



Sunday Bulletin October 9, 2016 *Greek Orthodox Church of the* *Annunciation*

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Rev. Dr. Michael Bahlatzis, Presiding Priest-Proistamenos

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### **Epistle Reading**

**Prokeimenon. Grave Mode. Psalm 28.11,1.**

**The Lord will give strength to his people.**

**Verse: Bring to the Lord, O sons of God, bring to the Lord honor and glory.**

**The reading is from St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 6:1-10**

BRETHREN, working together with him, then, we entreat you not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, "At the acceptable time I have listened to you, and helped you on the day of salvation." Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We put no obstacle in any one's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, tumults, labors, watching, hunger; by purity, knowledge, forbearance, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

### **Gospel Reading Luke 7:11-16**

At that time, Jesus went to a city called Nain, and his disciples and a great crowd went with him. As he drew near to the gate of the city, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow; and a large crowd from the city was with her. And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." And he came and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." And the dead man sat up, and began to speak. And he gave him to his mother. Fear seized them all; and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has arisen among us!" and "God has visited his people!"

Message from Fr. Michael.....

Dearly Beloved Faithful:

In today's lesson from the Gospel of St. Luke, the Lord Jesus raises the son of a widow, from the territory of Nain, from the dead. Jesus had compassion on the woman and her grief, for her being a widow, and for her only son who was now dead. Jesus knew what agony and torment that the poor widow would face for the remainder of her life: no one to support and care for her. Thus, seemingly feeling sentenced to a life of poverty and austerity. Jesus took pity on her and had compassion on her. Perhaps, my brothers and sisters in Christ, Jesus realized the pain, agony, and sorrow that His own mother, the most holy and blessed Theotokos, would experience with His own Passion and Crucifixion. When gazing at the icon of the Theotokos and Christ Child, in the style of Glykophilousa, the Theotokos is pictured holding Jesus, and her head is bent toward Him and He is depicted as kissing her lovingly on the cheek. One may marvel by gazing into the eyes of the Theotokos as there appears to be a certain sadness in her eyes. She knew fully well that her son would sacrifice His life for us all, for our salvation for the ransom of the many. It was the look of a mother, who is sending her son (and daughter) off to fight and defend his country. It is the look of a mother who realizes that her child will die an untimely death before she herself is taken. Yes, Jesus had Compassion on the widow, and then uniquely raised her son to life.

Even though the resuscitation of the widow of Nain's son would be temporary (for we are mere mortals), we like the crowd rejoiced in this miracle. It reminded the crowd of the miracles of the prophets Elijah and Elisha, noted in 2 Kings, as they shouted that a prophet had been sent to them. The crowds spread news of Jesus' miraculous works throughout Judea and the surrounding areas. In retrospect, they should have realized that Jesus was more than a prophet; He was the very Messiah the prophets preached. But the crowds, like the disciples would know this only after Jesus' death and Resurrection. Even John the Baptist asked his disciples was Jesus truly the very Messiah which He had preached or should they expect someone else?" (Luke 7:18-19)

Let us lovingly show compassion on those who live hand to mouth, with little to sustain them. Let us show our compassion for the unfortunate who struggle daily to make ends meet. Let us pray for them. Let us pray for those who dwell or who are in the path of the hurricane Matthew.

Prayerfully compassionate in His service, I remain

Your devoted servant,

+Fr. Michael

## **James the Apostle, son of Alphaeus**



The holy Apostle James was one of the Twelve, and preached Christ to many nations, and finally suffered death by crucifixion.

### **Apolytikion of Apostle James, Son of Alphaeus in the Third Tone**

O Holy Apostle James, intercede to our merciful God, that He may grant our souls forgiveness of sins.

### **Kontakion of Apostle James, Son of Alphaeus in the Fourth Tone**

The wondrous fisherman that caught in the nations, James, the most venerable of Jesus' disciples, and the companion of the apostolic choir, doth dispense unto the world the great wealth of his healings, freeing from adversities them that rightly acclaim him. Wherefore, we cry to him with one accord: O blest Apostle, save all of us by thy prayers.

## **The Righteous Patriarch Abraham and his nephew Lot**

The holy Patriarch Abraham, born a pagan, ten generations after Noah, when the knowledge of God had perished from among men, became the beginning of God's dispensation for the universal renewal and salvation of man. He was called out of his country--the land of the Chaldees, that is, Mesopotamia--to the land of Canaan, and received the promise that through his seed all the nations of the earth should be blessed; through his singular faith in the promises of God, he was justified before the giving of the Law and the coming of Grace; through his willingness to sacrifice Isaac, he portrayed the love wherewith God loved the world in sacrificing His only-begotten Son. The greatness of Abraham, and the trials that he and his righteous nephew Lot underwent, are set forth in the Book of Genesis in the Old Testament, chapters twelve through twenty-five. See also the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers, December 11-17.

**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, Presbyteria Magdalena Michalopoulos, Henry Nussbaum, and Sam Kashou. 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 those interested in GOYA, Fr. Michael and Presbyteria Kimberly will hold the first organizational meeting on Sunday, October 16, 2016 after the Divine Liturgy, during the Coffee Hour fellowship in our Church Hall. Everyone, ages 12-18 years old are invited. Please join us! Parents are also invited!

VOLUNTEERS are needed for the coffee hour fellowship, so that this can continue. Refreshments will be funded by the parish council and/or volunteers and other church groups, however we are in need of your time to assist in preparation, serving and clean up afterwards. Please see Steve Anastos, or any parish council member, to volunteer. Thank you.

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.