



Sunday Bulletin August 19, 2018
Greek Orthodox Church of the
Annunciation

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Proistamenos

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**Epistle Reading 1 Corinthians 15:1-11**

Brethren, I would remind you in what terms I preached to you the gospel, which you received, in which you stand, by which you are saved, if you hold it fast -- unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God which is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

**Gospel Reading Matthew 19:16-26**

At that time, a young man came up to Jesus, kneeling and saying, "Good Teacher, what good deed must I do, to have eternal life?" And he said to him, "Why do you call me good? One there is who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments." He said to him, "Which?" And Jesus said, "You shall not kill, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother, and You shall love your neighbor as yourself." The young man said to him, "All these I have observed; what do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful; for he had great possessions. And Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly, I say to you, it will be hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." When the disciples heard this they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

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

Dearly Beloved Faithful in the Lord:

In today's Holy Gospel reading we heard the young man ask our Lord:

"What good thing shall I do that I might have eternal life." This is a question which I am sure we have all thought about from time to time. It is not that one thing could be done to inherit eternal life. Brothers and sisters, it is a compilation of many things that we must do to come close to viewing "The Pearly Gates." The Lord told him "Thou shalt do not kill, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Honor thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." However, the young man told the Lord that he already abides by those commandments. The Lord directed him to follow, seeing that he was serious, and also told him to sell his possessions and to give them to the poor. In this manner, he would be laying up treasures in Heaven. However, the man became sorrowful as he had great possessions. The Lord knew it was difficult for a man of wealth to do this. However, if one is serious about obtaining the Kingdom of Heaven, then these possessions of wealth which are prone to acquiring dust, corrosion, rust, and envy are ones which will stay behind on earth long after we have passed from this life. Remember the altruism: There are no luggage racks on hearses! "Render unto Caesar what is Caesar's and unto God what is God's." Our soul's rightful place is with God.

Blessed Theophylact once stated that rich person was one who has funds, property, and houses, and he gives to no one. His method of acquisition of these things are by way stealing them from the poor. Therefore he should be regarded as a thief. However, a steward is an individual who has substance. It does not mean that a steward does not have money, property, or a house. However, a steward is one possesses mercy and compassion while distributing these things to the poor. Essentially, such an individual is one who shares good fortune with the less fortunate. Such an individual is a good steward of wealth. Tithing is often the subject brought up many Christian dominations. Many people cringe at the idea of doing this. A person who tithes is one who is obedient to his faith. Tithing is a command directed by our Lord. The Lord told us to do this! Therefore, we are to do this! What do we need to do to inherit eternal life? There you go! He has told us to do all the above.

Do we pay our Church stewardship dues? Or do we want to save money and do other things with that money which should be given to God. Depriving the Lord of our good stewardship, whether it be through faith and prayer that is owed to Him or monetary stewardship that is owed to Him, are acts which pull us away from receiving His grace. We belong to God! We are all His property. We shall live for Him or not live at all! Living without God is not living at all. Financial hardship is certainly understandable, and those who truly cannot afford to make good on their financial obligations to the Church, may give whatever they can. God is watching and is all merciful!

Seeking to inherit eternal life, while guiding my flock, I remain

Prayerfully in His service,  
+Fr. Michael

# Saints and Feasts Commemorated

Afterfeast of the Dormition of our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary

Andrew the General & Martyr & his 2,593 soldiers

During the reign of Maximian, about the year 289, Antiochus the Commander-in-Chief of the Roman forces sent Andrew with many other soldiers against the Persians, who had overrun the borders of the Roman dominion. Saint Andrew persuaded his men to call upon the Name of Christ, and when they had defeated the Persians with unexpected triumph, his soldiers believed in Christ with him. Antiochus, learning of this, had them brought before him. When they confessed Christ to be God, he had Andrew spread out upon a bed of iron heated fiery hot, and had the hands of his fellow soldiers nailed to blocks of wood. Antiochus then commanded some thousand soldiers to chase the Saints beyond the borders of the empire. Through the instructions of Saint Andrew, these soldiers also believed in Christ. At the command of Antiochus, they were all beheaded in the mountain passes of the Taurus mountains of Cilicia.

