



*Sunday Bulletin October 18, 2020*  
*Greek Orthodox Church of the*  
*Annunciation*

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

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**Epistle Reading      Colossians 4:5-11, 14-18**

Brethren, conduct yourselves wisely toward outsiders, making the most of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer every one. Tychicos will tell you all about my affairs; he is a beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord. I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are and that he may encourage your hearts, and with him Onesimos, the faithful and beloved brother, who is one of yourselves. They will tell you of everything that has taken place. Aristarchos my fellow prisoner greets you, and Mark the cousin of Barnabas (concerning whom you have received instructions if he comes to you, receive him), and Jesus who is called Justos. These are the only men of the circumcision among my fellow workers for the kingdom of God, and they have been a comfort to me. Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you. Give my greetings to the brethren at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house. And when this letter has been read among you, have it read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and see that you read also the letter from Laodicea. And say to Archippos, "See that you fulfill the ministry which you have received in the Lord." I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. Remember my fetters. Grace be with you. Amen.

**Gospel Reading      Luke 10:16-21**

The Lord said to his disciples, "He who hears you hears me, and he who rejects you rejects me, and he who rejects me rejects him who sent me." The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!" And he said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I have given you authority to tread upon serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing shall hurt you. Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you; but rejoice that your names are written in heaven." In that same hour he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to babes; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will."

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

Dear Beloved Faithful:

In one of the gospel readings, we read 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 this 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 demoniacally 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 then 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 return back on track and give God the glory!

Prayerfully in His service,

+Fr. Michael

## Saints and Feasts Commemorated



### Luke the Evangelist

This Apostle was an Antiochian, a physician by trade, and a disciple and companion of Paul. He wrote his Gospel in Greek after Matthew and Mark, after which he wrote the Acts of the Apostles, and dedicated both works to Theophilus, who, according to some, was Governor of Achaia. He lived some eighty-six years and died in Achaia, perhaps in Patras, the capital of this district. His emblem is the calf, the third symbolical beast mentioned by Ezekiel (1:10), which is a symbol of Christ's sacrificial and priestly office, as Saint Irenaeus says.

### Marinos the Martyr

## Wisdom of the Fathers

As the beloved physician and disciple, O Luke, heal with thy mystical surgery the passions of both my soul and body, and grant that I may enjoy complete health, and may honour thine all-lauded festival with gladness, and may shower thine august and most precious body with a rain of tears instead of myrrh; for like an inscribed monument of life in the wondrous temple of the Apostles, it crieth out unto all, even as thou didst before, when thou didst write the divine Gospel of Christ God.

**Oikos for the Feast of St. Luke, October Menaion, p.115**  
Holy Transfiguration Monastery, Brookline, MA

**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

For by seed here He means His doctrine, and by land, the souls of men, and by the sower, Himself .... For as the sower makes no distinction in the land submitted to him, but simply and indifferently casts his seed; so He Himself too makes no distinction of rich and poor, of wise and unwise, of slothful or diligent, of brave or cowardly; but He discourses unto all, fulfilling His part, although foreknowing the results.

### **St. John Chrysostom**

Homily 44 on Matthew 12, 4th Century

When you see life's pleasures, beware that they might not distract you, for they conceal death's snares. Likewise a fisherman casts not his hook to no purpose. As bait for his hook, the enemy uses the delusion of sensuality to arouse desire, that he might thereby catch men's souls and subject them to himself. A soul which has been caught to serve the enemy's will then serves as a snare for other souls, for it conceals the grief of sin with its apparent delight.

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

A Spiritual Psalter no 43, pg. 74, 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.*