

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST.

Dearly beloved:

Next Sunday, June 18th is the Second Sunday after Pentecost. The Gospel reading for this Sunday is about Jesus giving His disciples authority over unclean spirits and giving different types of advices. He told them to preach that the Kingdom of Heaven is near – go and heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. He gave them authority over unclean spirits. He also reminded them that they received the power that they have without paying for it, so they should give it give back freely. He told them also to speak in His name and to act with His power. He sent them out like sheep in the midst of wolves. The prophet Isaiah foretold there will be a time when wolves and lambs will dwell in peace. He told them further that if anyone will not welcome or listen to their words, to shake the dust off their feet when leaving that home or town.

In Jesus’ day, a devout Jew would try to avoid traveling on foreign soil. If a journey could not be avoided, he would get rid of the foreign dust that had accumulated in their clothes and shoes as soon as he returned to Israel.

Jesus wanted ordinary people who could take an assignment and do it extraordinarily well. When the Lord calls us to serve, we must not think we have nothing to offer. The Lord takes what ordinary people, like us, can offer, and uses it for greatness in His kingdom.

“Lord, strengthen our faith and give us courage to spread Your truth and Your light wherever we go and that we may not shrink back from doing Your will”.

Please read the following Bible verses, in preparation for this Sunday's commemoration.

Bible readings for Sunday, June 18th, 2006.

(Second Sunday After Pentecost)

Before Holy Qurbana:

Leviticus	-	19: 1-8
II Samuel	-	5: 1-10
Daniel	-	6: 25-28

Holy Qurbana

General Epistles:	Acts	-	4: 23-31
Epistles of St. Paul:	Ephesians	-	2: 11-22
Holy Gospel:	St. Matthew	-	10: 5-16

1. Next Sunday, June 25th is “Third Sunday After Pentecost”.

2. Thursday, June 29th is the “Feast of St. Peter & St. Paul”.

With prayers,
Thomas Alex