

Message from Fr. Michael....

Dear Beloved Faithful:

In today's gospel reading, we see that the Lord is greeted by a demoniac. The demoniac views the Lord, Jesus, as the Son of God and worried what Jesus might do to him. The man who approached the Lord was possessed by a multitude of demons rather than just one. We recognize that sinners are really slaves of Satan, as Scripture teaches. Such individuals are led down a path leading to spiritual doom. If we stop and contemplate what it means to be demon possessed, we recognize that his man was deprived of reason. The man did not know who he was, where he was, or what he was doing. Unfortunately, unbelievers are committed to being oblivious or in denial of their own reason. This leads to persistent stubborn denial of God's truth. These poor lost souls are compelled to adhere to contradictions and even attempt to rationalize irrational views. In the gospel reading, the demoniac was deprived of his own will. This unbelieving demoniac was deprived of fellowship and cast out of his community. Once we become demonically possessed, and become a non-believer, we become separated from the covenants of promise. As we witnessed, through listening to the gospel reading, the demoniac was deprived of his dignity. He remained naked for a long period of time. The non-believer lives in a primitive and animal-like state, seeking to satisfy basic needs for survival now and nothing more. Such individuals have no concern for everlasting life... no concern for salvation. The demoniac was deprived of being himself. We recognize the symbolism when we hear the story of this demoniac living amongst the tombs. This non-believing demoniac was dead in sin. He was dead due to his trespasses.

We must realize that there is no more hope for those that simply live apart from Christ and those who are fully demonically possessed. However, there is hope for such individuals. In verse 35, we read: "And they came to Jesus and found the man from whom the demons had gone out sitting down at the feet of Jesus clothed and in his right mind; and they became frightened." When we live apart from the Lord, we suffer from deprivations. Such individuals are on the path leading to Hell. That is the plan Satan desires for such individuals. They may be restored by Christ as we heard of the demons had gone out of the young man. He was then found sitting at the feet of our Lord, clothed and in his right mind. When we come to the Lord, after being away from Him, we are no longer naked or deprived. We are only then in our right mind since it is irrational to be away from Him.

May we now come back to the Lord, if we have drifted away. May we regain our rationality by coming back to the Author of Life who promises everlasting life! May His blessing be upon us so that we may return back on track and give God the glory!

Prayerfully in His service,

+Fr. Michael

Andronicus the Righteous Martyr Artemius the Great Martyr of Antioch

Saint Artemius lived during the years of Saint Constantine the Great, and was appointed by him to be Governor of Alexandria; later, he was honoured with the rank of patrician. During the reign of Julian the Apostate, in the year 361, Artemius appeared before the Emperor and censured him for his apostasy. For this, he endured many torments and was finally beheaded.



October 20

Gerasimus of Cephalonia



Saint Gerasimus was from the Peloponnesus, the son of Demetrius and Kale, of the family of Notaras. He was reared in piety by them and studied the Sacred writings. He left his country and went throughout various lands, and finally came to Cephalonia, where he restored a certain old church and built a convent around it, where it stands to this day at the place called Omala. He finished the course of his life there in asceticism in the year 1570. His sacred relics, which remain incorrupt, are kept there for the sanctification of the faithful.

Wisdom of the Fathers

Some say, 'Why do they [demons] possess people?' I answer those who wish to have this explained that the reason of these things is very deep. Somewhere one of His saints addressed God by saying, 'Your judgments are a vast abyss.' As long as we bear this in mind, we will perhaps not miss the mark.

St. Cyril of Alexandria

Commentary on Luke, Homily 44.

FATHER MICHAEL REQUESTS...that we, as a faithful community keep the following individuals in our prayers: Steve Anastos, Henry Nussbaum, 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.

JOY/HOPE will meet on Sunday, October 27, 2019 during the fellowship hour.

Our Annual Church Dance is on Saturday evening, November 9th, 2019 at 7:00 pm. Everyone is invited to attend! We are requesting that every family attempt to place an ad in our Annual Church Dance Album. Depending on the donation amount will determine the number of complimentary tickets that will be provided with the placement of each ad. We look forward to seeing everyone's smiling faces at this wonderful event. Please see dance chairman Kostas P. or co-chairman Jimmy Anastos for placement of your ad and dance tickets.

Anyone wishing to be a member of the Parish Council for 2020-2022, the following has been requested by the present parish council:

- All interested candidates, who are in good church standing, are to sign up in a poster board sheet that soon will be displayed.
- A mailing will be forthcoming in October scheduling a November General Assembly meeting. At that General Assembly meeting, formal nominations will be accepted.
- The election will take place in December.
- On the following Sunday after the election, the swearing in ceremony/oath of office will be rendered. Immediately after that the Priest and the newly elected sworn in members of the Parish Council will gather into the Church Office and Officer elections will be conducted. May God bless all.

PLEASE JOIN US TODAY AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE DIVINE LITURGY FOR THE ANNUAL PHILOPTOCHOS BREAKFAST BEING SERVED IN OUR FELLOWSHIP HALL. PHILOPTOCHOS IS A FAITH-BASED CHURCH ORGANIZATION WHICH HAS THE MISSION FOR HELPING THE POOR. Please help support their fundraising events.

Wisdom of the Fathers

For if we, going about on the earth which is familiar and well known to us, being encompassed with a body, when we are journeying in a strange road, know not which way to go unless we have someone to lead us; how should the soul, being rent away from the body, and having gone out from all her accustomed region, know where to walk without one to show her the way?

St. John Chrysostom

Homily 28 on Matthew 8, 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 a member of the council.