

Holy Assumption Orthodox Church

OCA - Diocese of the Midwest

Parish Council President: Matthew Adamcio

Fr. Andrew Bartek, Rector



Sunday, October 13, 2019

Gospel: St. Luke 8:5-15

Tone 8

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1

17th Sunday after Pentecost
Martyr Carpus & his Companions / New Martyr Chryse
Fathers of the 7th Ecumenical Council

OCTOBER Bulletin Sponsor: Diane Tyron
For the recovery of Greg & strength of Kathryn

Liturgical & Events Schedule

Sunday, October 13

9:05 am: Hours followed by Social / Choir Rehearsal

11:00 am Halupki Dinner VFW

Monday, October 14

6:30 pm: Orthodoxy 101 Class

Thursday, October 17

5:30 pm: Monthly Council Meeting

Saturday, October 19

4:00 pm: Great Vespers

Sunday, October 20

9:05 am: Hours followed by Divine Liturgy / Mem. Sunday / Social / Choir rehearsal

40 DAY REMEMBRANCE

October 20: Erin Haninger

November 3: Police Officer Killed in Houston ; Police officer Brian killed in NY

SEPTEMBER SPECIAL COLLECTION

St. Vladimir's Seminary

BUILDING / RESTORATION FUND

Our 125th Anniversary is coming!

Fund Purpose: To collect funds to pay for the restoration, repair and beautification of the building and parish room. This will avoid using general funds which are earmarked for budgetary items.

Please consider contributing generously to the *Building/Restoration Fund.*

110 E Main Street, Marblehead, OH 43440
www.holyassumptionmarblehead.org

CANDLE / BULLETIN SPONSORS FOR OCTOBER

Bulletin: (\$50) Diane: For the recovery of Greg & the strength for Kathryn

Chandelier: (\$50) Susan: In memory of her father, Frank; her brother William Peter & her God-father, Peter; For the health of her mom Julia.

Altar Candles: (\$50) Roberta: In memory of her brothers David, Randall and William and brother-in-law Charles.

Candles on the tomb: (\$25) Elchisco Family in loving memory of their dad George Elchisco.

Eternal Light & Icon Screen: (\$25) Jean H: In Memory of her mother, Helen Pipenur.

CANDLE / BULLETIN SPONSORS FOR NOVEMBER

Bulletin: (\$50) Fr. Andrew: In memory of his mother Dorothy on 15th Ann. of repose

Chandelier: (\$50) Elchisco Family: in loving memory of our brother George Michael

Altar Candles: (\$50) Basil: In loving memory of Sister Marian

Candles on the tomb: (\$25)

Eternal Light & Icon Screen: (\$25) Tammy in memory of her dad William Rentz

October

	<u>Cleaners</u>	<u>Readers</u>	<u>Social</u>
6	Laura Kovach	JoeS	<i>Open</i>
13	David & Roddie	Ron	<i>Open</i>
20	Joe & Sonya	Tim	<i>Open</i>
27	Ron & Bobbie	Wayne	<i>Open</i>



Rectory 419-798-4591 / Cell 570-212-8747
info@holyassumptionmarblehead.org

ATTENDANCE - SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER

Sunday September 29: 33 Total (22 members; 2 non-members reg; 3 children; 6 guests; 21 communicants; 7 people for Vespers)

Monday, September 30: 10 people for Vespers

Tuesday, October 1: 9 attended Liturgy

Sunday, October 6: 30 total (22 members; 2 non-member reg.; 2 children; 4 guests; 20 Communicants; 11 attended vespers)

Wednesday, October 9: 10 attended Lit. for feast of St. Tikhon

OTHER WEEKLY INCOME

Sunday, October 6: \$43 Candles; \$110 in Vigils; \$50 Bulletin; \$32 Special Collection St Vladimir Seminary

MONTHLY TITHING ONLY FOR OCTOBER

Goal Pledged per month: \$4,100

Sunday, October 6: \$1,021



DANBURY FOOD PANTRY - OCTOBER

Suggested donation of Laundry Detergent (and other non-perishable goods) will be collected through October 13.

October donations will be delivered to the food pantry Thursday, October 17.
Thank You & God Bless.

