



## *Sunday Bulletin January 15, 2017* *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 First Mode. Psalm 11.7,1.**

**You, O Lord, shall keep us and preserve us.**

**Verse: Save me, O Lord, for the godly man has failed.**

**The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians 3:4-11**

BRETHREN, when Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away; anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

### **Gospel Reading**

**Luke 17:12-19**

At that time, as Jesus entered a village, He was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices and said: "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." When He saw them He said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus's feet, giving Him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then said Jesus: "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" And He said to him: "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

*Message from Fr. Michael....*

Dearly Beloved Faithful in Lord:

In today's Gospel reading, we heard of how Jesus healed ten lepers of their affliction. However, only one of them returned to Jesus, humbled himself, got on his knees, praised, and thanked the Lord for His healing.

Brothers and sisters, when was the last time we humbled ourselves and knelt before God? A beautiful opportunity is offered to us every time we come to church. When we kneel during Liturgy, we thank God for transforming the bread and the wine into His precious Body and Blood so that we can partake and become united with Him. As we unite ourselves with Him, we are blessed, sanctified, strengthened, healed and forgiven of sin. What a fantastic response we observe and receive through our devotion! Did you know that the entire Divine Liturgy is filled with words of worship and humility, such as calling us to "bow our heads to the Lord."

Brothers and sisters, we must continually humble ourselves and kneel before God and frequently seek the opportunity to seize the occasion for actively accomplishing this. As faithful, we kneel while praying in the morning or in the evening before bed. Some faithful kneel multiple times while making prostrations and recite the Jesus prayer when doing so. Kneeling is a way to use the whole body in prayer. It exercises our bodies while immersing us wholly in prayer and devotion. Rather than having contemplation about God, we actively engage ourselves in being one with God and not only praying only in our minds.

One of the nine lepers did not only thank the Lord in his mind when he was healed of his infirmity. Instead, he physically went to Jesus, praised Him and got down on His knees. In like manner, we are to come to Jesus on Sunday mornings, and shouldn't we not do the same as the one healed leper did? We need to rise from our beds on Sunday mornings, physically go to Church, praise and thank Jesus, and get down on our knees and be one with Him!

Again and again on bended knees, giving Him praise I remain  
Yours in His service,

+Fr. Michael

## Paul of Thebes



Saint Paul, first among hermits, was born about 227 in the Thebaid of Egypt. In 250 he fled into the wilderness because of the persecution raging at that time under Decius. Having lived a solitary life in a certain cave for ninety-one years, he reposed in 341, at the age of 114, and was buried by Anthony the Great, who had been directed thither by God several days before the Saint's repose.

January 15

## John the Hut-Dweller

Saint John, who was from Constantinople, was the son of illustrious parents -- Eutropius the Senator and Theodora. At twelve years of age he departed secretly from his home and went to the Monastery of the Unsleeping (see Dec. 29). Aflame with longing for his parents, he returned after six years to his father's home in the guise of a pauper and beggar. Living in a small hut at the gates of his parents' house (wherefrom he is called "hut-dweller"), he remained unknown therein for many years, and suffered mockery at the hands of those who had been his own servants. Foreknowing his death, he revealed himself to his parents, and within a few moments reposed, about the year 450.

January 15

### Apolytikion of John the Hut-Dweller in the Fourth Tone

Since thou hadst with fervour longed after the Lord from thy youth, \* thou leftest the world with its delights and nobly didst strive in valiant ascetic deeds. \* Thou didst pitch thy hut before the gates of thy parents; \* thou didst break the demons' snares, O all-blessed Father. \* And therefore, as is meet, hath Christ God glorified thee, O John.

### Kontakion of John the Hut-Dweller in the Second Tone

Since thou didst desire a poverty like unto Christ's, O wise Father John, thou didst forsake thy parents' wealth; and while holding in thy hands the most holy Gospel, O righteous one, thou didst follow after Christ God while ceaselessly praying to Him for us all.

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, and Presbyteria Magdalena Michalopoulos. 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.

Sylvia (Asimina) Karedes, devoted and beloved wife of Louie Karedes, mother of John and Kimberly (Kyriaki), and grandmother of Alexandra, Tyler Michael, Jake, Drew, Matthew, and Danielle, and was the mother-in-law to Michelle and Scott. May her memory be eternal! She is missed by all! We send out our best wishes and our prayers for her family!

It is a new year! Please make sure your membership dues are current. Thank you.

VOLUNTEERS are needed for the coffee hour fellowship, so that this can continue. 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.