



## Weekly Bulletin

# Orthodox Church of the Annunciation

### **The Healing on the Sabbath**

#### **Troparion of the Resurrec- tion, Tone 8**

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One. Thou didst accept the three-day burial to free us from our sufferings. O Lord, our Life and Resurrection: 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 25th Sunday after Pentecost, Tone 8, November 26th, Lu. 13:10-17**

A woman who had been bowed down with an infirmity for eighteen years is healed on the Sabbath day by Jesus, in a synagogue where he is preaching. The ruler of the synagogue gives vent to his indignation at the day of rest being violated by this work of mercy. Jesus, to the shame of his adversaries and the joy of the people, answers that, if no one thinks anything of loosing his ox or his ass to take it to water on the Sabbath, then there is much stronger reason to release a daughter of Abraham on this day.

Most of us strongly approve of this lesson from the gospel for the twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost (Lu. 13:10-17); in principle, we are absolutely in agreement with the free attitude of Jesus towards the Sabbath and are very ready to accuse the hypocrisy and legalism of the Pharisees and to take a stand against them. But, in fact, it often happens that we imitate them. We are easily shocked by any good work which is not done “according to the rules” – that is, what we ourselves consider to be the indispensable rules. If a person or a group whose beliefs differ from ours, or who belong to a political party of which we disapprove, or that we judge to be morally inferior, achieve some results that are objectively good, but that we did not expect to come from that side, our first instinctive reaction (which is often concealed) is one of skepticism, of resentment or bitterness. Church people are especially prone to the temptation to denigrate and condemn all that is not of “their” orthodoxy. Let this gospel teach us, therefore, to become humble enough, amenable enough to all light from above to admit – with joy and gratitude – the good that can be done through other channels than those which, rightly or wrongly, we consider “proper”. May God make us able, when faced by any “healing on the Sabbath,” to feel what the people who surrounded Jesus felt: “...all the people rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him.”

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

### **From the Lives of the Saints... THE VENERABLE ALYPIUS THE STYLITE**

Alypius was born in Hadrianopolis, a city in Paphlagonia. From childhood, he was dedicated to the service of God. He served as a deacon with Bishop Theo-

## **Announcements and Activities**

**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 our bagels and coffee week..

**Church School/Adult Ed**— Next meeting, Sunday, December 17th, at 9AM, as we will do the Baptism for the Marchell's newborn, Margaret Catherine, before Liturgy on December 3rd.

**The Nativity Fast**— began on November 15th. No meat, eggs, dairy products may be served at Coffee Hours— including items containing these products, such as sour CREAM, MILK Chocolate, Cakes, doughnuts and baked goods containing these items, etc. Fish is permitted on all the Sundays of the fast except for December 24th, which is kept as a stricter fast. The fast ends with the celebration of the Christmas Divine Liturgy on the morning of Monday, December 25th. I pray you have a profitable season of spiritual labor. ALL members of the parish should find time to receive the Holy Sacrament of Confession during the days of the fast. Fr. Lawrence is available before and after Saturday Vespers and by appointment during the week.

**Ethnic Food Faire**— Saturday, December 2nd. Most of you have already signed up for one duty or another. We will need all the help we can get: setup, food servers, breakdown. Please plan to come and to help.

**Marchell Baptism**— the new addition to the Marchell family, Margaret Katherine, will be baptized on December 3, at 9AM. Let's come and share the joy.

**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 Shkbarara's . **Patrick**, 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. **Michelle**— looking for housing. Mike Meko's Mother-inlaw, **Lois**. Larissa's newly-reposed husband **Raphael**. Departed **Matushka Priscilla** and **Newly-departed, George Aaron C.** surgery. **Luci F.** upcoming surgery. **Newly- Departed Marylyn.**

dore in the church in that city. But, desirous of a life of solitude, prayer and meditation, Alypius withdrew to a Greek cemetery outside the city. This was a cemetery from which people fled in terror, because of frequent demonic visions seen there. Alypius set up a cross in the cemetery and built a church in honor of St. Euphemia, who had appeared to him in a dream. Beside the church, he built a tall pillar, climbed on top of it, and spent fifty-three years there in fasting and prayer. Neither the mockery of men nor the evil of the demons was able to drive him away or cause him to waver in his intention. Alypius especially endured countless assaults from demons. Not only did the demons try to terrorize him with apparitions, but stoned him as well, and gave him no peace, day or night, for a long time. The courageous Alypius protected himself from the power of the demons by the sign of the Cross and the name of Jesus. Finally the demons were defeated and fled from him. Men began to revere him and come to him for prayer, consolation, instruction and healing. Two monasteries were built beside his pillar, one on one side for men and one on the other for women. His mother and sister lived in the women's monastery. St. Alypius guided the monks and nuns from his pillar, by example and words. He shone like the sun in the heavens for everyone, showing them the way to salvation. This God-pleaser had so much grace that he was often illuminated in heavenly light, and a pillar of this light extended to the heavens above him. St. Alypius was a wonderful and mighty miracle-worker in life, and also after his repose. He lived for one hundred years and entered into rest in the year 640 A.D., during the reign of Emperor Heraclius. His head is preserved in the Monastery of Koutloumousiou on the Holy Mountain.

### **THE VENERABLE JAMES THE SOLITARY**

James was from Syria. He was a disciple of St. Maron (February 14) and a contemporary of St. Simeon the Stylite. He lived a life of asceticism under the open sky and ate soaked lentils. He performed great miracles, even raising the dead in the name of Christ. Emperor Leo asked him for his thoughts on the Council of Chalcedon [451]. He entered peacefully into rest in the year 457 A.D.

### **THE VENERABLE STYLIANUS**

Stylianus was from Paphlagonia and a fellow countryman and contemporary of St. Alypius. He had a great love for the Lord Jesus, and because of this love gave himself up to great ascetic struggle. He renounced everything in order to have an undivided love for his Lord. Before his repose, angels came to take his soul, and his face shone like the sun. Stylianus was a great miracle-worker before and after his death. He especially helps sick children and childless couples.

### **THE VENERABLE NICON, THE PREACHER OF REPENTANCE**

Nicon was born in Armenia. Awakened by the words of the Lord, Every one that hath forsaken ... father or mother ... shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life (Matthew 19:29), Nicon indeed forsook all for the sake of Christ, and went to a monastery, where he was tonsured a monk. When he was perfected in all virtues, he left the monastery and went to preach the Gospel among the people. He ceaselessly cried out, "Repent!" for which he was also called the "the Preacher of Repentance." As a preacher, he visited all of Anatolia and the Peloponnese. He worked miracles by prayer in the name of Christ and peacefully went to his beloved Lord. He reposed in Sparta in the year 998 A.D.

### **SAINT INNOCENT OF IRKUTSK, THE WONDERWORKER**

He reposed in the year 1731 A.D., and his miracle-working relics were uncovered in 1804 A.D.

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)*