



Weekly Bulletin

Orthodox Church of the Annunciation

The After-feast of Theophany

The Troparion of the Resur- rection, Tone 5

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the word, coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born for our salvation from the Virgin; for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death, and to raise the dead, by His glorious Resurrection.

Troparion of Theophany, Tone 4

When Thou, O Lord was baptized in the Jordan, the Worship of the Trinity was made manifest. For the voice of the Father bear witness to Thee and called Thee His beloved Son. And the Spirit in the Form of a Dove, confirmed the truthfulness of His words. O Christ, our God Who hast revealed Thyself, and hast enlightened the world, 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 30th Sunday after Pentecost, January 8th, Matt. 4:12-17

This Sunday falls between January 7th and 13th. The gospel (Matt. 4:12-17) is like an echo of the Feast of Epiphany. It starts by mentioning the imprisonment of the Precursor, something we shall speak of later on. At this news, Jesus leaves the region of the Jordan. He comes back into Galilee and stays at Capernaum. Thus, says the gospel, the prophecy of Isaiah concerning the land of Zebulun and the land of Nephthalim is fulfilled: “The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up”.

The light reminds us that Epiphany is the “feast of lights”. The Light manifested on the banks of the Jordan now spreads into Galilee. Little by little, it will spread to the whole world. Jesus begins to preach. The theme of his preaching is exactly the same as John’s: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand”. But, for John, the kingdom was “coming”, whereas for Jesus, the kingdom is already “at hand”: the kingdom is now identified with Him who announces it. Jesus is the essence and the power of the Kingdom. Nevertheless, this kingdom is only at its beginning. We shall see it grow, and it will not cease from growing until the end of time. This is what the epistle read at the Liturgy (Eph. 4:7-13) announces, in which St. Paul declares that when the edification of Christ’s body is completed we shall “all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.”

The liturgical year, and abridgement of the history of salvation, represents this growth symbolically for us, from Christmas until the time after Pentecost. It thus outlines the development of our own inner life— the life of Christ in us.

Taken from the Year of Grace of the Lord, by a Monk of the Eastern Church

From the Lives of the Saints....

THE HOLY MARTYRS JULIAN AND BASILISSA

Julian and Basilissa were of noble and wealthy parents. United in marriage, they vowed to live chastely as brother and sister. They distributed all of their property to the poor and both were tonsured. Julian founded a monastery and Basilissa founded a convent. Julian had about ten-thousand monks and Basilis-

Announcements and Activities

Great Vespers— Saturday, at 5:30PM.

Divine Liturgy— Sunday, at 10AM.

House Blessings— Father Lawrence has a sign-up sheet out in the Social Hall. It runs through next Sunday. Most dinner-time slots are filled. We can start scheduling the next week if you'd like to. Just see Fr. Lawrence about the day you desire.

Church School/Adult Ed.— January 15th, at 9AM.

Coffee Hours— This week's Coffee Hour is our bagels and coffee week. Next week's Coffee Hour will be sponsored by Brian, Kerrie and Aaron.

Parish Council— will meet for the last time before the Annual Meeting today, after Coffee Hour.

Annual Meeting— our year end meeting will take place after the Liturgy and a potluck meal on Sunday, January 22nd. All parish members should be present. Voting members are those who are at least 18 years old; have been to Confession and Communion at least once in the last 12 months; and regularly support the parish through their gifts of Time, Talent and Resources. We will need to establish a quorum so even those who may not have the strength to stay for the whole meeting, generally around 60-90 minutes can come long enough for your name to be counted. Your parish council and I thank you..

Pray for... Hierarch Nikolai (Soraich)—battling cancer. **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 Vlada Benjamin**— battling on-set parkinsons. **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-inlaw. **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-inlaw 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 **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

sa about a thousand nuns. When a terrible persecution began under Diocletian, Basilissa implored God that none of her nuns would become frightened of the tortures and would not fall away from the Orthodox Faith. The Lord heard the prayers of His worthy handmaiden and, in the course of six months, received unto Himself all the nuns, one by one, and finally their abbess, Basilissa. Before her death, Basilissa had a vision of her nuns from the other world. All of them appeared to her radiant and joyful as angels of God, and beckoned their spiritual mother to come to them as soon as possible. Unlike Basilissa's convent, Julian's monastery was set ablaze by the persecutors, and Julian was inhumanly tortured and reposed amidst the most difficult sufferings. During his tortures, the Lord watched over him and strengthened him, so that he heroically endured, preserved his Faith, and glorified the name of Christ. Beheaded with Julian were Celsus and Maronilla, the son and the wife of the tormentor Marcian, who--witnessing Julian's heroism in suffering and torture--were themselves converted to the Christian Faith. Also beheaded were twenty Roman soldiers, seven brothers from that town, the presbyter Anthony, and a certain Anastasius, whom Julian, at the time of his torture, resurrected from the dead by prayer. All suffered honorably for Christ and became citizens of the Heavenly Kingdom in about the year 313 A.D.

THE VENERABLE GEORGE THE CHOZIBITE

George lived an ascetical life in the seventh century in the Choziba Monastery in Jericho on the road from Jerusalem, the monastery where the Venerable John the Chozibite first led an ascetical life.

SAINT DOMNICA

During the reign of Emperor Theodosius, Domnica, unbaptized, came from Carthage to Constantinople with four other pagan maidens. Patriarch Macarius baptized them and gave his blessing to them to live as nuns. With great zeal, St. Domnica gave herself up to a life of asceticism and did not waver in that zeal until her death in extreme old age. She reposed in the Lord in about 474 A.D. She was so enlightened by the Holy Spirit that she was able to discern events in the future and work miracles through prayer.

SAINT GREGORY, BISHOP OF OHRID

Gregory was a devout teacher and shepherd of Christ's flock. He reposed in the year 1012 A.D. In one of the inscriptions in the Church of St. Sophia, he is referred to as "Gregory, the all-wise.

REFLECTION

On one of the stones in the Church of St. Sophia, the following words were engraved: "Wash your sins, not only your face." Whoever entered this glorious church read this inscription and remembered that the Christian Faith requires of him moral purity: purity of the soul, purity of the heart and purity of the mind. Inasmuch as the complete spiritual man is concentrated in the heart of man, the Lord also said: Blessed are the pure in heart (Matthew 5:8). Total external cleanliness does not help at all in gaining the Kingdom of Heaven. Oh, if only we would invest as much effort in washing ourselves from sins as we invest daily in washing our faces, then God would truly be seen in our hearts as though in a mirror!

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)