Theophanes the New Wonderworker of Macedonia

Holy Martyrs Timothy, Agapius and Thecla

## **Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Third Mode**

Let the Heavens rejoice; let earthly things be glad; for the Lord hath wrought might with His arm, He hath trampled upon death by death. The first-born of the dead hath He become. From the belly of Hades hath He delivered us, and hath granted great mercy to the world.

## **Apolytikion for Afterfeast of the Dormition in the First Mode**

In giving birth, thou didst preserve thy virginity; in thy dormition, thou didst not forsake the world, O Theotokos. Thou wast translated unto life, since thou art the Mother of Life; and by thine intercessions dost thou redeem our souls from death.

## **Seasonal Kontakion in the Second Mode**

Neither the grave nor death could contain the Theotokos, the unshakable hope, ever vigilant in intercession and protection. As Mother of life, He who dwelt in the ever-virginal womb transposed her to life.

FATHER MICHAEL REQUESTS...that we, as a faithful community keep the following individuals in our prayers: Lilly Kashou, Issam Kashou, Suzanne Vaishnani, daughter of Ted Simon, and Presbytera 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.

At the Conclusion of the Divine Liturgy today, we will have a Trisagion service for Esther Conimikes, who is survived by her children, Suzie (Alexandra), Steve, and John. We will also have a Trisagion service for their brother, Frank Yacalis, who was also the half-brother of Vasili Yacalis. May their memories be eternal!

### **Wisdom of the Fathers**

The sign that thou lovest God, is this, that thou lovest thy fellow; and if thou hatest thy fellow, thy hatred is towards God. For it is blasphemy if thou prayest before God while thou art wroth. For thy heart also convicts thee, that in vain thou multipliest words: thy conscience rightly judges that in thy prayers thou profitest nought.

#### **St. Ephraim the Syrian**

ON ADMONITION AND REPENTANCE

Wherefore then doth Christ thus reply to him, saying, "There is none good?" Because He came unto Him as a mere man, and one of the common sort, and a Jewish teacher; for this cause then as a man He discourses with him. And indeed in many instances He replies to the secret thoughts of them that come unto Him.

#### **St. John Chrysostom**

Homily 63 on Matthew 19, 4th Century

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 the Parish Council President or a member of the council. ***Deadline for suggestions for the bulletin is 12:00 noon on Thursday.***

From YouTube to you!



**BEETREAT!**

**Saturday, September 22, 2018**

ROCHESTER, NY



at Holy Spirit Greek  
Orthodox Church  
835 South Ave.,  
Rochester NY 14620

**Be the Bee** is coming to Rochester for a great day of sessions and events for youth, adults, parents, youth workers, young adults & more!

This retreat is a chance for people to come together united in Christ to pray, learn, grow, and have fun. **Attendance is free.**

**9:30 am - 5:00 pm**

Youth (6 - 12th grades),  
Parents & Youth Workers

**Orthodox Kafeneio, 7 pm**

For young adults ages 18-39. Drinks and visit us on Facebook: discussion with BeeTreat leaders. Check Holy Spirit Greek Orthodox Church Facebook page for location.



[y2am.org/beetreats](http://y2am.org/beetreats)



Led by **STEVE CHRISTOPHER** and **CHRISTIA**, YAM Director and the host of "Be the Bee" and YAM Young Adult Ministries

*"Be the Bee" is a YouTube series exploring how Christian youth can focus on and beautiful in their lives. Visit [youtube.com/y2am](http://youtube.com/y2am) to*

*"Be the Bee" and BeeTreats are presented by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Department of Youth & Young Adults*

**Please register!**