosing integrity over profit, compassion over convenience, forgiveness over pride. It may mean carving out time for prayer in a crowded schedule, listening to his voice before making decisions.

To become fishers of men today means living in a way that draws others toward hope. It means reflecting Christ in our workplaces, responding with patience where there is tension, offering encouragement where there is despair. It means trusting that as we walk with him daily, he is shaping our character, widening our hearts, and using our simple obedience to touch lives we may never fully see.

Matthew 4:18 to 23 reminds us that the shoreline of decision appears in every life. Jesus still walks, still calls, still transforms. The question is not whether he speaks, but whether we will recognize his voice, loosen our grip on our nets, and step into the deeper waters of trust. In that surrender, we discover that what we leave behind is small compared to the life we gain in him.



Congratulations, Martha and Leo, on the birth of your beautiful daughter, Mila!  
We rejoice that both Martha and Mila are healthy and well. What a precious blessing, a new light and joy in your family.

May God fill your home with abundant love, happiness, and countless blessings.  
May little Mila grow strong, healthy, and full of grace, and may your family always be wrapped in peace, laughter, and joy. This is such a wonderful gift, and your hearts must be overflowing with love.

Wishing you endless moments of happiness and treasured memories as your family grows.  
Congratulations once again on the precious arrival of Mila. What a blessing, what a joy, what a beautiful gift. May your lives be forever enriched by her presence and may your hearts overflow with thanksgiving for this new and wonderful chapter.

## ***The Spiritual Courage to the struggle against slander !!!***

The Ladder of Divine Ascent, meticulously crafted by St. John Climacus, is a formidable guide to spiritual perfection. Its 30 steps represent a progressive ascent, each demanding a deeper surrender and greater refinement of the soul. But among these arduous steps, the tenth steps, **On Slander**, stands out not merely as a hurdle, but as a precipice. To embrace this step, to actively cultivate the courage to climb, is to confront the deepest societal and psychological roots of our fallen state, and ultimately, to embrace Christ's unadulterated truth.

The courage required for the tenth steps is not the battlefield heroics of a warrior, but the quiet, profound bravery of a soul willing to be misunderstood, judged, and even reviled. We are inherently social creatures, wired for connection and approval. To be slandered, to have our character assassinated by malicious whispers or outright falsehoods, strikes at the very core of our social identity. It is a spiritual rape, leaving us exposed, vulnerable, and often, profoundly hurt.

Climacus doesn't merely condemn slander from the active sender; he also challenges the complacency of the passive recipient and, more acutely, the one who is the subject of slander. The courage here is multifaceted. Firstly, it's the courage to **not participate** in the insidious dance of gossip, to staunchly refuse to be a conduit for the venom of others. This requires a profound self-awareness, an understanding of how easily we are drawn into the dramatic allure of another's misfortune or perceived failings. We must actively resist the fleeting satisfaction of feeling superior or the shallow camaraderie born from shared disapproval. This resistance is a spiritual muscle that must be continually exercised, a silent but fierce battle against the ego's thirst for comparison and judgment.

Secondly, and perhaps more profoundly, comes the courage to **be slandered and not retaliate**. This is where the spiritual alchemy truly begins. Our initial, visceral reaction to slander is often a burning desire to defend, to justify, to expose the accuser. It is a primal urge for justice, for reputation, for the truth to be known. But Climacus, echoing the words of Christ, calls us to a higher path. To suffer slander in silence, to internalize the pain without projecting it back, is an act of supreme humility and trust in divine providence. It's a recognition that our true worth is not dictated by the opinions of others, but by our relationship with God.

This silence is not passivity; it is a profound and active suffering. It is a willingness to stand in the crucible of injustice, to allow the fire of false accusation to burn away the dross of our own ego, our need for external validation. It's the courage to believe, against all earthly evidence, that God sees, God knows, and that ultimately, all truth will be revealed. This is a terrifying prospect, for it leaves us utterly exposed, stripped of our defenses, and reliant solely on God's grace.

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Furthermore, the tenth rung demands the courage to **forgive the slanderer**. This is perhaps the most challenging aspect, a leap of faith that transcends human logic. To forgive someone who has actively sought to harm our reputation, to sow discord and mistrust, is to embody Christ's call to love our enemies. It is to recognize the slanderer as a suffering soul, perhaps driven by envy, insecurity, or simple ignorance. This act of forgiveness is not for their sake alone, but primarily for our own spiritual liberation. Unforgiveness is a bitter poison that slowly corrodes the soul, trapping us in a cycle of resentment and pain. To break free requires a supernatural courage, a profound act of divine love flowing through us.

