



Sunday Bulletin September 24, 2017 *Greek Orthodox Church of the* *Annunciation*

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

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### **Epistle Reading**

**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 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



## **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.

## **Kontakion of Protomartyr Thekla**

### **Plagal of the Fourth Tone**

O glorious virgin, thou wast entrusted with an apostolate, while shining brightly with virginal beauty and adorned with crowns of martyrdom. And, O Thecla, thou also didst subdue the bull's fury and change the fire to dew by thine entreaties, O first contestant among all womankind.

## **Euphrosyne of Alexandria**

Our righteous Mother Euphrosyne, who lived during the reign of Saint Theodosius the Younger (408-450), was the daughter of Paphnutius of Egypt. Forsaking her father and his wealth, she renamed herself Smaragdus, and pretending to be a eunuch of the imperial palace, she dressed herself as a man and entered a monastery of men where her identity remained unknown until her repose thirty-eight years later.

**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.

The Annual Ice Cream Social for JOY/HOPE will be on Sunday, October 8, 2017 in the fellowship hall during the coffee hour.

On behalf of Philoptochos, we will be collecting items to send to the troops for the Christmas season. We are hoping for a hundred percent participation. Thank you, and God Bless you for your generosity. If you have any questions, please see Presbyteria Kimberly. Here is a list of some ideas:

- Baby wipes
- Travel size sun tan lotion
- Chap stick with SPF 15
- Gum
- Deodorant
- Playing cards
- Beef jerky
- Coffee (ground coffee)
- Sunflower seeds
- Paperback reading books
- Slim Jim's
- Hot sauce
- Hand written notes for emotional support
- DVD's - comedy movies (Walmart has a \$5 bin)
- Red licorice
- Puzzles
- Pop tarts
- Razors
- Skittles, Starburst
- Energy and granola bars
- Microwave pop corn
- Mist fans with batteries

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.