



Sunday Bulletin July 10, 2022 *Greek Orthodox Church of the* *Annunciation*

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

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### **Epistle Reading**

**Prokeimenon. Third Mode. Psalm 46.6,1.**

*Sing praises to our God, sing praises.*

*Verse: Clap your hands, all you nations.*

**The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans 6:18-23**

Brethren, having been set free from sin, you have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once yielded your members to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now yield your members to righteousness for sanctification. When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. But then what return did you get from the things of which you are now ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the return you get is sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### **Gospel Reading     Matthew 8:5-13**

At that time, as Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, beseeching him and saying, "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, in terrible distress." And he said to him, "I will come and heal him." But the centurion answered him, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard him, he marveled, and said to those who followed him, "Truly, I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such faith. I tell you, many will come from east and west and sit at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth." And to the centurion Jesus said, "Go; be it done for you as you have believed." And the servant was healed at that very moment.

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

**Dearly Beloved Faithful in the Lord:**

**In today's gospel reading, we heard the story about a Roman Centurion approaching and beseeching the Lord Jesus to help his ailing servant. When the Lord expresses willingness to go to his house, the centurion humbly refuses the Lord declaring to Him how unworthy he is to have such a visit by the Lord. At the same token, the Centurion reveals his faith in the Lord Jesus as he says to the Lord "Speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed." He then explains to the Lord how important his status is as a centurion. He explains that he has soldiers under him and is himself under authority. Those who witnessed the exchange were likely amazed to see the Lord's reaction. The Lord declared that He had not witnessed such great faith in Israel. The Lord then directs that the centurion go his way and that his servant was healed at that moment. Interestingly, theologians have explained that St. Ambrose viewed the healing by the Lord's word alone, at that time, as proof of His equality with God the Father, saying: "... as the Father spoke the Son made, so, too, the Father works and the Son speaks". And St. Basil the Great also commented that it was the Savior's word and not His presence that healed the sick man.**

**The centurion was an impressive individual who had great faith in the Lord's power to heal, even by His word alone. He sought nothing for himself and unselfishly only help for his servant. A servant who was not equal to him in social status and militarily his subordinate.**

**In St. Matthew's gospel, it was not explained how the centurion came to his faith. However, in St. Luke's gospel also recalled the miracle and seemed to offer a clue. St. Luke told us of certain preliminary steps, such as the centurion sending his Jewish friends to plead his case. "Neither thought I myself worthy to come unto thee", he says (Luke 7:7). The centurion had regular contact with the Jews which likely gave him familiarity with their faith. He may have been aware of the Jews expecting the coming of the Messiah.**

**Brothers and sisters, May we have the same unselfish faith that the Centurion had.**

**Hearing the Word of the Lord, I remain in His service,**

**Prayerfully,**

**+Fr. Michael**

## **Saints and Feasts Commemorated**

### **10,000 Fathers martyred in Egypt**

### **45 Holy Martyrs of Nikopolis, Armenia**



The Forty-five Martyrs of Nikopolis contested during the reign of Licinius, in the year 315. After many torments, they were burnt alive.

#### **Apolytikion of 45 Martyrs of Nikopolis Fourth Tone**

Thy Martyrs, O Lord, in their courageous contest for Thee received as the prize the crowns of incorruption and life from Thee, our immortal God. For since they possessed Thy strength, they cast down the tyrants and wholly destroyed the demons' strengthless presumption. O Christ God, by their prayers, save our souls, since Thou art merciful.

### **Deposition of the Precious Robe of Our Lord Jesus Christ in Moscow**

After the Crucifixion of our Lord, His most precious robe was obtained by lot by a certain Elioiz, a Georgian soldier who took part in the execution. He in turn brought it to Georgia where it remained until that land was overrun by the Persians. Shah Abbas, seeking to establish good relations with Tsar Michael Feodorovich, sent the Robe to Moscow as a gift for the Tsar and Patriarch Philaret. This took place in March of 1625, and was appointed to be celebrated on this day in July.

### **Righteous Father Anthony of the Kiev Caves**

Saint Anthony, who was born in the province of Chernigov, was tonsured in the Monastery of Esphigmenou on the Holy Mountain, Athos, from whence he was sent by his abbot to Kiev to plant the monastic life in 1013, two years before the death of Saint Vladimir, Great Prince of Kiev. Dwelling at first as a hermit, the Saint gradually drew to himself others wishing to emulate his way of life. When the number of the brethren grew, a wooden church in honour of the Dormition of the Theotokos was built, thus laying the foundation of what was to become the renowned Kiev Caves Lavra. Refusing the abbotship, Saint Anthony entrusted this to his disciples, first to the blessed Barlaam, then to Saint Theodosius (See May 3), and his whole life struggled as a cave-dwelling hermit. He reposed in peace in 1073 at the age of ninety.

**FATHER MICHAEL REQUESTS**...that we, as a faithful community keep the following individuals in our prayers: Theodore Kermidas (son of John and Cassie) Ted Simon, Maria Lambrinos, Steve Anastos, Angelo Romas, and Suzanne Vaishnani, daughter of Ted Simon. 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.

### **Special Services Schedule**

Sunday, July 31, 2022 (at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy)  
Paraklesis Service to the Theotokos at 11:30 am

Saturday, August 6, 2022 (Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord)  
Orthros: 8:45 am Divine Liturgy: 9:45 am

Friday, August 12, 2022: Paraklesis Service to the Theotokos at 6:30 pm

Monday, August 15, 2022 (Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos)  
Orthros: 9 am Divine Liturgy: 10 am  
Artoklasia (Blessing of the 5 Loaves) at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church (Binghamton) Saturday Summer Services:

Saturday, July 23, 2022: Divine Liturgy at 10 am

Saturday, August 20, 2022: Divine Liturgy at 10 am

## **Wisdom of the Fathers**

Let us hearken, as many as are to receive Christ: for it is possible to receive Him even now. Let us hearken, and emulate, and receive Him with as great zeal; for indeed, when you receive a poor man who is hungry and naked, you have received and cherished Him.

### **St. John Chrysostom Homily 26 on Matthew 8, 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.