



Sunday Bulletin July 26, 2020
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 Letter to the Galatians 3:23-29; 4:1-5**

Brethren, before faith came, we were confined under the law, kept under restraint until faith should be revealed. So that the law was our custodian until Christ came, that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a custodian; for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no better than a slave, though he is the owner of all the estate; but he is under guardians and trustees until the date set by the father. So with us; when we were children, we were slaves to the elemental spirits of the universe. But when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

**Gospel Reading      Matthew 9:27-35**

At that time, as Jesus passed by, two blind men followed him, crying aloud, "Have mercy on us, Son of David." When he entered the house, the blind men came to him; and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to him, "Yes, Lord." Then he touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith be it done to you." And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly charged them, "See that no one knows it." But they went away and spread his fame through all that district. As they were going away, behold, a dumb demoniac was brought to him. And when the demon had been cast out, the dumb man spoke; and the crowds marveled, saying, "Never was anything like this seen in Israel." But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the prince of demons." And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people.

### **Message from Fr. Michael....**

Dearly Beloved Faithful in the Lord:

During the fast for the Dormition of the Theotokos, during the early centuries of the early Church, in Constantinople, the portion of the summer was a time of disease and pestilence and so it was the custom to carry the True Cross in procession through all the quarters of that great city during the first two weeks of August (particularly on the first day of August and some would practice this custom on the first day of every month). In Greek Orthodox worship, it was and still is customary to sing the Paraklesis to the Theotokos in the evenings during that period of August. The Great and Small Canon are sung on alternate evenings. This is sung at Vespers immediately after the hymn of Symeon, 'Now, Master'. It is the custom in many monasteries of Mt. Athos to sing the Canon of the Mother of God from the *Theotokarion*, with its Prosomia, daily at that place in Vespers. The Paraklesis service is the equivalent of the Slav *Molieben*. However, the Greeks did not reduce the Paraklesis to the refrains between the troparia. While the Slavs omit the troparia. We must remember that the Paraklesis service is celebrated for the living, and the departed should not be commemorated in the litanies.

I invite you to attend the service of the Paraklesis which will be held on Friday evening of this week, August 7th at 6:30 pm. I look forward to your prayerful attendance. I believe that we all need the intercessory help of the Theotokos. This is a wonderful way to receive such help. May our supplications to the Theotokos be received so that we may receive Divine grace from our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ. I pray that your fast, during this lenten period for the Dormition of the Mother of God, brings upon you tranquility, peace, and harmony in your lives so that your proximity to God may be one where you find yourself on the path to everlasting life and salvation. Set your 'spiritual compass' on a setting that will lead you closer to Him. Pray the Paraklesis!

By the mercy of God, I remain your humble pastor and servant, I remain  
Prayerfully yours,

+Fr. Michael

## **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



Saint Paraskeve, who was from a certain village near Rome, was born to pious parents, Agatho and Politia. Since she was born on a Friday (in Greek, Paraskeve), she was given this name, which means "preparation" or "preparedness" (compare Matt. 27:62, Mark 15:42, Luke 23:54, and John 19:31, where 'Friday' is called "the day of the preparation"). From childhood she was instructed in the sacred letters and devoted herself to the study of the divine Scriptures, while leading a monastic life and guiding many to the Faith of Christ. During the reign of the Emperor Antoninus Pius, she was apprehended because she was a Christian and was urged to worship the idols, but she answered with the words of Jeremias: "Let the gods that have not made heaven and the earth perish from off the earth" (Jer. 10:11). Because of this she endured exceedingly painful torments, and was beheaded in the year 140. The faithful pray to her for the healing of eye ailments.

## **Apolytikion of Martyr Paraskeve**

### **First Tone**

Appropriate to your calling, O Champion Paraskevi, you worshipped with the readiness your name bears. For an abode you obtained faith, which is your namesake. Wherefore, you pour forth healing and intercede for our souls.

## **Jacob Netsvetov the Enlightener of Alaska**

### **7th Sunday of Matthew**

## **The Holy Hieromartyrs Hermolaus, Hermippus, and Hermocrates**

Saint Hermolaus and those with him were priests of the Church in Nicomedia, living in hiding after the Emperor Maximian had burnt to death the 20,000 Martyrs of Nicomedia (see Dec. 28). It was Hermolaus who converted Saint Panteleimon to Christ. When Saint Panteleimon was seized as a Christian and was asked by Maximian who it was that had turned him from the idols, the Saint, enlightened by God that the time of his teacher's martyrdom also was at hand, revealed to Maximian that it was Hermolaus the priest. Saint Hermolaus was taken with Saints Hermippus and Hermocrates, and when they had confessed Christ to be the only true God, they were beheaded in the year 305. Saint Hermolaus is one of the Holy Unmercenaries.

July 26

**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.

*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.*

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