



# Weekly Bulletin

## Orthodox Church of the Annunciation

**3rd Sunday after Pentecost  
Tone 2, June 29th, Matt. 6:22-33**

**“Take no thought for  
your life”**

***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 Annunciation,  
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 Annunciation,  
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 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

***From the Lives of the Saints... THE HOLY APOSTLE PETER***

Peter was the son of Jonah and the brother of Andrew, the First-called. He was of the tribe of Simeon, from the town of Bethsaida. He was a fisherman and was at first called Simon, but the Lord was pleased to call him Cephas or Peter: And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, He said, You are Simon the son of Jonah: you shall be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, a rock (John 1:42). He was the first of the disciples to clearly express faith in the Lord Jesus, saying: Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God (Matthew 16:16). His love for the Lord was great, and his faith in the Lord became gradually stronger. When the Lord was brought to trial, Peter denied Him three times; but after only one glance into the face of the Lord, Peter's soul was filled with shame and repentance. After the descent of the Holy Spirit, Peter showed himself to be a fearless and powerful preacher of the Gospel.

## **Announcements and Activities**

**Divine Liturgy for St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco**— Wednesday, at 9AM..

**Great Vespers** – Saturday, at 5:30.

**Divine Liturgy**— Sunday, at 10AM

**Church School/Ad. Ed.**—is now on summer hiatus and will begin again in October.. Elise ask that teachers and potential teachers meet with her on Sunday, July 6th, after Liturgy..

**Coffee Hour**— This week's Coffee Hour is being sponsored by Tricia and Nina. Next week's Coffee Hour will be sponsored by Edie and Julia.

**Parish Council**— met last Sunday, we discussed the All American Council. The welcome of the Taylors and the finances behind the necessary repairs and updates to the Rectory.

**Taylor's Arrival**— Fr. Justin and family will arrive on Tuesday. Many thanks to all who worked at the Rectory to get it ready and to those who worked on the inside to make ready beds, furnishings, etc. Special thanks to Sunday and crew for all the construction related blessings through her contractor friend. We have worked hard to make ready.

**Pray for...** Sarah, the daughter of Fr. Lawrence's godfather. Eutychia's husband: **Stephen— battling cancer.** Barbara H. health issues. 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. Linda— general health. Grandson of Larissa. Rebecca— Philip's daughter, health issues. Abbess Victoria— high blood pressure. **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. Archpriest Nazari— several family members facing serious health issues. **Thomas and Linda, John and Irene**— friends of Mike Miller, who passed through a community illness. Anahi a friend of the Skete. Geri— a friend of Heather's battling illness. **Reposed Veronica**, the mother of Fr. Nazari. **Cindy**, a friend of Tricia's in need of prayers for health.. **Archbishop Benjamin**, who is hospitalized for an infection. The Archbishop's father, **David**, who is also hospitalized. Joshua and McKinsey, (son of Edie) expecting with a complication in utero, twins sharing same placenta. **Elaine and Bob**— health **George**— Reposed. **Carmen**— health issues related to age. **Anna auto-immune problems.** **Kathy**—personal request.

Following one of his sermons in Jerusalem, three-thousand souls were converted to the Faith. He preached the Gospel in Palestine, Asia Minor, Illyria and Italy. Peter worked many powerful miracles: he healed the sick and resurrected the dead, and the sick were healed even from his shadow. He had a great struggle with Simon the Magician, who proclaimed himself to be a god, but who was in reality a servant of Satan. Peter finally shamed and defeated him.

By order of Simon's friend, the evil Emperor Nero, Peter was condemned to death. Having consecrated Linus Bishop of Rome, and having counseled and comforted the flock of Christ, Peter proceeded joyfully to his death. Seeing the cross before him, he begged his executioners to crucify him upside down, for he considered himself unworthy to die as had his Lord. Thus, this great servant of the Great Lord reposed and received a wreath of eternal glory.

### **THE HOLY APOSTLE PAUL**

Paul was born in Tarsus and was of the tribe of Benjamin. At first he was called Saul. He studied under Gamaliel, and was a Pharisee and a persecutor of Christianity. He was miraculously converted to the Christian Faith by the Lord Himself, Who appeared to him on the road to Damascus. He was baptized by the Apostle Ananias, named Paul and numbered in the service of the Great Apostles.

With fiery zeal Paul preached the Gospel everywhere, from the borders of Arabia to Spain, among the Jews and among the Gentiles, and received the title "the Apostle to the Gentiles." As horrible as his sufferings were, so much greater was his superhuman patience. Throughout all the years of his preaching, Paul hung from day to day as on a weak thread between life and death. Having fulfilled all his days and nights with labor and suffering for Christ, having organized the Church in many places, and having attained such a degree of perfection, he was able to say: It is now no longer I that live, but Christ lives in me (Galatians 2:20).

Paul was beheaded in Rome during the reign of Emperor Nero, at the same time as the martyrdom of the Apostle Peter.

### **Reflection**

Simon Peter and Simon the Magician. The enemies of Christianity frequently like to cite examples of great miracle-workers among the pagans in order to deceive the gullible, denigrate the Christian Faith and exalt paganism, sorcery, soothsaying, satanism and every other charlatanism. There is no doubt that Satan through his servants also attempts to perform miracles, but none of the miracles of his servants proceed from love for man, compassion, mercy or faith in God, but rather from pride, selfishness, vanity and hatred for mankind. A Christian should learn from the story of the apostles to differentiate divine miracles from satanic deceptions and fantasies. Only let the Christian recall the Apostle Peter and Simon the Magician. Let him compare the miracles of Peter with the so-called miracles of Simon. The apostle converted the stony hearts of men into noble hearts, he cured the sick, and he raised the dead--and all of this by prayer and faith in the Living God. However, Simon the Magician amazed the people with diabolical illusions. The Apostle Peter was a friend of God, and Simon the Magician was a friend and protégé of the perverted Emperor Nero, who ended his life by suicide. The miracles of the pagan fakirs belong to the same category as the illusions and deceptions of Simon the Magician. Just as from a distance hot sand resembles water, so also the "miracles" of the fakirs resemble the life-creating miracles of Christianity.

Taken from the Prologue of Ochrid, by St. Nikolai (Velimirovich)

*"There do not exist many or few, nor small or great problems. The only*