



Weekly Bulletin

Orthodox Church of the Annunciation

The Rich Young Ruler

Troparion of the Resurrec- tion, Tone 3

Let the heavens rejoice! Let the earth be glad! For the Lord has shown strength with His arm! He has trampled down death by death! He has become the firstborn of the dead! He has delivered us from the depths of hell, and has granted to the world great mercy!

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 15th Sunday after Pentecost Tone 3, September 15th , Matt.19:16-26

Matt. 19:16-26. The gospel tells of a rich and powerful man—"a ruler"- who asks Jesus what was needed to inherit eternal life. Jesus reminds him of the commandments. "All these have I kept from my youth up...". He lacks one thing, Jesus tells him: to sell all his goods and distribute them to the poor. "And to follow me..." But the man goes sorrowfully away, "for he was very rich". And Jesus says that it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into the Kingdom of God.

Sometimes it is material wealth which stops a man from entering the kingdom but there are possessions other than money. Beauty, intelligence, perhaps some disordered human affection or bad habit: these, just as much, can be hindrances which Jesus tells us to free ourselves of before following him. What are the earthly goods which hold and hinder me, personally, from following Jesus? How can I put these possessions to the service of the poor and thus liberate my will? The gospel for this Sunday faces each one of us with this question. It is a good question to consider at the time of Christmas, at the time when Jesus comes to us in complete poverty, possessing nothing.

In the Epistle read today (Col. 3:12-16) St. Paul enjoins us to adopt and inner attitude "of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long-suffering...and above all these things put on charity". This, again, is a message which harmonizes singularly well with that of the manger at Bethlehem. The apostle emphasizes the calm and joyous nature of Christian Life. "Let the peace of God rule in your hearts...singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."

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

From the Lives of the Saints...THE HOLY MARTYR NICETAS

Nicetas was a Goth by birth. He was a disciple of Theophilus, Bishop of the Goths, who participated in the First Ecumenical Council [Nicaea 325 A.D.]. When the Gothic prince Athenarik began to torture Christians, St. Nicetas

Announcements and Activities

Great Vespers for Cross— Friday, at 6PM.

Divine Liturgy for the Cross — Saturday, at 9AM. We will have some refreshments after the Liturgy.

Great Vespers— Saturday, at 5:30PM.

Divine Liturgy— Sunday, at 10AM.

Coffee Hour— This week's Coffee Hour is being sponsored by Marchells and Alexandra. Next week's Coffee Hour will be sponsored by the Nantze's and Sunday.

Congratulations on the Consecration— everyone worked so hard and it was so beautiful.

Parish Council— will meet next Sunday, after Divine Liturgy and Coffee Hour.

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. **Catherine**— eye. **Philip**— special request. St. John Monastery— threat of fire. **An Ailing Nun**— who asked for prayers and to remain anonymous. **Linda**— general health.

stood before the prince and denounced him for his paganism and inhumanity. Subsequently harshly tortured, Nicetas confessed his faith in Christ even more strongly, and prayed to God with thanksgiving. His mind was unceasingly raised up to God, and on his breast under his robe he bore an icon of the Most-holy Theotokos with the Pre-eternal Christ Child standing and holding the Cross in His hands. St. Nicetas carried this icon because the Holy Theotokos had appeared to him and comforted him. Finally, the torturer threw the soldier of Christ into the fire, where the holy martyr breathed his last, but his body remained untouched by the fire. His companion Marianus took his body from the land of the Goths (Wallachia and Bessarabia) to the town of Mopsuestia, in Cilicia. There, he built a church dedicated to St. Nicetas, and placed the miracle-working relics of the martyr in it. Nicetas suffered and was glorified in the year 372 A.D.

THE VENERABLE PHILOTHEUS

Philotheus was from the village of Myrmix or Mravin in Asia Minor. His mother had the same name, but reversed--Theophila. Philotheus was a presbyter and a great miracle-worker during his lifetime. On one occasion, he changed water into wine and, on another occasion, he miraculously increased a quantity of bread. He reposed in the Lord in the tenth century, and his relics gushed myrrh.

THE HOLY MARTYR PORPHYRIUS

Porphyrius was born in Mimosa. At first, he made jests about Christians for the Emperor Julian the Apostate. Thus, on one occasion, while parodying the Christian Mystery of Baptism, he immersed himself in water, pronouncing the words: "In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit!" When he emerged from the water he cried out: "Now I am a Christian!" Everyone thought that this was just another jest, but he remained steadfast, ceased to mock Christianity, and finally suffered for Christ. Porphyrius was beheaded in the year 361 A.D., and took up his habitation in the Kingdom of Christ.

THE HOLY MARTYRS THEODOTUS, ASCLEPIDOTE AND MAXIMUS

They were all noblemen by birth, from Trachis. They suffered for Christ in the village of Saltis near Philipopolis, between the year 305 and 311 A.D., and entered into the Heavenly Kingdom.

SAINT BESSARION THE WONDERWORKER, ARCHBISHOP OF LARISSA

Bessarion founded the Monastery of the Savior, in the Diocese of Larissa. He was glorified by his miracles, both during his life and after his death.

THE HOLY NEW MARTYR JOHN OF CRETE

John suffered for the Christian Faith at the hands of the Turks in Ephesus, in the year 1811 A.D.

SAINT JOSEPH, BISHOP OF ALAVERDI

Joseph was one of the Thirteen Syrian Fathers (May 7) who were sent to the Caucasus to preach the Gospel. St. Joseph peacefully reposed in the Lord in the year 570 A.D. His miracle-working relics repose in the cathedral church in Alaverdi.

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)