



“Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God”

Troparion of the Resurrection, Tone 2

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life Immortal, Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead! And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, all the powers of heaven cried out: O Giver of Life! Christ our God! Glory to Thee!

Troparion of Annunciation, 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: Rejoice, 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: Rejoice, O Unwedded Bride!

Weekly Bulletin

Orthodox Church of the Annunciation

July 11th, Tone 2, Matt. 6:22-33

The Gospels for the last two Sundays have shown us that, in order to follow Jesus, earthly preoccupations must be abandoned. We may ask: “But how then shall we live?”

The gospel for the third Sunday after Pentecost (Matt. 6:22-33) puts us on guard against this anxiety. Jesus tells us that we must unify our inner life: “If therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light...No man can serve two masters...Ye cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I say unto you, take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on”. If the heavenly Father feeds the birds of the air, if he clothes the lilies of the fields, which “toil not neither do they spin”. With colors more glorious than those of Solomon himself, how much more will he see to our needs!

These words must be understood with discernment. There are men whom our Lord calls to follow him in absolute poverty. The majority of men have family and social responsibilities, and have to face them through work. As far as earthly goods are concerned, our Lord does not condemn the prudence which is called for by both justice and charity, but he does condemn avarice and the anxious care which indicate a lack of faith. “Your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things...But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you“.

Let both him whose special vocation it is to strip himself of everything, and him whose duty is to care for the material welfare of his family, be confident: the Father will not abandon them, but they must — the one and the another — seek, before all else, the Kingdom of God and its righteousness in their own consciences and round

(taken from, *The Year of the Grace of the Lord*, by A Monk of the Eastern Church)

***From the Lives of the Saints...* THE HOLY GREAT FEMALE MARTYR EUPHEMIA**

Saint Euphemia is commemorated on September 16, the day on which she was martyred. On this day is commemorated the miracle-working power of her honorable relics, which was manifested at the time of the Fourth Ecumenical Council in Chalcedon. This Council was convened during the reign of Emperor Marcian and Empress Pulcheria in the year 451 A.D., after the death of Emperor Theodosius the Younger. The reason for summoning this Council was the heresy of Dioscorus, Patriarch of Alexandria, and Eutyches, an archimandrite from Constantinople who had spread the false teaching that in Christ the Lord there are not two natures, divine and human, but

Announcements and Activities

Divine Liturgy for St. Vladimir— Thursday, at 8AM.

Great Vespers— Saturday, July 17th, at 5:30PM.

Divine Liturgy – Sunday, at 10AM.

Coffee Hours— This week's Coffee Hour will be bagels and coffee. Next week's Coffee Hour will be sponsored by Madeleine and Jason and Mike M.

Wedding: Kyle and Erika will be united in the Holy Mystery of Holy Matrimony today at 3:30PM.

40 Day Memorial— Today, we mark the 40 days for Maria S. and Jonathan T.

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. **Mitered Archpriest Basil**— a longtime friend of Father's, newly reposed. **Newly reposed Emiliane (Janie G.) and reposed Vadim.** **Our Vladyka 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**

only a Divine Nature. At this Council, the most prominent roles were played by Anatolius, Patriarch of Constantinople, and Juvenal, Patriarch of Jerusalem. Because a decision could not be reached through debates and testimonies from both sides, Patriarch Anatolius proposed that the Orthodox and the heretics each write down their confession of faith, and that they then be placed into the coffin where the relics of St. Euphemia lay. They all agreed to this. Therefore, the two confessions of faith were written and placed on the bosom of the great-martyr. The coffin was closed and sealed with the emperor's seal, and soldiers were commanded to watch over it. All the members of the Council then spent three days in prayer and fasting. When they opened the coffin on the fourth day, they found the Orthodox Confession of Faith in the right hand of the saint and the heretical confession of faith under her feet. Thus, by the power of God, the dispute was decided in favor of Orthodoxy. During the reign of Emperor Heraclius, the relics of St. Euphemia were translated from Chalcedon to Constantinople, to the church dedicated to her near the Hippodrome. The iconoclastic Emperor Leo the Isaurian ordered that these relics be thrown into the sea, but the coffin was miraculously translated to the island of Lemnos and was placed in the Church of the Holy Martyr Glyceria. Then, during the reign of the Empress Irene, the coffin with the relics of St. Euphemia was returned to Constantinople, to its former place. From time to time, blood has flowed from these relics, to help those who are ill or in misery.

SAINT HELENA [OLGA]

Helena was a great Russian princess, the wife of Prince Igor, whose name before baptism was Olga. She was baptized by Patriarch Polyeuctus in Constantinople and was very zealous for the Orthodox Faith in Russia. She entered into eternal rest in the year 969 A.D.

THE VENERABLE MARTYR NICODEMUS

Nicodemus was born in Elbasan [in Albania] and was married and had children. Deceived by the Turks, he embraced Islam and forced his children to do likewise, with the exception of one son who fled to the Holy Mt. Athos where he was tonsured a monk. Nicodemus traveled to Mt. Athos to retrieve his son, but Mt. Athos made such an impression on him that he repented and returned to the Faith of Christ, and was tonsured a monk. For three years he mourned over his apostasy, then he finally decided to return to Albania to atone for his sin in the place where he had committed it. Thus he returned and declared openly that he was a Christian, and the Turks beheaded him on July 11, 1722. His wonderworking relics lie, even today, intact and incorrupt.

THE VENERABLE MARTYR NECTARIUS

Nectarius was born in Vryoulla, in Asia Minor. At age seventeen he was forced to embrace Islam. His fate was similar to that of St. Nicodemus. When he appeared before his mother as a Muslim, she cried out: "Depart from me! I know you not. I bore you as a Christian, not as a Muslim." He repented bitterly and went to Mt. Athos. There in the Scete of Saint Anna, he was tonsured a monk. Deciding to suffer for Christ--and thereby to wash away his sin--he returned to Vryoulla, where he suffered martyrdom. He was beheaded for Christ by the Turks in his place of birth, on July 11, 1820, at the age of twenty-one.

Taken from The 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)