



Orthodox Church of the Annunciation

Healing on the Sabbath

Troparion of the Resurrection, Tone 6

The angelic powers were at Thy tomb. The guards became as dead men. Mary stood by Thy grave, seeking Thy most pure Body. Thou didst capture hell, not being tempted by it. Thou didst come to the Virgin granting Life. O Lord who didst rise from the dead: Glory to Thee!

Troparion of the 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!

November 28th , Tone 6, Luke 13:10-17

A woman who had been bowed down with an infirmity for eighteen years is healed on the Sabbath day by Jesus, in a synagogue where he is preaching. The ruler of the synagogue gives vent to his indignation at the day of rest being violated by this work of mercy. Jesus, to the shame of his adversaries and the joy of the people, answers that, if no one thinks anything of loosing his ox or his ass to take it to water on the Sabbath, then there is much stronger reason to release a daughter of Abraham on this day.

Most of us strongly approve of this lesson from the gospel for the twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost (Lu. 13:10-17); in principle, we are absolutely in agreement with the free attitude of Jesus towards the Sabbath and are very ready to accuse the hypocrisy and legalism of the Pharisees and to take a stand against them. But, in fact, it often happens that we imitate them. We are easily shocked by any good work which is not done “according to the rules” – that is, what we ourselves consider to be the indispensable rules. If a person or a group whose beliefs differ from ours, or who belong to a political party of which we disapprove, or that we judge to be morally inferior, achieve some results that are objectively good, but that we did not expect to come from that side, our first instinctive reaction (which is often concealed) is one of skepticism, of resentment or bitterness. Church people are especially prone to the temptation to denigrate and condemn all that is not of “their” orthodoxy.

Let this gospel teach us, therefore, to become humble enough, amenable enough to all light from above to admit – with joy and gratitude – the good that can be done through other channels than those which, rightly or wrongly, we consider “proper”. May God make us able, when faced by any “healing on the Sabbath,” to feel what the people who surrounded Jesus felt: “...all the people rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him.”

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

From the Lives of the Saints... THE VENERABLE MARTYR STEPHEN THE NEW

As at one time Hannah, the mother of Samuel, prayed to God to give her a son, so did Anna, the mother of Stephen. Praying thus in the Church of Blachernae before the icon of the Most-holy Theotokos, a light sleep overcame her, and she saw the Most-holy Virgin as radiant as the sun, and heard a voice from the icon: "Woman, depart in peace. In accordance with your prayer, you have a son in your womb." Anna indeed

Announcements and Activities

Great Vespers for the Holy Apostle Andrew— Monday, at 6PM.

Liturgy for the Holy Apostle Andrew— Tuesday, at 8AM

Great Vespers: Saturday, at 5:30 PM.

Divine Liturgy— Sunday, at 10AM.

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

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. **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.** The newly reposed **Protopresbyter Leonid, the long-time 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 Archpriest 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.

conceived and gave birth to a son, the holy Stephen. At sixteen, Stephen received the monastic tonsure on Mount Auxentius near Constantinople, from the elder John who also taught him divine wisdom and asceticism. When John entered into rest in the Lord, Stephen remained on the mountain in a life of strict asceticism, taking upon himself labor upon labor. His holiness attracted many disciples to him. When Emperor Constantine Copronymus was persecuting icons more ferociously than his foul father, Leo the Isaurian, Stephen showed himself a zealous defender of the veneration of holy icons. The demented emperor accepted various obscene slanders against Stephen and personally plotted intrigues to break Stephen and get him out of the way. Stephen was banished to the island of Proconnesus, then taken to Constantinople, chained and cast into prison, where he was met by 342 monks, brought from all over and imprisoned for their veneration of the icons. There, in prison, they carried out the whole church typicon as in a monastery. Then the wicked emperor condemned Stephen to death. The saint foresaw his death forty days in advance, and asked forgiveness of the brethren. The emperor's servants dragged him from prison and, beating and pulling him, dragged him through the streets of Constantinople calling upon all those loyal to the emperor to stone this "enemy of the emperor." One of the heretics struck the saint on the head with a piece of wood, and the saint gave up his soul. As St. Stephen the Protomartyr suffered at the hands of the Jews, so this Stephen suffered at the hands of the iconoclastic heretics. This glorious soldier of Christ suffered in the year 767 A.D. at the age of fifty-three, and was crowned with unfading glory.

THE NEW MARTYR CHRISTOS

Christos was an Albanian Christian living in Constantinople and a gardener by trade. As he was selling his vegetables one day, he offended a Turk, who then slandered him before a judge, saying that Christos had promised to become a Moslem and then recanted. After interrogation, he was chained and cast into prison. In prison, someone offered him food, which Christos refused, saying: "It is better that I appear before my Christ hungry." After that, he pulled out some money he had concealed under his belt and gave it to one of his fellow prisoners, requesting that the money be used for several Liturgies to be celebrated for his soul. He was beheaded by the Turks in the year 1748 A.D., and was glorified forever in the Kingdom of Christ God.

THE VENERABLE ANNA

Anna was a woman of noble birth who, after her husband's death, was tonsured into monasticism by St. Stephen the New. Emperor Constantine Copronymus urged her to say that she had engaged in illicit physical relations with St. Stephen, in order to humiliate him before the people. However, this holy woman refused to join in the emperor's intrigue against the saint, whom she venerated as her spiritual father. For that, she was whipped and then cast into prison, where she gave up her holy soul to God.

THE HOLY AND DEVOUT EMPEROR MAURICE

Maurice was murdered with his six sons by Emperor Phocas in the year 602 A.D.

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)