



## Weekly Bulletin

# Orthodox Church of the Annunciation

**"Take no thought for  
your life"**

**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 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 3rd Sunday after Pentecost,  
Tone 2, June 25th, Matt. 6:22-33**

The Gospels for the last two Sundays have shown us that, in order to follow Jesus, earthly preoccupations must be abandoned. We may ask: "But how then shall we live?" The gospel for the third Sunday after Pentecost (Matt. 6:22-33) puts us on guard against this anxiety. Jesus tells us that we must unify our inner life: "If therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light...No man can serve two masters...Ye cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I say unto you, take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on". If the heavenly Father feeds the birds of the air, if he clothes the lilies of the fields, which "toil not neither do they spin". With colors more glorious than those of Solomon himself, how much more will he see to our needs!

These words must be understood with discernment. There are men whom our Lord calls to follow him in absolute poverty. The majority of men have family and social responsibilities, and have to face them through work. As far as earthly goods are concerned, our Lord does not condemn the prudence which is called for by both justice and charity, but he does condemn avarice and the anxious care which indicate a lack of faith. "Your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things...But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you".

Let both him whose special vocation it is to strip himself of everything, and him whose duty is to care for the material welfare of his family, be confident: the Father will not abandon them, but they must — the one and the another — seek, before all else, the Kingdom of God and its righteousness in their own consciences and round about them. These are the two main ideas—first of all, the search for the Kingdom of God, and then trust in the Father's goodness for life's necessities—to take away with us this morning from the church in which we heard the gospel read.

(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 CY-  
RUS AND JOHN**

These holy martyrs are commemorated on January 31, and their lives and suf-

## **Announcements and Activities**

**Great Vespers for the Feast of Ss. Peter and Paul**  
– Wednesday, at 6PM.

**Divine Liturgy**– Thursday, at 9AM. We'll have a few refreshments after the liturgy, for those able to stay.

**Great Vespers**– Saturday, at 5:30 PM

**Divine Liturgy**—Sunday, at 10AM.

**Coffee Hour**– This week's Coffee Hour is our monthly potluck. Next week's Coffee Hour will be sponsored by Gan and Virginia and Kyle and Erika. Coffee Hours will be fast free after today's coffee hour, until the Dormition Fast in August.

**Church School/Adult Ed**– summer recess until October.

**Moses the Black Akathist with Discussion**—was held on Monday. The attendance was sparse, but the presentations by Mike Miller, Elise and Magdalena were excellent. I'm going to try in the months to come, to appeal to you about the importance of our goal of education (adopted goal 2, in our parish Goals, Objectives and Activities). While there are a number of forums going on in the parish—bookclub, patristic reading group, Moses the Black fellowship, Church School/Adult Ed—, they are, for the most part, not well attended. I would like to make stoking our thirst for Orthodox education and formation one of the main themes of the remaining time of my pastorate at Annunciation. I, and your parish council, will be working with the forums we have and looking for new opportunities to “grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

**August BBQ Fundraiser**– We'll soon be ramping up for ticket sales for August 19th. We are grateful for your response toward the Syrian relief fundraiser. Council sincerely hopes you have an equally enthusiastic ‘fire’ for the BBQ. We are trying to limit some of our fundraising to selling tickets and coming to help on the day of the fundraiser. Toward this end, we decided to not have our spring food fair, as it involves all the extra food prep sessions. We will prepare for and do that in December: once, rather than twice in 2023.

**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.

ferings are described under that date. But June 28 commemorates the translation of their relics from Canopus to Menuthis and the numerous miracles that occurred through their relics. St. Cyril, the Patriarch of Alexandria, prayed fervently to God to destroy the idolatrous impurity in the town of Menuthis, where there was a pagan temple and where the power of the demons ruled. An angel of God appeared to the patriarch and told him that Menuthis would be cleansed of its impurity if he translated the relics of Saints Cyrus and John to that town. The patriarch did so immediately: he translated the relics of the martyrs to Menuthis and built a church there in honor of Saints Cyrus and John.

Through the relics of these martyrs, Ammonius, the son of Julian, the mayor of Alexandria, was healed of scorfula; a certain Theodore was healed of blindness; Isidore of Maiuma was cured of a wasting disease of the liver; the wife of Theodore of poisoning; a certain Eugenia of dropsy; and many other people were healed of various diseases and torments by the relics of these saints. All this occurred in the year 412 A.D.

### **VENERABLE SENNUPHIUS "THE STANDARD-BEARER"**

Sennuphius was a great ascetic and miracle-worker of the Egyptian desert and a contemporary of Patriarch Theophilus and Emperor Theodosius the Great. He is called the "Standard-bearer" because, by his prayers, he once helped Emperor Theodosius gain a victory over the army of his adversaries. When the emperor summoned Sennuphius to Constantinople, Sennuphius replied that he was unable to go, but sent him his tattered monastic habit and staff. Setting out to battle, the emperor donned Sennuphius's monastic habit and carried the staff, and he returned from battle victorious.

### **THE VENERABLE PAUL THE PHYSICIAN**

Paul was a Corinthian by birth. Completing his schooling, Paul withdrew to a monastery and was tonsured a monk. He had a difficult struggle with the impure spirit of fornication. When he had driven that spirit away from himself by the power of the Cross, it created a malicious falsehood, inciting a depraved woman to say that she had given birth to a child by Paul. Some heretics then dragged him from the monastery, placed the child in his arms, and forced him to walk through the town, so the people could spit on him.

The baby was only a few days old. St. Paul prayed fervently to God and said to the people: "Behold, let the child himself say who is his father." The child stretched out its hand from the swaddling clothes, pointed to a blacksmith and said: "That man is my father and not Paul the monk!" Paul's adversaries became ashamed, and God granted Paul great healing power, so that when he laid his hands on the sick they were healed. Paul reposed peacefully in old age, having pleased God by his life on earth. He lived in the seventh 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)*