



Sunday Bulletin September 24, 2023 *Greek Orthodox Church of the* *Annunciation*

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



Epistle Reading

Prokeimenon. Fourth Mode. Psalm 67.35,26.

God is wonderful among his saints.

Verse: Bless God in the congregations.

The reading is from St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy 3:10-15

TIMOTHY, my son, you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, my sufferings, what befell me at Antioch, at Iconion, and at Lystra, what persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. Indeed all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Reading Luke 5:1-11

At that time, as Jesus was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, he saw two boats by the lake; but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when he had ceased speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." And when they had done this, they enclosed a great shoal of fish; and as their nets were breaking, they beckoned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." For he was astonished, and all who were with him, at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching men." And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

Message from Fr. Michael....

Dearly Beloved Faithful:

In today's Holy Gospel reading learn that the Lord's disciples had toiled all night long and could not catch fish. However, our Lord's comes into their presence and enters into Simon's boat and teaches the multitude from the boat. He later directs his disciples to: "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." They enclosed a great shoal of fish. Their nets began to break. They called for the assistance of their comrades on the other boat to come and help them. Subsequently, they filled both boats with the fish. They gathered such a great load that they were beginning to sink. Simon Peter, moved and astonished by the experience and the sight of the great catch, fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." The others, including James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon were also equally moved. Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching men." When they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed the Lord.

Brothers and sisters, like the apostles, we are to leave our old and sinful lives and follow the Lord. We are all fishermen for the sake of spreading God's Word. We are to be jubilant in the magnificence of our Lord. We are called to be disciples of the Lord. We are to be His faithful followers. We are called, as pious Orthodox Christians, to help save all of humanity by spreading the Word of God. We are called to be fishermen: to catch and save the souls of all who wallow in the ocean of sin.

Do you recall your first time being in a pool, and not knowing how to swim? You were probably very afraid of drowning. Now that you know how to swim, you feel an air of confidence and can endure the water. When we are in an ocean of sin, there is nothing to grab onto for help. The only help there is comes from above. The Lord Jesus is our lifeguard. He is our refuge. He is our savior. If we call upon Him, He will not extend His merciful hand and pull us out of the water and prevent us from drowning in our sin. All we need to do is follow Him and His teachings.

May the Lord bless you and keep you afloat!

Prayerfully, I remain
One of the Lord's humble fishermen,

+Fr. Michael

Saints and Feasts Commemorated

1st Sunday of Luke

Thecla the Protomartyr & Equal to the Apostles



This saint was from the city of Iconium. When she was eighteen years of age, she was instructed in the Faith of Christ and the hope of the resurrection by the Apostle Paul, whom also she followed, forsaking her betrothed and espousing a life of virginity for the sake of the Heavenly Bridegroom. Having preached Christ in various cities and suffered many things, she reposed in Seleucia of Cilicia at the age of 90.

The Commemoration of the Miracle of the Theotokos Myrtidiotissis in Kythira

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, Mity 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 website and register.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND GREEK SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Please note that registration forms are available for your children in the exo-Narthex. Please complete them and give them to Athena Papathomas for Sunday School and Giannoula Alikakos for Greek School. Classes will begin today, September 24, 2023. The Sunday School and Greek School students will receive a blessing today immediately before the distribution of Holy Communion. All students are requested to sit in the first three pews.

MEMORIAL SERVICE TODAY

September 24, 2023, at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. A 3 Year Memorial Service will be held for Pavlos Alikakos, beloved husband of Giannoula. A coffee hour will held today by Giannoula and her family. May his memory be eternal! Our prayers and best wishes go out to Pavlos' family.

Wisdom of the Fathers

For now they were well instructed beforehand...But mark both their faith and their obedience. For though they were in the midst of their work when they heard His command, they delayed not, they procrastinated not, they said not, "let us return home, and converse with our kinsfolk," but "they forsook all and followed."

St. John Chrysostom

Homily 14 on Matthew 4, 4th Century

Because such is the obedience which Christ seeks of us, as that we delay not even a moment of time, though something absolutely most needful should vehemently press on us.

St. John Chrysostom

Homily 14 on Matthew 4, 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.