**2017 11 12 2017 THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

 ***“Brethren, Christ is our peace, Who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility”***

The blessed Apostle Paul, in his epistle for this Sunday, tells us the real meaning of “peace.”  We as Christians must realize that the peace we are seeking is not primarily peace in this world.  “Worldly” peace is temporary and based on mutual advantage.  Once the situation shifts, or we are no longer in a position of power, or it is no longer advantageous to others, then peace evaporates as quickly as smoke. So, although we do want peace and stability in this world, it is for one reason only- that we may use this peace to grow closer to God.  If we enjoy only the worldly peace without drawing nearer to our God- then we will never attain true peace.  Peace in this world is only the interval between wars. On the other hand, the peace of God is an internal state that is not dependent on external events.  As a matter of fact, if we know that God is living in us, then even if we are in prison, or being tormented by others, or in difficult life circumstances- we can still have a profound and lasting peace.  This has been amply demonstrated by people who have been under extreme conditions such as Alexander Solzhenitzin and Fr. Arseny. Both were imprisoned in Soviet prison camps and yet maintained a deep and abiding peace in their hearts. The peace of God is freedom from fear. We are freed from being crushed by the fear of trouble in this world, fear of sickness, and even fear of death itself.  The Lord ***said “Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” (Joh 14:27 NKJ)***