



Sunday Bulletin September 16, 2018
Greek Orthodox Church of the
Annunciation

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Proistamenos

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## **Epistle Reading**

**Prokeimenon. Grave Mode. Psalm 28.11,1.**

**The Lord will give strength to his people.**

**Verse: Bring to the Lord, O sons of God, bring to the Lord honor and glory.**

**The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 2:16-20**

Brethren, knowing that a man is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ, and not by works of the law, because by works of the law shall no one be justified. But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we ourselves were found to be sinners, is Christ then an agent of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again those things which I tore down, then I prove myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law, that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

## **Gospel Reading**

**Mark 8:34-38; 9:1**

The Lord said: "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

*Message from Fr. Michael...*

Dearly Beloved Faithful in the Lord:

As we reflect upon the events of September 11th, 2001, we are forever scarred by those tragic memories. Over three thousand innocent men, women, and children were suddenly deprived of God's gift of life. The Twin Towers which once stood as an icon of American financial success were turned into dust and rubble in 102 minutes. A cowardly terrorist act of that event has adversely affected not only America but the entire world. The liberty we once knew has been affected. Security measures have become more intrusive in the lives of the private citizen, as a result of this tragedy. The world will never be the same again. Man has become less trusting of his neighbor, Fear has plagued the hearts of Americans. How can we love our neighbor as ourselves when we fear that our neighbor could be a potential terrorist?

The lesson of 9/11 is that we are to put our trust in God as He is the Hope for our salvation. We are to continue to love our neighbor as ourselves as God has commanded. We are not to fear the evil of the world. Instead we are to remain vigilant and with God's help, we are to defeat evil. Brothers and sisters, we have God on our side! The adversary of evil cannot defeat us! Although 9/11 was one of the most tragic events of all times, the people of God still live on and preach God's word. Christianity has not been defeated! Jesus Christ is still the Son of God and we are still God's people! We pray for those who lost their lives during that event. The ultimate sacrifice of loss of life by rescuers, police officers and firefighters, also should not be forgotten. We pray for the Lord's mercy and ask for the salvation of all who perished on that tragic day. It may seem that Satan won the battle on that day. However, please understand that God will win the war! The victims of 9/11 are God's people who are returning back to their Creator! The enemy has been defeated as he has not taken our faith, our hope, or our love. Therefore, God and His people remain victorious! Remember, no one can take away your faith unless you allow them to do so! As we reflect upon this 17th anniversary of 9/11, please pray for the victims of this tragedy and their families. May their memory be eternal! We also pray for the innocent victims who were gassed in Syria and well as for all those who were displaced from their homes from the tragedy resulting from that civil war. We pray for the victims of the Boston Marathon bombings, the victims of the heinous shootings at Ft. Hood, Texas, Binghamton, N.Y., the movie theater in Colorado, the University in Virginia, the elementary school in Connecticut, and the list goes on...

Derive strength in knowing that God is the Lord and therefore exalt Him forever! No adverse powers can destroy the people of God! God's children are the Holy People of God! They are God's property and no evil force can take away from God what rightfully belongs to Him unless the People of God allow for that.

Reflecting upon the memories of 9/11, I remain  
Prayerfully yours in His service,

+Fr. Michael

# Euphemia the Great Martyr



Saint Euphemia was from Chalcedon and lived in virginity. According to some, she suffered martyrdom during the reign of Diocletian, in 303; according to others, in 307. Her sacred relics are preserved in the Patriarchate in Constantinople.

## **Apolytikion of Great Martyr Euphemia**

### **Third Tone**

O Euphemia, Christ's comely virgin, thou didst fill the Orthodox with gladness and didst cover with shame all the heretics; for at the holy Fourth Council in Chalcedon, thou didst confirm what the Fathers decreed aright. O all-glorious Great Martyr, do thou entreat Christ God that His great mercy may be granted unto us.

## **Sunday after Holy Cross Edith the Nun of Wilton Abbey Ninian the Enlightener of Scotland**

Saint Ninian was born in Cumberland in Britain around the year 360, about a half century after the Emperor Constantius Chlorus died in the British city of York, and his son Constantine, who was with him when he died, was proclaimed Emperor. Ninian was born of Christian parents of noble lineage, at a time when paganism was still strong in his native land. As a young man he went to Rome, where he spent many years in study and ascetical struggles. At Rome, Saint Ninian was consecrated sometime after the death of Pope Damasus in 384, and was sent back to his native island about the end of the fourth century. On his return journey, it is likely that he passed through Tours and met Saint Martin; what is certain is that many churches and cells associated with Saint Ninian, including his own cathedral in Whithorn, were named in honour of Saint Martin. When Saint Ninian returned to Cumberland, he established monasteries that fostered both the life of prayer and missionary labours. By his preaching, his godly life, and his miracles, he ministered to his own countrymen, the Britons, and also converted many of the pagan Picts, who inhabited the northern regions (in today's Scotland). He reposed in peace at his see of Whithorn in Galloway in 432.

## **Apolytikion for Afterfeast of the Holy Cross in the First Mode**

Save, O Lord, Thy people and bless Thine inheritance; grant Thou unto the faithful victory over adversaries. And by the power of Thy Cross do Thou preserve Thy commonwealth.

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 next Sunday, September 23, 2018 we will have a 1 year Memorial Service for Nicholas Packs, who was predeceased by his beloved wife Lula (Florindia). Nick was one of the founding members of our Vestal church location. May his memory be eternal! Our prayers and best wishes go out to the entire Packs, Karedes, and Alexander families. There will be a luncheon, in our Fellowship Hall, sponsored by the Packs family during the coffee hour. Everyone is invited.

The JOY/HOPE Annual Ice Cream Social will be on Sunday, September 30, 2018, during coffee hour. See you there! Presbytera Kim

The Annual Church Golf Tournament/The Pastichio Open will be held on October 7, 2018 - Traditions at the Glenn, 4101 Watson Blvd, Johnson City, NY; 1:30 pm start. Dinner to follow at Riverdale Banquet House. \$80/Golfer and \$320 foursome/team. Dinner only at \$20/person. All are invited to sign up. Please contact Jim Anastos at 343-1601 or Kostas Papathomas at 205-0304.

A BIG THANK YOU goes out to George and Rina Koutsaris who donated the new carpeting for the vestry and room behind the altar! May God bless them for their generosity.

### **Wisdom of the Fathers**

And see how He also makes His discourse unexceptionable: not saying at all, "whether you will, or no, you must suffer this," but how? "If any man will come after me."

### **St. John Chrysostom**

Homily 55 on Matthew 16, 1. B#54, p. 339. 4th Century

"I force not, I compel not, but each one I make lord of his own choice; wherefore also I say, 'If any man will.' For to good things do I call you, not to things evil, or burdensome; not to punishment and vengeance, that I should have to compel.

**St. John Chrysostom** Homily 55 on Matthew 16, 1. B#54, p. 339. 4th Century  
Homily 27 on John 3, 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.**