PRAY FOR OUR CATECHUMENS

Tim Heffernan Rachael Adamcio
Luke Welch Lydia Welch
Tristen Welch

Possible Catechumans:

Loreen Welch Cheyenne Welch

May God & the Holy Spirit guide them in their journey in the Orthodox Church and the Orthodox way of Life.

VIGILS- OCTOBER 6

Laura Kovach (3) Health of Joe, Joe, Mark, Lisa, Dana, Julia, Steve, Bodhi, Betty; Birthday blessings to Joel & Amy; Safe travel for family

Sandy Martin (1) Special intentions

Jim Mazur(2) Health of family and friends

David and Roddie Mazurik (3) In memory of Elizabeth Marie on her 21st birthday; Safe travel, For blessings for Deb & Marco

Ron & Bobbie Royhab (1) Special intentions

Mike and Diane Tryon (1) Birthday blessing to Tim

Twarek (10) Health of Judy; Health and recovery of Steve Turinsky and John McDonald; Health of Jada, Liz, Christine, MaryAnn and Bob; Health of Joe, Sonya, Julia, Diane, Stella, Ron, Becky, Jake, Helen; Special intentions, Special intentions

HALUPKI DINNER AT VFW MARBLEHEAD

When: Sunday, October 13

Time: 11:00am-4:00pm

Cost: \$12

Menu:

Halupki, Mashed Potato, Vegetable, roll w/ butter & Dessert (Additional Halupki available for separate purchase) Carry-outs will be available!

Presale tickets available! Purchase your tickets from VFW or Village Pro Hardware during normal business hours. Tickets will be sold at the door. Meals are available while supplies last. Purchase your presale ticket to guarantee your meal.

PRAYER LIST Updated 10-3

Clergy:

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Theodosius
His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman
John Duranko (*Father's home pastor*)
James Gleason (*Father's Spiritual Father*)
Moses Barry
Joseph Gibson
Gregory Grivna
Emilian Hutnyan
Josef Von Klarr
Vladimir Lecko
Christopher Phillips
Peter Tutko
Deacon Paul Mitchell
Deacon Mark Sauskojus
Sub-deacon Wylie Meath

Matushkii:

Pani Patricia Duranko
Melania Adamcio
Virginia Lecko
Sonya Tutko
Victoria Kopistiansky

Parishioners / & their Family:

John Beadle (*Elcishko*)
MaryAnn Cook (*Cousin to Twarek's*)
John Richard Elchisco
Ruthe Flewelling
Debbie Garnek (*Roddie's sister*)
Michael Glovinsky (*Basil's nephew*)
Ernest Gresh (*Basil's nephew*)
Shirley Gresh (*Wife of Ernest*)
Aldin Griffith (*Soski*)
Julia Guzy
Joseph Habegger (*Laura brother-in-law*)
Alice Jackson (*Mazurik*)
William Jappsen (*Diane T.*)
Michael Kouznetsov (*Mary Hiser's son*)
Kristen (*Cassell's daughter*)
David LaValle (*Fr.'s cousin*)
Helen Lis
Walter Litzie (*Fr.'s cousin*)
Maria (*Terrie's mom*)
Greg Mazur
Jim Mazur
Judy Mazurik (*Paul Mazurik's*)
Baby Stella Miller

Katelyn Pipenur (*Niece of Jean*)
Helen Jean Rofkar (*Elchisco*)
Joe Rose
Margaret Rose
Steven Schirtzinger (*Soski*)
Christy Schutt (*Joe's sister*)
Peter Truta (*Jean H's cousin*)
Diane Tryon
Greg Tryon
Christine Twarek
Valentin (*Cassell*)
Bob Whitham (*Fr's cousin*)
Katie and her newborn Bodhi
(*Cassell's daughter-in-law*)
Earl Findfleisch

Other Requests:

