***5 28 17***

***“THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK”***

***"*** ***In those days, Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hastening to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost."***

This week in the Book of Acts we hear of Paul making decisions about how he would arrange his schedule. He had decided not to go to Ephesus because it might delay him and prevent him from being in Jerusalem to celebrate the feast of Pentecost with the rest of the Apostles. For us beloved, we also must prioritize our time and arrange our schedules. The priorities we set for our time will give meaning and rhythm to our life. As Christians, we must order our lives and not simply be swept along by living randomly- according to worldly time and meaning. St. Paul is telling us that the meaning and rhythm of our lives as Christians must be centered around the life of our Lord. This is precisely why the Church has provided us a cycle of services-the daily, weekly, monthly, and feast day cycles- so that we can enter into this life. Of course, we are still living in this world with worldly obligations and unforeseen events. This is why the above verse says that St. Paul- *if possible*- was hurrying to Jerusalem for the feast day. But it was certainly his intention and his obvious priority, and so it should be ours.

Beloved, when we gather together to celebrate a feast, we are not simply practicing a religious obligation, we are entering into the very life of our Lord Jesus Christ- apart from Whom, there is really no life at all. St. Ignatius writes in his epistle to the Ephesians ***“For we can have no life apart from Jesus Christ.”*** This rhythm of life, then, is the festal cycle of the Church. It is a life which will bring order and peace to our families. It is a life which protects us from all evil. Let us end with a quote from St. Ignatius on this point; ***“Do your best, then, to meet more often to give thanks*** *(Eucharist)* ***and glory to God. When you meet frequently, the powers of Satan are confounded, and in the face of your corporate faith his maleficence crumbles. Nothing can better a state of peaceful accord, from which every trace of spiritual or earthly hostility has been banished.”***  Let us do our best to enter into this life- together- for it is together that we are saved. Let us to gather together at every opportunity and proclaim what the priority in life truly is, and all other things will take their place. Amen.