



Sunday Bulletin July 17, 2016 *Greek Orthodox Church of the* *Annunciation*

4121 O'Hara Drive Vestal, NY 13850
Phone: (607)797-0824 Fax: (607) 797-0824
<http://www.annunciationvestal.ny.goarch.org>

Rev. Dr. Michael Bahlatzis, Presiding Priest-Proistamenos

~~~~~

### **Epistle Reading**

**The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to Titus 3:8-15**

TITUS, my son, the saying is sure. I desire you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to apply themselves to good deeds; these are excellent and profitable to men. But avoid stupid controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels over the law, for they are unprofitable and futile. As for a man who is factious, after admonishing him once or twice, have nothing more to do with him, knowing that such a person is perverted and sinful; he is self-condemned. When I send Artemas or Tychicos to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. Do your best to speed Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way; see that they lack nothing. And let our people learn to apply themselves to good deeds, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not to be unfruitful. All who are with me send greeting to you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

### **Gospel Reading**

**Matthew 5:14-19**

The Lord said to his disciples, "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. Think not that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets; I have come not to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Whoever then relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but he who does them and teaches them shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."

**“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”**

***Message from Fr. Michael...***

**Dearly Beloved Faithful:**

**Today, we commemorate the Holy Fathers. The writings and teachings of these fathers, through their reception of the Holy Spirit, have allowed all of Christianity to flourish. How wonderful it was most recently in Crete for the Great Holy Council to convene after many centuries of silence. The love and unity shown at this magnificent event provided the fuel for the Word of God to continue to be disseminated throughout the world. The Divine Light of God was cast upon these fathers as it was in earlier centuries with the 7 early ecumenical councils. We recognize the Holy Fathers for their model of inspiration as their light was seen by all the faithful through their reception of the Holy Spirit. It is the hope of the Church that such light will shine upon all loving people of God.**

**We hope and pray that the light cast by our faithful worship will be seen by all and motivate all to migrate toward the Lord's Holy House. As we read from the scriptural passage above, from the Gospel of St. Matthew, the Lord directs that our light is to shine before our brethren. In doing so, our brethren may see our good works. When our good works are seen by others, we are giving God the glory. Our heavenly Father looks upon us with His tender mercy and send His grace upon us. Did you know that St. Paul wrote almost half of the New Testament and he did so under captivity. He was imprisoned and in chains when he wrote his letters and teachings. The adversaries that imprisoned him actually did a great favor to Christianity. By imprisoning St. Paul, this allowed him to write and these writings helped to provide the foundation for Christian teachings that would persevere for many centuries that would follow. The teachings of the Fathers enlighten us to God's love and mercy. They encourage us to heed to God's call. Yes, let us be lights...for the illumination of our fellow Christians to promote God's Word! Let the glitter be in spreading the message of the Lord's Gospel! Be a bright flame for Him...for the Lord. illuminating the hearts and souls of everyone you encounter is what we hope for. Lead those who have strayed away back to the faith.**

**Will we heed to the calling of evil and take the bait of worldliness? Or do we possess the intelligence, faith, and purity to follow the Creator?**

**Let us be a light house of the faith. Let our light be seen on the hill for all to see, May our spiritual light continue to shine before all people. May we inspire all who witness its glow to follow Christ.**

**Through the prayers and intercession of our holy fathers, we ask our Lord to hear our petitions and may our Lord grant His mercy upon us all.**

**Prayerfully beaming I remain,  
Yours in His service,**

