



Sunday Bulletin August 27, 2017 *Greek Orthodox Church of the* *Annunciation*

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Proistamenos

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### **Epistle Reading** Corinthians 15:1-11

Brethren, I would remind you in what terms I preached to you the gospel, which you received, in which you stand, by which you are saved, if you hold it fast -- unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God which is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

### **Gospel Reading** Matthew 19:16-26

At that time, a young man came up to Jesus, kneeling and saying, "Good Teacher, what good deed must I do, to have eternal life?" And he said to him, "Why do you call me good? One there is who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments." He said to him, "Which?" And Jesus said, "You shall not kill, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother, and You shall love your neighbor as yourself." The young man said to him, "All these I have observed; what do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful; for he had great possessions. And Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly, I say to you, it will be hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." When the disciples heard this they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

*Message from Fr. Michael....*

Dearly Beloved Faithful in the Lord:

In today's Holy Gospel reading we heard the young man ask our Lord: "What good thing shall I do that I might have eternal life." This is a question which I am sure we have all thought about from time to time. It is not that one thing could be done to inherit eternal life. Brothers and sisters, it is a compilation of many things that we must do to come close to viewing "The Pearly Gates." The Lord told him "Thou shalt do not kill, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Honor thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." However, the young man told the Lord that he already abides by those commandments. The Lord directed him to follow, seeing that he was serious, and also told him to sell his possessions and to give them to the poor. In this manner, he would be laying up treasures in Heaven. However, the man became sorrowful as he had great possessions. The Lord knew it was difficult for a man of wealth to do this. However, if one is serious about obtaining the Kingdom of Heaven, then these possessions of wealth which are prone to acquiring dust, corrosion, rust, and envy are ones which will stay behind on earth long after we have passed from this life. Remember the altruism: *There are no luggage racks on hearses!* "Render unto Caesar what is Caesar's and unto God what is God's." Our soul's rightful place is with God.

Blessed Theofylact once stated that rich person was one who has funds, property, and houses, and he gives to no one. His method of acquisition of these things are by way stealing them from the poor. Therefore he should be regarded as a thief. However, a steward is an individual who has substance. It does not mean that a steward does not have money, property, or a house. However, a steward is one possesses mercy and compassion while distributing these things to the poor. Essentially, such an individual is one who shares good fortune with the less fortunate. Such an individual is a good steward of wealth. Tithing is often the subject brought up many many Christian dominations. Many people cringe at the idea of doing this. A person who tithes is one who is obedient to his faith. Tithing is command directed by our Lord. The Lord told us to do this! Therefore, we are to do this! What do we need to do to inherit eternal life? There you go! He has told us to do all the above.

Do we pay our Church stewardship dues? Or do we want to save money so that we can go to the health club, or to go to Greece, or to buy a boat or buy other worldly materialistic frivalities? Depriving the Lord of our good stewardship, whether it be through faith and prayer that is owed to Him or monetary stewardship that is owed to Him, are acts which pull us away from receiving His grace. We belong to God! We are all His property. We shall live for Him or not live at all! Living without God is not living all. Financial hardship is certainly understandable, and those who truthfully can not afford to make good on their financial obligations to the Church, may give whatever they can. God is watching and is all merciful!

Seeking to inherit eternal life, while guiding my flock, I remain  
Prayerfully in His service,

+Fr. Michael

## 12th Sunday of Matthew

### Pimen the Great

**Saint Pimen was from Egypt and shone forth in the ascetical life in Scete in the fourth century; he was renowned for his discretion. Many of his sayings and deeds are preserved in the Paradise of the Fathers and the Sayings of the Fathers.**

August 27



### Holy Martyr Phanurius

Little is known of the holy Martyr Phanurius, except that which is depicted concerning his martyrdom on his holy icon, which was discovered in the year 1500 among the ruins of an ancient church on Rhodes, when the Moslems ruled there. Thus he is called "the Newly Revealed." The faithful pray to Saint Phanurius especially to help them recover things that have been lost, and because he has answered their prayers so often, the custom has

arisen of baking a Phaneropita ("Phanurius-Cake") as a thanks-offering.

### Apolytikion of Martyr Phanurius

#### Fourth Tone

A heavenly song of praise is brightly sung on the earth; \* the hosts of the Angels keep an earthly festival now in splendor and radiant joy; \* from on high, they praise with hymns the sufferings and struggles; \* and below, the Church doth laud the heavenly glory \* thou foundest by thy contests and pains, O glorious Phanurius.

**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.

At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy today, we will have a Trisagion for Esther Paul Conomikes, mother of Alexandra Rozboril, Steve Yacalis and John Yacalis, who fell asleep in the Lord 4 years ago, for Frank Yacalis, brother of Alexandra Rozboril, Steve Yacalis, John Yacalis and ½ brother of Vasili Yacalis, who fell asleep in the Lord 2 years ago, and for Eleni (Helen) Economides, sister of Amelia Yacalis and Aunt of Vasili Yacalis, who fell asleep in the Lord 1 year ago. May their memories be eternal! Our prayers go out to the Conomikes, Yacalis, and Economides families.

Annual Church Golf Tournament/Golf Outing (The Pastichio Open)  
September 24th, 2017 - Endwell Greens 1:30 pm start. Dinner to follow at Riverdale Banquet House. \$80/Golfer and \$320 foursome/team. All are invited to sign up.

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.