



## *Sunday Bulletin August 25, 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 4:9-16**

Brethren, God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are ill-clad and buffeted and homeless, and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become, and are now, as the refuse of the world, the off-scouring of all things. I do not write this to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. I urge you, then, be imitators of me.

### **Gospel Reading**

#### **Matthew 17:14-23**

At that time, a man came up to Jesus and kneeling before him said, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly; for often he falls into the fire, and often into the water. And I brought him to your disciples, and they could not heal him." And Jesus answered, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me." And Jesus rebuked him, and the demon came out of him, and the boy was cured instantly. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" He said to them, "Because of your little faith. For truly I say to you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move hence to yonder place,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you. But this kind never comes out except by prayer and fasting." As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of man is to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him, and he will be raised on the third day."

*Message from Fr. Michael....*

Dearly Beloved Faithful in the Lord:

In today's Holy Gospel reading, we hear of the miraculous healing of a demon-possessed boy. His father begged the Lord to have mercy on his son and to heal him. The Lord replied, "O Faithless and perverse generation! How much longer must I be with you?" The Lord asks him to bring his son to Him and heals him. The Lord did not blame the son for the faithlessness of his father. Instead, the Lord showed mercy to the son and healed him. The scripture has a greater meaning. It is not only the father of the boy who is faithless, but it is each of us and God's people as a whole who are faithless. He tried to lay the blame for his sinful faithless on the disciples, saying that they were unable to help his son. The Lord correctly reproaches the father. The man tried to blame the disciples as they could not heal his son. WE, as God's people, should not try to blame others for own ineptness in managing our spiritual lives and in maintaining our faith. Some of us even go so far as to say "I prayed in front of the miracle working icon but my family member is still sick. I went on a pilgrimage to the monastery or Mt. Athos or Jerusalem but I did not get a job yet or a promotion. Why didn't God answer my prayers? Has God forsaken me?"

In truth, it is usually that we do not have enough faith so that our prayers can be heard. We may pray without sincerity! We may go through the motions of prayer but not really believe that God can perform miracles in the modern world, in our life. This is sad. Yes, we may even perceive a self-calming feeling and thing that we spiritually gave 100% of ourselves but in reality, we did not! We recall the words of the Apostle St. Paul who taught that "Christ is the same today, yesterday and unto ages of ages". This is precisely why we must all pray. In doing so, the Lord gives us faith. We must self-reflect and open our hearts to the Lord and be like the man in the Gospel reading and say with our whole heart, "I believe, Lord, help my disbelief!" It is by such a prayer with great sincerity that we call upon the most Merciful Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ. In our hearts, we recognize that the Church always offers us new hope. The Church offers us a new start from the very beginning. Let us follow this example, and begin to have the awe-inspiring faith that will allow us to be in Communion with our Lord.

Have a faith that is so inspiring that even as much of the grain of a mustard seed and we may move the mountain of disbelief before us!

In His service, prayerfully yours,

+Fr. Michael

# Saints and Feasts Commemorated

## 10th Sunday of Matthew



### Return of the Body of Bartholomew the Glorious Apostle

#### Apolytikion for Apostle Bartholomew in the Third Mode

O Holy Apostles, intercede with the merciful God that He grant unto our souls forgiveness of offenses.

## Titus the Apostle of the 70

Saint Titus was a Greek by race, and an idolater. But having believed in Christ through the Apostle Paul, he became Paul's disciple and follower and labored with him greatly in the preaching of the Gospel. When Paul ordained him Bishop of Crete, he later wrote to him the Epistle which bears his name. Having shepherded in an apostolic manner the flock that had been entrusted to him, and being full of days, he reposed in peace, some ninety-four years of age.

## John the Cappadocian, Epiphanius and Menas, Patriarchs of Constantinople

## Holy Father John of Carpathia

## Ebba, First Abbess of Coldingham

### Wisdom of the Fathers

Yet if his unbelief was the cause ... why does He blame the disciples? Signifying, that even without persons to bring the sick in faith, they might in many instances work a cure.

**St. John Chrysostom** Homily 57 on Matthew 17, 4th Century

For as the faith of the person presenting oftentimes availed for receiving the cure, even from inferior ministers; so the power of the doers oftentimes sufficed, even without belief in those who came to work the miracle.

**St. John Chrysostom** Homily 57 on Matthew 17, 4th Century

**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.

Congratulations and blessings go out to Kyle and Maria Rizzo on the birth of their new daughter, Alexi Vivian! Congratulations also go out to the entire Papastrat family!

**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 30 minutes per week: Sundays immediately following the distribution of Holy Communion. After consultation, with our past and former Sunday School superintendent, Lynda Ivan, it was felt that Sunday School classes would be better attended following the distribution of Holy Communion rather than earlier.

- Sunday School year will run from September 15, 2019 - May 17, 2020. Sunday School graduation and moving up day will be on May 17, 2019.

-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

*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, Bahij                  | Kashou, Hisham & Cholly     |
| Khoury, Lorraine               | Koulikas, Julia             |
| Koutsaris, George & Rina       | Koutsaris, John             |
| Koutsaris, Louie and Argie     | Lambrinos, Maria            |
| Laskaris, Joseph               | Lazaros, Pete and Kostadina |
| Loposky, Patricia Zades & John | Maniates, Dino & Mando      |
| McHugh, Scott & Kim            | Metritikas, Pete and Barb   |
| Nizamis, Persa                 | Pacheco, Jennifer           |
| Packs, Mike                    | 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 & Pamela    |
| Zades, Jimmy & Chrissy         |                             |