



Sunday Bulletin October 7, 2018
Greek Orthodox Church of the
Annunciation

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Proistamenos

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**Epistle Reading    Corinthians 11:31-33; 12:1-9**

Brethren, the God and Father of the Lord Jesus, he who is blessed for ever, knows that I do not lie. At Damascus, the governor under King Aretas guarded the city of Damascus in order to seize me, but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped his hands. I must boast; there is nothing to be gained by it, but I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven -- whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. And I know that this man was caught up into Paradise --whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows -- and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. Though if I wish to boast, I shall not be a fool, for I shall be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. And to keep me from being too elated by the abundance of revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan, to harass me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I besought the Lord about this, that it should leave me; but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." I will all the more gladly boast of my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

**Gospel Reading    Luke 7:11-16**

At that time, Jesus went to a city called Nain, and his disciples and a great crowd went with him. As he drew near to the gate of the city, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow; and a large crowd from the city was with her. And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." And he came and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." And the dead man sat up, and began to speak. And he gave him to his mother. Fear seized them all; and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has arisen among us!" and "God has visited his people!"

*Message from Fr. Michael.....*

Dearly Beloved Faithful:

In today's lesson from the Gospel of St. Luke, the Lord Jesus raises the son of a widow, from the territory of Nain, from the dead. Jesus had compassion on the woman and her grief, for her being a widow, and for her only son who was now dead. Jesus knew what agony and torment that the poor widow would face for the remainder of her life: no one to support and care for her. Thus, seemingly feeling sentenced to a life of poverty and austerity. Jesus took pity on her and had compassion on her. Perhaps, my brothers and sisters in Christ, Jesus realized the pain, agony, and sorrow that His own mother, the most holy and blessed Theotokos, would experience with His own Passion and Crucifixion. When gazing at the icon of the Theotokos and Christ Child, in the style of Glykophilousa, the Theotokos is pictured holding Jesus, and her head is bent toward Him and He is depicted as kissing her lovingly on the cheek. One may marvel by gazing into the eyes of the Theotokos as there appears to be a certain sadness in her eyes. She knew fully well that her son would sacrifice His life for us all, for our salvation for the ransom of the many. It was the look of a mother, who is sending her son (and daughter) off to fight and defend his country. It is the look of a mother who realizes that her child will die an untimely death before she herself is taken. Yes, Jesus had Compassion on the widow, and then uniquely raised her son to life.

Even though the resuscitation of the widow of Nain's son would be temporary (for we are mere mortals), we like the crowd rejoiced in this miracle. It reminded the crowd of the miracles of the prophets Elijah and Elisha, noted in 2 Kings, as they shouted that a prophet had been sent to them.

The crowds spread news of Jesus' miraculous works throughout Judea and the surrounding areas. In retrospect, they should have realized that Jesus was more than a prophet; He was the very Messiah the prophets preached. But the crowds, like the disciples would know this only after Jesus' death and Resurrection. Even John the Baptist asked his disciples was Jesus truly the very Messiah which He had preached or should they expect someone else?" (Luke 7:18-19)

Let us lovingly show compassion on those who live hand to mouth, with little to sustain them. Let us show our compassion for the unfortunate who struggle daily to make ends meet. Let us pray for them.

Prayerfully compassionate in His service, I remain

Your devoted servant,  
+Fr. Michael

## Saints and Feasts Commemorated

October 7

**Polychronios the Martyr**

**Jonah of Manchuria**

**John the Hermit of Crete**



**October 1**

Saint Romanos flourished during the reign of Anastasius (491-518). He was from Emesa of Syria, and apparently was born of Jewish parents, for a hymn written in his honour in Greek says he was "of Hebrew stock," and it has furthermore been noted that he uses many Semitic idioms in his writings. He was baptized an Orthodox Christian, and at some time became a deacon in the Church of Beirut. He was the first composer of the kontakia, the foremost of which is that of the feast of Christ's Nativity, On this day the Virgin .... In composing many of his kontakia. Saint Romanos was inspired by the hymns of Saint Ephraim of Syria.

**Apolytikion of Romanos the Melodist**

**Plagal of the Fourth Tone**

The image of God, was faithfully preserved in you, O Father. For you took up the Cross and followed Christ. By Your actions you taught us to look beyond the flesh for it passes, rather to be concerned about the soul which is immortal. Wherefore, O Holy Romanos, your soul rejoices with the angels.

**Kontakion of Romanos the Melodist**

**Plagal of the Fourth Tone**

As a harmonious harp of lofty wisdom from on high and an expounder of things seen in God-inspired ascents, we extol thee, Father Romanos, and we hymn thee. As a trumpet of the gifts that pass the mind of man, do thou rouse us to divine and saving watchfulness, as we cry to thee: Rejoice, O Father elect of God

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.

Philoptochos will be hosting a Spaghetti & Meatballs lunch on October 14th to benefit the Emergency Relief Fund for the Carolinas Hurricane victims. Adults \$10, 7-12 years old \$3, 6 & under free! If you plan on taking orders out, please let Jeanet, Lynda, Bessie, Lorraine or Adrianna know ahead of time.

The Annual Church Golf Tournament/The Pastichio Open will be held TODAY - October 7, 2018 - Traditions at the Glenn, 4101 Watson Blvd, Johnson City, NY; 1:30 pm start. Dinner to follow at Riverdale Banquet House. \$80/Golfer and \$320 foursome/team. Dinner only at \$20/person. All are invited to sign up. Please contact Jim Anastos at 343-1601 or Kostas Papathomas at 205-0304.

Please pencil in the date. The annual church dance is scheduled for November 17, 2018, at the Riverdale Banquet Hall. Details will be provided at a later date. We encourage you to send your advertisements for the yearly dance book to papatho@gmail.com. Any questions please address them to Co-Chairs Steve Anastos or Kostas Papathomas.

### **Wisdom of the Fathers**

That dead man was being buried, and many friends were conducting him to his tomb. But there meets him Christ, the Life and Resurrection, for He is the destroyer of death and of corruption; He it is "in Whom we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28); He it is Who has restored the nature of man to that which it originally was; and has set free our death-fraught flesh from the bonds of death.

St. Cyril of Alexandria

Commentary on the Gospel of St. Luke, Homily 36.42, p. 153., 5th Century

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.**