



Weekly Bulletin

Orthodox Church of the Annunciation

Faith the Size of A Mustard Seed

Troparion of the Resurrection, Tone 1

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Thy Kingdom! Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou who lovest mankind!

Troparion for 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!

The 10th Sunday after Pentecost August 21st , Tone 1, Matt. 17:14-23

On this tenth Sunday after Pentecost, we read at the Liturgy the gospel account of the healing of a young epileptic (Matt. 17:14-23); a different version of this same episode was read on the fourth Sunday of Great Lent. We would ask the reader to refer to that.

Today, we shall restrict ourselves to commenting on some of Jesus' words which are not found in the gospel for the fourth Sunday in Lent. They are these: "If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you". It seems to us that, in this saying, the emphasis is not placed on the extraordinary physical phenomenon, on the possibility of removing the mountain, but rather on the contrast between the mountain and the grain of mustard seed, on the infinite possibilities (of which the displacement of a mountain is only a symbol) open to faith — even if it is very new — provided that something other than a simple intellectual adherence to a revealed truth.

As in the case of the centurion at Capernaum, Jesus speaks of faith as being a humble and total trust in the all-powerful goodness of God. If I have but a grain of such a faith, I can risk making that faith the basis of my life in all circumstances, confident that God will not necessarily give my difficulties the precise solution I may have in mind, but that He will give them their true, their best, solution — the one He wants. That would be my way of removing mountains. And, furthermore, I should always bear these words of St. Paul's in mind: "And though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing".

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

From the Lives of the Saints... THE HOLY APOSTLE THADDAEUS

This Thaddaeus was one of the Seventy Apostles, but was not the Thaddaeus who was one of the Twelve Apostles. St. Thaddaeus first encountered John the Baptist and received baptism from him; then he found the Lord Jesus and followed Him. The Lord numbered him among the Seventy Lesser Apostles, whom He sent out two by two before His face: After these things, the Lord appointed other seventy also and sent them two and two before His face into eve-

Announcements and Activities

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 the Richeys and Aaron C. Next week's Coffee Hour will be our monthly potluck.

Parish Council— met last Sunday. We managed to have another in-the-black month and are now running black numbers for our year-to-date financials. We discussed our upcoming fundraisers. We are currently at around 58K on the mortgage. We have raised about 8K during this year's drive. We were aiming for 20K that would be matched by the church. I've been told that some have yet to get their contribution in. Those wishing to donate, please get your contributions in by the beginning of September. We also discussed getting some guidelines for altar servers and ushers. All in all, a good meeting.

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. **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 **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. **Youseff and Jimmy**— who are ill. **Matushka Ann Hopko**, reposed.

ry city and place where He Himself would come (Luke 10:1). After His glorious Resurrection and His Ascension, the Lord sent Thaddaeus to Edessa, Thaddaeus's birthplace, according to the promise He gave to Prince Abgar when He returned Abgar's towel with the image of His face on it (the Icon of the Lord "Not Made With Hands," August 16). By kissing the towel, Abgar was healed of leprosy, but not completely. [A little leprosy still remained on his face.] When St. Thaddaeus appeared to Abgar, he received him with great joy. The apostle of Christ instructed him in the true Faith, and after that baptized him. When Abgar arose out of the baptismal water, he was completely healed. Glorifying God, Prince Abgar also determined that his people should know the true God and glorify Him. The prince assembled all the citizens of Edessa before the holy Apostle Thaddaeus to hear his teaching about Christ. Hearing the words of the apostle and seeing their prince miraculously healed, the people rejected their former idolatry and unclean living, embraced the Christian Faith, and were baptized. Thus the city of Edessa was illumined by the Christian Faith. Prince Abgar brought much gold and offered it to the apostle, but Thaddaeus said to him: " Since we left our own gold, how can we receive the gold of others?" St. Thaddaeus preached the Gospel throughout Syria and Phoenicia. He reposed in the Lord in the Phoenician city of Beirut.

THE HOLY FEMALE MARTYR BASSA AND HER CHILDREN: THEOGNIUS, AGAPIUS AND PISTUS

Bassa was the wife of an idolatrous pagan priest, but was secretly a Christian. She educated her sons in Christianity. Her husband hated her because of her faith, and gave her and her sons over to the judge for torture. After harsh tortures, her sons were beheaded (it is believed that this occurred at Edessa, in Macedonia). Bassa was joyful when she saw her sons honorably completing their heroic martyrdoms for Christ; and she, with even greater eagerness, went from torture to torture. When they threw Bassa into the sea, angels appeared to her and brought her to an island in the Sea of Marmara, where she was later beheaded during the rule of Maximian. Thus St. Bassa was made worthy of the Kingdom of Christ in a twofold manner--as a martyr, and as a mother of martyrs.

VENERABLE ABRAHAM OF SMOLENSK

Abraham was born in the Russian town of Smolensk, in answer to his parent's prayers. He entered the monastic life at an early age and gave himself over to austere asceticism, emulating the ancient fathers of the desert. Later he established the Monastery of the Holy Cross near Smolensk. He endured many temptations both from demons and men with great patience and thanksgiving to God. During a great drought, Abraham brought forth rain by his prayers. Living fifty years as a monk, Abraham peacefully died in the Lord, in about 1220 A.D.

THE HOLY FOREFATHERS ABRAHAM, ISAAC AND JACOB

Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are also commemorated on the Sunday of the Forefathers before the Nativity, as righteous ones and God-pleasers. Taken from *The Year of Grace of the Lord* by A Monk of the Eastern Church

Taken from the *Prologue of Ochrid*, by St. Nikolai Velimirovich

"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)