Alexia
George Bicheler
Dick Biro (*Natalie's friend*)
Anna Burch (*Wayne's friend*)
Mary Ann Cook (*Twarek*)
Bob Cook (*Twarek*)
Danielle (*Cassell's friend*)
Ben Franklin (*Laura friend*)
Theodore Geletka
(*St. Michael Broadview Heights'*
choir director)
Brad George (*Christi's friend*)
Donald Gresh (*Basil*)
Elliot Joy (*Police chief's son*)
Tommy Leonchik (*Fr's friend*)
Jake Lipstraw (*Twarek*)
Anna Maiani (*Friend of Wayne*)
Pauline Meath (*Fr's*)
Charlie Nowak (*Avery's*)
Debbie Pribanic (*Golob*)
Jada Reeves (*Twarek*)
Beth Reinhard (*Diane friend*)
Elvis Reyes (*Fr's friend*)
Sandy Scafaria (*friend of Jean*)
Allison Spoerl (*Cassell*)
Matthew Sterling (*Tyron*)
Janice Timko
Becky Yatsko (*Twarek*)
Rachel (*Darlene M.*)
Bonnie (*Cassell*)
Kim (*Cassell*)
Sharon (*Cassell*)

Susan (*Cassell*)
Dominic (*Cassell*)
Mat. Carley & her newborn-
born Anna Alexandra
(*Cathedral in Chicago*)
Elizabeth McDonald & her
unborn Baby (*Fr's friend*)
Kristina and her unborn baby
(*Fr. Friend*)

Military:

Craig Cassell
Nathan Brown

Captives:

Metropolitan Paul
(*Orthodox Archdiocese of*
Aleppo)
Archbishop John
(*Syriac Archdiocese of*
Aleppo)

The UN & IOCC humanitar-
ian aid workers in & around
Syria; Those suffering perse-
cution in Iraq, Syria, Israel,
Egypt, Ukraine and through-
out the world

NOTE: Please let Fr. Andrew
know when someone needs to
go on or come off the list.

For Your Prayers

Julia Guzy (96 yrs old)
1601 Church Rd
Marblehead, OH 43440

Please remember her & Susan
(her daughter) in your prayers.
Send a card of greeting.

The God of the Old Testament

by Lawrence Farley

In the rough and tumble world of online discussion of just about any current theological issue, eventually one is sure to come across a denunciation of the God of the Old Testament. His detractors deride Him as cranky, vengeful, wrathful, unreasonable, arbitrary, blood-thirsty, and (in the always colourful words of Richard Dawkins), “as the most unpleasant character in all fiction”. And, I am compelled to admit, I have no clue as to what they are talking about. The very first time I seriously read through the entire Old Testament as a teenager and new convert to Christ, my initial impression of the God revealed in the Old Testament was one of love, condescension, compassion, and almost infinite patience with rebellious sinners. And that impression has endured and (if anything) has grown deeper with the passing of years.

I understand some of this denunciation of the Most High on online forums and the like—some people are simply angry at Christianity and happily use any stick with which to beat Christians. They take some Old Testament verses out of their literary context and entirely out of their cultural context and start shouting. What is more perplexing to me is finding some *Christians* arguing that the Old Testament deity is insufficiently Christ-like. I expect the *unbelievers* to throw large chunks of the Bible angrily across the room. But I expected believers to be more respectful of what is for them, after all, Holy Writ.

My perplexity is increased at finding some Orthodox Christians talking as if the Old Testament painted a picture of an unworthy and wrathful God. After all, the Orthodox are the ones who supposedly value history and Tradition, and the heresy of Marcionism was soundly condemned a long time ago. It is late in the game to be taking pages out of *his* playbook. Marcion (as described by the *Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church*) held as his central thesis “that the Christian Gospel was wholly a Gospel of Love to the absolute exclusion of Law. [For Marcion] the God revealed in the Old Testament had nothing in common with the God of Jesus Christ”. In this reading of the Bible, the Old Testament God was vengeful; the more Christ-like God of the New Testament was not at all wrathful, but only ever loving to

everyone.

One may object to Marcion and his modern disciples therefore on two counts: 1. that the Old Testament God is not at all as His detractors portray Him; and 2. the portrayal of the God of the New Testament is entirely consistent with His earlier portrayal in the Old Testament.