In stepping onto the tenth rung, we are essentially choosing the path of Christ Himself, who endured the ultimate slander and crucifixion for the sake of humanity. We are choosing to die to our own ego, to our worldly reputation, and to be reborn into a freedom that is deeply rooted in God's unconditional love. It is a courageous embrace of vulnerability, a radical trust in the divine order, and a profound surrender to the transformative power of spiritual humility. Only then, stripped of the desire for human affirmation, can we truly ascend further on Climacus's formidable Ladder, inching closer to the divine light.



## **The Apostles' Fast begins on Monday, June 8, 2026 and ends on June 28, the day before the feast on June 29**

The Fast of Saint Peter and Saint Paul is a quiet yet powerful season of preparation, humility, and renewal. It reminds us that even the greatest apostles were not strong by nature alone, but were shaped through prayer, sacrifice, and surrender to God's will. Before they became pillars of the Church, they were men who learned to empty themselves so they could be filled with divine grace.

This fast invites us to examine our own hearts. Like Peter, we may struggle with weakness and fear. Like Paul, we may need transformation and deeper conversion. Through fasting, prayer, and repentance, we make space for God to strengthen what is fragile within us. Fasting is not merely about food, but about redirecting our hunger toward God, refining our desires, and disciplining our hearts.

The lives of Peter and Paul show us that true spiritual power flows from humility and obedience. As we walk through this fasting period, we are called to renew our commitment to Christ, to grow in courage to witness our faith, and to deepen our love for the Church. The fast becomes a journey from self reliance to trust, from comfort to calling, from routine to mission.

May this sacred time purify our intentions, ignite our faith, and help us stand firm in Christ, just as Peter and Paul did, with boldness, love, and unwavering devotion.

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**Sunday Divine Liturgy:**  
8:50 a.m. The Third Hour  
And  
Prayer Service for Peace in  
Ukraine.  
9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy

**Religious Education**  
September - May

**Sacraments Penance:**  
Sunday before Liturgies  
or by appointment

**Baptism - Matrimony**  
In most instances  
six-month membership  
required

**Funerals**  
Membership of an  
immediate family member  
required

**Communion to the  
Homebound**  
If you or your family  
members are confined to a  
health center or are  
homebound, please contact  
Fr. Hugo directly so that  
arrangements can be made  
for his visitation.

### **Sunday, June 7**

“Second Sunday after Pentecost”

Epistle: Romans 2:10-16. Gospel: Matthew 4:18-23.

8:50 a.m. The Third Hour and Prayer Service for Peace in Ukraine

9:30 a.m. Gods blessings and good health for all our parishioners and friends  
In loving memory of +Maria Fagarash and +Elizabeth Martindale from family

### **Monday, June 8**

“Translation of the Relics of the Holy Great Martyr Theodore”

Epistle: Romans 7:1-13. Gospel: Matthew 9:36-10:8.

### **Tuesday, June 9**

“Our Father among the Saints Cyril, Archbishop of Alexandria”

Epistle: Romans 7:14-8:2. Gospel: Matthew 10:9-15.

6:30 p.m. Evening prayers via Zoom

### **Wednesday, June 10**

“The Holy Priest-Martyr Timothy, Bishop of Prussa”

Epistle: Romans 8:2-13. Gospel: Matthew 10:16-22.

### **Thursday, June 11**

“Holy Apostles Bartholomew and Barnabas”

Epistle: Acts 11:19-30. Gospel: Luke 10:16-22

6:30 p.m. Evening prayers via Zoom

### **Friday, June 12**

“Our Venerable Father Onufrius”

Epistle: Romans 9:6-18 Gospel: Matthew 10:32-36 & 11:1

### **Saturday, June 13**

“Aquilina, Martyr”

Epistle: Romans 3:28-4:3. Gospel: Matthew 7:24-8:4.

6:30 p.m. Evening prayers via Zoom

### **Sunday, June 14**

“Third Sunday after Pentecost”

Epistle: Romans 5:1-10. Gospel: Matthew 6:22-33.

8:50 a.m. The Third Hour and Prayer Service for Peace in Ukraine

9:30 a.m. Gods blessings and good health for all our parishioners and friends



We are most appreciative for your generosity in donations to the church, and pray that the Lord bless you all with many blessings and good health.