



*Sunday Bulletin September 10, 2023*  
*Greek Orthodox Church of the*  
*Annunciation*

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

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**Epistle Reading**

**Prokeimenon. Plagal Second Mode. Psalm 27.9,1.**  
**O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance.**  
**Verse: To you, O Lord, I have cried, O my God.**

**The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 6:11-18**

Brethren, see with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh. But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. Peace and mercy be upon all who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God. Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

**Gospel Reading        John 3:13-17**

The Lord said, "No one has ascended into heaven but he who descended from heaven, the Son of man who is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life." For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him."

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

Dearly Beloved Faithful in the Lord:

As we reflect upon the events of September 11th, 2001, we are forever scarred by those tragic memories. Over three thousand innocent men, women, and children were suddenly deprived of God's gift of life. The Twin Towers which once stood as an icon of American financial success were turned into dust and rubble in 102 minutes. A cowardly terrorist act of that event has adversely affected not only America but the entire world. The liberty we once knew has been affected. Security measures have become more intrusive in the lives of the private citizen, as a result of this tragedy. The world will never be the same again. Man has become less trusting of his neighbor, Fear has plagued the hearts of Americans. How can we love our neighbor as ourselves when we fear that our neighbor could be a potential terrorist?

The lesson of 9/11 is that we are to put our trust in God as He is the Hope for our salvation. We are to continue to love our neighbor as ourselves as God has anyone ever commanded. We are not to fear the evil of the world. Instead we are to remain vigilant and with God's help, we are to defeat evil. Brothers and sisters, we have God on our side! The adversary of evil can not defeat us! Although 9/11 was one of the most tragic events of all times, the people of God still live on and preach God's word. Christianity has not been defeated! Jesus Christ is still the Son of God and we are still God's people! We pray for those who lost their lives during that event. The ultimate sacrifice of loss of life by rescuers, police officers and firefighters, also should not be forgotten. We pray for the Lord's mercy and ask for the salvation of all who perished on that tragic day. It may seem that Satan won the battle on that day. However, please understand that God will win the war! The victims of 9/11 are God's people who are returning back to their Creator! The enemy has been defeated as he has not taken our faith, our hope, or our love. Therefore, God and His people remain victorious! Remember, no one can take away your faith unless you allow them to do so! As we reflect upon this 21st anniversary of 9/11, please pray for the victims of this tragedy and their families. May their memory be eternal!

Derive strength in knowing that God is the Lord and therefore exalt Him forever! No adverse powers can destroy the people of God! God's children are the Holy People of God! They are God's property and no evil force can take away from God what rightfully belongs to Him unless the People of God allow for that.

Reflecting upon the memories of 9/11, I remain

Prayerfully yours in His service,

+Fr. Michael

## **Saints and Feasts Commemorated**

**Poulcheria the Empress**

**Menodora, Metrodora, & Nymphodora the Martyrs**



These Martyrs, sisters according to the flesh, were from Bithynia. They lived in virginity on a mountain near the Pythian hot springs of Bithynia, devoting themselves to asceticism and prayer. Betrayed to the local governor, Fronto, they were subjected to frightful tortures, and so gave up their holy souls into the hands of God. They contested for the Faith during the reign of Maximian, in the year 304.

**Afterfeast of the Nativity of the Theotokos**

**FATHER MICHAEL REQUESTS**...that we, as a faithful community keep the following individuals in our prayers: Demetrios Pappastratis (father of George Pappastratis), Angelo Romas, Persa Nizamis, Mitry Ganim, Ted Simon, 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.

### **ATTENTION ALL YOUTH WORKERS**

Whether it be teaching our youth to Greek dance or conducting Sunday School or Greek lessons or working with our Youth of our Parish IN ANY CAPACITY, the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Detroit have mandated that everyone working with the Youth must complete a background check and online Youth Safety training through Sterling. Please contact the Metropolis of Detroit and speak with the Metropolis Youth Director about details at (248) 823-2411. Please go on the [YouthSafetyPlatform.goarch.org](http://YouthSafetyPlatform.goarch.org) website and register.

## **Wisdom of the Fathers**

Our Redeemer and Maker, Who was Son of God before the ages, became Son of Man at the end of ages. Thus the One Who, through the power of His divinity, had created us to enjoy the happiness of everlasting life, might Himself restore us, through the weakness of our humanity, to recover the life we had lost.

### **St. Bede the Venerable**

Homilies on the Gospels, 2.18. 7th Century. Taken from: Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Vol: John 1-10. Intervarsity Press, 2006, p. 126.

For since Nicodemus had said, "We know that Thou art a teacher come from God," on this very point He sets him right, all but saying, "Think Me not a teacher in such manner as were the many of the prophets who were of earth, for I have come from heaven (but) now. None of the prophets hath ascended up thither, but I dwell there."

### **St. John Chrysostom**

Homily 27 on John 3, 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.*