



*Sunday Bulletin November 4, 2018*  
*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 Ephesians 2:4-10**

Brethren, God who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with him, and made us sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God: not because of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

**Gospel Reading Luke 16:19-31**

The Lord said, "There was a rich man, who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, full of sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table; moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried; and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes, and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus in his bosom. And he called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy upon me, and send Lazaros to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in anguish in this flame.' But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazaros in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.' And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.' But Abraham said, 'They have Moses, and the prophets; let them hear them.' And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if some one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' He said to them, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced if some one should rise from the dead.'"

Message from Fr. Michael.....

Dearly Beloved Faithful in the Lord:

Today's gospel reading is one whose central message is on love and faith. The parable told in this gospel reading focuses on the rich man and the poor man, Lazarus. The rich man symbolized the Jews, or the nonbelievers of Christ, and Lazarus symbolized the Gentiles. Christ was cast out by the Jews as was Lazarus cast out by those who were followers of the Law (the Old Testament). The Jews were clothed with fine linen representing that they were clothed with the knowledge of the One True God. However, they did not accept the Messiah...our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Gentiles, or non-Jews, were awoken by the Lord's teachings and became officially introduced to the True God, the Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Wherever we come from in life, from rags or riches, one day we will die and not be able to take our material wealth with us. Christ was cast out just like the rich man. It was prophesied that the Jews would reject the Lord Jesus. In the parable, we are only given the name of the poor man, Lazarus. The other man was simply referred to as the rich man. Christ teaches us that the rich people of the world consumed with wealth are insignificant to God. However, those who have humility and who are neglected by the worldly, are of great importance to God. We must realize that it does NOT mean that if one is blessed with wealth they will not be liked by God. The Lord is merciful and saw the faith that the Gentiles had in their hearts. The Lord accepted them into repentance as the New Israel. Lazarus was no more a sinner than us. Lazarus' sores on his skin were licked by the dogs and eventually provided him comfort. The dogs licking the sores is symbolic of the sins of man being cleansed by God after man has repented.

The vanity of the rich man causes the rich man's sores to be covered or even internal making healing of them extremely arduous. For the rich man lacked love and compassion. When Lazarus died, he was carried by the angels to the bosom of Abraham. The death of this meagre individual seemed like no big deal to the inhabitants of the world. However, this was his birth into eternal life. The souls of those who are righteous are under God's watch. No torment shall come to them once they are with the Lord.

Abraham's bosom refers to salvation. This is what we all seek...to be cradled in the arms of our Creator. We recognize that hell is eternal and real! Those who do not keep the Holy traditions of the church, who do not read the scripture, and do not keep the commandments, essentially desire to put Christ to death. They will never be recognized as followers of the Lord. To love the Lord is to have unconditional faith that never waivers. Let us have the humility of Lazarus and unwavering faith.

Prayerfully in His service,  
+Fr. Michael

## ***SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM FR. MICHAEL:***

Please join us on Sunday, November 18, 2018 as His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas will ordain one of our very own to the permanent diaconate. It is with great joy that we have the tonsuring of our altar boys and a diaconal ordination on that day. This is wonderful!

Before, I attended the seminary, I was a deacon. In fact, I was a deacon for 21 years before being ordained to the priesthood. It is my joy to soon have a permanent deacon to assist in helping to attend to the needs of the faithful. Liturgically, it is the deacon's function to bring the people together and unite them in corporate prayer and in their function of fulfilling their role as members of the Body of Christ, the Church. He may not give a blessing, however since this right belongs solely to the priests and bishops. Rather he encourages the faithful in their offerings to the altar—through their material offerings (prospora) and in their prayers—so that the celebrant may offer up (anaphora) their sacrifice unto God. Deacons are NOT priests. They cannot offer up a sacrifice- anaphora. They cannot give blessings. The faithful do not kiss the hand of the deacon as he cannot and does not have the right to impart any blessing. However, they may assist the celebrant priest or bishop in liturgical worship so that the job of the celebrant may be carried out in a smoother manner. Deacons may only enter into the altar sanctuary through the side doors when going into the altar through "deacons doors." However, the exception is that they may enter through the royal doors of the altar when the priest or bishop is directly behind him when the deacon is carrying a gospel or sacred vessel in order to assist the priest or bishop.

Thus, the deacon is not only a sort of "choir director," he is charged with encouraging the faithful to gauge in a direction of worship and prayer. The deacon is not charged with prayer during liturgical worship. Instead, he is a technician or an assistant to help the priest or bishop so that they are not tied down doing things that would consume their time and prevent them from prayer or from teaching the Word of God to the faithful or from offering up the anaphora. God created deacons to tend to the material needs of the faithful so that the priests and bishops would not be tied down in having to deal with those matters. The deacons help the faithful worship so that service of the Eucharist may expediently be conducted so that the faithful may be communed. This allows the participation of all the members of the Body of Christ in their several functions at their proper time and in their proper order.

