



## Weekly Bulletin

# Orthodox Church of the Annunciation

### **The Gadarene Demoniac**

#### **Troparion of the Resurrec- tion, Tone 4**

When the women disciples learned from the angel, the joyous message of Thy Resurrection. They cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the Apostles: death is overthrown, Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy.

#### **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 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 22nd Sunday after Pentecost November 6th, Tone 4, Lu. 8:41-56**

The gospel for the twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost teaches us to trust even in cases which seem hopeless. This gospel (Lu. 8:41-56) brings together two episodes. A woman, who for twelve years had suffered from an issue of blood which long medical treatment had been unable to alleviate, touches Jesus and is healed. The ills which affect our bodies and souls are therefore not incurable, however serious and long-established they may be.

Even where apparent spiritual death is concerned, still one must hope against all hope. The daughter of Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue, seemed dead, and when Jesus said that she was not dead but asleep, the people ridiculed him. But he, taking the young girl by the hand, commanded her to arise, and she arose. Thus we must not despair, either for oneself or for others, even when the appearance of spiritual death has set in. One must never say: "For me or for this or that person, nothing can be done".

In such extreme cases, one can no longer count on human intervention: one must allow Jesus alone to work in a sinful soul. "And he put them all out, and took her by the hand...". This great message of hope, which coincides more or less with the beginning of Advent, show that portions of the Scriptures which are fixed quite independently of it can harmonize with this liturgical period. The gospel for today also speaks, in its own way, of the victory of light over darkness.

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

### **From the Lives of the Saints.. SAINT PAUL THE CONFES- SOR, PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE**

When Blessed Patriarch Alexander lay on his deathbed, the sorrowing faithful asked him who he would have follow him as the chief shepherd of the spiritual flock of Christ. He said: "If you desire a shepherd who will teach you and who will shine with virtues, choose Paul; but if you only want a suitable man, externally adorned, choose Macedonius." The people chose Paul.

Unfortunately, this was not accepted by the Arian heretics, nor was it accepted by Emperor Constantius, who was then in Antioch. Paul was soon deposed, and fled to Rome with St. Athanasius the Great. In Rome, Pope Julian and Emperor Constans received them warmly and upheld them in their Orthodox Faith. Emperor Constans and Pope Julian saw to it that Paul was returned to his throne, but when Emperor Constans died the Arians raised their heads again, and Patriarch Paul was banished to Cucusus in Armenia.

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## **Announcements and Activities**

**Divine Liturgy for the Feast day of the Archangel Michael**— Tuesday, at 8:30 AM (not the usual 9AM).

**Saturday Great Vespers**— Saturday, at 5:30 pm.

**Divine Liturgy**— Sunday, at 10AM.

**Church School/Adult Ed.**— Sunday, November 20th, at 9AM.

**Coffee Hours**— This week's Coffee Hour is being sponsored by Mike Me. And Edie O. Next week's Coffee Hour will be our coffee and bagels week.

**Christmas Wreaths**— Matushka needs the number of wreaths you have sold by the end of today.

**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. 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. **Jonathan**— ill. **Sonja**— Sunday's daughter-in-law who gave birth through C-section and is recovering. Congratulations! Reposed **Metropolitan Herman**, former Metropolitan of the Orthodox Church in America. **Reposed Armand**— former member of our parish.. **Reposed Barbara Ranjo. Reposed Matushka Ann Hopko, Tom Wood**— heart surgery. **Fr. And Matushka's Granddaughter Annabella is battling and persistent illness. Reposed: Fr. Maximos of St. Silouan Monastery, Laure** — battling Cancer. **Laure**— battling cancer. **Paul**— ill **Ralph**—ill **McGees**— ill

Once, as Paul was celebrating the Divine Liturgy in exile, he was attacked by the Arians and strangled with his omophorion, in the year 351 A.D. In 381 A.D., during the reign of Emperor Theodosius, Paul's relics were transferred to Constantinople, and in the year 1236 A.D. they were translated to Venice, where they still repose. His beloved priests and notaries, Marcian and Martyrius (October 25), suffered soon after their patriarch.

**THE VENERABLE BARLAAM OF KHUTYN, THE MIRACLE-WORKER**  
Barlaam was born and raised as a Christian in Novgorod the Great. After the death of his parents, he was tonsured a monk and devoted himself to a life of strict asceticism. He founded a monastery on the bank of the Volkhov River, at a place where a heavenly light appeared to him.

Barlaam was a great miracle-worker both during his life and after his death: he saw into the secrets of men's hearts, expelled unclean spirits and healed all sicknesses. After his repose, a servant of Prince Vasili Vasilievich became gravely ill and begged to be taken to the saint's grave. He further instructed them that, if he should die on the way, they should carry his dead body to the saint. And thus it happened-- he died on the way and they carried him dead to the monastery, where he returned to life, stood up and prostrated before the grave of the saint.

In the year 1471 A.D., Tsar Ivan the Terrible ordered that the saint's grave be dug up. As soon as they began to dig, a flame sprang from the grave and flared up along the walls of the church. The Tsar was so frightened that he ran out of the church and, in his haste, forgot his staff, which is still preserved beside the grave of the saint. The commemoration of this miracle is celebrated on the Friday after the Sunday of All Saints.

### **COMMEMORATION OF THE FALLING OF ASH FROM THE SKY**

This took place in Constantinople in the year 472 A.D.\*) during the reign of Emperor Leo the Great and Patriarch Gennadius. (See "Reflection" below.)

### **REFLECTION**

If God can bring forth water from a rock as a comfort to men, He is also able to send down fire from the heavens as a punishment. The fate of Sodom and Gomorrah is a classic example of God's punishment upon incorrigible sinners. That God can repeat this punishment was demonstrated over Constantinople in the year 472 A.D., during the time of Emperor Leo the Great and Patriarch Gennadius. At noon on November 6 of that year, the sky became overcast with thick, dark clouds, causing darkness on the land. These clouds turned red as fire, then became dark, and alternated their appearance continuously. This phenomenon over Constantinople lasted for a full forty days. The frightened people turned to repentance and prayer. With the emperor and patriarch, they walked in procession through the streets from church to church and prayed to God with tears and lamentation. On the final day hot black ash fell like rain from evening until midnight, then stopped. The following day dawned clear and bright, but the sooty ash lay on the ground to a depth of nine inches. With great effort, the people cleaned their houses and streets of this sooty ash, but the crops in the field were utterly destroyed. All who had understanding, understood that this was God's punishment, and that it was God's gentle punishment because the people hastened to repent before Him. Had it not been for this profound repentance for their great and accumulated sins, who knows what would have happened to Constantinople in those days? But the timely repentance of sinners, and the prayers of the Most-holy Theotokos, as well as the prayers of the countless saints and martyrs of Constantinople, greatly lessened the punishment.

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)*