

Message from Fr. Michael...

Dearly Beloved Faithful:

In today's Holy Gospel reading, we heard about two miracles that the Lord performed: the healing of the woman with an issue of blood and the raising of the daughter of Jairus. Although we hear of the two miracles within the same story, and seem different from each other, they are actually the same miracle. The woman who had an issue of blood later was known to be St. Veronica. As we hear the Gospel reading today, we pause and listen attentively. We realize that hearing the miracles of healing by our Lord inspire us to remain faithful. We become faithful by following His Holy Commandments. We recognize that we must know God, in order to fulfill His commandments. God reveals Himself to us. He imparts strength on us. By doing so, He gives us the strength to become like Him with morals and virtues. Our quest to become Godly is perfected. This is what the Christian life is, it is self-perfection. Self-perfection occurs by the hand of God, with God. Self-perfection can only occur if we develop an awareness of what we are to do. We do this by knowing God. By knowing Him, we will know the commandments. Hearing about the miracles of healing by our Lord, inspires to know God. We develop an understanding of the greatness of He who is our Healer. He is the Healer whom we serve. We read in the Gospel of St. John, "My sheep follow me because they know my voice". His voice heals us! The voice we hear deep in our soul is the Lord's voice.

The gospel reading of today shows us the sweetness of our Lord: His compassion for humanity and mercy are a lesson to us all. If we read of miracles our Lord, and experience His sweetness, it energizes us to follow His commandments. God is revealed to those who are pure and not to the impure. As we follow His commandments we become pure. God is then revealed to us.

Prayer is also important to gain God's revelation. We must pray, follow His commandments, and maintain our purity. As we are weak human beings, we have difficulty maintaining a high level of intensity. This is why we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord one day a week. However, we live in the reality of the Resurrection. Saint Seraphim of Sarov truly lived the Resurrection on a daily basis. He would greet all saying 'Christ is Risen' without regard of the time of the year it was. There are times designated when we are to be more intense in our spiritual life, i.e. the Lenten or fasting periods. Saturday and Sunday are God's days. God teaches us on those days. Saturday is the day we remember the departed souls and Sunday is the celebration of His Holy Resurrection.

Jairus, who was a ruler of the synagogue, fell down at Jesus' feet, and begged him to come to his house. His only daughter, about twelve years of age, was dying. The Lord was surrounded by hundreds of people. The people realized that Jesus spoke with authority. People desired to be in His presence. Those that hated Him and those that loved Him wanted to be in His presence, because they realized that there was something special about Him. Jairus pushed through the crowd and knelt down before the Lord. As we read in gospel of St. Mark Jairus said, "I pray thee, come and lay thy hands on her that she may be healed and she shall live." Jairus' daughter was later healed. This man had an extreme need, and it pushed him toward Christ, just like us. In this case, his daughter was dying. With us, we are pushed toward Christ as we seek to have our sins taken away. We have the need to be healed! God heals us and makes us complete. We see that in the woman with the flow of blood. The woman was discovered. By Jewish Law, she was considered unclean. She was supposed to stay away from those people who were clean. She was discovered by the Lord, because the Lord knows everything. She had faith and was healed. The Lord knows all when it comes to us! He knows that we are sinful. Yet He loves us and is willing to heal us, if we migrate toward Him and follow His commandments.

Praying that the Lord will make us pure, heal us of our infirmities, and enable us to hear His voice, I remain

Prayerfully in His service,
+Fr. Michael

Saints and Feasts Commemorated

Our Righteous Father Abramius

Our Righteous Father Abramius, born in Edessa in Mesopotamia in 296, took up the monastic life and brought many pagans to Christ. Mary, his niece, upon the death of her parents, joined Abramius at his hermitage and under his guidance advanced swiftly in the love of God. Through the wiles of the evil one, however, she fell into sin, and falling from them into despair, she left her uncle and became a harlot. When he learned where his niece was, Abramius put on the clothes of a man of the world and went to visit her in disguise. Through his exhortations, Mary returned to her first hope in the mercy of God, was rescued from the life of harlotry, and ended her life in great holiness. He himself reposed in the year 366. Saints Abramius and Mary were friends of Saint Ephraim the Syrian, and it was he who wrote their account.

October 29

Anastasia the Martyr of Rome

Saint Anastasia, who was young in age and lived in a convent, was seized by the impious. Confessing Christ openly and with boldness and enduring manifold torments, she was beheaded in the year 256, during the reign of Valerian.

October 29

7th Sunday of Luke

Cleopas and Artemas of the 70 Apostles

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.

Today, during the Divine Liturgy, before Holy Communion, we will have a 40 Day Blessing for Lauren (Maria) Papastratis and the Churching of Maria Papastratis (daughter of George and Lauren Papastratis). Congratulations to the Papastratis Family and our prayers and good wishes go out to them!

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBER ELECTIONS ARE COMING UP SOON!

Please submit names of nominations for the upcoming Parish Council election to **Fr. Michael** or to elections committee chairman Ted Simon. The nominations will be reported at the GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING on Sunday, November 12, 2017.

URGENT! CHOIR MEMBERS NEEDED. NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!

We need you! Please join our choir as voices are needed. You do not have to be an elaborate singer. The Holy Spirit will come down and assist anyone who is interested in singing for the Glory of God. Anyone who is willing to assist/join the choir please see **Fr. Michael**. The Choir needs 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.