



Orthodox Church of the Annunciation

June 26th , Tone 1, Matt. 4:18-23

The Sunday of All Regional Saints

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 All Saints of America, Tone 4

As the bountiful harvest of Thy sowing of salvation, the lands of North America offer to Thee, O Lord, all the saints who have shone in them. By their prayers keep the Church and our land in abiding peace// through the Theotokos, O most Merciful One!

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 second Sunday after Pentecost shows us the practical application of the great call to renunciation formulated by Jesus in the gospel for the first Sunday. The gospel read today at the Liturgy (Matt. 4:18-23), tells the calling of the first apostles. On the shore of Lake Galilee, Jesus sees Simon and Andrew fishing. He says to them: "Follow me". He wants to make them fishers of men. "And they straightway left their nets and followed him".

Further on Jesus meets James and John, also fishermen, in the company of their father, Zebedee. Jesus calls them. "They immediately left the ship and their father, and followed him." The new disciples abandoned their nets and their ships: Jesus sometimes asks us to renounce our profession, our instruments of work, whatever we possess. But some sons, at the call of Jesus, abandon their father too: sometimes he wants us to abandon family affections, human friendships, created love. This is not a purely negative attitude.

Jesus' call has a very positive aspect: one must follow the Master. But the first apostles could not have followed the Master if they had not first of all left their ships, and their nets, and their father. And what have I abandoned in order to follow Jesus? What does he want me to leave.

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

From the Lives of the Saints... THE VENERABLE DAVID

David was born in Thessalonica. At first he lived in asceticism near Thessalonica in a hut built beneath an almond tree. Later he continued his asceticism in Thessaly. So much did he purify himself by fasting, prayer and all-night vigils that he was made worthy to receive great grace from God. Once he took live coals in his hand, placed incense on the coals and censured the emperor without any injury to his hand. Seeing this, the emperor bowed down to the ground before him. The people were amazed by his numerous miracles. He died peacefully and took up his habitation in eternal blessedness in the year 540 A.D.

THE FEAST OF THE TIKHVIN [TICHVINE] ICON OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

This icon of the Holy Birth-giver of God [the Theotokos] was first in Constantinople, but in 1383 A.D., seventy years before the fall of Constantinople [in 1453 A.D.], it

Announcements and Activities

Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul— Wednesday, at 8:30 am. (not 9AM, the usual time). Fr. John Finley will serve the feast. For those able to attend, let's give Fr. John our warmest festal greeting. Fr. Lawrence is spending some time with family this week, but will be available if needed for urgent matters.

Great Vespers— Saturday, at 5:30PM

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 in September.

Coffee Hours— This week's Coffee Hour is being sponsored by Mike Me. And Edie. O. Next week's Coffee Hour will be sponsored by Jason and Magdalena and Darryl and Laura Beth.

BBQ Fundraiser— We're just a couple of weeks away from our Tri-Tip fundraiser. Please ramp up your ticket sales to make the event an even greater good.

Coffee Bar Fundraising— we are very grateful to Kirk and Kathy M. for their generously having made possible a barista-style, selection of coffees. The lines are increasing on the Sundays we make this option available (while Mike Miller continues to brew the best version of Yuban possible for those who like their cup more straightforward). So far, it's such a hit that Kirk's goal of making a \$100 a month has been exceeded. There is even talk of a second, barista crew making these foamy delights available for a second Sunday a month. From the look of things, it will be welcomed.

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. **Stavrophore Elizabeth, of Kazan Skete**

suddenly appeared in the sky near the town of Tikhvin in northern Russia. On the spot where it came down to the ground, a church and monastery were established. The icon is named for the town of Tikhvin. Countless miracles have been wrought from this miraculous icon; many of the sick, especially, have received healing from it.

THE FEAST OF THE HOLY ICON OF THE MOTHER OF GOD, THE GUIDE [HODIGITRIA]

This icon was painted [written] on wood by the Evangelist Luke himself, and the All-holy Birth-giver of God saw this icon and blessed it. St. Luke gave this icon as a gift to the state official Theophilus, for whom he wrote the Acts of the Apostles. This icon was later brought from Antioch to Jerusalem; from Jerusalem Empress Eudocia took it and sent it to Constantinople as a gift to the emperor's sister, the pious Pulcheria. Pulcheria placed the icon in the church of Blachernae, a church she herself founded. The All-holy Birth-giver of God once appeared to two blind men and led them into the Church of Blachernae, before her icon, and there restored their sight. Because of this, this icon received the name Hodigitria—the Guide. When the armies of the Persian King Chozroes and the Scythian King Kagan attacked Constantinople, Patriarch Sergius brought this icon out and processed with it around the ramparts of the city. Then the All-holy Birth-giver of God saved the Christians from the non-Christians. The armies of the adversaries became confused, the sea became agitated, their boats sank, and the enemies who remained alive fled. Since then, this miracle of the All-holy Birth-giver of God has been commemorated on the Saturday of the Fifth Week of the Honorable Fast Season [Lent] with the chanting of the Akathist. During the time of iconoclasm, this icon was brought to the Monastery of the Pantocrator, and there it was sealed in a wall and a votive light [lampada] was left burning in front of it. It was later found just as it was when it had been sealed.

Reflection

Ceaseless repentance is necessary for a Christian until his last breath. St. Mark the Ascetic says: "Think and you will see that the mystery of devotion in the saints of God was realized through repentance." Repentance, even at the hour of death! The following incident occurred: An old ascetic and renowned spiritual father was dying, and he called for a priest to give him Holy Communion. Along the way a robber joined the priest and desired to see for himself how a holy man dies. The holy elder peacefully received Holy Communion and peacefully talked with the priest. The robber then wept and said: "Blessed are you! Alas, what kind of death will I be worthy of?" The holy elder suddenly became proud and responded to him: "Be as I am, and it will be for you as it is to me!" The robber returned along the road weeping all the time and lamenting over himself and, at that moment, fell dead. Then the people saw a "fool for Christ" weeping over the holy elder but dancing and singing over the robber. When he was asked the reason for this, he replied: "By pride that one [the elder] lost all merits; by repentance this one [the robber] reaped all the fruits!"

taken from the Prologue of Ochrid, 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)