



Sunday Bulletin October 27, 2019 *Greek Orthodox Church of the* *Annunciation*

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

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### **Epistle Reading    2 Corinthians 11:31-33; 12:1-9**

Brethren, the God and Father of the Lord Jesus, he who is blessed for ever, knows that I do not lie. At Damascus, the governor under King Aretas guarded the city of Damascus in order to seize me, but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped his hands. I must boast; there is nothing to be gained by it, but I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven -- whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. And I know that this man was caught up into Paradise --whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows -- and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. Though if I wish to boast, I shall not be a fool, for I shall be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. And to keep me from being too elated by the abundance of revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan, to harass me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I besought the Lord about this, that it should leave me; but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." I will all the more gladly boast of my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

### **Gospel Reading    Luke 8:41-56**

At that time, there came to Jesus a man named Jairus, who was a ruler of the synagogue; and falling at Jesus' feet he besought him to come to his house, for he had an only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she was dying. As he went, the people pressed round him. And a woman who had had a flow of blood for twelve years and had spent all her living upon physicians and could not be healed by anyone, came up behind him, and touched the fringe of his garment; and immediately her flow of blood ceased. And Jesus said, "Who was it that touched me?" When all denied it, Peter and those who were with him said, "Master, the multitudes surround you and press upon you!" But Jesus said, "Some one touched me; for I perceive that power has gone forth from me." And when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling, and falling down before him declared in the presence of all the people why she had touched him, and how she had been immediately healed. And he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace." While he was still speaking, a man from the ruler's house came and said, "Your daughter is dead; do not trouble the Teacher any more." But Jesus on hearing this answered him, "Do not fear; only believe, and she shall be well." And when he came to the house, he permitted no one to enter with him, except Peter and John and James, and the father and mother of the child. And all were weeping and bewailing her; but he said, "Do not weep; for she is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. But taking her by the hand he called, saying, "Child, arise." And her spirit returned, and she got up at once; and he directed that something should be given her to eat. And her parents were amazed; but he charged them to tell no one what had happened.

*Message from Fr. Michael....*

Dearly Beloved Faithful:

In today's Holy Gospel reading, we heard about two miracles that the Lord performed: the healing of the woman with an issue of blood and the raising of the daughter of Jairus. Although we hear of the two miracles within the same story, and seem different from each other, they are actually the same miracle. The woman who had an issue of blood later was known to be St. Veronica.

As we hear the Gospel reading today, we pause and listen attentively. We realize that hearing the miracles of healing by our Lord inspire us to remain faithful. We become faithful by following His Holy Commandments. We recognize that we must know God, in order to fulfill His commandments. God reveals Himself to us. He imparts strength on us. By doing so, He gives us the strength to become like Him with morals and virtues. Our quest to become Godly is perfected. This is what the Christian life is, it is self-perfection. Self-perfection occurs by the hand of God, with God. Self-perfection can only occur if we develop an awareness of what we are to do. We do this by knowing God. By knowing Him, we will know the commandments. Hearing about the miracles of healing by our Lord, inspires to know God. We develop an understanding of the greatness of He who is our Healer. He is the Healer whom we serve. We read in the Gospel of St. John, "My sheep follow me because they know my voice". His voice heals us! The voice we hear deep in our soul is the Lord's voice.

The gospel reading of today shows us the sweetness of our Lord: His compassion for humanity and mercy are a lesson to us all. If we read of miracles our Lord, and experience His sweetness, it energizes us to follow His commandments. God is revealed to those who are pure and not to the impure. As we follow His commandments we become pure. God is then revealed to us.

Prayer is also important to gain God's revelation. We must pray, follow His commandments, and maintain our purity. As we are weak human beings, we have difficulty maintaining a high level of intensity. This is why we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord one day a week. However, we live in the reality of the Resurrection. Saint Seraphim of Sarov truly lived the Resurrection on a daily basis. He would greet all saying 'Christ is Risen' without regard of the time of the year it was. There are times designated when we are to be more intense in our spiritual life, i.e. the lenten or fasting periods. Saturday and Sunday are God's days. God teaches us on those days. Saturday is the day we remember the departed souls and Sunday is the celebration of His Holy Resurrection.