On the first count: the Old Testament God is one who unfailingly and tenderly cares for His people, even when they betray Him, deny Him, turn away from Him, and generally act abusively towards Him. Look at the histories recounted in Judges, and 1-2 Samuel and 1-2 Kings. One could summarize this centuries’ long and lamentable history of apostasy as God Himself did through His prophet Jeremiah: “They turned their back to Me and not their face, though I taught them, rising up early and teaching, they would not listen and receive instruction. But they put their detestable things in the House which is called by My Name to defile it, and they built the high places of Baal to cause their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire to Molech” (Jeremiah 32:33f). Or listen to the cry of divine hurt through His prophet Micah: “My people, what have I done to you and how have I wearied you? Answer Me! Indeed, I brought you up from the land of Egypt and ransomed you from the house of slavery” (Micah 6:3-4). Or read the whole sorry indictment of Israel’s unfaithful betrayal in Ezekiel 16: here God says that He found His people like an abandoned baby, left to die in an open field, and took them in and cared for them, only to have them grow up and abandon Him for others.

Salvation history is the history of heartbreak, of a God who has done everything possible for His people only to have them turn away to other gods, gods which could not possibly save them, gods which commanded that they sacrifice their children in the fire. You can almost feel the divine perplexity at such perversity, like an open and bleeding wound in the heart of God: “My people have committed two evils: they have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, to hew for themselves cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water” (Jeremiah 2:13). Here we see an abandoned and broken-hearted God. The shadow of the Cross begins to loom even before the birth at Bethlehem.

We can also see how truly Christ-like is God’s character in the Old Testament—He is a God who commands that when His people take eggs from a nest, they may not take the mother along **Con’t Pg 6**

OCTOBER CELEBRATIONS

ANNIVERSARY	BIRTHDAY	BIRTHDAY
10-1-2009: Archbishop Irene of Canada 2- Fr. Matthew & Pani Eleni Stagon 3- Fr. Matt Stagon Priestly ordination 7- Fr. Eli & Mat. Larissa Bremer 9- Sub-deacon Wylie & Pauline Meath 23- Fr. Matthew & Mat. Jodi Moriak	1-Trudy Ellmore 2- Marguerite Bird 3- Ethan Chendorain 4- Fr. Michael Macura 5- Lydia Guerrero 6- Brian Lariccia 6- Ron Royhab 10- Walter Litzie 10- Craig Cassell 11- Karen Muzyka 12- Fred Soski	13- Mary Hiser 14- Fr. Andrew Groom 16- Fr George Lardas 17- Tim Glovinsky 20- Matushka Jodi Moriak 20- Helen Lis 20- Hayden Issler 25- Sam Dardovsky 25- Elliot Joy 31- Fr. Peter Zarynow <p style="text-align: center;">NAMESDAY</p> 10-9: The Most Blessed Tikhon

If there are those names to be added or removed, please contact Fr. Andrew. He would like to list all members of your family Orthodox and non-Orthodox.

OCTOBER REPOSED LIST

2- His Grace Bishop Antoun (2017)	11- Helen Pipenur (2009)	19- Gori Pietropolo (Trudy's dad) (2017)
3- Anna Tomko (1990)	12- Pauline Mary Gresh (1981)	21- Alex Mazur (1920)
4- William Peter Guzy (1974)	13- James E Jump (2011)	21-Terry (Bobbie's cousin) (2017)
5- John Elchisco Sr. (1982)	13- Tom Grgich (2018)	28- George Elchisco (1996)
5- Mark Conroy (2018)	13- Michael Mazurik (2018)	28- Anthony Glovinsky (1946)
6- Andrew Tomko (1970)	14- George Kaitsa (1991)	31- George Rusincovitch (1994)
6- Helen Elchisco (1956)	15- Michael Mazurik (1972)	William Martin (1982)
7- Michael Gresko (1963)	15- John Kovach (1983)	Joseph L. Mazurik (1944)
8- Archpriest Michael Kostyk (1964) Former Pastor	16- Mary Kobb (2017)	Anna Mazur (1945)
	18- Nadexda Kaitsa (1992)	Anna Danchisen (1945)
	19- Archpriest Sergei Garklavs (2015)	