We are blessed to have all our altar servers, altar boys, readers, and a permanent deacon. It is not proper to say to the permanent deacon "when you become a priest some day....." as permanent deacons are just that "Permanent" as this is the contract that they made with embarking on this holy calling. Permanent deacons are deacons for life. Thus, Permanent deacons differ from transitional deacons in this regard. Transitional deacons are those who attend the seminary in a Master of Divinity program who aspire to enter the priesthood after graduation (as it takes 7 years of college/university to become a priest) who aspire to enter the priesthood after graduation. Permanent deacons do not have such theological education. Yet, nonetheless, the role of the permanent diaconate is not minimized....as a "deacon is a deacon" regardless of whether he is transitional or permanent. The bible clearly shows us that the first 7 deacons called were permanent. To our future volunteer permanent deacon and our altar boys we say: "AXIOS! AXIOS! AXIOS!"

In His Service,  
+Fr. Michael

# **Saints and Feasts Commemorated**

## **Joannicius the Great**

Saint Joannicius was born in Bithynia about the year 740. His father was named Myritrikes and his mother Anastaso. When he had reached maturity, he excelled in soldiery and was counted worthy of royal honours for his bravery. He had been brought up an iconoclast, but while yet a soldier, he was converted to Orthodoxy by a certain holy elder. He later forsook all things and departed for Mount Olympus, where he spent the remainder of his life in asceticism. Becoming great in virtue, he reposed in the Lord in the year 834, having lived some ninety-four years. To this Saint is ascribed the brief prayer, "My hope is the Father . . . ."

## **Apolytikion of Joannicius the Great**

### **Plagal of the Fourth Tone**

With the rivers of your tears, you have made the barren desert fertile. Through sighs of sorrow from deep within you, your labors have borne fruit a hundred-fold. By your miracles you have become a light, shining upon the world. O Joannicius, our Holy Father, pray to Christ our God, to save our souls.

## **The Holy Hieromartyrs Nicander, Bishop of Myra, and Hermias the Presbyter**

The holy Martyrs Nikandros and Hermias were ordained by the holy Apostle Titus. When they had drawn many to the Faith of Christ, they were accused to Libanius, the Count of the city of Myra, where, after suffering many torments, they were enclosed in a tomb alive, and thus surrendered their spirits into the hands of God.

## **Apolytikion of Nikandros, Bishop of Myra**

### **Fourth Tone**

As a sharer of the ways and a successor to the throne of the Apostles, O inspired of God, thou foundest discipline to be a means of ascent to divine vision. Wherefore, having rightly divided the word of truth, thou didst also contest for the Faith even unto blood, O Hieromartyr Nicander. Intercede with Christ our God that our souls be saved.

**BY THE GRACE OF GOD  
AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
APOSTOLIC TRADITION**

**HIS EMINENCE  
METROPOLITAN NICHOLAS OF DETROIT  
WILL ORDAIN THE SERVANT OF GOD**

**VASILIOS YACALIS  
TO THE PERMANENT HOLY DIACONATE  
THROUGH THE LAYING ON OF HANDS  
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2018  
ORTHROS AND HIERARCHICAL DIVINE LITURGY  
9:00 A.M.**

**GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION  
4121 O'HARA DRIVE  
VESTAL, NEW YORK 13850**

**RECEPTION TO FOLLOW AT THE RIVERDALE BANQUET HALL**

FATHER MICHAEL REQUESTS...that we, as a faithful community keep the following individuals in our prayers: Lilly Kashou, Issam Kashou, 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.

Please note as a reminder the deadline for placing an ad in the Annual Greek dance book was November 1, 2018. However, for those who have not done so please consider placing an ad. If you prefer to purchase tickets please see us. The dance is scheduled for November 17, 2018 at the Riverdale Banquet Hall. You can find details of the program on the table in the Narthex. Any questions please address them with either co-chairs Kostas Papathomas (papatho@gmail.com) or Steve Anastos.

**JOY/HOPE** will be meeting next Sunday, November 11, during the coffee/fellowship hour.

The December meeting for JOY/HOPE will be on Sunday, December 9, during the coffee/fellowship hour.

## Wisdom of the Fathers

By these words it is surely shown that in his [the rich man] daily feasting he had frequently sinned by his tongue, seeing that, while burning all over, he demanded to be cooled especially in his tongue. Again, that levity of conduct follows closely upon gluttony sacred authority testifies ... For the most part also edacity leads us even to lechery, because, when the belly is distended by repletion, the stings of lust are excited.

### St. Gregory the Dialogist

The Book of Pastoral Rule, Chapter XIX, 6th century

The man who has once chosen pleasure in this life, and has not cured his inconsiderateness by repentance, places the land of the good beyond his own reach; for he has dug against himself the yawning impassable abyss of a necessity that nothing can break through.

### St. Gregory of Nyssa

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 the Parish Council President or a member of the council. **Deadline for suggestions for the bulletin is 12:00 noon on Thursday.**