



Sunday Bulletin July 15, 2018
Greek Orthodox Church of the
Annunciation

4121 O'Hara Drive Vestal, NY 13850
Phone: (607) 797-0824 Fax: (607) 797-0824
<http://www.annunciationvestal.ny.goarch.org>
**Rev. Dr. Michael Bahlatzis, Presiding Priest-
Proistamenos**

~~~~~

## **Epistle Reading**

**Prokeimenon. Plagal Second Mode. Psalm 31.11,1.**

**Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O righteous.**

**Verse: Blessed are they whose transgressions have been forgiven.**

**The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to Titus 3:8-15**

Titus, my son, the saying is sure. I desire you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to apply themselves to good deeds; these are excellent and profitable to men. But avoid stupid controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels over the law, for they are unprofitable and futile. As for a man who is factious, after admonishing him once or twice, have nothing more to do with him, knowing that such a person is perverted and sinful; he is self-condemned. When I send Artemas or Tychicos to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. Do your best to speed Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way; see that they lack nothing. And let our people learn to apply themselves to good deeds, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not to be unfruitful. All who are with me send greeting to you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

## **Gospel Reading**

**Matthew 5:14-19**

The Lord said to his disciples, "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. Think not that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets; I have come not to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Whoever then relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but he who does them and teaches them shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."

***"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."***

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

**Dearly Beloved Faithful:**

**As we read from the scriptural passage above, from the Gospel of St. Matthew, the Lord directs that our light is to shine before our brethren. In doing so, our brethren may see our good works. When our good works are seen by others, we are giving God the glory. Our heavenly Father looks upon us with His tender mercy and send His grace upon us. Our Lord is omniscient and omnipotent. He is all knowing and mighty.**

**On this blessed Sunday of the Holy Fathers, we recognize their good works. As they proved to be vigilant candles of the Faith, we admire their brightness from their unextinguishing flame. Fathers who came together in the Seven Ecumenical Councils, that is: as written in Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America web site from reading borrowed from the Holy Transfiguration Monastery of Brookline, Massachusetts: "the First Council, of the 318 Fathers who assembled in Nicaea in 325 to condemn Arius, who denied that the Son of God is consubstantial with the Father; the Fathers of the First Council also ordained that the whole Church should celebrate Pascha according to the same reckoning; the Second Council, of the 150 Fathers who assembled in Constantinople in 381 to condemn Macedonius, Patriarch of Constantinople, who denied the Divinity of the Holy Spirit; the Third Council, of the 200 Fathers who assembled in Ephesus in 431, to condemn Nestorius, Patriarch of Constantinople, who called Christ a mere man and not God incarnate; the Fourth Council, of the 630 who assembled in Chalcedon in 451, to condemn Eutyches, who taught that there was only one nature, the divine, in Christ after the Incarnation, and Dioscorus, Patriarch of Alexandria, who illegally received Eutyches back into communion and deposed Saint Flavian, Patriarch of Constantinople, who had excommunicated Eutyches; the Fifth Council in 553, of the 165 who assembled in Constantinople for the second time to condemn Origen and Theodore of Mopsuestia, the teacher of Nestorius; the Sixth Council in 680, of the 170 who assembled in Constantinople for the third time, to condemn the Monothelite heresy, which taught that there is in Christ but one will, the divine; and the Seventh Council in 787, of the 350 who assembled in Nicaea for the second time to condemn Iconoclasm."**

**As we draw inspiration from recognizing the works of these Fathers of the Ecumenical Councils, we realize that we, too, have the spiritual responsibility to also be beacons of light that may lead others out of darkness. Can we lead others out of the desert to an oasis of faith? May our brilliance glow greater than our shining sun so that such illumination opens the eyes of the spiritually blind?**

**Let us be a lighthouse of the faith. Let us prevent those who are on the vast sea of pride and selfishness from crashing into the shoreline coastal rocks of faithlessness. May our spiritual light continue to shine before all people. May we inspire all who witness its glow to follow Christ.**

**Through the prayers and intercession of St. Euphemia, the Great Martyr, whose feast day was Friday, we ask our Lord to hear our petitions and may our Lord grant His mercy upon us all.**

**Prayerfully beaming I remain,  
Yours in His service,**

**+Fr. Michael**



**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 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.

**Service of the PARAKLESIS for the Theotokos** will be held on

Friday, **August 3**, 2018 at **7:00 pm**

Thursday, **August 9**, 2018 at **6:30 pm**

All are invited! We look forward to your prayerful attendance.

**Vespers on the eve of the Dormition of the Theotokos**

Tuesday, **August 14**, 2018 at **7:15 pm**

**\*\*\*\*There WILL BE a Parish Council meeting at 6:30 pm on that evening BEFORE Vespers\*\*\*\***

**DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS, Wednesday, August 15, 2018**

Orthros: **9 am** Divine Liturgy: **10 am**

Artoklasia (Blessing of the Five Loaves to follow) (we are requesting that someone volunteer to bake and provide the five loaves for this service).

## **Wisdom of the Fathers**

"But whosoever shall do and teach," said He, "shall be called great." For not to ourselves alone, should we be profitable, but to others also; since neither is the reward as great for him who guides himself aright, as for one who with himself adds also another.

### **St. John Chrysostom**

Homilies 15 and 16 on Matthew 5, 4th Century

Since he who cannot teach himself, yet attempts to set others right, will have many to ridicule him. Or rather such a one will have no power to teach at all, his actions uttering their voice against him.

### **St. John Chrysostom**

Homilies 15 and 16 on Matthew 5, 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.***