Bishop Paul's Travel Schedule

St. Gregory Palamas Monastery, Hayesville, OH,

October 9th to 11th

Christ the Savior Church, Byesville, OH

October 11th to 13th

· Fr. Benjamin Johnson to receive the Gold Cross

St. Mary Cathedral, Minneapolis, MINN, October

18th to 19th

- *Ordination of Deacon Gregory Ealy to the Priesthood*

Holy Trinity Cathedral, Chicago, IL, October 20th

St. John the Baptist Church, Campbell, OH,

October 25th to 27th

- *Ordination of Sub Deacon James Hyrb to the Diaconate*

November 1st to the 3rd, Holy Trinity, Overland Park, KS

Fr Lawrence Cont

with the eggs (Deuteronomy 22:6-7). He is a God who commands that every seven years all financial debts be forgiven, and that one must take care to loan money to a neighbour even if the year of forgiveness approaches and the loan therefore cannot be recovered—“for the poor will never cease from the land, therefore I command you, ‘You shall freely open your hand to your brother, to your needy and poor in your land’” (Deuteronomy 22:7f). He is a God who cares for the poor, commanding His people to leave some food un-gleaned in their fields so that the poor might have it (Leviticus 19:9-10). In Facebook forums people often scream about how Christians should not be guided by Leviticus, but this aspect of Leviticus and the Law seems to escape them.

On the second count: this Old Testament deity continued to reveal Himself in the New Testament through His Son. In ancient times God took no delight in the death of the wicked (Ezekiel 33:11f), and in later days He continued to prove Himself the God of love, and called the whole rebellious race of man back to Himself through the proclamation of the Gospel. If despite their monstrous sins (see Nahum 3:19), God still cared for the people of pagan Nineveh (Jonah 4:11), it is not surprising to see Him later calling back tax-collectors and prostitutes to His mercy. Indeed, though the whole human race had defected from His love and preferred idolatry and sin to serving Him, He still sent His Son to die for such ungodly rebels.

Yet His kindness is balanced by His severity (see Romans 11:22)—judgment will fall upon the impenitent if they resist to the end His call to repentance. In the New Testament as in the Old, our God is a consuming fire, and it is a terrifying thing to fall into His hands (Hebrews 12:29, 10:31). In fact, given that God’s love is the more abundantly poured out in the New Testament dispensation, the cost of rejecting it is correspondingly higher: “If the word spoken through angels [in the Old Testament] proved unalterable and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?” (Hebrews 2:2-3) The one who set aside Moses’ Law died without

mercy—how much severer punishment will he deserve who has trampled underfoot the Son of God and insulted the Spirit of grace? (Hebrews 10:28-29) Ananias and Sapphira discovered this to their cost—when they lied to God, they were struck down dead for it (Acts 5:1f). St. Luke concludes his telling of their story by remarking that “great fear came upon the whole church and upon all who heard of these things” (v.11).

Here, I submit, is our problem today, for great fear no longer comes upon us when we read of such things. We have driven a wedge between the God of the Old Testament and the God of the New and have distorted the features of both. The God of the Old Testament is all severity; the God of the Gospel is all kindness. This latter is no longer a father, but a grandfather—old, indulgent, toothless, and harmless even when defied and ignored. It is not a fearful thing for impenitent rebels to fall into His hands. If any neglect the great salvation He has provided, it will all come out fine in the end. Love wins, and the fires of Gehenna will be extinguished in the end. Ananias and Sapphira (and with them Hitler, Stalin and all others like them) will be tremendously relieved for, as it turns out according to this view, righteousness and justice are not the foundation of His throne after all (Psalm 89:14).

It is a natural temptation to want to remake God into our own image, and it is not that hard. Marcion did it superbly. But it is a temptation we must resist.

ST JOSEPH OF MARBLEHEAD KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BENEFIT

When: Saturday, October 26th

Time: 5-7:00pm

Where: St Joseph’s church hall

Reservations only & must be made by October 21st. The benefit will be to the Danbury Food Pantry.

