



Sunday Bulletin August 11, 2019
Greek Orthodox Church of the
Annunciation

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Rev. Dr. Michael Bahlatzis, Presiding Priest-
Proistamenos

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**Epistle Reading    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, there was a portion of the summer when there 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.

During the celebration of the feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos, we offer a witness of this truth. When we stop and consider the life of the Theotokos, we know that she found favor with God, the Holy Spirit came upon her, and she conceived and carried in her womb the Son of God. Following the Annunciation, she asked the Archangel Gabriel, "*How shall this be, since I have no husband?*" (Luke 1:34) How could this be accomplished by this holy and humble handmaiden of God? As we have frequently heard in our Church teachings, all things are possible to the believer.

On this Feast of the Dormition of the most blessed Theotokos, we are indeed intrigued and fascinated at her repose and the witness that she offered in passing through death unto eternal life. Our church troparia proclaim, "She who is higher than the heavens and more glorious than the cherubim, she who is held in greater honor than all creation...today commends her most pure soul into the

hands of her Son.” How did this happen? How does she continue to offer intercessions on behalf of us all? How did she receive such an exalted place? So we witness that all is possible for the believer.

The power of this promise through the holy witness of faith through the Theotokos offers us assurance and strength. The disciples of our Lord were encouraged and guided by her through her example of holiness of life. Her repose became a celebration of the abundant and eternal life that comes through faith in Christ. The celebration of her Dormition offers us hope and assurance, affirming that even through our burdens and challenges, even in the face of obstacles that seem unconquerable, even through physical hardships and spiritual struggles, all things are possible to the one who believes in Christ.

I invite you to the feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Thursday, August 15, 2019 Orthros at 9 am and Divine Liturgy at 10 am. 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

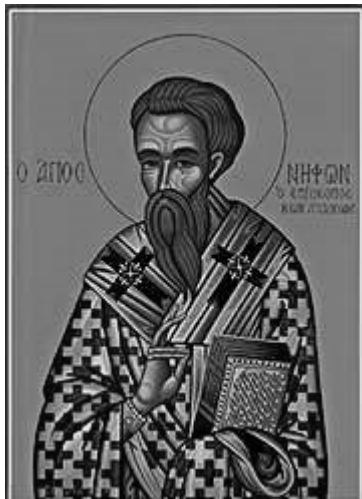
## Saints and Feasts Commemorated

### 8th Sunday of Matthew

#### Euplus the Holy Martyr & Archdeacon of Cantania

This Martyr was from Catania in Sicily and contested during the reign of Diocletian. He presented himself of his own accord to Calvisianus the Governor, who put him to exceedingly harsh torments. As Euplus was on the rack, Calvisianus commanded him to worship Mars, Apollo, and Aesculapius; he answered he worshipped the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He was beheaded in the year 304.

#### Our Holy Father Niphonus, Patriarch of Constantinople



#### Commemoration of St. Spyridon's Miracle in Corfu against the Turkish invasion of 1716



**FATHER MICHAEL REQUESTS...**that we, as a faithful community keep the following individuals in our prayers: Lilly Kashou, Angelo Romas, and Suzanne Vaishnani, daughter of Ted Simon. 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 1 Year Memorial Service for Antonette Paulakos Tobin. Our prayers and best wishes go out to her family and friends. May her memory be eternal!

**Feast day of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Thursday, August 15, 2019:**  
Orthros 9 am Divine Liturgy 10 am. Please join us!

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS WANTED AND NEEDED:**

- Great benefits: Heavenly treasures paid in spiritual dividends as your instruction inspires the minds and souls of our youth. - Holidays off. Christmas and full summer vacations! -Great hours: only 40 minutes per week: 10 am- 10:40 am Sundays. - Sunday School year will run from September 15th, 2019-May 17th, 2020. Sunday School graduation and moving up day will be on May 17, 2020. -Anyone may apply. PLEASE SEE FR. MICHAEL IF YOU ARE INTERESTED or call him evenings at 795-1474. Message from Fr. Michael: I am respectfully asking everyone to help make our Sunday School program a successful one this year. I am asking that the parents of our youth make the commitment of bringing their children to Church on time this year. It is requested that our youth be at Church by 10 am this year on Sundays. Together, let us try to fulfill our obligation to God by coming to Church regularly. Let us all do so in a loving enthusiastic way. Our children's attendance begins with YOU the parents. We show our children how important God is by our enthusiasm in bringing our children to Church. Please help us assist in the spiritual welfare of the children of our community (who represent the future of our church) so that they may continue to grow and prosper within the faith. May God bless you for doing so. Prayerfully and lovingly, + Fr. Michael

### **Wisdom of the Fathers**

And another thing too we learn, the self-restraint of the disciples which they practised in necessary things, and how little they accounted of food.

**St. John Chrysostom** Homily 49 on Matthew 14, 4th Century

For being twelve, they had five loaves only and two fishes; so secondary to them were the things of the body: so did they cling to the things spiritual only. And not even that little did they hold fast, but gave up even it when asked.

**St. John Chrysostom** Homily 49 on Matthew 14, 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.*

**Honor roll for 2019 for the Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation**  
(Members who have paid their dues and are in good financial standing). If you do not see your name on this list please contact: Peter Diamantakos, Parish Council Treasurer or Sophia Papastratis, Parish Council Financial Secretary.

|                               |                                |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Alikakos, Giannoula           | Anastos, James & Kristin       |
| Anastos, John & Eleni         | Anastos, Leon & Louisa         |
| Anastos, Steve & Bessie       | Anthony, Fanny                 |
| Bahlatzis, Michael & Kimberly | Balaci, Edward and Laurie      |
| Diamantakos, Louis            | Diamantakos, Pete & Lauri      |
| Dimitriou, Hristos & Jody     | Drivas, Ed & Voula             |
| Franklin, Garth & Erifilie    | Franklin, Matthew              |
| Ganim, Mitry & Gloria         | Gianakouros, Harry & Katie     |
| Gianisis, Dino & Brenda       | Hall, Tina                     |
| Hazar, Janet                  | Hopf, Jason & Eva              |
| Ivan, Jim & Lynda             | Johnson, Katina                |
| Karedes, John & Michelle      | Karedes, Louie                 |
| Kashou, Hisham & Cholly       | Koulikas, Julia                |
| Koutsaris, George & Rina      | Koutsaris, Louie and Argie     |
| Lambrinos, Maria              | Laskaris, Joseph               |
| Lazaros, Pete and Kostadina   | Loposky, Patricia Zades & John |
| Maniates, Dino & Mando        | McHugh, Scott & Kim            |
| Nizamis, Persa                | Pacheco, Jennifer              |
| Papachristos, Nikos           | Papastrat, Chris & Crystal     |
| Papastrat, Elaine             | Papastrat, James & Georgia     |
| Papastrat, Vicki              | Papastratis, George and Lauren |
| Papastratis, Sophia           | Papathomas, Kosta and Athena   |
| Pappas, Nick                  | Pines, Spero                   |
| Recu, Marian & Ramon          | Ryan, Justin & Julie           |
| Saleeby, Nona                 | Simon, Ted                     |
| Sismanoglu, Maria             | Skiadas, Ernest & Barb         |
| Skiadas, James                | Souris, Adrianna               |
| Togias, Nickolas              | Totolis, Theo                  |
| Tzivanis, Thomas & Florence   | Yacalis, Amelia                |
| Yacalis, Vasili & Pam         | Zades, Jimmy & Chrissy         |