



*Sunday Bulletin September 9, 2018*  
*Greek Orthodox Church of the*  
*Annunciation*

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**Rev. Dr. Michael Bahlatzis, Presiding Priest-**  
**Proistamenos**

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## **Epistle Reading**

**Prokeimenon. Plagal Second Mode. Psalm 27.9,1.**  
**O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance.**  
**Verse: To you, O Lord, I have cried, O my God.**

**The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 6:11-18**

Brethren, see with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh. But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. Peace and mercy be upon all who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God. Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

## **Gospel Reading**

**John 3:13-17**

The Lord said, "No one has ascended into heaven but he who descended from heaven, the Son of man who is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life." For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him."

*Message from Fr. Michael...*

Dearly Beloved Faithful in the Lord:

In the spirit of celebrating the Elevation of the precious Life-giving Cross of our Lord on Friday, September 14, 2018, we remind ourselves what is written in the Gospel of St. Mark as we read:

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

## Saints and Feasts Commemorated

### The Holy & Righteous Ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna



Today, the day following the Nativity of the most holy Theotokos, we celebrate the synaxis of Saints Joachim and Anna, honouring them as her parents.

September 9

#### **Apolytikion for Synaxis of the Holy Ancestors of God in the Second Mode**

As we celebrate the memory of Thy righteous ancestors, O Lord, through them we beseech Thee to save our souls.

### Severian the Martyr of Sebastia

Saint Severian, a senator from Sebastia, was both an illustrious man of wealth and a fearless Christian. Because he encouraged the holy Forty Martyrs of Sebastia to stand fast in their confession, he was given over to terrible torments, and received his own crown during the reign of Licinius and Lysius the Duke, about the year 315.

September 9

#### **Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Plagal Second Mode**

Angelic powers were above Thy tomb, and they that guarded Thee became as dead. And Mary stood by the grave seeking Thine immaculate Body. Thou hast despoiled Hades and wast not tried thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst grant us life. O Thou Who didst arise from the dead, Lord, glory be to Thee.

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 JOIN US ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2018 WHEN WE  
CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF THE ELEVATION OF THE LIFE-GIVING  
CROSS OF OUR LORD

Orthros: 9:00 am Divine Liturgy: 10:00 am

Join us in Sunday School. Learn about the church. Play and make new friends. Grow in our Orthodox faith! Join us each Sunday after Holy Communion. All kids are welcome. We hope to see you soon! Classes begin September 16.

If anyone desires to participate in teaching Sunday School please contact [athmavrommati@gmail.com](mailto:athmavrommati@gmail.com) or call (607) 761-3453.

### **Wisdom of the Fathers**

For since Nicodemus had said, "We know that Thou art a teacher come from God," on this very point He sets him right, all but saying, "Think Me not a teacher in such manner as were the many of the prophets who were of earth, for I have come from heaven (but) now. None of the prophets hath ascended up thither, but I dwell there."

### **St. John Chrysostom**

Homily 27 on John 3, 4th Century

For not in heaven only is He, but everywhere, and He fills all things; but yet He speaks according to the infirmity of His hearer, desiring to lead him up little by little ... For after having spoken of the very great benefaction that had come to man by Baptism, He proceeds to mention another benefaction, which was the cause of this, and not inferior to it; namely, that by the Cross ...

### **St. John Chrysostom**

Homily 27 on John 3, 4th 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.***