

Kidane-Mehret

Ge'ez Rite Ethiopian Catholic Church



July 2018

Rev. Abayneh Gebremichael, M.A., B.C.C., Pastor

Divine Liturgy 9:30 am at St. Vincent de Paul, 14M Street SE Washington, DC 20003.

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Important Parish Information

Newcomers to the parish: Please fill out your full names and addresses on the Registration Form. The Catholic Church requires that each member of a parish, to the extent allowed by his income, support the day-to-day running of the parish's pastoral activities.

Sacraments and Pastoral Care

Baptisms: Please telephone your pastor at the office to make an appointment to fill out the form and make the necessary arrangements. **Marriages:** It is the policy of the Archdiocese of Washington that couples proposing to marry must first contact, or see, a priest or deacon at least six months prior to the date on which they intend to marry for Marriage Preparation classes. All Catholics are bound to observe the laws of the Church concerning marriage. **Confessions:** are heard before the start of the Divine Liturgy, and any other times by appointment. **Funerals:** Contact your pastor at the parish office to make arrangements. **Hospital Visits:** Notify the pastor if a family member is hospitalized. **Mass Intentions (Stipend):** \$25.00. This is for Memorial Masses, thanksgivings, or petitions.



Who are the Disciples and the Apostles?

The feast of Saints Peter and Paul reminds us that our generation, over two thousand years later, is still closely connected to these early apostolic times through the Church, our bishops and priests, and the call we all have to tell the Good News

Jesus chose 72 disciples sent them out two by two to go ahead of him to every town and place where he himself was about to go. Jesus also elected the Twelve out of the Seventy two disciples. The Twelve had a very close friendship with Jesus. We are all familiar with their names: Simon Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Mathew, Thomas, James, Simon, Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot. These twelve, when they were with Jesus in the Judea, were known as the Twelve. But after Jesus' resurrection they were dispersed to other nations and became known as Apostles. Bishops are called the successors to the Apostles.

Jesus said to Peter you are Rock, and on this Rock foundation I will build my Church, and even death will never be able to overcome it. I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven; what you prohibit on earth will be prohibited in Heaven and what you permit on earth will be permitted in Heaven (MT 16:18-19). St. Paul said I am the servant of Christ to bring Good News to the Gentiles. He went to preach to the Greeks and throughout the Roman Empire which included many of the Middle Eastern lands. He proclaimed the Gospel with fervor and great zeal in order to bring salvation to those who did not know God, or served other gods. Because of His love for His disciples, Jesus gave His life on the Cross for our salvation. He entrusted his word, sacraments, and his power to his disciples and Apostles. The word Apostle means messenger or the one who is sent to bring the Good News. That needs an object, a sender and a messenger. The Apostles were sent by their leader Jesus to do what they were told: "Go to the whole world, baptize them in the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and make them My disciples." The Apostles spread out through the world to preach the Gospel, to heal the sick, proclaiming the Good News and the salvific life of Jesus to the all. In our Church we have the great example of St. Justin de Jacobus who

preached the Good News to us and brought us back into the Catholic fold. So, what is our role as a Christian in this modern world? We need to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. We need to think about how to reach other people, our family, our neighbor. What is my relationship, as a Christian, to others in our church, in our work place, to people on the street. Can I call other people to Christ, can I invite those who are lost from my community back into my worship family with open arms? Will I give hope to others by visiting a family in need, by visiting a person in prison, or someone who is sick. Especially, do I share the Word of God with the children?

Prayer

We give you thanks, Almighty God, for all the gifts you have given to us. Keep our hearts open to your love and grace that we may always deserve to be called your children. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Readings for July

July 1 : Rom 5:12-21; 3Jn 1:1-10; Mt 22:1-14
 July 8 : 1Cor 15:33-43; James 5:16-20; Lk 8:1-15
 July 15 : Heb 6:7-20; 1Pet 3:8-14; Mt 13:1-23
 July 22 : 1Tim 4:1-10; 2Pet 1:12-18; Lk 6:1-16
 July 29 : 2Cor 9:1-10; 1Pet 3:15-22; Mt 24:36-45

Psalms 34:6-9

Look to him that you may be radiant with joy,
 and your faces may not blush with shame.
 When the poor one called out, the LORD heard,
 and from all his distress he saved him.
 The angel of the LORD encamps
 around those who fear him, and delivers them.
 Taste and see how good the LORD is;
 blessed the man who takes refuge in him.

