



Sunday Bulletin July 30, 2017
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

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## Epistle Reading

**The reading is from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 1:10-17**

BRETHREN, I appeal to you by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no dissensions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brethren. What I mean is that each one of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispos and Gaius; lest any one should say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized any one else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

## Gospel Reading     Matthew 14:14-22

At that time, Jesus saw a great throng; and he had compassion on them, and healed their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a lonely place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They said to him, "We have only five loaves here and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass; and taking the five loaves and the two fish he looked up to heaven, and blessed, and broke and gave the loaves to the crowds. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children. Then he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds.

*Message from Fr. Michael....*

Dearly Beloved Faithful in the Lord:

During the fast for the Dormition of the Theotokos, during the early centuries of the early Church, in Constantinople, the portion of the summer was a time of disease and pestilence and so it was the custom to carry the True Cross in procession through all the quarters of that great city during the first two weeks of August (particularly on the first day of August and some would practice this custom on the first day of every month). In Greek Orthodox worship, it was and still is customary to sing the Paraklesis to the Theotokos each evening during that period of August. The Great and Small Canon are sung on alternate evenings. This is sung at Vespers immediately after the hymn of Symeon, 'Now, Master'. It is the custom in many monasteries of Mt. Athos to sing the Canon of the Mother of God from the *Theotokarion*, with its *Prosomia*, daily at that place in Vespers. The Paraklesis service is the equivalent of the Slav *Molieben*. However, the Greeks did not reduce the Paraklesis to the refrains between the troparia. While the Slavs omit the troparia. We must remember that the Paraklesis service is celebrated for the living, and the departed should not be commemorated in the litanies.

I invite you to attend the service of the Paraklesis which will be held on Thursday evening of this week, August 3rd and 8th at 7:15 pm. I look forward to your prayerful attendance. I believe that we all need the intercessory help of the Theotokos. This is a wonderful way to receive such help. May our supplications to the Theotokos be received so that we may receive Divine grace from our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ. I pray that your fast, during this lenten period for the Dormition of the Mother of God, brings upon you tranquility, peace, and harmony in your lives so that your proximity to God may be one where you find yourself on the path to everlasting life and salvation. Set your 'spiritual compass' on a setting that will lead you closer to Him. Pray the Paraklesis!

By the mercy of God, I remain your humble pastor and servant, I remain  
Prayerfully yours,

+Fr. Michael

## 8th Sunday of Matthew

### Silas, Silvan, Crescens, Epenetus and Andronicus the Apostles of the 70



Saint Silas was a companion and fellow labourer of the Apostle Paul: "And Paul chose Silas and departed...and he went through Syria and Cilicia, confirming the churches" (Acts 15:40-41). He later became Bishop of Corinth, and reposed in peace. Saint Silvanos became Bishop of Thessalonica, and also reposed in peace. Saint Crescents, whom Saint Paul mentions in his Second Epistle to Timothy (4:10), became Bishop of Chalcedon, and brought many to the Faith. As for him whom the Apostle of the Nations praises as "my well-beloved Epenetus, the first-fruits of Achaia unto

Christ" (Roman 16:5), he became Bishop of Carthage, and after enduring many afflictions from the idolators, and bringing many of them to Christ, he departed to the Lord.

## Joseph the Righteous of Arimathea



Saint Joseph of Arimathea was a prominent Jewish leader during the time of Jesus Christ. He is mentioned in the Gospels as being a rich man from Arimathea who was a secret disciple of Christ due to his status in the Sanhedrin. After the crucifixion and death of our Lord, Joseph approached Pontius Pilate out of piety and asked for the body of Jesus so that he might bury it honorably. He, together with Saint Nicodemus, removed the body of Christ from the cross in the presence of the Theotokos and the Myrrh-Bearing Women, wrapped it in a linen shroud, anointed it with spices, and laid it in a new tomb that he owned. This disciple later traveled the world proclaiming the Gospel until he reposed in peace in England. The Church commemorates him individually on July 31<sup>st</sup> and

along with the Myrrh-Bearing Women and Nicodemus on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Pascha (the Sunday of the Holy Myrrh-Bearers).

**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.

**Service of the PARAKLESIS for the Theotokos**

Will be held on Thursday, August 3, 2017 and Tuesday, August 8, 2017 at 7:15 pm. All are invited! We look forward to your prayerful attendance

**\*\*SUMMER IS HERE\*\***

Please be advised that the 2 air conditioning units in the front of the church will be set at 70 degrees and **will remain on throughout the services** for the remainder of the summer season. This is the same temperature the church heat is set at during the winter months The two units in the back may be turned off as the need arises; the units in the front will remain on and will not be altered. **Please do not interrupt the services regarding the front units.** The altar area contains hot spotlights, candles, burning charcoal, and other sources of heat which make it exceptionally warm when combined with the vestments worn. Parishioners are welcome to bring a sweater if there are any concerns.

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.