



***The Healing of the
Ten Lepers***

***Troparion of the Resurrec-
tion, Tone 7***

By Thy Cross, Thou didst destroy death! To the thief, Thou didst open Paradise! For the myrrhbearers, Thou didst change weeping into joy! And Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God, to proclaim that Thou art risen, granting the world great mercy!

***Troparion of the Annuncia-
tion Tone 4***

Today is the beginning of our salvation, the revelation of the eternal mystery! the Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin as Gabriel announces the coming of Grace. Together with him let us cry to the Theotokos: Re-joyce, O Full of Grace, the Lord is with you.

***Kontakion of Annunciation,
Tone 8***

O Victorious Leader of triumphant hosts! We, your servants delivered from evil, sing our grateful thanks to you, O Theotokos! As you possess invincible might set us free from every calamity so that we may sing: Re-joyce, O Unwedded Bride!

Weekly Bulletin

Orthodox Church of the Annunciation

December 5th , Tone 7, Luke 17:12-19

The Gospel for the twenty-[fifth] Sunday (Lu. 17:12-19) tells how ten lepers were healed by Jesus, of whom only one— who was a Samaritan — thanked Him. And Jesus is astonished that, alone, this stranger gives him thanks: “Where are the nine?”

We can draw four main lessons from this gospel. First, there is the duty of gratitude that we have towards God, the importance of “glorifying him” for all the goodness we receive: does thanksgiving occupy the place it ought to in our prayers? Do we not ask for more things than we give thanks for? Then there is the contrast between the ingratitude of the nine Jewish lepers and the sincere gratitude, expressed so vividly — “with a loud voice glorified God and fell down of his face at his feet, giving him thanks” — of the Samaritan: may it not be that people whose faith is less true than ours are sometimes more pleasing to God than we are, because their hearts are more appreciative of the divine gifts” AND then, once again, there is the relationship which Jesus establishes between faith and healing: “thy faith hath made thee whole”. Do we possess a faith strong enough to heal us? And, finally, there is the analogy between leprosy and sin. The Hebrews easily associated the idea of leprosy with that of moral impurity. Are we ourselves pure and healed of all leprosy? If we are not, do we at least say with the ten lepers: “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.

Taken from the *Year of Grace of the Lord*, by a Monk of the Eastern Church

From the Lives of the Saints... **THE VENERABLE SAVA THE SANCTIFIED** The unknown village of Mutalaska, in the province of Cappadocia, became famous through this great luminary of the Orthodox Church. Sava was born there of his parents John and Sophia. At the age of eight, he left the home of his parents and was tonsured a monk in a nearby monastic community called Flavian's. After ten years, he moved to the monasteries of Palestine and remained longest in the Monastery of St. Euthymius the Great (January 20) and Theoctistus. The clairvoyant Euthymius prophesied of Sava that he would become a famous monk and a teacher of monks and that he would establish a lavra greater than all the lavras of that time. After the death of Euthymius, Sava withdrew to the desert, where he lived for five years as a hermit in a cave shown to him by an angel of God. Afterward, when he had been perfected in the monastic life, he began by divine providence to gather around him many who were desirous of the spiritual life. Soon, such a large number gathered that Sava had to build a church and many cells. Some Armenians also came to him, and for them he provided a cave where they would be able to celebrate services in the Armenian language. When

Announcements and Activities

Divine Liturgy for St. Nicholas— Monday, at 9AM

Great Vespers: Saturday, at 5:30 PM.

Divine Liturgy— Sunday, at 10AM.

Coffee Hours— This week's Coffee Hour is being sponsored by Mike M. Next week's Coffee Hour will be our bagels and coffee week. **We are currently in the Advent Fast: no eggs, dairy or meat, and no dairy byproducts, like sour cream, or MILK chocolate, etc.**

Many Thanks and Many Years—to those who labored and served to make our Christmas Food Festival a big success. As this year draws close to being no more, thank your for all that you do for your church.

Church School/Adult Ed.— We will next meet on Sunday, December 12th, at 9AM.

