



Weekly Bulletin

Orthodox Church of the Annunciation

Holy Fathers of the First Six Councils

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 the Annuncia- tion, 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 the Annuncia- tion, 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, July 14th , 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 church in which we heard the gospel read.

From the Lives of the Saints...THE HOLY APOSTLE AQUILA

Aquila was one of the Seventy Apostles. A Jew, he first lived in Italy with his wife Priscilla. When Emperor Claudius decreed that all Jews be driven from Rome and Italy, Aquila settled in Cornith. There the Apostle Paul met him for the first time, remaining in his home for a year and a half and baptizing him and his wife. Burning with zeal for the Faith of Christ, Aquila and Priscilla accompanied Paul to Ephesus and assisted him in his apostolic labors. At Ephesus, Paul wrote his first Epistle to

Announcements and Activities

Divine Liturgy for St. Gerasim: Saturday, at 9AM.

Great Vespers– Saturday, 5:30 PM.

Divine Liturgy – Sunday, at 10AM.

Coffee Hour– This week's Coffee Hour is our bagels and coffee week. Next week's Coffee Hour will be sponsored by Nina T. and Tricia.

Church School– thanks to all who met last Sunday and volunteered to be teachers. The Lord Bless you.

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 today, 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.** **Archpriest Matthew Tate**– a leader of diocese that is battling Leukemia. **Archpriest James, seizures.**

the Corinthians, in which he said: Aquila and Priscilla salute you much in the Lord, with the Church that is their house (1 Corinthians 16:19). After the death of Emperor Claudius, the Jews were permitted to return to Italy, and so Aquila and Priscilla returned to Rome. When the Apostle Paul later wrote the Epistle to the Romans from Cornith, he greeted his old friends and co-laborers: Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus; who have for my life laid down their own necks: unto whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles (Romans 16: 3-4). We later find Aquila in Ephesus, where he labored with St. Timothy the Apostle. Chained in Rome, Paul wrote to Timothy in Ephesus: Salute Priscilla and Aquila (2 Timothy 4:19). As a bishop, Aquila baptized many and enlightened them with the Faith; he destroyed idols, built churches, ordained priests, and spread the glory of the Incarnate Son of God among men. He was finally murdered by wicked heathens, and took up his habitation in the Kingdom of Christ.

THE VENERABLE HELLIUS

Hellius was an Egyptian monk of the fourth century. From his early youth, he dedicated himself to monastic asceticism in the wilderness. He elicited astonishment in both monks and the laity by his way of life and powerful miracles, and even though he fled the glory of men, he was unable to conceal himself. He had great struggles with delusions from the devil, especially during times of prolonged fasting. Sometimes the devil would offer him honey and sometimes delicious apples, but Hellius would not allow himself to be deceived. He was able to see into the hearts of men, discerning passions and thoughts, not to display his secret knowledge but to correct men's faults.

Taken from the *Year of Grace of the Lord*

Homily About the steadfastness of faith

"Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world" (1 Peter 5:9).

Brethren, the most important steadfastness of men's souls is the steadfastness of faith. The devil vehemently attacks this steadfastness with all his arrows and all his wiles-- for the impure and evil spirit knows that when this steadfastness is destroyed, he enslaves the soul of man forever. That is why the holy apostles entreated the Lord: Increase our faith (Luke 17:5). Brethren, let us also pray daily that the Lord will increase our faith; that He will endow it with power and strengthen. When the serpent is in danger it protects its head above all, which is why the Lord Himself called it wise. Let us also protect the head of our spiritual life, which is faith. Nothing in this world can replace faith in God: neither philosophy, nor science, nor treasure, nor glory, nor the entire world from one end to the other with all its transitory illusions. The devil knows this, and thus he especially attacks our faith, instilling doubt in us, causing us to waver, confusing our thoughts, and disturbing our hearts. Since the devil knows that faith is the main thing, it is all the more necessary that we should know it also. Because of us, Christ descended to earth; because of us, He suffered on the Cross and gave us the promise of saving faith.

We can neither strengthen nor increase our faith except through suffering. That is why the much-suffering Apostle Peter says: The same afflictions [as yours] are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world (1 Peter 5:9). Out of humility, the apostle does not speak of his own afflictions, but of those of our brethren in Christ. Those who are one in faith are also one in afflictions. Brethren, you do not suffer alone for the true Faith, but your other brethren also suffer for the same Faith.

May this assuage your suffering. But most of all, may you be comforted by the sufferings of the Firstborn in suffering, our crucified Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

O Lord Jesus, Sufferer above sufferers, and Victor above victors, increase our faith, and strengthen us with the power of Your Grace, as you did strengthen Your holy apostles.

To Thee be glory and praise forever. Amen.

Taken from the Prologue of Ochrid, by St. Nikolai

"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)