



*Sunday Bulletin August 30th, 2015*  
*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 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 was marvelous in our eyes?'"

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

Dearly Beloved Faithful who thirst for the Word of God:

As we approach the start of the ecclesiastical New Year on September 1st, we are reminded of the gracious words of our Lord as he stood in an Synagogue and opened the book of the Prophet Isaiah and we heard the following words:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord."

As September 1st marks the Indiction, or *Indictio* as it was known in the earlier centuries of Church history, which is the start of the ecclesiastical New Year, we offer special prayers "to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord." The Lord preaches to us the *Good News* and we start this great year fully attentive and thirsty for His Word, with our hearts and minds open to His calling.

We may wonder and ask, "How will we benefit from this?" Well, the start of the Church New Year is a chance for a *fresh new start* in our lives. It is an opportunity to begin to live a Godly life and to focus on what really matters in life: our personal relationship with God. A life without faith is a life with no shield against evil forces. Our faith is our breastplate of armor. Our prayers are our incense that ascend to Heaven. Our fast is our *secret text message* to God. Our devotion to His Holy Icons in Church is our *Skype* with God. For He sees us and we see Him through the majesty of the Holy Icons, our windows to Heaven.

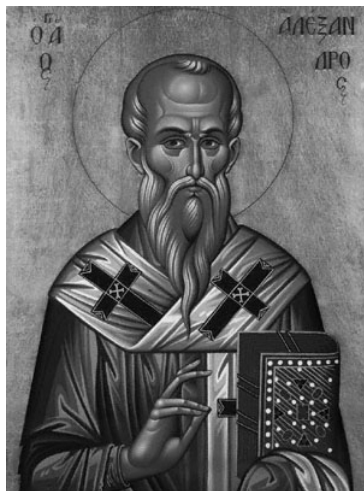
Be joyous today for the start of this blessed ecclesiastical New Year and be more joyous than the secular January 1st New Year. May the blessing of our Lord be upon you as you venture into this Blessed New Year.

Quench your thirst with the Word of God! May this year be the year of intense scripture study. We will, at some point, resume our Bible study group again in October. Stay tuned for upcoming announcements as to dates when we will meet.

Prayerfully yours, in His service,

+Fr. Michael

## Alexander, John, and Paul the New, Patriarchs of Constantinople



Saint Alexander was sent to the First Ecumenical Council in Nicaea as the delegate of Saint Metrophanes, Bishop of Constantinople (see June 4), to whose throne he succeeded in the year 325. When Arius had deceitfully professed allegiance to the Council of Nicaea, Saint Alexander, knowing his guile, refused to receive him into communion; Arius' powerful partisans threatened that they would use force to bring Arius into the communion of the Church the following day. Saint Alexander prayed fervently that God might spare the Church; and as Arius was in a privy place relieving nature, his bowels gushed forth with an effusion of blood, and the arch-heresiarch died the death of Judas.

Saint Alexander was Bishop from 325 until 337, when he was succeeded by Saint Paul the Confessor, who died a martyr's death at the hands of the Arians (see Nov. 6). The Saint John commemorated here appears to be the one who was Patriarch during the years 562-577, surnamed Scholasticus, who is also commemorated on February 21. He was from Antioch, where he had been a lawyer (scholasticus); he was made presbyter, then was sent to Constantinople as representative (apocrisiarius) of the Patriarch of Antioch, and was appointed Patriarch of Constantinople by the Emperor Justinian. Saint Paul was Bishop of Constantinople during the years 687 - 693, in the reign of Emperor Justinian II, and presided over the Quinisext Council in 692.

### The Holy New Martyrs of Serbia

During the Second World War (1939-1945), the Ustashi government of Roman Catholic Croatia, in alliance with the Nazi government of Germany, and with the approval and support of the papal hierarchy, undertook an unspeakably bitter persecution of the Orthodox Serbian people with the aim either of converting them to papism, or driving them away, or killing them. The Orthodox Serbs who would not accept papism were put into extermination camps; some were tortured inhumanly by knifing; some were found with their eyes put out, their noses and ears cut off, and fires having been lighted upon their chests; whole villages were slaughtered, the children being impaled on stakes; unborn babes were slain in their mothers' wombs; many perished in camps from hunger and sickness; many thousands were herded like beasts and burned in their churches, which were destroyed with their monasteries and homes. Over 700,000 Serbian Orthodox Christians suffered cruel martyrdom during this period, including many of the clergy and defenseless women and children.

**FATHER MICHAEL REQUESTS...**that we, as a faithful community keep the following individuals in our prayers: Michalena (Skiadas) Sukenik, Suzanne Vaishnani, daughter of Ted Simon, Presbytera Magdalena Michalopoulos, Helen Economides, and Henry Nussbaum. 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.

At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy today, we will have a 40 day blessing for Maria (Papastrat) Rizzo and the churching of Dimitra, daughter of Maria and Kyle (Foti) Rizzo. Our prayers and best wishes go out to the entire Rizzo and Papastrat family. Congratulations to all!

**SERVICE START TIMES:** As of September 6th, 2015, we will resume our regular schedule of services with Orthros: 8:45 am and Divine Liturgy: 9:45 am

**SPECIAL NOTICE:**

We will only publish Memorial Services (memorial services with kolyva/wheat offered) as such services have special significance and are performed during designated anniversaries following deaths, e.g. 40 days after death, 1 year after death, 3 years after death, 9 years after death, etc.

In contrast, Trisagion Services may be held at any time with no regard needed for such anniversaries. Trisagion services differ from Memorial services in that Trisagion services do not include the chanting of special troparia known as Evlogitaria, such as, "Blessed are Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statues. The choir of saints has found the Fountain of Life and the Door of Paradise..." There is no kolyva or wheat offered during a Trisagion Service. Since Trisagion Services may seem more convenient, often requested at the last moment without ample advanced notification, they become more numerous and therefore more difficult to keep track of and mention in the weekly Sunday Bulletin. The Memorial Services are fewer in number and require scheduling and preparation, as in the making of the kolyva. Therefore, Trisagion Services will not be published in the Sunday Bulletin and only Memorial Services will be published.

**Pasticho Open Golf Tournament**

Sunday, September 20th, 2015

1:00 pm start at Traditions at the Glen in Johnson City

\$80 per player and \$320 per foursome

Included Golf, Prizes, contests, and full Greek buffet

Contact John Koutsaris for details at [Jkouts24@yahoo.com](mailto:Jkouts24@yahoo.com) or (607) 343-0090

This is a church fund raising event. Please join us and support this wonderful annual event.

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 any building, facility or church property issues, please contact Parish Council President Steve Anastos, (607) 296-9799. Deadline for suggestions for the bulletin is 12:00 noon on Thursday.