



Orthodox Church of the Annunciation

September 26th, Tone 5, Luke 5:1-11

The Miraculous Draught of Fishes

***Troparion of the Resurrection,
Tone 5***

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the word, coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born for our salvation from the Virgin; for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death, and to raise the dead, by His glorious Resurrection.

***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.

***Troparion for 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!

The gospel for the last Sunday marked, as we pointed out, a change of perspective. Instead of the stern warnings given in the last chapters of St. Matthew we found ourselves back, near the middle of the book, amidst the Savior's miracles and works of mercy. On the 14th Sunday after Pentecost, this change is still evident. Few leave the Gospel of Matthew and start on that of Luke, from which readings will be taken for several Sundays to come. St. Luke is, pre-eminently, the evangelist of healing (whether of body or of soul) and of grace. Today we read in Luke's gospel the account of the miraculous draught of fishes (Lu. 5:1-11).

Simon, James and John have spent the whole night fishing on the lake without catching anything. Jesus gets into one of their ships, and from it, teaches the multitude which has gathered on the shore. Then he tells Simon to launch the ship out into the lake and to let down the nets. Simon objects that the night's fishing has been fruitless, but that, all the same he will obey. "At thy word I will let down the net". A great multitude of fishes is taken; the nets break; the ships themselves, under the weight, begin to sink. Peter begs Jesus to go away from him, for he is a sinful man, and Jesus tells him not to be afraid, for, from now on, he will be a fisher of men. Peter and the sons of Zebedee obey this call, and having brought the ships back to land "they forsook all, and followed him.

The episode draws attention to several points. There is the calling of the apostles. On the one hand, Jesus chooses these three men in the very midst of their work and at the moment when this work is particularly fruitful: to leave everything at such a moment implies a decisive and courageous rupture: Jesus never calls a future apostle at a time when he might be idle and, consequently, ready to accept a new venture as a possible occupation. And, on the other hand, Jesus has involved himself closely with the work of the three fishermen; he has guided their actions, and before calling them, wanted to enter at depth into their daily and professional life; and it is thus that Jesus acts most often with the men he calls. This gospel also shows us just what wonders obedience founded in faith can accomplish: "At thy word...", says Peter. He who hears a work spoken by Christ and who takes some sort of risk to obey this word, will obtain results quite out of proportion to anything he could have hoped for — for Peter had neither asked for the nets to break nor for the ships to sink under the weight of the fishes.

Announcements and Activities

Divine Liturgy for the feast of the Protection of the Theotokos— Friday, at 9AM.

Great Vespers— Saturday, at 5:30PM

Divine Liturgy— Sunday, at 10AM.

Coffee Hours— This week's Coffee Hour is our monthly potluck.. Next week's Coffee Hour will be sponsored by Erika and Kyle & Luci.

Craft Faire— many thanks, and Many Years to those who helped and donated toward our Craft Faire. It is such a blessing to work for the ongoing life of our beautiful parish.

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 long-time 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 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 long-time 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.

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

From the Lives of the Saints... SAINT JOHN THE THEOLOGIAN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST

John was the son of Zebedee the fisherman and Salome the daughter of Joseph, the betrothed of the Holy Theotokos. Called by the Lord Jesus, John immediately left his father and his fishermen's nets and, with his brother James, followed Christ. From then on, he was not separated from his Lord until the end. With Peter and James, he was present at the raising of Jairus's daughter and the Transfiguration of the Lord. At the Last Supper, he inclined his head on Jesus' breast. When all the other apostles had abandoned the crucified Lord, John and the Holy Mother of God remained beneath the Cross. In obedience to the Lord, he was as a son to the Holy Virgin Mary, and carefully served and watched over her until her Dormition. After her Dormition, John took his disciple Prochorus to preach the Gospel in Asia Minor. He lived and labored mostly in Ephesus. By his inspired preaching and miracles he converted many to Christianity and shook paganism to its foundation. The embittered pagans bound him and sent him to Rome, to face Emperor Dometian. Dometian had him tortured and flogged, but neither the bitterest poison he was given to drink, nor the boiling oil into which he was thrown, did him any harm. This terrified the emperor and, thinking him immortal, Dometian sent him into exile to the island of Patmos. There St. John converted many to Christianity by words and miracles, and confirmed well the Church of God. He also wrote his Gospel and Revelation on Patmos. In the time of Emperor Nero, who granted freedom to all prisoners, John returned to Ephesus, where he lived for some time, confirming the work he had begun earlier. He was over one hundred years old when he went to the Lord. When his disciples later opened his grave, they did not find his body. On May 8 of every year, a fine dust, fragrant and healing, rose from his grave. After a long, laborious and fruitful life on earth, this beloved disciple of Christ, a true pillar of the Church, took up his habitation in the joy of His Lord.

THE VENERABLE NILUS OF CALABRIA

Nilus was a great ascetic among the Greeks of Calabria. The founder of several monasteries, he was a miracle-worker and a defender of the purity of the Orthodox Faith. He undertook a long journey to save a man from grave punishment. He had an ardent love for his neighbor, and entered into rest in the year 1005 A.D. Nilus left many worthy disciples, among whom was the distinguished St. Bartholomew, the writer of several canons, who reposed in 1044 A.D.

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)