**+Fr. Michael**

## Sunday of the Holy Fathers



On the Sunday that falls from the 13th to the 19th of the present month, we chant the Service to the Holy and God-bearing Fathers who came together in the Seven Ecumenical Councils, that is: the First Council, of the 318 Fathers who assembled in Nicaea in 325 to condemn Arius, who denied that the Son of God is consubstantial with the Father; the Fathers of the First Council also ordained that the whole Church should celebrate Pascha according to the same reckoning; the Second Council, of the 150 Fathers who assembled in Constantinople in 381 to condemn Macedonius, Patriarch of Constantinople, who denied the Divinity of the Holy Spirit; the Third Council, of the 200 Fathers who assembled in Ephesus in 431, to condemn Nestorius, Patriarch of Constantinople, who called Christ a mere man and not God incarnate; the Fourth Council, of the 630 who assembled in Chalcedon in 451, to condemn Eutyches, who taught that there was only one nature, the divine, in Christ after the Incarnation, and Dioscorus, Patriarch of Alexandria, who illegally received Eutyches back into communion and deposed Saint Flavian, Patriarch of Constantinople, who had excommunicated Eutyches; the Fifth Council in 553, of the 165 who assembled in Constantinople for the second time to condemn Origen and Theodore of Mopsuestia, the teacher of Nestorius; the Sixth Council in 680, of the 170 who assembled in Constantinople for the third time, to condemn the Monothelite heresy, which taught that there is in Christ but one will, the divine; and the Seventh Council in 787, of the 350 who assembled in Nicaea for the second time to condemn Iconoclasm.

## The Holy Great Martyr Marina (Margaret)



This Martyr lived during the reign of Claudius II (268-270). She was from Pisidia of Cilicia and was the only daughter of a certain priest of the idols. On being orphaned by her mother, she was handed over to a certain woman who instructed her in the Faith of Christ. When she was fifteen years old, she was apprehended by the ruler of Olmbrus, and when asked her name, homeland, and faith, she answered: "My name is Marina; I am the offspring of the Pisidia; I call upon the Name of my Lord Jesus Christ." Because of this she endured bonds, imprisonment, and many whippings, and was finally beheaded in the year 270. Saint Marina is especially invoked for deliverance from demonic possession.

**FATHER MICHAEL REQUESTS...**that we, as a faithful community keep the following individuals in our prayers: Michalena (Skiadas) Sukenik, Suzanne Vaishnani, daughter of Ted Simon, Presbytera Magdalena Michalopoulos, Helen Economides, Henry Nussbaum, and Sam Kashou. Please notify Fr. Michael if you have anyone else who should be included for special prayers. May they be under the grace and tender watch of our Lord.

Feast day of Prophet Elias - Wednesday, July 20, 2016 at our Church - Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation. Orthros 8:30 am and Divine Liturgy 9:30 am. ALL ARE INVITED! Please join us.

Summer is here! Please be advised that the air conditioners in our church will be on during the church services. The two units in the front **are to remain on during the Divine Liturgy** as per necessity in the altar area, such being the vestments worn by the priest and altar servers, candles and lights. The two units in the rear of the church may be turned on and off as necessary.

Parish Council members are reminded that your dues should have been paid by **March 31**; for all other members, dues are strongly encouraged to be paid no later than **June 30**. Please submit your payment to Sophia Papastratis or Steve Anastos. **Single rate is \$200/year, which is for one member; family rate is \$400 which means more than one member of a family, such as husband and wife.** Children under the age of 18 are not included in these rates. Anyone with financial concerns regarding their dues is encouraged to speak with Fr. Michael or Steve Anastos.

#### STEWARDSHIP:

As he looked up, Jesus saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. "I tell you the truth," he said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."  
**Luke 20:45-21:4**

Whether you are an Orthodox Christian, or this is your first visit to an Orthodox Church, we are pleased to have you with us. Although Holy Communion is reserved for baptized and chrismated (confirmed) Orthodox Christians, all are invited to receive the "ANTIDORON" (blessed bread) which is not a sacrament, but is a reminder of the "agape feast" that followed worship in the early Church. After the Divine Liturgy this morning, please join us in the Church Hall for fellowship and refreshments. We hope that you will return often to worship with us, to grow in Christ and in our Orthodox Faith. For any spiritual, religious, or sacramental matters, please contact Fr. Michael (607) 795-1474. For any building, facility or church property issues, please contact Parish Council President Steve Anastos, (607) 296-9799. Deadline for suggestions for the bulletin is 12:00 noon on Thursday.