



## Weekly Bulletin

# Orthodox Church of the Annunciation

### All Saints of North America

#### Troparion of the Resurrection, Tone 1

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Thy Kingdom! Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou who lovest mankind

#### Troparion of the North American Saints, Tone 8

As the bountiful harvest of Thy sowing of salvation, the lands of North America offer to Thee, O Lord, all the saints who have shone in them. By their prayers keep the Church and our land in abiding peace// through the Theotokos, O most Merciful One!

### Thoughts for the work of the Holy Spirit...

"Creation is a slave; the Spirit sets free. Creation stands in need of life; the Spirit is the Life-Giver. Creation needs instruction; the Spirit is the Teacher. Creation is sanctified; the Spirit is the Sanctifier."

*St. Basil the Great*

### The 2nd Sunday after Pentecost Tone 1, July 7th, Matt. 4:18-23

Today, beloved brethren, we celebrate in one joyful solemnity the feast day of all the Saints. In their society Heaven exults, in their protection earth rejoices, in their triumphs the holy Church is crowned. The more endurance they showed in giving witness, the brighter is the glory of that witness; for, as the battle was fiercer, the glory of the fighters was greater. The many kinds of suffering enhance the triumph of martyrdom; and the greater the torments, the greater also the reward. Our Mother the catholic Church, spread far and wide over the whole earth, was taught in Jesus Christ her Head to fear neither insults, crosses, nor death. Grown stronger and stronger, not by resisting but by enduring, She has breathed the will to victory into all those whose containment in this earthly prison forms them into an opposing army, that they may be inspired to fight the good fight with no less ardent courage than these who have gone before.

O truly blessed Mother Church, basking in the glow of God's favor, adorned with the glorious blood of the victorious martyrs and clothed in the virginal white of an untarnished Orthodoxy! Her garlands lack neither the rose nor the lily. We should each then strive, dear brothers, to gain the great dignity of these two honors, either the white crowns of virginity or the red of suffering. In the Heavenly camps, both peace and war have their garlands with which to crown the soldiers of Christ.

For the unutterable and immense goodness of God has seen to it that the time of labor and struggle should be neither prolonged nor long-drawn-out nor endless, but that it should rather be brief and, as we might say, momentary. For the struggles and the labors belong to this short and hard life, but the crowns and the rewards of merit to that which is eternal. The labors, then, will be ended quickly, but the rewards of merit will continue without end. And after the darkness of this world, we are to see the most radiant light and to receive a blessedness greater than the bitterness of all sufferings, as the Apostle testifies when he says, "The sufferings of this present age are not worthy to be compared with the glory to come that will be revealed in us." Through the prayers of our venerable Father Bede, O Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.

**From the Lives of the Saints...** THE HOLY GREAT FEMALE MARTYR DOMINICA [NEDELJA-KIRIAKI]

## **Announcements and Activities**

**Great Vespers**– Saturday, 5:30 PM.

**Divine Liturgy** – Sunday, at 10AM.

**Coffee Hour**– This week's Coffee Hour is being sponsored by Edie and Julia. Next week's Coffee Hour will be coffee and bagels.

**Church School/Adult Ed**– summer recess until October. Church School teachers and prospective teachers (much needed) will meet today July 7.

**July BBQ**– please distribute those flyers and be sure to plan on coming yourselves. More about that in the weeks to come.

**Parish Council**– will meet next Sunday, after Coffee Hour.

**Consecration Committee**– things are going well in our plans. Our new altar arrived and is now safely in our possession. We have secured a block of 20 rooms at the Radisson for those who are traveling from a distance and need to stay over. The rental is locked at \$149 +tax. Matushka, Sunday, Elise Laura Beth, Darryl and others have successfully prepared and sent out our RSVP cards for the banquet. **Please get your rsvp back asap. There is a bar code through which you can use your paypal account to pay for your banquet. You can also send a check back in with your card.** Heather is working diligently in preparing the choir. We have set up provision of refreshments to be served between the end of the Liturgy and the banquet. Our banquet speaker is lined up: the well know Presbyteria, Doctor Eugenia Constantinou. We need to set up off-site parking, and, most likely, as shuttle. Thank you to those of you who have donated to underwrite clergy costs for some of the visiting clergy. We'll see if that comes about. Our consecration committee will meet in July, by zoom or in person, to take care of all remaining details and to be ready for the event.

