



Sunday Bulletin November 6, 2016

Greek Orthodox Church of the

Annunciation

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Rev. Dr. Michael Bahlatzis, Presiding Priest-Proistamenos

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### **Epistle Reading Galatians 1:11-19**

BRETHREN, I would have you know that the gospel which was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it; and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

### **Gospel Reading Luke 8:41-56**

At that time, there came to Jesus a man named Jairus, who was a ruler of the synagogue; and falling at Jesus' feet he besought him to come to his house, for he had an only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she was dying. As he went, the people pressed round him. And a woman who had had a flow of blood for twelve years and had spent all her living upon physicians and could not be healed by anyone, came up behind him, and touched the fringe of his garment; and immediately her flow of blood ceased. And Jesus said, "Who was it that touched me?" When all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the multitudes surround you and press upon you!" But Jesus said, "Some one touched me; for I perceive that power has gone forth from me." And when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling, and falling down before him declared in the presence of all the people why she had touched him, and how she had been immediately healed. And he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace." While he was still speaking, a man from the ruler's house came and said, "Your daughter is dead; do not trouble the Teacher any more." But Jesus on hearing this answered him, "Do not fear; only believe, and she shall be well." And when he came to the house, he permitted no one to enter with him, except Peter and John and James, and the father and mother of the child. And all were weeping and bewailing her; but he said, "Do not weep; for she is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. But taking her by the hand he called, saying, "Child, arise." And her spirit returned, and she got up at once; and he directed that something should be given her to eat. And her parents were amazed; but he charged them to tell no one what had happened.

*Message from Fr. Michael....*

Dearly Beloved Faithful:

In today's Holy Gospel reading, we heard about two miracles that the Lord performed: the healing of the woman with an issue of blood and the raising of the daughter of Jairus. Although we hear of the two miracles within the same story, and seem different from each other, they are actually the same miracle. The woman who had an issue of blood later was known to be St. Veronica.

As we hear the Gospel reading today, we pause and listen attentively. We realize that hearing the miracles of healing by our Lord inspire us to remain faithful. We become faithful by following His Holy Commandments. We recognize that we must know God, in order to fulfill His commandments. God reveals Himself to us. He imparts strength on us. By doing so, He gives us the strength to become like Him with morals and virtues. Our quest to become Godly is perfected. This is what the Christian life is, it is self-perfection. Self-perfection occurs by the hand of God, with God. Self-perfection can only occur if we develop an awareness of what we are to do. We do this by knowing God. By knowing Him, we will know the commandments. Hearing about the miracles of healing by our Lord, inspires to know God. We develop an understanding of the greatness of He who is our Healer. He is the Healer whom we serve.

We read in the Gospel of St. John, "My sheep follow me because they know my voice". His voice heals us! The voice we hear deep in our soul is the Lord's voice.

The gospel reading of today shows us the sweetness of our Lord: His compassion for humanity and mercy are a lesson to us all. If we read of miracles our Lord, and experience His sweetness, it energizes us to follow His commandments. God is revealed to those who are pure and not to the impure. As we follow His commandments we become pure. God is then revealed to us.

Prayer is also important to gain God's revelation. We must pray, follow His commandments, and maintain our purity. As we are weak human beings, we have difficulty maintaining a high level of intensity. This is why we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord one day a week. However, we live in the reality of the Resurrection. Saint Seraphim of Sarov truly lived the Resurrection on a daily basis. He would greet all saying 'Christ is Risen' without regard of the time of the year it was. There are times designated when we are to be more intense in our spiritual life, i.e. the lenten or fasting periods. Saturday and Sunday are God's days. God teaches us on those days. Saturday is the day we remember the departed souls and Sunday is the celebration of His Holy Resurrection. Jairus, who was a ruler of the synagogue, fell down at Jesus' feet, and begged him to come to his house. His only daughter, about twelve years of age, was dying. The Lord was surrounded by hundreds of people. The people realized that Jesus spoke with authority.

People desired to be in His presence. Those that hated Him and those that loved Him wanted to be in His presence, because they realized that there was something special about Him. Jairus pushed through the crowd and knelt down before the Lord. As we read in gospel of St. Mark Jairus said, "I pray thee, come and lay thy hands on her that she may be healed and she shall live." Jairus' daughter was later healed. This man had an extreme need, and it pushed him toward Christ, just like us. In this case, his daughter was dying.

With us, we are pushed toward Christ as we seek to have our sins taken away. We have the need to be healed!

God heals us and makes us complete. We see that in the woman with the flow of blood. The woman was discovered. By Jewish Law, she was considered unclean. She was supposed to stay away from those people who were clean. She was discovered by the Lord, because the Lord knows everything. She had faith and was healed.

The Lord knows all when it comes to us! He knows that we are sinful. Yet He loves us and is willing to heal us, if we migrate toward Him and follow His commandments.

Praying that the Lord will make us pure, heal us of our infirmities, and enable us to hear His voice, I remain

Prayerfully in His service,  
+Fr. Michael

## **Paul the Confessor, Patriarch of Constantinople**

Saint Paul was from Thessalonica. He became the secretary of Alexander, Patriarch of Constantinople (see Aug. 30), a deacon, and then the successor of Saint Alexander in about 337. Because of his virtue, his eloquence in teaching, and his zeal for Orthodoxy, the Arians hated and feared him. When the Arian Emperor Constantius, who was in Antioch, learned of Paul's election, he exiled Paul and proclaimed the Arian Eusebius Patriarch. Saint Paul went to Rome, where he found Saint Athanasius the Great also in exile. Provided with letters by Pope Julius, Paul returned to Constantinople, and after the death of Eusebius in 342, ascended again his rightful throne; the Arians meanwhile elected Macedonius, because he rejected the Son's consubstantiality with the Father (and the divinity of the Holy Spirit besides). When Constantius, yet at Antioch, learned of Paul's return, he sent troops to Constantinople to drive Paul out. The Saint returned to Rome, where Saint Athanasius also was again in exile. Constans, Emperor of the West, Constantius' brother, but Orthodox, wrote to Constantius that if Athanasius and Paul were not allowed to return to their sees, he would come with troops to restore them him-self. So Paul again returned to his throne. After the death of Constans, however, Constantius had Paul deposed. Because of the love of the people for Saint Paul, Philip the Prefect, who was sent for him, was compelled to arrest him secretly to avoid a sedition. Paul was banished to Cucusus, on the borders of Cilicia and Armenia; a town through which his most illustrious successor, Saint John Chrysostom would also pass on his way to Comana in his last exile. In Cucusus, about the year 350, as Saint Paul was celebrating the Divine Liturgy in the little house where he was a prisoner, the Arians strangled him with his own omophorion, so much did they fear him even in exile. His holy relics were brought back to Constantinople with honour by the Emperor Theodosius the Great.

**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, and Presbyteria Magdalena Michalopoulos. 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.

**VOLUNTEERS** are needed for the coffee hour fellowship, so that this can continue. Refreshments will be funded by the parish council and/or volunteers and other church groups, however we are in need of your time to assist in preparation, serving and clean up afterwards. Please see Steve Anastos, or any parish council member, to volunteer. Thank you.

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.