



Weekly Bulletin

Orthodox Church of the Annunciation

The Healing on the Sabbath day

Troparion of the Resurrec- tion, Tone 5

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the word, coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born for our salvation from the Virgin; for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death, and to raise the dead, by His glorious Resurrection.

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 22nd Sunday after Pentecost Tone 5, Nov. 24th , Luke 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.”
The Year of Grace of the Lord, by A Monk of the Eastern Church

From the Lives of the Saints... THE HOLY GREAT-MARTYR CATHERINE

Catherine was the daughter of King Constus. After the death of her father, she

Announcements and Activities

Molieben of Thanksgiving— Wednesday, at 7PM. Come and rejoice and thank God for your blessings. We customarily have those present briefly name something for which they are particularly grateful.

Thanksgiving Meal— at the parish hall on Thanksgiving day, 2PM. There are sign-up lists in the hall for bringing items to the event. Fr. Lawrence generally is connected with family on his son-in-laws side, but will be present to bless the food. This is a wonderful event for our community. As your priest, it is among the things I am most thankful for this year—making a family gathering for those alone and not have a larger family locally.

Great Vespers— Saturday, at 5:30PM.

Divine Liturgy— Sunday, at 10AM

Coffee Hour— This week's Coffee Hour is our monthly potluck, Next week's coffee hour will be sponsored by Kerri and Catherine. We are in the nativity fast until Christmas Day. No meat, not eggs, no dairy at Coffee Hour, and please be careful about non-fasting ingredients with these items in them: for example, sour CREAM, MILK chocolate, BUTTER Cookies, and the list goes on and on.

Church School/Adult Education— will be held next Sunday, December 1st, at 9AM.

Pray for... Sarah, the daughter of Fr. Lawrence's godfather. Eutychia's husband: **Stephen— battling cancer.** **Barbara H.** health issues. **Archbishop Benjamin**— our Vladyka, parkinsons. Fr.'s grandson, **Christian, joint pain and problems from an inherited gene.** **Archpriest Matthew Tate**— a leader of diocese that is battling Leukemia. **Archpriest James,** seizures. **Novice Alexandra**— who recently had surgery and is recovering. **Linda**— general health. **Grandson of Larissa.** **Rebecca**— Philip's daughter, health issues. **Abbess Victoria** — recovering from a stroke. **Reposed John & Jakov.** **Tasha Mendez**— **Reposed on November 8th.** **Rex**— the ailing brother of a friend of Fr. Lawrence's. **Tina**— friend of the parish, **Rebecca's** daughter. **Joseph and Ella, and family**— loss of Natalia.

lived with her mother in Alexandria. Her mother was secretly a Christian who, through her spiritual father, brought Catherine to the Christian Faith. In a vision, St. Catherine received a ring from the Lord Jesus Himself as a sign of her betrothal to Him. This ring remains on her finger even today. Catherine was greatly gifted by God and was well educated in Greek philosophy, medicine, rhetoric and logic. In addition to that, she was of unusual physical beauty. When the iniquitous Emperor Maxentius offered sacrifices to the idols and ordered others to do the same, Catherine boldly confronted the emperor and denounced his idolatrous errors. The emperor, seeing that she was greater than he in wisdom and knowledge, summoned fifty of his wisest men to debate with her on matters of faith and to put her to shame. Catherine outwitted and shamed them. In a rage, the emperor ordered all fifty of those men burned. By St. Catherine's prayers, all fifty confessed the name of Christ and declared themselves Christians before their execution. After Catherine had been put in prison, she converted the emperor's commander, Porphyrius, and two hundred soldiers to the true Faith, as well as Empress Augusta-Vasilissa herself. They all suffered for Christ. During the torture of St. Catherine, an angel of God came to her and destroyed the wheel on which the holy virgin was being tortured. Afterward, the Lord Jesus Christ Himself appeared to her and comforted her. After many tortures, Catherine was beheaded at the age of eighteen, on November 24, 310 A.D. Milk, instead of blood, flowed from her body. Her miracle-working relics repose on Mount Sinai.

THE HOLY GREAT-MARTYR MERCURIUS

When Emperor Decius once waged war against the barbarians, there was in his army the commander of an Armenian regiment called the Martenesians. This commander was named Mercurius. In battle, an angel of the Lord appeared to Mercurius, placed a sword in his hand, and assured him of victory over his enemies. Indeed, Mercurius displayed wonderful courage, mowing down the enemy like grass. Following this glorious victory Emperor Decius made him chief commander of his army, but envious men reported Mercurius to the emperor for being a Christian, a fact which he did not hide but openly acknowledged before the emperor. Mercurius was tortured harshly and at length; he was cut into strips with knives and burned with fire. An angel of God appeared to him in prison and healed him. Finally, the emperor proclaimed that General Mercurius be beheaded in Cappadocia. When they beheaded him, his body became as white as snow and emitted a most wonderful incense-like fragrance. His miracle-working relics healed many of the sick. This most wonderful soldier of Christ suffered for the Faith sometime between the years 251 and 259 A.D. and took up his habitation in the Kingdom of his King and God.

THE HOLY VIRGIN MASTRIDIA

Mastridia lived in Alexandria and led a solitary life of prayer and handiwork. A young man, burning with bodily passion toward her, constantly harassed her. Not wanting to sin before God, and since she could not easily be rid of this unrestrained youth, St. Mastridia once asked him what attracted him most to her. He replied: "Your eyes!" Mastridia then took the needle with which she was sewing and put out her eyes. Thus, Mastridia preserved her peace and the young man's soul. The young man repented deeply, and became a monk.*)

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)