Menu:

Clambake: (1 Dozen Clams, ½ Chicken, Corn on the Cob, Sweet Potato, Dessert & Beverage **COST: \$24.95**

Chicken Dinner: ½ Chicken, corn on the Cob, Sweet Potato, Dessert & Beverage. **COST: \$11.95**

Extra Dozen Clams (With clambake only) **COST: \$12**

Call Bryan: 419-341-7145 or John: 419-265-1600

Metropolitan Tikhon celebrates namesday

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon marked his namesday — the Feast of the Glorification of [Saint Tikhon, the Apostle to America](#) — by presiding at the Divine Liturgy celebrated in the [Monastery Church of Saint Tikhon of Zadonsk](#) here on Wednesday, October 9, 2019.

Among those concelebrating were His Eminence, Archbishop Michael; Archimandrite Sergius; Archpriest John Parker; and the clergy of Saint Tikhon's Monastery and [Seminary](#).

Among the greetings received by Metropolitan Tikhon was the following letter sent by His Holiness, Patriarch Kirill of Moscow, the text of which reads as follows.

Your Beatitude,

Beloved in the Lord Brother and Concelebrant at God's Altar:

Please accept my heartfelt congratulations on the commemoration day of your heavenly patron Saint Tikhon, Patriarch of All Russia.

Strengthened by the intercession of this saint in bearing Your cross of the first hierarch of the Orthodox Church in America, You are taking care 'that the word of the Lord may spread and be glorified' (2 Thess. 3:1) in the great spaces of the North American continent.

I wish You good health, high spirits and the inexhaustible aid from our Chief Shepherd Christ in Your responsible labors. May the Merciful Savior multiply and bless the years of Your primatial ministry.

With brotherly love in the Lord,
+KIRILL
Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia

Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council Commemorated on [October 13](#)

Today the Church remembers the 350 holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council under the holy Patriarch Tarasius (February 25).

The Synod of 787, the second to meet at Nicea, refuted the Iconoclast heresy during the reign of Empress Irene and her son Constantine VI.

The Council decreed that the veneration of icons was not idolatry (Exodus 20:4-5), because the honor shown to them is not directed to the wood or paint, but passes to the prototype (the person depicted). It also upheld the possibility of depicting Christ, Who became man and took flesh at His Incarnation. The Father, on the other hand, cannot be represented in His eternal nature, because "no man has seen God at any time" (John 1:18). In Greek practice, the holy God-bearing Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council are commemorated on October 11 (if it is a Sunday), or on the Sunday which follows October 11. According to the Slavic MENAION, however, if the eleventh falls on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday, the service is moved to the preceding Sunday.



2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1 (Epistle)

And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people." Therefore "Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you." "I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty." Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Luke 8:5-15 (Gospel)

“A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was trampled down, and the birds of the air devoured it. Some fell on rock; and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it. But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold.” When He had said these things He cried, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear!” Then His disciples asked Him, saying, “What does this parable mean?” And He said, “To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is given in parables, that ‘Seeing they may not see, And hearing they may not understand.’ Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.

But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity. But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.

SAYING FROM THE DESERT FATHERS

Several brothers went to Abba Antonios to relate to him certain visions which they beheld and to ascertain from him whether the visions were true or of demonic origin. They had along with them a small donkey which died on the way. Just as they reached Abba Antonios, he, expecting them, said: “How did the little donkey die on the road?”

“How did you know this, Abba?” They said to him. “The demons revealed it to me.”

And they answered him: “It is for this reason that we came to see you, for fear of being deceived, since we see visions and many times they come true.”

Thus, with the foregoing example of the donkey, the elder made it known to them, that their visions came forth from the demons.

Love, the Fuel that Drives the Car

In the last few weeks, I have addressed themes of obedience and freedom as some of the building blocks that can contribute to our kids making a healthy connection to their parish life and owning their membership in the Church. Today I will cite a few words on love which, for me, is the key part of this triad that fuels the car and enables it to travel.

I don’t think anything better can be said than what St. Paul says in his letter to the Corinthians:

And I will show you a still more excellent way. If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³ If I give away all I have, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. ⁴ Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; ⁵ it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶ it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. ⁷ Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸ Love never ends; as for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹ For our knowledge is imperfect and our prophecy is imperfect; ¹⁰ but when the perfect comes, the imperfect will pass away. ¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became a man, I gave up childish ways. ¹² For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall understand fully, even as I have been fully understood. ¹³ So faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love. (1 Corinthians 13:1-13)

The blessing of the Lord be upon you,
The unworthy +Paul