Let us pray for:

The Newly Baptized

Samuel Alexander, son of Alexander Valdu and Meron Gobena.

All baptized Christians throughout the world that we will show the world that we are Christians by our love for Christ and one another. Especially for the protection of those in war-torn lands.

The Parish of Kidane-Mehret: for Peace, Unity, Harmony and Charity in the Parish.

AMECEA (Association of Member Episcopal Conferences in Eastern Africa) **Plenary Assembly:** 13th-23 July 2018 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

For the World: That the King of Peace will reign in every nation and in every heart.

Divinization according to Saints Peter and Paul

It is a very sobering thought that the God who created the ever-expanding universe and everything in it from nothing loves us and wants our companionship and friendship. This all-powerful, all-knowing Creator of mankind is leaving it up to us to choose whether to be friends with Him, and to make choices every moment of our lives about where we will spend Eternity. Jesus tells us in St. Matthew's gospel "*So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect.*" (Matt. 5:48). His whole mission in coming to us as a fellow man was to teach us how to live on earth so we can spend eternity in Heaven.

Just as plants need rain to grow and produce fruit so we need the "living water" from Heaven that Jesus talked about to the woman at the well to enable us to grow into the image of God—what is called divinization. We achieve sanctification or divinization as an on-going process through the Sacraments. This is called sanctifying grace. However, there is another grace that helps us in all our actions and decisions. This is called actual grace.

What activates this grace in our lives? The answer is God's mercy and our love and trust. Jesus assured us that He would not leave us orphans and we only have to look at His legacy to understand that He laid out a game plan for us in His teaching that has been recorded in the Gospels. He sent the Holy Spirit, Who is pure love, into the Church and into the hearts of those who love and commit themselves to God through Baptism and the Eucharist. He gave us the saints of the New Testament, especially Saints Peter and Paul, to interpret for us the true meaning of His Word. He provided us with Guardian Angels who, never leaving His Presence, are sent by Him to protect and guide us. He established the Church to explain to us how to stay on the Narrow Way and to provide us with the sustenance we need to achieve divinization-if we so choose. The Church's explanation of how to stay on the narrow way embraces our moral and spiritual lives. The Moral teachings of the Church are based on the Ten Commandments and what Jesus has to say about them. For the example in the Ten Commandments we read, "*You shall not kill.*" Jesus says, "*You have heard that it was said to your ancestors, 'You shall not kill; and whoever kills will be liable to judgment.' But I say to you, whoever is angry* with his brother will be liable to judgment, and whoever says to his brother, 'Raqa,' (an Aramaic term of abuse) will be answerable to the Sanhedrin, and whoever says, 'You fool,' will be liable to fiery Gehenna.*" (Matt 5:21-22.)



In the Catechism of the Catholic Church we are taught about our actions and how a good action, such as giving food to the hungry, can be perverted into an evil act if our motives are not centered on doing God's will but rather on wanting the praise of the world. Understanding our desire to be accepted by other people, St. Paul writes, "*Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.*" (Rom. 12:2) This is exactly what we can see in the lives of Saint Peter and Saint Paul. Peter had to overcome fear to follow Jesus. St. Paul had to rethink his understanding of God, and radically change from inciting Jews to violence against Christians to worshiping and loving the Triune God Whose essence is love and Whose gifts include peace, joy and love. When one reads in his First Letter to the Corinthians one of the most quoted biblical passages "*If I speak in human and angelic tongues but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal...*" it is hard to believe that he was present at the stoning of St. Steven.

St. Peter was a coward who tried desperately to disassociate himself from Jesus after His arrest and trial. Legend has it that he tried to escape from Rome before his own arrest and crucifixion upside down on the cross. He learned the hard way to endure with courage, and while his words are almost like a pep rally for himself, they contain advice that has echoed down the ages.

