



Weekly Bulletin

Orthodox Church of the Annunciation

The Healing on the Sabbath

Troparion of the Resurrec- tion, Tone 7

By Thy Cross, Thou didst destroy 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 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 25th Sunday after Pentecost November 27th, Tone 7, Lu. 13:10-17

A woman who had been bowed down with an infirmity for eighteen years is healed on the Sabbath day by Jesus, in a synagogue where he is preaching. The ruler of the synagogue gives vent to his indignation at the day of rest being violated by this work of mercy. Jesus, to the shame of his adversaries and the joy of the people, answers that, if no one thinks anything of loosing his ox or his ass to take it to water on the Sabbath, then there is much stronger reason to release a daughter of Abraham on this day.

Most of us strongly approve of this lesson from the gospel for the twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost (Lu. 13:10-17); in principle, we are absolutely in agreement with the free attitude of Jesus towards the Sabbath and are very ready to accuse the hypocrisy and legalism of the Pharisees and to take a stand against them. But, in fact, it often happens that we imitate them. We are easily shocked by any good work which is not done “according to the rules” – that is, what we ourselves consider to be the indispensable rules. If a person or a group whose beliefs differ from ours, or who belong to a political party of which we disapprove, or that we judge to be morally inferior, achieve some results that are objectively good, but that we did not expect to come from that side, our first instinctive reaction (which is often concealed) is one of skepticism, of resentment or bitterness.

Church people are especially prone to the temptation to denigrate and condemn all that is not of “their” orthodoxy. Let this gospel teach us, therefore, to become humble enough, amenable enough to all light from above to admit – with joy and gratitude – the good that can be done through other channels than those which, rightly or wrongly, we consider “proper”. May God make us able, when faced by any “healing on the Sabbath,” to feel what the people who surrounded Jesus felt: “...all the people rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him.”

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

From the Lives of the Saints.. THE HOLY MARTYR JAMES THE PERSIAN

James was born of Christian parents in the Persian city of Elapa (or Vilat), brought up in the Christian Faith and married to a Christian woman. The Per-
he gospel for the twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost teaches us to trust even in

Announcements and Activities

Burial of Marianne Zacharellis— a longtime member of the parish who was living with assisted care in Lompoc, Marianne reposed this past week, on the Feast of the Theotokos' entrance into the temple. The funeral will take place at 11AM, Thursday, Dec. 1st, at the Hall.

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

Divine Liturgy— Sunday, at 10AM.

Surgery for Fr. Lawrence— Father will have his second cataract surgery on Tuesday. He will be resting at home for a day or two., but available by text and phone if needed.

Church School/Adult Ed.— Sunday, December 4th, at 9AM.

Coffee Hours— This week's Coffee Hour is our monthly potluck... Next week's Coffee Hour will be our bagels and coffee week (schedule was changed).

Parish Council—met last week. We adopted a deficit budget of around 2K. We discussed our mortgage pay-off, the upcoming Annual Meeting and our Fundraisers.

Fundraisers- We are gearing up for our Christmas Bazaar fundraiser on Saturday, December 3rd. From 10AM to 2PM. Please check the sign-up list whiteboard in the hall to remind yourselves of what you signed up for. We will need everyone who does not have a compelling reason to stay home to come and to help. See Aaron if you're looking for a job and please bake some cookies or another baked good if you're able. Set up, first crew will need to arrive around 9AM. Thanks.. Wreaths should be here soon and we will launch our Online Auction very soon. The Lord bless you and all our undertakings.

sian King Yezdegeherd took a liking to James for his talents and skillfulness, and made him a noble at his court. Flattered by the king, James was deluded and began offering sacrifices to the idols that the king worshiped. His mother and wife learned of this, and wrote him a letter of reproach in which they grieved over him as an apostate and one who was spiritually dead. Yet, at the end of the letter, they begged him to repent and return to Christ. Moved by this letter, James repented bitterly, and courageously confessed his faith in Christ the Lord to the king. Angered, the king condemned him to death by a special torture: his entire body was to be cut up, piece by piece, until he breathed his last. The executioners fulfilled this command of the wicked king to the letter, and cut off James's fingers, then his toes, his legs and arms, his shoulders, and

A sweet-smelling fragrance, as of a cypress, emanated from the wounds. Thus, this wonderful man repented of his sin and presented his soul to Christ his God in the Kingdom of Heaven. James suffered in about the year 400 A.D. His head is to be found in Rome and a part of his relics in Portugal, where he is commemorated on May 22.

THE SEVENTEEN VENERABLE MARTYRS OF INDIA

They were Christian monks who suffered at the hands of the Indian King Abenner. Enraged at Elder Barlaam because he baptized his son, Ioasaph, King Abenner sent men in pursuit of him. The pursuers did not capture Barlaam, but captured seventeen other monks and brought them to the king. The king condemned them to death and his men plucked out their eyes, severed their tongues, broke their arms and legs, and then beheaded them. Even so, the Christian Faith in the Kingdom of India was strengthened all the more by the blood of these knights of Christ.

THE VENERABLE ROMANUS THE WONDERWORKER

Romanus lived a life of asceticism in the vicinity of Antioch. He never kindled a fire or lit a candle in his cell. He reposed peacefully, and was a miracle-worker both during his life and after his death. He intercedes for barren women when they offer prayer to him.

THE VENERABLE PINUPHRIUS

Pinuphrius was a contemporary of St. John Cassian (February 29) and a great Egyptian ascetic. He lived in the fourth century and carried out his life of asceticism in various places, always fleeing the praise of men. He had many disciples, who strove to imitate the lofty example of their teacher.

THE VENERABLE NATHANIEL

Nathaniel was a Nitrian monk. He prayed to God both day and night, and was enlightened by the contemplation of divine matters. He neither left his cell nor even crossed the threshold for a full thirty-eight years. He entered into rest in the Lord in the second half of the sixth century.

(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)