



Weekly Bulletin

Orthodox Church of the Annunciation

"The Man Healed of Palsy"

Troparion of the Resurrec- tion, 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 Annunciation, 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 6th Sunday after Pentecost, Tone 5, July 16th, Matt. 9:1-8

The gospel for the sixth Sunday after Pentecost (Matt. 9:1-8) describes Jesus healing the man sick of the palsy. It throws light on the relationship between the forgiveness of sins — “Son...thy sins be forgiven thee” — and physical healing — “Arise, take up thy bed”. Jesus, who is able to heal the man’s palsy therefore also has, despite the indignation of the scribes, the right to forgive sins. The episode has already been read as the gospel for the second Sunday of Lent (Mk. 2:1-12); ...

We continue the reading from the epistle to the (Romans 12:6-14). St. Paul, after his long discourse on the nature of faith and justification, goes on to practical questions. All of us, he says, have ‘gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us’. One is called to prophesy, another to teach, another to preach, another to administer. These different ministries must be exercised in a spirit of faith and loyalty to the particular grace received. We see that Paul does not limit the individual gifts to the high functions we have just listed: he considers that giving alms and works of mercy are also ministries which correspond to a special grace. ‘He that giveth, let him do it with simplicity . . . he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.’ These last two points, simplicity in almsgiving, and cheerfulness in works of mercy deserve to be meditated on seriously by everyone. From this, Paul goes on to the duties that are common to all: love, zeal, hope, patience, perseverance in prayer, hospitality.

He concludes by advising us to bless, and not to curse, our persecutors. This epistle, besides the general duties to which it calls us, raises the question of our own special ‘gift’ or ‘ministry’. I must examine before God what my own particular vocation is, what gift I have received to share with others. But I can also bear in mind that every action which immediate circumstances necessitate, and every situation in which I am placed by the divine will at any moment, constitutes in itself a sort of temporary vocation and ministry.

There is a special grace corresponding to each minute of my life, if that minute is offered to God. No detail of life is without importance or without a blessing, as long as one knows how to see, in that detail, the reflection of a

Announcements and Activities

Divine Liturgy for St. Gerasim of Boldino – Thursday, July 20th, at 8:30AM (not the usual 9, as Fr. Lawrence has to pick up Matushka at the airport). Come and venerate the saint whose relics came all the way from Russia and who continues to be a strong and active intercessor for Annunciation Church.

Great Vespers– Saturday, at 5:30 PM

Divine Liturgy—Sunday, at 10AM.

Coffee Hour– This week’s Coffee Hour is being sponsored by Nina and Efrosinia. Next week’s Coffee Hour will be sponsored by Mike Mi. and Alex B.

Church School/Adult Ed– summer recess until October.

Parish Council– met and we adopted a deficit Treasurer’s report for June. We discussed the upcoming consecration and a number of other timely issues .

August BBQ Fundraiser– last week we distributed tickets for the BBQ on Saturday, August 19. We gave out 100 and hope we will give out another 100 today. We will need help with all aspects of the fundraiser: set up, cooking, preparing plates and, as of right now, selling tickets. I think everyone will be delighted with the food, so let’s be sure to get those tickets sold. Thank you!

Pray for... Sarah, the daughter of Fr. Lawrence’s godfather, health issues. **Youseff and Jimmy– who are ill. Matushka Ann Hopko,** reposed. **Jonathan– ill. Reposed Barbara Ranjo. Fr. And Matushka’s Granddaughter Annabella is past her illness, but still needs prayer for the return all body parts to normal. 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 goddaughter. **Reposed Priest, James. Reposed Hierarch Tikhon . Diane– surgery. 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.

divine gift calling, on man’s part, for a loving and trustful response.

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

From the Lives of the Saints...

THE PRIESTLY-MARTYR ATHENOGENES, BISHOP OF SEBASTE IN ARMENIA

Athenogenes lived in a monastery near the town of Sebaste with ten of his disciples. During the reign of Diocletian, Philomarchus, a cruel persecutor of Christians, came to Sebaste. He arrested and murdered many Christians in the town. When he saw Athenogenes and his disciples, he told the elder to offer a sacrifice to the idols so as not to perish, as had the other Christians. Athenogenes replied to him: "O persecutor, those whom you mention as having perished have not perished, but are in the heavens and are rejoicing with the angels." Just then, a doe [a female deer] that the merciful Athenogenes usually fed with his own hand ran up to him and, seeing him in great jeopardy, began to shed tears. Even the wild beasts of the mountains had greater pity toward the martyrs of Christ than the heathens did! After cruel tortures, during which an angel of God comforted the martyrs, they were all beheaded, first the priests and all the fellow laborers of Athenogenes, and then Athenogenes himself. All were received into the heavenly homeland in the year 311 A.D.

THE HOLY FEMALE MARTYR JULIA THE VIRGIN

Julia was born in Carthage of a distinguished lineage. When the Persians captured Carthage, many people were taken into slavery. Saint Julia was captured and enslaved, and fell into the hands of a pagan merchant in Syria. Seeing that Julia was a Christian, he counseled her on many occasions to deny Christ and become one in faith with him, but Julia would in no way agree to this. Since Julia was faithful and trustworthy in service, the merchant left her in peace and did not speak to her about faith again. On one occasion, the merchant loaded his boat with goods and took Julia along with him on a business trip to distant lands. When they arrived at Corsica, there was a pagan feast, and the merchant joined in this blasphemous offering of sacrifice, but Julia remained aboard the boat, weeping that so many men lived in foolish error and did not know the truth. But somehow the pagans discovered her, removed her from the boat against the objections of her master, and began to brutally torture her. They severed her breasts and threw her onto a rock, and then they crucified her on a cross, upon which St. Julia gave up her soul to God. Her death was revealed by an angel of God to the monks on the nearby island of Margarita (or Gorgona), and they honorably buried the body of the martyr. Over the centuries many miracles have occurred at the grave of St. Julia, and the saint herself has appeared from the other world to some. She suffered honorably in the sixth century. After many years, the faithful wanted to erect a new church in honor of St. Julia in another place, since the old church was small and dilapidated. Therefore, they gathered building material on a new site: stone, bricks, sand, and all else that was required. It so happened that at night, on the eve of the day when they intended to lay the foundation, all of this material was moved by an invisible hand to the site of the old church. In confusion, the men again carried the materials to the new site, but the same thing happened again: the material was mysteriously returned to the old site beside the old church. The night watchman saw a shining maiden using white oxen to carry the material to the old church. From this, everyone understood that St. Julia did not wish her church to be built in another place, so they demolished the old church and on that same site built a new one.

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)