



Sunday Bulletin January 15, 2023
Greek Orthodox Church of the
Annunciation

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

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## **Epistle Reading**

**Prokeimenon. Plagal Second Mode. Psalm 27.9,1.**  
**O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance.**  
**Verse: To you, O Lord, I have cried, O my God.**

**The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians 3:4-11**

Brethren, when Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

## **Gospel Reading    Luke 17:12-19**

At that time, as Jesus entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices and said: "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." When he saw them he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus's feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then said Jesus: "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" And he said to him: "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

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

Dearly Beloved Faithful in Lord:

In today's Gospel reading, we heard of how Jesus healed ten lepers of their affliction. However, only one of them returned to Jesus, humbled himself, got on his knees, praised, and thanked the Lord for His healing.

Brothers and sisters, when was the last time we humbled ourselves and knelt before God? A beautiful opportunity is offered to us every time we come to church. When we kneel during Liturgy, we thank God for transforming the bread and the wine into His precious Body and Blood so that we can partake and become united with Him. As we unite ourselves with Him, we are blessed, sanctified, strengthened, healed and forgiven of sin. What a fantastic response we observe and receive through our devotion! Did you know that the entire Divine Liturgy is filled with words of worship and humility, such as calling us to "bow our heads to the Lord."

Brothers and sisters, we must continually humble ourselves and kneel before God and frequently seek the opportunity to seize the occasion for actively accomplishing this. As faithful, we kneel while praying in the morning or in the evening before bed. Some faithful kneel multiple times while making prostrations and recite the Jesus prayer when doing so. Kneeling is a way to use the whole body in prayer. It exercises our bodies while immersing us with wholeness in prayer and devotion. Rather than having contemplation about God, we actively engage ourselves in being one with God and not only praying in our minds.

One of the ten lepers did not only thank the Lord in his mind when he was healed of his infirmity. Instead, he physically went to Jesus, praised Him and got down on His knees. In like manner, we are to come to Jesus on Sunday mornings, and shouldn't we not do the same as the one healed leper did? We need to rise from our beds on Sunday mornings, physically go to Church, praise and thank Jesus, and get down on our knees and be with Him!

Again and again on bended knees, giving Him praise I remain  
Yours in His service,

+Fr. Michael

## Saints and Feasts Commemorated



### 12th Sunday of Luke

#### Pansophios the Martyr of Alexandria

#### Paul of Thebes

Saint Paul, first among hermits, was born about 227 in the Thebaid of Egypt. In 250 he fled into the wilderness because of the persecution raging at that time under Decius. Having lived a solitary life in a certain cave for ninety-one years, he reposed in 341, at the age of 114, and was buried by Anthony the Great, who had been directed thither by God several days before the Saint's repose.

**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, Angelo Romas, Dino and Diamando Maniates, Mitry Ganim, 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.

#### **Aghiasmo (Holy Water):**

Is available for everyone (Orthodox faithful only) to take home: However, it is limited to two bottles per family (one for each husband and one for each wife to share with their family)! Please do not take extra bottles for anyone outside of the nuclear family. Aghiasmo is available throughout the year so if anyone is not in church they may come to church at a later date to receive this.

**Hint:** It is very easy to replenish your supply of holy water as all you need is a drop or two of holy water placed in a small empty bottle and you may reconstitute the bottle by filling it with tap water.

#### **Philoptochos News:**

There will be a general Philoptochos meeting on Sunday, January 22, 2023, during the Coffee Hour Fellowship.

**March 25th Celebration Weekend (patronal feast weekend of our Church):**

**Friday, March 24th:** Great Vespers on the Eve of the feast of the Annunciation of the Theotokos at 7 pm

**Saturday, March 25th:** Feast of the Annunciation – Orthros at 9 am  
Divine Liturgy at 10 am

**Sunday, March 26th:** Orthros at 9 am Divine Liturgy at 10 am

**March 25th Poems and Speeches** will be conducted by our children on Sunday, March 26th during the Coffee Hour

**ATTENTION ALL YOUTH WORKERS**

Whether it be teaching our youth to Greek dance or conducting Sunday School or Greek lessons or working with our Youth of our Parish IN ANY CAPACITY, the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Detroit have mandated that everyone working with the Youth must complete a background check and online Youth Safety training through Sterling. Please contact the Metropolis of Detroit and speak with the Metropolis Youth Director about details at (248) 823-2411. Please go on the <http://YouthSafetyPlatform.goarch.org> website and register.

**Wisdom of the Fathers**

Having met the Savior, therefore, the lepers earnestly besought Him to free them from their misery, and called Him Master, that is. Teacher. No one pitied them when suffering this malady, but He Who had appeared on earth for this very reason, and had become man that He might show pity to all, He was moved with compassion for them, and had mercy on them.

**St. Cyril of Alexandria**

Commentary on the Gospel of St. Luke, Homilies 113-116. B#42, pp. 465-466, 4th Century

And why did He not rather say, I will, be you cleansed; as He did in the case of another leper, but commanded them rather to show themselves to the priests? It was because the law gave directions to this effect to those who were delivered from leprosy (Lev. 14-2); for it commanded them to show themselves to the priests, and to offer a sacrifice for their cleansing.

**St. Cyril of Alexandria**

Commentary on the Gospel of St. Luke, Homilies 113-116. B#42, pp. 465-466

*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.*