Jairus, who was a ruler of the synagogue, fell down at Jesus' feet, and begged him to come to his house. His only daughter, about twelve years of age, was dying. The Lord was surrounded by hundreds of people. The people realized that Jesus spoke with authority. People desired to be in His presence. Those that hated Him and those that loved Him wanted to be in His presence, because they realized that there was something special about Him. Jairus pushed through the crowd and knelt down before the Lord. As we read in gospel of St.

Mark Jairus said, "I pray thee, come and lay thy hands on her that she may be healed and she shall live." Jairus' daughter was later healed. This man had an extreme need, and it pushed him toward Christ, just like us. In this case, his daughter was dying. With us, we are pushed toward Christ as we seek to have our sins taken away. We have the need to be healed!

God heals us and makes us complete. We see that in the woman with the flow of blood. The woman was discovered. By Jewish Law, she was considered unclean. She was supposed to stay away from those people who were clean. She was discovered by the Lord, because the Lord knows everything. She had faith and was healed.

The Lord knows all when it comes to us! He knows that we are sinful. Yet He loves us and is willing to heal us, if we migrate toward Him and follow His commandments.

Praying that the Lord will make us pure, heal us of our infirmities, and enable us to hear His voice, I remain

Prayerfully in His service,

+Fr. Michael

**OXI Day** is celebrated every year in Greece on October 28<sup>th</sup>. The anniversary celebration relates to a historical event. General Ioannis Metaxas' strong reply of 'oxi' (no) to Mussolini's request to allow Italian troops to enter Greece, during the early part of WW II. This powerful stern reply by Metaxas helped pave the way for Greece's neutral stance which it held for generations that followed. Despite the "oxi" reply, Italians invaded Greece. However, the might and fortitude of the Greeks pushed back the Italians into Albania. In 1935, King George II was restored to the Greek throne. The king appointed General Ioannis Metaxas prime minister. Nine months later, Metaxas assumed some powers of dictatorship with the king's support. This was done to prevent a coup by the communists. On October 28, 1940, prime minister Metaxas rejected Italy's ultimatum. Metaxas followed through with his resistance movement road of resistance. Greek Cypriots were inspired by Greece's refusal to allow the Italian troops entry. The Greek Cypriots assumed the stance against Turkish aggression that they faced in their island nation. OXI Day is a joyous celebration throughout Greece. The OXI Day spirit and will of Hellenic people perseveres.

May our spirit of OXI be used in our Christian life in the rejection of evil. May we use our prayerful life to reject the worldly things so that we may be attended by angelic hosts to receive the King of all!

Saying "OXI" to sin, I remain  
Prayerfully in His service,

+Fr. Michael

## Saints and Feasts Commemorated

### 7th Sunday of Luke

Nestor the Martyr of Thessaloniki



As mentioned in the account concerning Saint Demetrius (October 26), this Saint contested during the reign of Maximian, in the year 290.

**October 27**

Apolytikion of Great Martyr Nestor

**Fourth Tone**

Thy Martyr, O Lord, in his courageous contest for Thee received the prize of the crowns of incorruption and life from Thee, our immortal God. For since he possessed Thy strength, he cast down the tyrants and wholly destroyed the demons' strengthless presumption. O Christ God, by his prayers, save our souls, since Thou art merciful.

### Kontakion of Great Martyr Nestor

**Second Tone**

Well didst thou contest; hence, thou hast now inherited immortal renown, wise Nestor, and thou art become Christ the Master's excellent soldier by the holy and fervent prayers of the Martyr Demetrius. Thus, with him, cease not to pray for all of us.

### Procla, wife of Pontius Pilate

## Wisdom of the Fathers

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

**FATHER MICHAEL REQUESTS...**that we, as a faithful community keep the following individuals in our prayers: Maria Lambrinos, Steve Anastos, 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 TODAY during the fellowship hour. Please join us!**

Our Annual Church Dance is on Saturday evening, November 9th, 2019 at 7:00 pm.

Everyone is invited to attend! 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 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.

## **Wisdom of the Fathers**

At the same time both signifying that it is easy for Him to raise the dead ... and also teaching us not to fear death; for that it is not death, but is henceforth become a sleep.

### **St. John Chrysostom**

Homily 31 on Matthew 9, 4th Century

#### **Attention:**

It is requested that everyone do their part in being conscientious about not leaving food particles on the tables, counters, and floors as mice may invade our church as we encountered incidents of this occurring.

#### The Parish Council

*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.*