Pray for... Hierarch Nikolai (Soraich)— battling cancer. Samir's friend, **Johnny**, who has been improving in the battle to save his sight. **Brian**, Sunday's brother. **George and Alex**, health problems. **Reposed Darrel**, Kyle's father. **Diane F. recovering from Surgery. Erika and Family.** All those who have lost their lives or are suffering as a result of the current Pandemic. **Archimandrite Alexander** — Fr. Lawrence's long-time father confessor, who reposed. **Kerrie Photine**— recent surgery. **Karen and Scott**— battling health issues. **Mitred Archbishop Basil**— a longtime friend of Father's, newly reposed. **Newly reposed Emiliane (Janie G.) and reposed Vadim.** Our **Vladika Benjamin**— battling on-set parkinsons. **Tsige Roman and Abraham**— I know we are always mindful of Tsige, but please continue to pray for the work and for Ethiopia, torn by civil war, with all the problems that go with a regional terror. **Newly Reposed Maria S.**—who fell asleep in the Lord on Wednesday, around 11:30 PM. **Reposed Jonathan T. Reposed Vadim, Newly Reposed Donny.** The newly reposed **Protopresbyter Leonid**, the longtime chair of the Department of External Affairs for the OCA, and brotherinlaw to Olga H., **Brian, Kerrie and family**— asking prayers for family sickness. **Oxana**— traveling. **George and Alesis**, Brother and Daughter of Peter and Irene S. **Matushka Ioanna R., Reposed. Matushka Priscilla**, ill. **Anya J**— a longtime friend of the parish who is ill. **Stephen F.**— battling back pain. **John F.**— battling cancer. **Archpriest Anthony**— battling cancer. **Julie**— sister of Kathy M., battling health problems. **Archbishop Benjamin**— parkinsons. **Mitred Archbishop Sergei**— who reposed recently. **Rhoda's requests** for Douglas and Kayana. **Reposed Constance**— the mother of Andrew F. Michael T.'s brother-inlaw, Will who is ill and his sister Sharon.

his father died, his aged mother Sophia came to him, and he tonsured her a nun. He gave her a cell located at a distance from his monastery, where she lived a life of asceticism until her death. This holy father endured many assaults from all sides: from those who were close to him, from heretics, and from demons. But he triumphed over them all: those close to him, by kindness and indulgence; the heretics, by his unwavering confession of the Orthodox Faith; the demons, by the sign of the Cross and calling upon God for help. He had a particularly great struggle with demons on Mount Castellium, where he established his second monastery. In all, Sava established seven monasteries. He and Theodosius the Great, his neighbor, are considered to be the greatest lights and pillars of Orthodoxy in the East. They corrected emperors and patriarchs in matters of the Faith, and to everyone they served as an example of saintly humility and the miraculous power of God. After a toilsome and very fruitful life, St. Sava entered into rest in the year 532 A.D., at the age of ninety-four. Among his many wondrous and good works, let it at least be mentioned that he was the first to compile the Order of Services for use in monasteries, now known as the Jerusalem Typicon.

THE VENERABLE MARTYRS OF KARYES

They suffered at the hands of the Papists at the time of the Union of Lyons [1274], which was the work of Emperor Michael Palaeologus (1260-1281) and the pope. The Protos of the Holy Mountain was hanged, and the others were beheaded. (For details about this, see October 10.)

THE VENERABLE NECTARIUS OF BITOLA

Nectarius was born in Bitola and lived a life of asceticism in the Monastery of the Holy Unmercenary Physicians Cosmas and Damian, together with his father, Pachomius, who was also tonsured. After that he went to Karyes, where he continued his asceticism in the Cell of the Holy Archangels under the guidance of Elders Philotheus and Dionysius. After conquering human envy, demonic assaults and difficult illnesses, he entered into rest in the Kingdom of Christ on December 5, 1500 A.D. His incorrupt and fragrant relics rest in this same cell.

THE VENERABLE KARION AND ZACHARIAS

Karion and Zacharias were father and son, and both were great Egyptian ascetics. Karion left his wife and two children and set off to become a monk. As a child, the young Zacharias was taken into the monastery, and in his ascetic labors he surpassed both his father and many other notable ascetics. When they asked Zacharias, "Who is a true monk?" he replied: "He who constantly applies himself to the fulfilling of God's commandments."

Prologue of Ochrid, edited and written by St. Nikolai

"There do not exist many or few, nor small or great problems. The only problem is the absence of Christ from our lives" (From the life and teachings of Elder Epiphanius Theodoropoulos)