



Weekly Bulletin

Orthodox Church of the Annunciation

The Raising of Jairus' Daughter

Troparion of the Resurrection, 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 22nd Sunday after Pentecost, Tone 5, November 5th, Lu. 8:41-56

The gospel for the twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost teaches us to trust even in cases which seem hopeless. This gospel (Lu. 8:41-56) brings together two episodes. A woman, who for twelve years had suffered from an issue of blood which long medical treatment had been unable to alleviate, touches Jesus and is healed. The ills which affect our bodies and souls are therefore not incurable, however serious and long-established they may be. Even where apparent spiritual death is concerned, still one must hope against all hope.

The daughter of Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue, seemed dead, and when Jesus said that she was not dead but asleep, the people ridiculed him. But he, taking the young girl by the hand, commanded her to arise, and she arose. Thus we must not despair, either for oneself or for others, even when the appearance of spiritual death has set in. One must never say: "For me or for this or that person, nothing can be done". In such extreme cases, one can no longer count on human intervention: one must allow Jesus alone to work in a sinful soul. "And he put them all out, and took her by the hand...". This great message of hope, which coincides more or less with the beginning of Advent, show that portions of the Scriptures which are fixed quite independently of it can harmonize with this liturgical period. The gospel for today also speaks, in its own way, of the victory of light over darkness.

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

From the Lives of the Saints... THE VENERABLE MARTYRS GALACTION AND EPISTEME

Both Galaction and Episteme were born in the city of Edessa, in Phoenicia. Galaction's mother was barren until she was baptized. After her baptism, she converted her husband [Cleithron] to the true Faith, baptized her son Galaction, and raised him in the Christian Faith. When Galaction was old enough to marry, his good mother, Leucippa, entered into rest, and his father betrothed him to a pagan-born maiden named Episteme. By no means did Galaction want to enter into marriage, and convinced Episteme to be baptized, then to be tonsured a nun at the same time that he became a monk. Both of them withdrew to

Announcements and Activities

Great Vespers— Saturday, at 5:30 PM.

Divine Liturgy— Sunday, at 10AM.

Coffee Hour— This week's Coffee Hour is being sponsored by Sunday and Rhoda. Next week's Coffee Hour will be our bagels and coffee week..

Church School/Adult Ed— was held today. Next meeting, Sunday, November 19th, at 9AM.

Consecration Committee Meeting— we'll meet again in December. In the meantime, I hope that you are working to inform us of those you might be interested in inviting to the Consecration and/or the banquet which will follow.

Wreaths— As you know, Matushka needs the number of wreaths you were able to sell today, so she can place the order. Please inform her of the number; no need to give her names.

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 . **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. **Lance**— special request for prayers. **Christian**— prayers for upcoming surgery. **Tonya**— husband took his own life. **Michelle**— looking for housing.

Mount Publion--Galaction to a monastery and Episteme to a convent. They proved to be shining lights in their monasteries. They were first in labor, first in prayer, first in humility and obedience, and first in love. They neither left their monasteries nor did they see one another until just before their death. A fierce persecution began and both of them were brought before the tribunal. When the pagans mercilessly whipped Galaction, Episteme wept. Then they whipped her. After that, they cut off their hands, their feet and then their heads. Their friend Eutolius took their bodies and honorably buried them. Eutolius had been a slave of Episteme's parents, and then a monk with Galaction. He also wrote the life of these wonderful martyrs of Christ who suffered and received their wreaths in heaven in the year 253 A.D.

THE HOLY APOSTLES PATROBAS, HERMES, LINUS, GAIUS AND PHILOLOGUS

They were of the Seventy. Patrobas was Bishop of Neapolis, Hermes of Philipopolis (Romans 16:14), Linus of Rome (II Timothy 4:21), Gaius of Ephesus (Roman 16:23), and Philologus of Synope (Romans 16:15). All of them fulfilled the Law of Christ with love and took up their abode in the Kingdom of Christ.

SAINT JONAH, ARCHBISHOP OF NOVGOROD

Jonah was born in Novgorod and was orphaned early. A certain God-fearing widow took him and educated him. Seeing him as a child, Michael, the fool-for-Christ of Klops said to him prophetically: "Ivanushka, study diligently, for you will become archbishop in Novgorod the Great." And indeed, following the death of Archbishop Euthymius, Jonah was chosen and consecrated in his place. Jonah was devout and merciful to a rare degree for a mortal man. He built churches and monasteries and cared for his flock as a true good shepherd. He was offered the throne of Moscow as Metropolitan but declined, excusing himself because of his age. He entered into rest peacefully on November 5, 1570 A.D., and settled in the joyful heavenly habitations. One hundred years following his death there was a great fire in Novgorod. The relics of this saint did not burn in the furious flames, but on the contrary, from then on manifested healing power and emitted a wonderful fragrance.

REFLECTION

Physical love, in comparison to spiritual love, is less than a shadow is to solid substance. Brotherhood and sisterhood of the blood and body is nothing compared to the brotherhood and sisterhood of the spirit. Galaction's father betrothed him to the maiden Episteme. Galaction baptized Episteme and, after that, both received the monastic tonsure. Their physical love was replaced by spiritual love, a love as strong as death. So great was Galaction's spiritual love for Episteme that he never desired to see her with his physical eyes. Neither physical contact nor closeness are necessary for spiritual love. So great was Episteme's spiritual love for Galaction that when she heard that he had been taken for torture she ran after him, begging him not to reject her, but to receive her as a fellow sufferer, as he was her spiritual father and brother. When the merciless torturers flogged holy Galaction's naked body, holy Episteme wept. However, when the torturers cut off their hands and feet for Christ, both rejoiced and glorified God. So great was the power of their love for our Lord Jesus Christ, and so great was the spiritual love with which they loved each other. Truly, physical love is like a colorful butterfly that quickly passes, but spiritual love is enduring.

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)