



Sunday Bulletin August 30, 2020
Greek Orthodox Church of the
Annunciation

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

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**Epistle Reading      1 Corinthians 15:1-11**

Brethren, I would remind you in what terms I preached to you the gospel, which you received, in which you stand, by which you are saved, if you hold it fast -- unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God which is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

**Gospel Reading      Matthew 19:16-26**

At that time, a young man came up to Jesus, kneeling and saying, "Good Teacher, what good deed must I do, to have eternal life?" And he said to him, "Why do you call me good? One there is who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments." He said to him, "Which?" And Jesus said, "You shall not kill, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother, and You shall love your neighbor as yourself." The young man said to him, "All these I have observed; what do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful; for he had great possessions. And Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly, I say to you, it will be hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." When the disciples heard this they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

Message from Fr. Michael....

Dear Beloved Faithful:

Even though we sent this message out in last week's Bulletin, I thought it would be appropriate to send it out again since there has been sparse church attendance recently and as this is the last Sunday of the ecclesiastical year. Yesterday we prayerfully acknowledged the feast of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist and Forerunner, one of the greatest prophets at the beginning of the Christian Church.

As we embark on this new ecclesiastical year in worship of our Lord offering Him praise, thanksgiving, and worship for His great mercy and love for us. In our hymns and prayers on this day, we ask for Him for all that we need for life and service to His Holy Church while seeking to walk in communion with Him. As we make a commitment of prayer, our participation in the commemorations and observances of the Church, we make an offering of worship and praise to Him. Subsequently, we find renewed hope in an abundant prayerful life in Christ.

On this blessed ecclesiastical milestone, we ask our Lord, "Bless the crown of this year with Your goodness" (Psalm 65:11). We know that His goodness is true and enduring. His goodness is rooted in His love for us, and in this goodness he nurtures and sustains our lives. As we place our trust in God, our lives become filled with His goodness. The end result is that we become witnesses of the joy He has granted us.

We entreat the Lord to keep us in peace. Although we recognize that peace is a cherished condition for tranquillity and security in our lives in this world, we understand that this peace is often temporary and often challenged. Indeed, we seek peaceful times, but we understand that true peace comes from Christ. Our Lord said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid" (John 14:27).

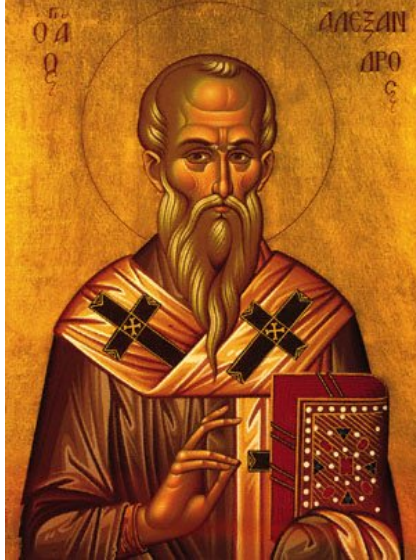
It is in His goodness and peace that we also ask our Lord to bless all of our efforts in the opening year and to "guide the work of our hands." As our prayerful and spiritual life move forward in His direction, in all that we do ensures that we will produce great spiritual fruit in our lives and the lives of others. In dedicating ourselves to the Lord, we keep our hearts and minds in His will. He fills our actions and words with His holiness and grace. When we acknowledge Christ in all our ways, our goals and intentions are pure, lives are transformed, and He is glorified. May His everlasting glory brightly shine on you, giving you His grace and love throughout this new ecclesiastical year. Let us start fresh and renew our spiritual lives.

Prayerfully in His service,

+Fr. Michael

## **Apodosis of the Feast of the Forerunner**

### **Alexander, John, and Paul the New, Patriarchs of Constantinople**



Saint Alexander was sent to the First Ecumenical Council in Nicaea as the delegate of Saint Metrophanes, Bishop of Constantinople (see June 4), to whose throne he succeeded in the year 325. When Arius had deceitfully professed allegiance to the Council of Nicaea, Saint Alexander, knowing his guile, refused to receive him into communion; Arius' powerful partisans threatened that they would use force to bring Arius into the communion of the Church the following day. Saint Alexander prayed fervently that God might spare the Church; and as Arius was in a privy place relieving nature, his bowels gushed forth with an effusion of blood, and the arch-heresiarch died the death of Judas. Saint Alexander was Bishop from 325

until 337, when he was succeeded by Saint Paul the Confessor, who died a martyr's death at the hands of the Arians (see Nov. 6). The Saint John commemorated here appears to be the one who was Patriarch during the years 562-577, surnamed Scholasticus, who is also commemorated on February 21. He was from Antioch, where he had been a lawyer (scholasticus); he was made presbyter, then was sent to Constantinople as representative (apocrisiarius) of the Patriarch of Antioch, and was appointed Patriarch of Constantinople by the Emperor Justinian. Saint Paul was Bishop of Constantinople during the years 687 - 693, in the reign of Emperor Justinian II, and presided over the Quinisext Council in 692.

### **Phantinos the Righteous of Calabria**

### **16 Monk-martyrs of Thebes**

### **6 Martyrs of Melitene**

### **The Synaxis of the Holy Hierarchs of Serbia**

### **The Holy New Martyrs of Serbia**

### **Fiacre the Hermit of Meaux**

**FATHER MICHAEL REQUESTS...**that we, as a faithful community keep the following individuals in our prayers: Ted Simon, John Gianakos, Maria Lambrinos, Steve Anastos, 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 sign that thou lovest God, is this, that thou lovest thy fellow; and if thou hatest thy fellow, thy hatred is towards God. For it is blasphemy if thou prayest before God while thou art wroth. For thy heart also convicts thee, that in vain thou multipliest words: thy conscience rightly judges that in thy prayers thou profitest nought.

### **St. Ephraim the Syrian**

ON ADMONITION AND REPENTANCE

Wherefore then doth Christ thus reply to him, saying, "There is none good?" Because He came unto Him as a mere man, and one of the common sort, and a Jewish teacher; for this cause then as a man He discourses with him. And indeed in many instances He replies to the secret thoughts of them that come unto Him.

### **St. John Chrysostom**

Homily 63 on Matthew 19, 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 all other matters, please notify Fr. Michael or a member of the parish council. Deadline for suggestions to the bulletin is 12:00 noon on Thursday.*