



Weekly Bulletin

Orthodox Church of the Annunciation

The Healing of the Gadarene Demoniac

Troparion of the Resurrec- tion, 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 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 18th Sunday after Pentecost Tone 1, October 27th, Luke 8:26-39

The gospel for the [20th] Sunday after Pentecost (Lu.8:26-39) describes the healing, in the country of the Gadarenes, of a man possessed by devils...Let us look at some secondary aspects of this episode. Jesus asks the possessed man: "What is thy name?" There is more in this than a simple question, for these words themselves already initiate therapy. Jesus wishes to bring the man, who had spoken as if he identified himself with the demon back to awareness of his own personality and identity. He wants to restore to him a sense of his own personality and independence.

Whenever a sinner is so sunk in habit that it seems as if he is driven by the power of evil, Jesus, above all, wants him to dissociate himself from the powers and to remember his own name — the name given him by God: "I have called thee by name; thou art mine..."(Is. 43:1). In this name, by which God calls us, is found our true liberty and our true vocation. The possessed man answers Jesus: "My name is Legion," and the gospel explains, "because many devils were entered into him". Perhaps the man had seen a Roman legion, that inexorable force, which is both a multitude and a unity. In the same way, if we give in to sin, we become "legion"; or instincts, our mental images, all our psychic elements take on a chaotic independence; the will, weakened by each successive fall, is in no state to regain possession of them and to coordinate them; our whole personality becomes dissociated and disintegrates. God alone can gather these broken fragments and mend them. "Unite my heart..." we ask of him in Psalm 86:11.

Later, when the possessed man is healed, he begs Jesus to let him stay with him; but Jesus tells him to return to his house and to show what God has done for him. And the man returns "and published throughout the whole city how great things Jesus had done unto him" The majority of Christians are not called to follow Jesus in the literal sense of the word and to become itinerant disciples; but they all have an ordinary apostleship to practice in their immediate and daily surroundings, in the circles of their family and their work. This apostleship does not consist of "preaching", it consists rather of bearing personal witness, of sharing with others and authentic experience, of "declaring" and "publishing" what Jesus has done for them. Neither eloquence nor great intelligence are needed for this ministry. It is open to the humblest — for all it calls for is a spirit of sincerity and devotion.

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

In the time of the suffering of St. Demetrius the Myrrh-gusher, there was a

Announcements and Activities

Meat Dolma Rolling— Saturday, at 9AM. Please come and help. Usually only takes a couple of hours when it is well supported.

Great Vespers— Saturday, at 5:30PM.

Divine Liturgy— Sunday, at 10AM

Coffee Hour— This week's Coffee Hour is our community potluck. Next week's coffee hour will be sponsored by Matushka Cheryl and Elise.

Church School/Adult Education — will be held next Sunday, November 3rd, at 9AM.

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. **Novice Alexandra** — who recently had surgery and is recovering. **Linda**— general health. **Grandson of Larissa.** **Rebecca**— Philip's daughter, health issues. **Abbess Victoria**— recovering. **Reposed John & Jakov.** **Tasha M.**—informed Fr. Lawrence that she has been diagnosed with advanced cancer. Let us pray and help all that we can.

young man of Thessalonica, Nestor, who learned the Christian Faith from St. Demetrius himself. At that time Christ's enemy, Emperor Maximian, organized various games and amusements for the people. The emperor's favorite in these games was a Vandal by the name of Lyaeus, a man of Goliath-like size and strength. As the emperor's gladiator, Lyaeus challenged men every day to single combat and slew them. Thus, the bloodthirsty Lyaeus amused the bloodthirsty, idolatrous Maximian. The emperor built a special stage for Lyaeus's battles, similar to a threshing floor on pillars. Spears, points upward, were planted beneath this platform. When Lyaeus defeated someone in wrestling, he would throw him from the platform onto the forest of spears. The emperor and his pagan subjects cheered as some poor wretch writhed in torment on the spears until he died.

Among Lyaeus's innocent victims were many Christians: when no one volunteered to duel with Lyaeus, by the emperor's orders Christians were arrested and forced to duel with him. Seeing this horrifying amusement of the pagan world, Nestor's heart was torn with pain, and he decided to come forward for a duel with the gigantic Lyaeus. But first, he went to prison to see St. Demetrius and sought a blessing from him to do this. St. Demetrius blessed him, signed him with the sign of the Cross on the forehead and on the chest and prophesied to him: "You will defeat Lyaeus, but you will suffer for Christ." Thus, young Nestor went to duel with Lyaeus. Maximian was present with a multitude of people; everyone felt pity for the young Nestor, who would surely die, and tried to dissuade him from dueling with Lyaeus. Nestor crossed himself and said: "O God of Demetrius, help me!" and with God's help, he overcame Lyaeus, knocked him down, and threw him onto the sharp spears, where the heavy giant soon found death. Then all the people cried out: "Great is the God of Demetrius!" But the emperor, shamed before the people and sorrowing for his favorite Lyaeus, was greatly angered at Nestor and Demetrius, and commanded that Nestor be beheaded and Demetrius run through with lances. Thus, the Christian hero Nestor ended his earthly life and took up his habitation in the Kingdom of his Lord in the year 306 A.D.

THE VENERABLE NESTOR THE CHRONICLER

At the age of seventeen, Nestor entered the Monastery of the Kiev Caves while St. Theodosius was still abbot. He wrote the first history of the Russian people, in which he intertwined the history of Russian asceticism. He was distinguished by unusual humility and meekness. In his literary work, he often referred to himself as unworthy, coarse, ignorant and full of every kind of sin. But God, Who knows the hearts of men, glorified this wonderful saint of His. When Nestor entered into rest on October 27, 1114 A.D., his relics performed many miracles.

SAINT ANDREW, PRINCE OF SMOLENSK

Out of love for Christ, Andrew abandoned the glory and honor of the world, hid himself in a monastery and there, disguised and unknown, served as a sacristan for thirty years. He peacefully entered into rest in the Lord in 1390 A.D.; his miracle-working relics were found in 1540 A.D. *)

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)