**Pray for...** Sarah, the daughter of Fr. Lawrence's godfather. **Reposed**– Kalche. Eutychia's husband: **Stephen– battling cancer.** **Barbara H.** health issues. **Archbishop Benjamin**– our Vladyka, parkinsons. **Luci F.** recovering from knee procedure. Fr.'s grandson, **Christian, joint pain and problems from an inherited gene.** **Monk who is suffering from heart issues.**

During the time of the Emperors Diocletian and his son-in-law Maximian, both adversaries of Christ, there lived in Anatolia two pious and elderly souls, Dorotheus and Eusebia. They were devout Christians, wealthy but childless. Through unceasing prayer, they obtained a child from God--the holy Dominica. From her childhood, Dominica consecrated herself to God, abstaining from everything that unruly children do. When she had matured and was beautiful in body and soul, many suitors came to ask for her hand in marriage; but she refused them all, saying that she had betrothed herself to Christ the Lord and desired nothing more than to die as a virgin. One of the rejected suitors denounced Dominica and her parents to Emperor Diocletian as Christians. The emperor ordered that Dominica's parents be tortured, and after torturing them, banished them to the town of Melitene--where they died, having endured much suffering for Christ. Diocletian sent Dominica herself to Maximian to stand trial. Since Dominica confirmed her faith in Christ before Maximian, he ordered that she be placed on the ground and flogged with oxen whips. After that, the emperor handed her over to the commanders, first to Hilarion and, after his death, to Apollonius. Both of them tortured Dominica in a beastly manner, in all possible ways, but all was in vain. When St. Dominica lay in the prison cell, completely covered with wounds, Christ the Lord appeared to her, healed her, and said: "Dominica, do not be afraid of torture; My grace is with you." And indeed the grace of Christ saved this martyr from the fire and from the wild beasts, which the godless judges thought would bring about her certain death. Seeing Dominica miraculously saved from such a death, many pagans came to believe in Christ--and they were all beheaded. Dominica said to Apollonius: "In no manner can you turn me away from my Faith. If you throw me into the fire, I have the example of the Three Youths [Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego]; if you throw me before wild beasts, I have the example of Daniel the Prophet; if you toss me into the sea, I have the example of Jonah the Prophet; if you give me over to the sword, I will remember the honorable Forerunner [John the Baptist]. Life, for me, is to die for Christ." Then Apollonius ordered that Dominica be beheaded. Dominica knelt down, raised her hands to heaven, and prayed to God, that He would save and have mercy on all those who would celebrate her memory, and that He would give rest to her soul together with the souls of her parents. Upon completing her prayer, she rendered her soul to God, before the sword was lowered onto her neck. Dominica suffered honorably in Nicomedia, and she was received into eternal joy, in the year 289 A.D.

### **THE VENERABLE THOMAS OF MALEA**

Thomas was at first a commander distinguished by his bravery and wealth. He was massive of body and struck fear in his enemies. But when Thomas came to love Christ more than the world and everything in the world, he left all and withdrew into the wilderness. There he was tonsured a monk and gave himself over to asceticism. St. Elias the Prophet appeared to him and led him to a mountain called Malea, near Athos, the Holy Mountain. There he lived alone and isolated--alone with God, in prayer day and night. But even though he concealed himself from the world, he could not remain hidden. Upon learning about the sanctity of his life, people began to come to him and bring their sick. And St. Thomas cured people from every infirmity and affliction. Even after he fell asleep in the Lord in the tenth century, his relics continued to help all those who venerated them with faith.

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)*