

From the desk of Fr. Matthew (Continued)

1. You have to believe in Jesus Christ, His Incarnation, earthly ministry, Crucifixion, burial, Resurrection, and Ascension; You also have to believe in and worship the Holy Trinity: God the Father; Jesus Christ His only begotten Son; and the Holy Spirit.
2. You have to go to church and worship God on a regular basis.
3. You have to receive the Eucharist (Holy Communion) on a regular basis.
4. You have to receive the sacrament of Holy Confession.
5. You have to give sacrificially to the church.
6. You have to be obedient to Church Authority.
7. You have to forgive others.
8. You have to love your enemy.
9. You have to pray.
10. You have to keep the fasts of the church.
11. You have to take care of the poor.
12. You have to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ (evangelize).
13. You have to be chaste.
14. You have to follow the Ten Commandments.
15. You have to love your neighbor as yourself.

So what does all of this mean? This means you can make the argument that if you have minimal faith, are frequently absent or late to the Divine Liturgy, rarely receive Holy Communion, and don't go to Confession, that you are in need of a spiritual makeover. If you have any questions about these things, please see me immediately. I encourage you to see me even if you only want to tell me that you don't believe in these practices.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, many of us at some point in our lives find ourselves in the Middle of the Road. We're just trying to get by and do what is expected of us. I understand that we sometimes get our priorities backwards, but we are called to constantly review our lives and make sure we are meeting the requirements of our faith. And just like our students who returned to school last week, we need to look at our calendars and adjust our schedules so that we can fulfill the requirements that are given to us. Let's not be content in the Middle of the Road. Instead, let's try to get our lives in the fast lane. Let's do this so that we can fulfill Christ's mission here in Wilmington. Let's do this so we can build up our local community and meet the needs of all of our members. And let's do this so that we can become more spiritually fulfilled in our own lives.

With love in Christ,

+Fr. Matthew