

# Sunday Bulletin August 18, 2019 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** Corinthians 3:9-17

Brethren, we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and another man is building upon it. Let each man take care how he builds upon it. For no other foundation can any one lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any one builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw - each man's work will become manifest; for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work which any man has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire. Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If any one destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and that temple you are.

## Gospel Reading Matthew 14:22-34

At that time, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but the boat by this time was many furlongs distant from the land, beaten by the waves; for the wind was against them. And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately he spoke to them, saying "Take heart, it is I; have no fear." And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, bid me come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus; but when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "O man of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they entered the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God." And when they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret.

Message from Fr. Michael.....

Dearly Beloved Faithful:

In today's blessed gospel reading, we heard of the Lord coming to His disciples, before the fourth watch of night by walking on the water, approaching them, while the disciples were slumberously seated on the boat. This represented the Lord coming to us before the end of our life. The fourth watch of night represents the end of our lives. Peter began to walk toward the Lord on the water but then lost his nerve, his faith, and began to sink into the water and almost drowned. However, he beckoned to the Lord to be saved. The Lord reached to him saved Peter. We must all transform our lives and reach toward the Lord before the end of our lives.

Brothers and sisters, we were recently called to marvel at the Holy Transfiguration of our Lord, and to be inspired and to remain in awe! We were spiritually strengthened and nourished in knowing that God had revealed Himself to us! With that recent celebration, the first fruits of the harvest, such as grapes, were brought to the church and were blessed by the priest. We prayed that through consumption of those blessed fruits that they would be transformed to holiness, i.e. to be transfigured to be divine! Then, more recently, we celebrated the feast of the Dormition of the Mother of God, the Theotokos. She was assumed into heaven body and soul as the Lord came to her. The Lord comes to us now to whisk us away from our sinful nature pulling us out of the ocean preventing us from drowning in the sea darkness and evil as He did for the apostle, St. Peter.

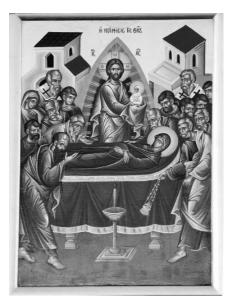
Let us all shout out "Lord save me!"

Again praying that the Holy Spirit comes upon us and transforms us to do God's will, I remain

Your humble servant,

+Fr. Michael

## **Saints and Feasts Commemorated**



# Apolytikion of Afterfeast of the Dormition

#### First Tone

In birth, you preserved your virginity; in death, you did not abandon the world, O Theotokos. As mother of life, you departed to the source of life, delivering our souls from death by your intercessions.

#### Seasonal Kontakion in the Second Mode

Neither the grave nor death could contain the Theotokos, the unshakable hope, ever vigilant

in intercession and protection. As Mother of life, He who dwelt in the evervirginal womb transposed her to life.

## Floros & Lauros the Monk-martyrs of Illyria

These Martyrs were twin brothers, and stonemasons. After the martyrdom of their teachers Proclus and Maximus, they left Byzantium and came to the city of Ulpiana in Illyricum, where a certain Licinius hired them to build a temple for the idols. The wages he gave them, they distributed to the poor, and when the temple was built, Floros and Lauros gathered the paupers, and with their help put ropes about the necks of the idols, pulled them to the ground, and furnished the temple as a church. When Licinius learned of this, he had the paupers burned alive in a furnace. Floros and Lauros were tormented, then cast into a deep well, where they gave up their souls to the Lord. When their holy relics were recovered years later, they poured forth myrrh and worked many miracles; they were enshrined in Constantinople.

## Leontus the martyr

## John & George, Patriarchs of Constantinople

## **Relics of Arsenios the Righteous of Paros**

Constantine the New Martyr of Capua 8/18/2019

Matthew the New Martyr of Gerakari 8/18/2019

**FATHER MICHAEL REQUESTS**...that we, as a faithful community keep the following individuals in our prayers: Peter Sousouris, 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.

#### Wisdom of the Fathers

The principle and source of the virtues is a good disposition of the will, that is to say, an aspiration for goodness and beauty. God is the source and ground of all supernal goodness. Thus the principle of goodness and beauty is faith or, rather, it is Christ, the rock of faith, who is principle and foundation of all virtues. On this rock we stand and on this foundation we build every good thing (cf. I Cor. 3:11).

#### St. Gregory of Sinai On Commandments and Doctrines no. 83, Philokalia Vol. 3 14th century

He puts an end to the woman's fear ... He sets her right, in respect of her thinking to be hid ... He exhibits her faith to all, so as to provoke the rest also to emulation ...

#### St. John Chrysostom Homily 31 on Matthew 9, 4th Century

And then at last He for His part lays His hand upon them, saying, "According to your faith be it unto you." And this He does to confirm their faith, and to show that they are participators in the good work ...

#### St. John Chrysostom Homily 32 on Matthew 9, 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, John & Eleni Anastos, Steve & Bessie Bahlatzis, Michael & Kimberly Diamantakos, Louis Dimitriou, Hristos & Jody Franklin, Garth & Erifilie Ganim, Mitry & Gloria Gianisis, Dino & Brenda Hazar, Janet Ivan, Jim & Lynda Karedes, John & Michelle Kashou, Bahij Khouri, Lorraine Koutsaris, George & Rina Koutsaris, Louie and Argie Laskaris, Joseph Loposky, Patricia Zades & John McHugh, Scott & Kim Nizamis, Persa Packs, Mike Papastrat, Chris & Crystal Papastrat, James & Georgia Papastratis, George and Lauren Papathomas, Kosta and Athena Pines, Spero Ryan, Justin & Julie Simon, Ted Skiadas, Ernest & Barb Souris, Adrianna Totolis, Theo Yacalis, Amelia Zades, Jimmy & Chrissy

Anastos, James & Kristin Anastos, Leon & Louisa Anthony, Fanny Balaci, Edward and Laurie Diamantakos, Pete & Lauri Drivas, Ed & Voula Franklin, Matthew Gianakouros, Harry & Katie Hall, Tina Hopf, Jason & Eva Johnson, Katina Karedes, Louie Kashou, Hisham & Cholly Koulikas, Julia Koutsaris, John Lambrinos. Maria Lazaros, Pete and Kostadina Maniates. Dino & Mando Metritikas, Pete and Barb Pacheco, Jennifer Papachristos, Nikos Papastrat, Elaine Papastrat, Vicki Papastratis, Sophia Pappas, Nick Recu, Marian & Ramon Saleeby, Nona Sismanoglu, Maria Skiadas, James Togias, Nickolas Tzivanis, Thomas & Florence Yacalis, Vasili & Pam