



Weekly Bulletin

Orthodox Church of the Annunciation

Priest Justin Taylor, Rector.

Archpriest Lawrence Russell, Pastor Emeritus.

FrJustin@odox.org 805-457-3379

www.odox.org

877 Francine Lane, Santa Maria CA 93455

Confessions after Vespers or by appointment.

This Week at Annunciation: 10/26-11-2

Saturday, November 8

- **5:30 pm Great Vespers**

Sunday, November 9

- **10 am Divine Liturgy**
- **9:40 am: the reception of Gregory Prokopchuk and his son Gregory into the Church through a Confession of Faith.**
- **40 Day Panikhida after Divine Liturgy for the Newly Departed Michael Lahr**

Many Years!

- **11/7: Alice Perez (Birthday)**
- **11/8: Derek Webb (Birthday)**
- **11/8: Michele Aguilar (Name's Day)**
- **11/8: Shawn Ballas (Name's Day)**
- **11/8: Mike Tscheekar (Name's Day)**
- **11/8: Mike Meko (Name's Day)**
- **11/8: Brian Richey (Name's Day)**
- **11/8: Kyle Howen (Name's Day)**
- **11/8: Rafael Taylor (Name's Day)**

***NOTE:** Fr Justin will be out of town and unavailable until Saturday 11/8. Please contact Mike Miller for any emergencies.

November 2, 2025
6th Sunday of Luke, Tone 4

Galatians 2:16-20

Luke 8:26-39

The Holy Martyrs Acyndinus, Pegasius, Anem-podistus, Aphonius, Elpidephorus, and the others with them

They were all Christians from Persia and suffered during the reign of King Sapor in the year 355 A.D. The first three were servants at the court of this same king but secretly served Christ their Lord. When they were accused and brought to trial before the king, he asked them where they came from. To this they replied: "Our fatherland and our life is the Most-holy Trinity, one in Essence and undivided, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, One God."

The king subjected them to cruel tortures but they endured all heroically, with psalmody and prayer on their lips. During the time of their torture and imprisonment angels of God appeared to them many times, and one time the Lord Christ Himself appeared to them as a man "with a face radiant as the sun." When one of the torturers, Aphthonius, beheld a miracle, when boiling lead did no harm to the martyrs, he believed in Christ and cried out: "Great is the Christian God!"

For this, he was immediately beheaded, and many others saw and believed. Then the king ordered that Acyndinus, Pegasius and Anempodistus be sewn into animal skins and cast into the sea. But St. Aphthonius appeared from the other world with three shining angels, and led the holy martyrs to dry land and set them free. Elpidephorus was one of the king's nobles. When he revealed that he was a Christian and denounced the king for his slaughter of innocent Christians, the king condemned him to death and Elpidephorus was beheaded along with seven thou-

Pray for...

Archpriest Matthew; Joe (Sunday's brother); Nathan; Dennis; Thomas; Colin and Virginia; Sofie; Sofia; Natasa and the child to be born of her; Luka; Tomica; Catherine; Marija (cancer); Maria; Ginny; the newborn Sieglinda (for health); Acacia (cancer); Derek (Nektarios) for employment/housing assistance; the child George (his second open heart surgery) and his parents, Deacon Nicholas and Dia-konissa Elizabeth; Matushka Ally; Laura and the newborn Adam (surgery); Marianna Olivares and the child to be born of her; Miles (Larissa's grandson); Mildred (Matushka Cheryl's mother); Veronica and baby Aziel (pregnancy complications); Zoi and Valeri (Oxana's parents); Seth and Emily; the newly departed Jeremiah (Father Nazari's father); the newly departed Karen; Natalia (Nina Slater's sister); Maria Carmen (Joseph Nuno's mother); the newly departed Michael; the newly departed Adrian; Gary; Magdalena (Fr Justin's aunt); our catechumens: James, Cynthia, Brandon, Austin, Joshua, Dennis.

Sentenced to Immortality

Man sentenced God to death; by His Resurrection, He sentenced Man to immortality. In return for a beating, He gives an embrace; for abuse, a blessing; for death, immortality. Man never showed so much hate for God as when he crucified Him; and God never showed more love for man than when he arose. Man even wanted to reduce God to a mortal, but God by His Resurrection made man immortal. The crucified God is Risen and has killed death. Death is no more. Immortality has surrounded man and all the worlds.

— St Justin Popovich

sand other Christians. Then those first three martyrs [Acyndinus, Pegasus and Anempodistus] were finally thrown into a burning furnace along with twenty-eight soldiers and the king's mother, since they also believed in Christ--and thus, in the flames, they gave up their righteous souls into the hands of the Lord.

Reflection

How will one who transgresses love toward his parents raise himself toward love for his enemies? Love for one's parents--this is the main and fundamental school of love. Without this school, one can go no further. The Serbian King Dragutin rose up against his father with an army in order to sit on his father's throne.

But it so happened that he later broke his leg, and this awakened in him pangs of conscience which did not leave him in peace until his death. Dragutin withdrew from the throne and relinquished his authority to his younger brother Milutin, and began to widely distribute alms, build churches, and perform other good works. In addition to this, he lived a strict life of asceticism in secret.

He girded himself with a belt of reeds around his naked body, dressed in coarse sackcloth, and prayed to God at night in a secretly dug grave. This penitent king did all this only that God would forgive him the sin of lack of love toward his parents, and God forgave him.

Many holy martyrs joyfully received their executioners who were seeking them, and treated them hospitably in their homes while they themselves prepared for death. To entertain one's mortal enemies--is this not an expression of great love toward one's enemies?

When King Sapor harshly tortured Acyndinus, Pegasus and others with them, he suddenly went mad, became dumb and unable to speak, and began to claw his face with great fury.

Seeing his tormentor in such despair, St. Acyndinus wept and prayed to God for the king and said, "In the name of Jesus Christ the Lord, speak!" and the king's tongue was loosed and he began to speak. Here is an example of true love for one's enemies!

From the *The Prologue From 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)