His divine power has bestowed on us everything that makes for life and devotion, through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and power. Through these, he has bestowed on us the precious and very great promises, so that through them you may come to share in the divine nature, after escaping from the corruption that is in the world because of evil desire. For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, virtue with knowledge, knowledge with self-control, self-control with endurance, endurance with devotion, devotion with mutual affection, mutual affection with love. (2Pet 1:3-7) He concludes his Letter with these stirring words: "Therefore, beloved, since you are forewarned, be on your guard not to be led into the error of the unprincipled and to fall from your own stability, but grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory now and to the day of eternity. [Amen.] (2Pet 3: 17-18)

For our Younger Parishioners....."Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ"



St. Jerome, a wise saint living back in the fourth century, knew Scripture very well. He lived for many years as a hermit in the desert and spent his time studying Scripture. He then translated the Bible from Greek and Hebrew into Latin which was the language of the Western Church just as Ge'ez is the language of the Ethiopian Church today. It was St. Jerome who said, "Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ." Strong words. But if we remember that Holy Scripture is the Word of God then we begin to understand what St. Jerome meant.

There is an old way of reading Scripture that is also a form of prayer. It has a Latin name, *Lectio Divina*, or Sacred Reading. It is simple and doesn't take great learning, but it takes time. You can do it alone, with a group of friends, or with your family. But it's a great way to get to know Scripture and Christ at the same time.

If you do not have a bible, you probably have a smart phone or a tablet. You can go to www.usccb.org and go to Bible. There each book is laid out chapter by chapter with footnotes. Start by choosing a Scripture passage to reflect on.

- **Read:** Read the passage out loud. If you really do not understand something, look at the footnotes.
- **Meditate:** Read the passage a second time. Listen for a word or phrase that speaks to you.
- **Pray:** Read the passage a third time. Reflect on how God may be speaking to you through that word or phrase.
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- **Pray:** Read the passage a third time. Reflect on how God may be speaking to you through that word or phrase.
- **Contemplate:** Read the passage a fourth time. Reflect on how God may be calling you to act through the word or phrase that spoke to you.
- **Act:** Close with a prayer of gratitude and response to God's invitation.

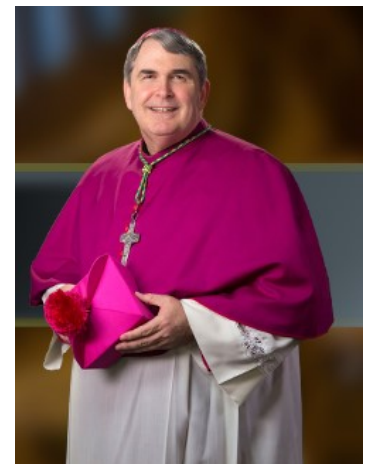
News from around the world and at Home

We congratulate the new auxiliary bishop for Archdiocese of Washington

On June 6th, it was announced that Pope Francis had named Msgr. Michael William Fisher as a new auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of Washington. Since 2006, Bishop-elect Fisher has served as Episcopal Vicar for Clergy and Secretary for Ministerial Leadership for the archdiocese, overseeing the recruitment, formation and care of its clergy. He was ordained bishop on June 29th in the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception. When his new appointment was announced, Donald Cardinal Wuerl, Archbishop of Washington, said that "*Personally I look forward to continuing to work closely with our new auxiliary bishop, who over the years has made significant contributions to the pastoral life of this archdiocese.*"

Pope accepts resignation of two more Chilean Bishops

Pope Francis on Thursday accepted the resignations of two more Chilean bishops, the latest fallout from a sex abuse scandal whose scope and gravity were initially underestimated by the pontiff. Last month all 31 of Chile's active bishops offered to quit for collectively failing to protect children from pedophile priests. The Vatican announced that Francis allowed Rancagua Bishop Alejandro Goic Karmelic and Talca Bishop Horacio del Carmen Valenzuela Abarca to resign, bringing to five the total number of resignations accepted so far.



Directive from Rome – From Cardinal Wuerl's Statement

"The Vatican Secretary of State, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, at the direction of our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has instructed Cardinal McCarrick that he is to refrain from any public ministry or activity until a definite decision is made [about the abuse allegations]... While saddened and shocked, this archdiocese awaits the final outcome of the canonical process and in the meantime asks for prayers for all involved."

