



Weekly Bulletin

Orthodox Church of the Annunciation

"The Feast of the Transfiguration"

Troparion of the Resurrec- tion, 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 of Transfiguration, Tone 4

Thou wast transfigured on the mountain, O Christ God, revealing Thy glory to Thy Disciples as far as they could bear it. Let Thine everlasting Light also shine upon us sinners, through the prayers of the Theotokos!!! O Giver of Light, glory to Thee!

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, Tone 1, August 13th, Matt. 17:14-21

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".

From the Lives of the Saints... THE HOLY MARTYR HIPPOLYTUS

Hippolytus was a military leader and the overseer of the prisons in Rome. He was born and raised a pagan. When St. Lawrence the archdeacon was thrown into prison, Hippolytus was ordered by the emperor to be especially watchful

Announcements and Activities

Great Vespers for the Dormition of the Theotokos – Monday, at 6 PM

Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Dormition—Tuesday, at 9AM.

Great Vespers— Saturday, at 5:30PM

Divine Liturgy— Sunday, at 10AM

Coffee Hour— This week's Coffee Hour is our monthly bagels and coffee. Today is the last Sunday of the Dormition Fast. The fast will end with the Liturgy on Tuesday morning. Next week's Coffee Hour will be sponsored by Mike M. and Steve and Luci F.

Church School/Adult Ed— summer recess until October.

Parish Council— today, after our Coffee Hour.

Pray for... Sarah, the daughter of Fr. Lawrence's godfather, health issues. **Youseff and Jimmy**— who are ill. **Jonathan**— ill. **Reposed Barbara Ranjo**. . **Laure**— battling Cancer. **Paul**— ill **Ralph**—ill **Archpriest Lawrence**, from Canada, progressive eye disease. **Tsige Roman**— our beloved Tsige reposed on December 3rd. Please keep praying for her homeland of Ethiopia. **Brian**— ill. **Jonathan**— ill. **Katia**— sister of Shkbarra's **Grace**, Heather's god-daughter. **Reposed Priest, James**. **Reposed Hierarch Tikhon**. **Rufin**—soldier in Ukraine. **Elise**, ill. **Sally**, surgery, **Reposed Patrick**, **Reposed Jim**, **Reposed Alex**; **Christian**, prayers. **Chris**, reposed. **Galina**, reposed. **Patrick**, reposed. **Clint Arsenios**— reposed. **Heather Mary**— uncommon fatigue **Lou Mendez**. **Battling** ongoing health issues. **George and Steve**, a request from Luci. F. Dr. Joseph— personal needs.

of this prisoner. Hippolytus saw with his own eyes how Lawrence restored the sight of the blind man Lucillus, and how Lawrence cured many others who were sick--and he [Hippolytus] came to believe in Christ. When Lawrence baptized him, Hippolytus had a heavenly vision, and spoke of it: "I saw innocent souls in great happiness, in the heavens." He then took Lawrence into his own household, and Lawrence baptized all the members (nineteen in all, including the old governess Concordia). When Lawrence was slain for Christ, Hippolytus transported the body of the martyr by night, wrapped it in a winding sheet, and honorably buried it. However, this came to the attention of Emperor Decius. On the third day following the martyrdom of Lawrence, Hippolytus was arrested and brought before the emperor. As he refused to deny the true Faith, he was struck on the mouth with stones. After that, the emperor ordered that Hippolytus be stripped naked and flogged. Naked before the emperor, he said: "You have not stripped me--you have begun to clothe me!" Then they stretched him out on the ground and beat him mercilessly. Hippolytus's only response was: "I am a Christian." The emperor, upon hearing that all of Hippolytus's household were Christians, ordered that they all be arrested. The aged Concordia said: "We prefer to die honorably with our master in the Christian Faith than to live dishonorably with you, who are unclean." Concordia was the first to be slain, and after her the remaining eighteen were slain, all before the eyes of Hippolytus. Finally they tied Hippolytus to a wild horse and dragged him relentlessly, until the martyr gave up his soul to God.

SAINT TIKHON OF ZADONSK AND VORONEZH

Tikhon was born in a simple peasant family in the village of Korotsk, in the providence of Novgorod, in the year 1724 A.D. He received the monastic tonsure at age thirty-four, and, because of his ascetic practice and great spiritual wisdom, he was soon elevated to higher positions of service, until he was consecrated Bishop of Voronezh. His episcopacy lasted for almost five years, but, because of frail health, he withdrew and took up residence in the Monastery of Zadonsk. He died peacefully in the year 1783 A.D. in Zadonsk, where his miracle-working relics now repose. He was a great ascetic of the Russian Church, a rare shepherd, a strong intercessor, and the author of the most beautiful spiritual works. By his wisdom, holiness and asceticism, Tikhon can be equated with the great fathers of the Orthodox Church of ancient times. Because of the many witnessed miracles that were performed over his relics, he was proclaimed a saint, first by the people, then officially by the Church in the year 1861 A.D.

THE VENERABLE EMPRESS IRENE, IN MONASTICISM CALLED XENIA [KSENIA]

Empress Irene was the wife of Emperor John Comnenus II (1118-1143 A.D.) who was also known as Kalo-John--John the Good. In addition to her monastic asceticism and many good works, Irene is also famous for building the Monastery of the Pantocrator [Almighty], one of the most glorious and most beautiful monasteries in Constantinople. St. Stefan of Dečani later lived a life of asceticism in this monastery.

Taken from, *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)