



Sunday Bulletin September 6, 2020 *Greek Orthodox Church of the* *Annunciation*

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

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### **Epistle Reading**

**The reading is from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 16:13-24**

Brethren, be watchful, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love. Now, brethren, you know that the household of Stephanas were the first converts in Achaia, and they have devoted themselves to the service of the saints; I urge you to be subject to such men and to every fellow worker and laborer. I rejoice at the coming of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicos, because they have made up for your absence; for they refreshed my spirit as well as yours. Give recognition to such men. The churches of Asia send greetings. Aquila and Prisca, together with the church in their house, send you hearty greetings in the Lord. All the brethren send greetings. Greet one another with a holy kiss. I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. If any one has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

### **Gospel Reading     Matthew 21:33-42**

The Lord said this parable, "There was a householder who planted a vineyard, and set a hedge around it, and dug a wine press in it, and built a tower, and let it out to tenants, and went into another country. When the season of fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants, to get his fruit; and the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first; and they did the same to them. Afterward he sent his son to them, saying 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.' And they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him. When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons." Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The very stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?'"

*Message from Fr. Michael....*

Dear Beloved Faithful:

I wish you a glorious and restful Labor Day weekend. As we have begun our spiritual journey on this new ecclesiastical year in the worship of our Lord, we offer Him praise, thanksgiving, and worship for His great mercy and love for us. In our hymns and prayers on this day, we ask from 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 tranquility 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).

In today's gospel reading, on the 13th Sunday of Matthew, we read how those who rejected the heir and killed him were rejecting the stone which serves as the cornerstone for our faith. The parable was stated to show that God sent His only Beloved Son, Jesus, who was rejected and killed by people who were ignorant and unaware that they were killing the Son of Man.

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. 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

## Saints and Feasts Commemorated

### 13th Sunday of Matthew

#### The Commemoration of the Miracle Wrought by Archangel Michael in Colossae (Chonae)



The feast today in honour of the Archangel Michael commemorates the great miracle he wrought when he delivered from destruction a church and holy spring named for him. The pagans, moved by malice, sought to destroy the aforesaid church and holy spring by turning the course of two rivers against them. But the Archangel appeared and, by means of the Cross and a great earthquake that shook the entire area, diverted the waters into an underground course. Henceforth, the name of that place changed from Colossae to Chonae, which means "funnels" in Greek.

### Holy Martyr Calodote

## Wisdom of the Fathers

Many things does He intimate by this parable, God's providence, which had been exercised towards them from the first; their murderous disposition from the beginning; that nothing had been omitted of whatever pertained to a heedful care of them;...

#### St. John Chrysostom

Homily 68 on Matthew 21, 4th Century

And observe also both His great care, and the excessive idleness of these men for what pertained to the husbandmen, He Himself did ... and He left little for them to do; to take care of what was there, and to preserve what was given to them.

#### St. John Chrysostom

Homily 68 on Matthew 21, 4th Century

**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.

He who truly wishes to believe in God must be lifted above himself, his mind, and even the whole world. For this reason, the value of faith is considered higher than the value of man. It is even higher than the value of the whole world. Therefore, the reward of faith should be higher than all of man's possessions along with the glories of this world. The reward of faith is God.

### **Fr. Matthew the Poor**

Orthodox Prayer Life: The Interior Way, p. 74, 20th 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.*