



Sunday Bulletin September 18, 2016
Greek Orthodox Church of the
Annunciation

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Rev. Dr. Michael Bahlatzis, Presiding Priest-Proistamenos

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## **Epistle Reading**

**Prokeimenon. Fourth Mode. Psalm 103.24,1.**

**O Lord, how manifold are your works. You have made all things in wisdom.**

**Verse: Bless the Lord, O my soul.**

**The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 2:16-20**

BRETHREN, you know that a man is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ, and not by works of the law, because by works of the law shall no one be justified. But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we ourselves were found to be sinners, is Christ then an agent of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again those things which I tore down, then I prove myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law, that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

## **Gospel Reading**

**Mark 8:34-38; 9:1**

The Lord said: "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

*Message from Fr. Michael...*

Dearly Beloved Faithful in the Lord:

In St. Mark's Holy Gospel reading of today we heard:

The Lord said: "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

Are we embarrassed by the Lord's words? Are we afraid of being criticized by nonbelievers of this day and age by the mere mention of Church and the Bible? Indeed, brothers and sisters, we are truly living in "this adulterous and sinful generation." Truly we must stop and think how far removed we have become from mainstream Christianity as we have become surrounded by the nonbelievers who seek to influence us and guide us away from the Word of God. Are we willing to trade our ticket for a journey of everlasting life with our Lord and Savior for a one way ticket to hell?

On the contrary, we want life in our Lord's Heavenly Kingdom. We want to be held and nurtured in the bosom of Abraham. We want to live a Godly life... a life which takes special pride in adhering to the teachings of our Lord. We are not ashamed of God's words. We welcome them, and they are truly Heavenly "music" to our ears! We know, in our hearts, that the Lord is not ashamed of us as we are not ashamed of His Words.

We are willing to take up our Cross and follow our Savior for all eternity. The nonbelievers do not understand this and they silently envy us. Their silent jealousy of our passion for the Divine is destructive. Those who are envious attempt to chastise those who utter God's Words. Taking up our Cross, to follow the Lord, involves proclaiming outwardly our faith no matter what the cost is to our social status standing. The Lord knows all and sees all. He will know if we are ashamed or not! So, we give God the glory through thanksgiving and worship. We give God the glory in that we proclaim His words with enthusiasm and love. We give God the glory as we take up our Cross and follow Him!

Proclaiming His words with love, I remain  
Yours in His service,

+Fr. Michael

## Sunday after Holy Cross



September 18

Apolytikion of Afterfeast of the Holy Cross in the First Tone

Lord, save Your people and bless Your inheritance, granting our rulers to prevail over adversaries, and protecting Your commonwealth by Your Cross.

## Ariadne the Martyr

## Eumenius the Wonderworker, Bishop of Gortynia

This Saint took up the monastic life from his youth, and later became Bishop of Gortynia in Crete. He travelled to Rome, and to Thebes in Upper Egypt, where through his prayers he ended a drought; there also, after working many miracles, he reposed in deep old age. His holy relics were returned to Gortynia and buried at the place called Raxos.

**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, Henry Nussbaum, 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.

At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy today, we will have a Trisagion Service for Shirley Simon, beloved wife of Ted Simon, on the occasion of the 2nd Anniversary of her falling asleep in the Lord. May her memory be eternal! Our prayers and best wishes go out to her family: her husband, Ted, and her daughters and their families.

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.

PASTICHIO OPEN 2016 GOLF TOURNAMENT. Captain and crew, shotgun start at 1:30 pm. \$80 per golfer - \$320 per team. Register as a team or as an individual, golf will include buffet Greek dinner, prizes will be awarded for longest drive, closest to the pin, and skins game. Sunday, September 18, 2016 at Traditions at the Glen, 4101 Watson Blvd., Johnson City, New York. Deadline to register is September 10, 2016. Contact at Jim 343-1601 or John at 343-0090 to reserve your spot.

Children's Greek School: There will be a sign-up sheet for parents to register their children in the Narthex. Children must be 7 by September 1st. There have been changes this year that has affected when Greek School will be held. Classes will now be held on Saturdays from 8:30-10 am. The first class will begin October 8th. We hope that this change does not discourage students from attending this school year. Any questions please see one of the Greek School teachers. We look forward to another great school year!

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.