



## Weekly Bulletin

# Orthodox Church of the Annunciation

**The 12th Sunday after Pentecost  
September 4th , Tone 3, Matt.19:16-26**

**Forgive Us...As  
We Forgive**

**Troparion of the Resurrec-  
tion, Tone 2**

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life Immortal, Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead! And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, all the powers of heaven cried out: O Giver of Life! Christ our God! Glory to Thee!

**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 gospel tells of a rich and powerful man—"a ruler"- who asks Jesus what was needed to inherit eternal life. Jesus reminds him of the commandments. "All these have I kept from my youth up...". He lacks one thing, Jesus tells him: to sell all his goods and distribute them to the poor. "And to follow me..." But the man goes sorrowfully away, "for he was very rich". And Jesus says that it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into the Kingdom of God.

Sometimes it is material wealth which stops a man from entering the kingdom but there are possessions other than money. Beauty, intelligence, perhaps some disordered human affection or bad habit: these, just as much, can be hindrances which Jesus tells us to free ourselves of before following him. What are the earthly goods which hold and hinder me, personally, from following Jesus? How can I put these possessions to the service of the poor and thus liberate my will? The gospel for this Sunday faces each one of us with this question. It is a good question to consider at the time of Christmas, at the time when Jesus comes to us in complete poverty, possessing nothing.

In the Epistle read today (Col. 3:12-16) St. Paul enjoins us to adopt an attitude "of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long-suffering...and above all these things put on charity". This, again, is a message which harmonizes singularly well with that of the manger at Bethlehem. The apostle emphasizes the calm and joyous nature of Christian Life. "Let the peace of God rule in your hearts...singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."

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

**From the Lives of the Saints... THE HOLY HIEROMAR-  
TYR (PRIESTLY-MARTYR) BABYLAS**

This "great and wonderful man, if he could be called a man"--as St. John Chrysostom spoke of him--was Bishop of Antioch during the reign of the wicked Emperor Numerian. This Numerian concluded a peace treaty with a barbarian king, who was more noble and peace-loving than he. As a sign of his sincere desire for a lasting peace, the barbarian king gave his young son to be brought up and educated in Numerian's court. One day Numerian stabbed this

## **Announcements and Activities**

**Great Vespers for the Feast of the Nativity of the Mother of God** – Wednesday, at 6PM.

**Divine Liturgy for the Feast**– Thursday, at 9AM

**Saturday Great Vespers**– 5:30 PM.

**Divine Liturgy**– Sunday, at 10AM.

**Mortgage Drive**– We have reached the date we stated would end the drive. We are short of our goal but we have directed additional support elsewhere, to our seminary family, the Taylors, and to the Iconography. Council asked if I might do two things: extend the drive through November 1 and write a letter stating the aims and benefits of our sacrifices. I agreed to do both. You'll be receiving the letter from your parish council soon. Thank you for your kind consideration in these matters..

**Coffee Hours**– This week's Coffee Hour is being sponsored by Tricia and Kirk and Kathy. Next week is our Bagels and Coffee week.

**Cleanup**– most of you will have noticed that we were able to get rid of the incredibly large pile of trimmings and weeds last Saturday's work crew was able to pile. Again, thank you for your hard work. We will need another day to clean debris and a few remaining weeds and trimmings, but I would suggest that 80% of the work was accomplished toward improving that side of our parking lot. Way to go, people!!!

**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!

innocent boy to death with his own hands, and offered him as a sacrifice to the idols. Still hot from the crime and the innocent blood, this criminal with an emperor's crown went to a Christian church to see what was going on there. St. Babylas was at prayer with the people, and heard that the emperor had come with his retinue and desired to enter the church. Babylas interrupted the service, went out in front of the church, and told the emperor that as he was an idolater he could not enter the holy temple where the one, true God was glorified. In a homily about Babylas, St. John Chrysostom said: "Who else in the world would he fear--he who, with such authority, repulsed the emperor?... By this, he taught emperors not to overreach their authority beyond the measure given to them by God, and he also showed the clergy how to use their own authority." The shamed emperor turned back, but planned revenge. The following day, he summoned Babylas and berated him, urging him to offer sacrifice to the idols, which, of course, the saint steadfastly refused to do. The emperor then bound Babylas and cast him into prison. The emperor also tortured three children: Urban, age twelve, Prilidian, age nine, and Hippolitus, age seven. Babylas was their spiritual father and teacher, and they, out of love for him, had not run away. They were the sons of Christodula, an honorable Christian woman who had herself suffered for Christ. The emperor first ordered that each child be beaten with a number of blows corresponding to his years, and then had them cast into prison. He finally had all three beheaded with the sword. The chained Babylas was present at the beheading of the children and encouraged them. After that, he laid his own honorable head under the sword. He was buried in his chains by the Christians, in the same grave as those three wondrous children, as he had willed before his martyrdom. Their holy souls flew off to their heavenly habitation, while their miracle-working relics remained for the benefit of the faithful, as a constant witness to their heroism in the Faith. They suffered in about the year 250.

### **THE HOLY PROPHET MOSES THE GOD-SEER**

Moses was a great leader and the lawgiver of Israel. He was born in Egypt in about 1550 B.C. For forty years, he lived at the court of the pharaoh; for forty years, he lived as a shepherd in contemplation of God and the world; and for his remaining forty years, he led the people through the wilderness to the Promised Land. He beheld the Promised Land, but was not allowed to enter it, for he had once sinned against God (Numbers 20:12). Moses reposed at the age of 120. As a miracle-worker, he was a prefiguring of Christ, according to St. Basil the Great. He appeared from the other world on Mount Tabor during the Lord's Transfiguration. According to the witness of St. John Climacus, he appeared also to the monks in the Monastery of Mount Sinai. **THE**

### **HOLY MARTYRS MARCELLUS AND CASSIAN**

Emperor Maximian Hercules once issued a command that all of his soldiers had to offer sacrifices to the idols. Marcellus was a soldier at that time, and Cassian was a notary (secretary). Marcellus, a Christian, declared: "If the military calling is bound up with sacrifice to idols, then I cannot be a soldier!" He removed his military belt and arms and cast them aside. He was immediately sentenced to death. Cassian's duty was to write Marcellus's death sentence, but he refused to write it. They were beheaded together, and their souls took up habitation in the Kingdom of Heaven.

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)*