



Weekly Bulletin

Orthodox Church of the Annunciation

The Feeding of the Five Thousand

Troparion of the Resurrec- tion, Tone 7

By Thy Cross Thou didst de-
stroy 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 mer-
cy.

Troparion for 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 an-
nounces 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 tri-
umphant 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 8th Sunday after Pentecost August 7th, Tone 7, Matt. 9:1-8

On the eighth Sunday after Pentecost we read one of the gospel accounts of the multiplication of loaves (Matt. 14:14-22). With five loaves and two fishes, Jesus feeds a crowd of more than five thousand.

This account throws light on the Savior's human concern and kindness: "And Jesus...saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them". It also throws light on the way men can collaborate in God's work: Jesus makes use of the disciples — and wants to use us — in distributing bread to the multitude. "He...gave the loaves to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude." But above all, the multiplication of the loaves is the sign of a spiritual reality: Jesus is the food of our soul, the living bread come down from heaven. Nor do we speak only of the gift that Jesus makes of Himself in the Eucharist. His presence, his word, his invisible action are already a food, the true manna, of which we can say, as did the disciples in another part of the gospels: "Lord, evermore give us this bread".

In the epistle which is read at the Liturgy (1Cor.1:10-18), St. Paul speaks out against the divisions and the growth of factions which he finds in the bosom of the Christian Church. Some say they are of Paul, others of Apollos, others, still, of Cephas. But Christ is not divided, and it is not Paul — as he himself says — who was crucified for us. Let us then hold on to the attitude, "...and I of Christ", of those who did not wish to say "I am of Paul", or "I of Cephas". Ecclesiastical groups must not be allowed to veil from us the face of Christ Jesus. We can develop our hidden life with Jesus and keep it aloof from all such theological "side-taking". The more a serious and humble work for the Church — which is the body of Christ — is blessed by Our Lord, the more any ecclesiastical "agitation" becomes dangerous to us and spiritually sterile. Paul thanks God that very few people have been baptized by him, so that they will not associate his name with the baptismal rite. And let us, too avoid linking our spiritual life to the name of anyman, or to any human institution, "lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect."

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

From the Lives of the Saints... THE VENERABLE MAR- TYR DOMETIUS

Dometius was born in Persia as a pagan during the reign of Emperor Constantine. He became acquainted with the Christian Faith as a young man, abandoned

Announcements and Activities

Divine Liturgy for the Martyr Lawrence— Wednesday, at 9AM

Saturday Great Vespers— 5:30 PM.

Divine Liturgy— Sunday, at 10AM.

Mortgage Drive— Last year we met our pledge goal of 20K and church matching funds of 20K. Our goal was to do the mortgage reduction for 2 consecutive years and see if we can't retire the mortgage in 2023. Let's throw the Mortgage Reduction Red Thermometer on the wall in the Hall over the top and be able to say that this facility is totally in possession of God and His people. We will conclude this particular drive on September 1st. So far, we've only raised about 5K. It will be very blessed for each of us to search our hearts for the extra that we can give toward this phenomenal goal. What a glory it will be to burn the mortgage, and what a credit to your stewardship.

Coffee Hours— This week's Coffee Hour is being sponsored by Mike T and Mike Mil. Next week's Coffee Hour will be our bagels and coffee week.

Parish Council— will meet next Sunday, after Coffee Hour.

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. 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. 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. Reposed Jonathan T. 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. Rhoda's requests for Douglas and Kayana. Reposed Constance— the mother of Andrew F. Will— reposed, Michael T.'s brother-in-law. Reposed Vadim. Christian— undergoing some medical testing. The reposed— Novice Nonna, Robbie— cancer. Raphael, cancer. Child Aidan — seizures. Child Henry. Robbie the cousin of Brian R., who reposed after a battle with cancer. Louis Joseph M., is now home and, thank God, ready to come to church again. Victor T. reposed on Holy Saturday. Christine-reposed on Holy Saturday. Holli— Reposed. Reposed Dn. George. Jobie, cancer. Darryl and Laura Beth. Diane F.— short-term illness. Repose: Stavrophore Elizabeth, of Kazan Skete . Pastor Brad, a friend of Kirk's who is going through a difficult time. Sarah, the daughter of Fr. Lawrence's godfather, health issues.

paganism, and was baptized. So much did Dometius love the True Faith that he left every worldly thing and was tonsured a monk in a monastery near the town of Nisibis. He lived for some time among the brethren, and then withdrew to a life of silence with the elder, Archmandrite Urbel (who is said to have not eaten only cooked food for sixty years). Elder Urbel ordained Dometius a deacon, and when he wanted to compel him to receive the rank of a priest, Dometius withdrew to an isolated mountain and settled in a cave. He attained such a high degree of perfection through fasting, prayer, all night vigils and godly-thoughts that he miraculously cured the sick. When Julian the Apostate came to those regions, he heard of Dometius and sent men to seal him up alive in a cave, with two of his disciples. Thus, this saint of God died and took up his habitation in the Kingdom of God in the year 363 A.D.

THE VENERABLE OR, HERMIT OF THE THEBAID

Or attained great perfection through the greatest asceticism. When he firmly established himself and attained holiness in solitude, he gradually established several monasteries, and was a superb spiritual leader and teacher of many monks. Rufinus, who visited him, describes Or in the following way: "In appearance, he resembled an angel of God--a ninety-year old elder with a long beard, as white as snow. His outward aspect was wonderful. His gaze shone with superhuman radiance." Often he saw the angels of God. He especially endeavored never to speak an untruth. He had great temptations from the demons but overpowered them all, soberly and courageously. He received Holy Communion daily. On one occasion, one of his disciples reminded him that the Feast of the Resurrection had come, and that it should be celebrated. Hearing this, Or came out, raised his hands to heaven and spent three days in prayer without rest. He explained to his disciple: "For the monk, this is the celebration of the Resurrection of Christ: to elevate his mind and to unite it with God." He rested in deep old age in about the year 390 A.D.

THE HOLY MARTYRS MARINUS AND ASTERIUS

Marinus was a soldier and Asterius was a Roman senator. At the time of Emperor Gallienus, St. Marinus served as a soldier in Caesarea in Palestine. Marinus was beheaded for the sake of the Christian Faith. Asterius, the senator, also a Christian, was present at his martyrdom. He removed his toga [dolman] and wrapped the body of the martyr in it. He then carried the body on his shoulders and honorably buried it. Seeing this, the pagans beheaded him also. They both died honorably for Christ in about the year 260 A.D.

THE VENERABLE POEMEN, THE MUCH-AILING

Since his youth, Poemen was both sickly and desirous of the monastic life. Brought to the Lavra of the Caves in Kiev for healing, he remained there until his death. Poemen prayed to God more for sickness than for health. At night, angels appeared to him and tonsured him a monk. They also informed him that he would be ill until his death and that just before his death he would become healthy. And so it was. Poemen was bedridden for twenty years. He worked miracles during his lifetime, and possessed a rare gift of clairvoyance. Just prior to his death, he rose from the bed completely whole, and immediately prepared a grave for himself. He rested in the Lord in the year 1110 A.D.

Taken from *The Year of Grace of the Lord* by A Monk of the Eastern Church

"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)