



ALL SAINTS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of North America

4129 W. Newport Ave., Chicago, IL 60641

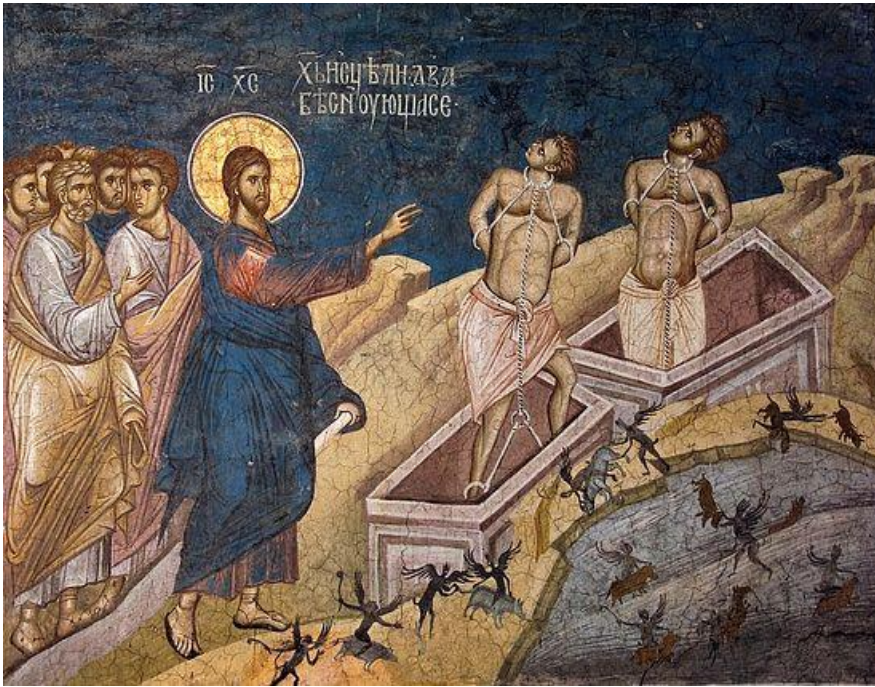
773-231-6177

www.allsaintsorthodox.org

Sunday, July 9, 2023

Saturday Vespers, 7pm • Sunday Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:30am

5th Sunday after Pentecost



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Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 4): Having learned the joyful message of the resurrection from the angel, the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation, and proudly broke the news to the disciples, saying: “Death hath been spoiled! Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy!”

Kontakion to the Theotokos (Tone 2): O undisputed intercessor of Christians, O Theotokos who is unrejected by the Creator: Turn not away from the voice of our petitions, though we be sinners. Come to us with aid in time, who cry unto thee in faith, for thou art good. Hasten to us with intercessions, O Theotokos, who didst ever intercede for those who honor thee.

Troparion of All Saints (Tone 4): Adorned in the blood of Thy martyrs, throughout all the world as in purple and fine linen, Thy Church through them doth cry unto Thee, O Christ God: Send down Thy compassion upon Thy people! Grant peace to Thy habitation and great mercy to our souls.

THE EPISTLE

For the Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

How great are Thy works, O Lord! In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

Bless the Lord, O my soul.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans (10:1-10)

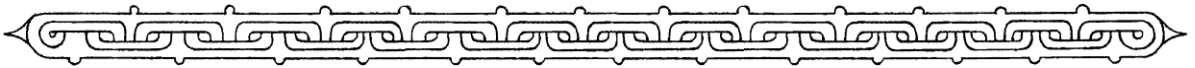
Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is that it may be saved. I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but it is not enlightened. For, being ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God’s righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law, that everyone who has faith may be justified. Moses writes that the man who practices the righteousness which is based on the law shall live by it. But the righteousness based on faith says: Do not say in your heart, “Who will ascend into Heaven?” (that is, to bring Christ down) or “Who will descend into the abyss?” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart (that is, the word of faith which we preach); because, if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For man believes with his heart and so is justified, and he confesses with his lips and so is saved.

THE GOSPEL

For the Fifth Sunday of Matthew

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (8:28-9:1)

At that time, when Jesus came to the country of the Gergesenes, two demoniacs met Him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one could pass that way. And behold, they cried out, "What have we to do to Thee, O Son of God? Art Thou come here to torment us before the time?" Now a herd of many swine was feeding at some distance from them. And the demons begged Him, "If Thou castest us out, send us away into the herd of swine." And He said to them, "Go." So they came out and went into the swine; and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and perished in the waters. The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, and what had happened to the demoniacs. And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw Him, they begged Him to leave their neighborhood. And getting into a boat He crossed over and came to His own city.



ON SPIRITUAL STRUGGLE

His Eminence Metropolitan Saba (Isper)

"And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force" (Matt. 11:12).

The meaning of this is that you do not enter the kingdom of heaven easily but through toil, work and exertion. You struggle in your studies in order to succeed and to obtain the diploma you desire. You struggle and sacrifice in order to build a cohesive family. And you struggle and fight to be victorious in the kingdom of heaven and to be worthy to be called a child of God. Struggle is a fundamental issue for the believer.

In Christianity, the struggle is spiritual. Its field is the heart, and its weapons are faith, the word of God, and love for God and humankind. It is resistance against the forces of evil that are arrayed against us to make us evil. It is guarding the self from deviating towards anything that would make us prisoners to self-love. It is orienting our inner forces toward the love of God and mankind. The Christian struggles in order to cut off evil from within, not from others. So long as we have not triumphed over the evil that is within us, we will not be able to contribute to weakening it outside of ourselves. Just as evil spreads forces

of evil in its surroundings, so also does good spread forces of good. Therefore, true cleansing is the cleansing of the self. From what? From every evil, malice, hypocrisy, pride, hatred, stinginess, selfishness, etc. *"For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies,"* says our Lord in the Gospel (Matt. 15:19).

Entering the kingdom of heaven requires the faithful to struggle. It is not a matter of personal choice but rather a duty imposed by the need to resist the spiritual forces of evil dispersed throughout the world. The assault of these forces places us before two options: either we surrender to them and in turn become evil; or we resist them, relying on God's grace which strengthens us, saying with the Apostle Paul, *"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me"* (Phil. 4:13). The struggle intended here is resistance to these forces, starting with myself and within my own soul.

The forces of evil attack us two ways: from the inside and from the outside.

They attack us from the inside by stirring up our inward inclinations toward committing sin. They incite our inner forces to move contrary to what they were created to do. The emotion of anger, which is necessary for combatting evil, becomes an emotion directed against someone else who annoys me or who provokes my jealousy or antipathy. The evil one mobilizes inner forces and the outward means that incite them. A pornographic image may provoke thoughts of fornication in the mind, which are reflected in the nervous system. It stirs the body to seek to realize its lust. The presence of delicious food might provoke my desire to eat it or to over-indulge in it beyond the capacity of my stomach, despite my being full. In this way, successive assaults by the evil one use the senses to pressure the human soul to sin.

Outward spiritual warfare, on the other hand, takes place through adversities, hardships, persecution, problems, obstacles and the like. Attacks come from the outside in order to prevent the believer from living his faith. Some of these attacks are open and some are hidden. The hidden ones are greater because they are more dangerous.

When I am subject to direct pressure to deny my faith or to commit an obvious sin, I know that I am confronted with evil forces that want to push me along the path of transgression. It is easy for me to reject them and not to respond to their urging. If I fall, I know that I have sinned and I need true repentance. But the hidden warfare is more difficult because the believer is subjected to a danger that he does not realize and does not sense. He follows it without knowing that he is sinning. The danger of these sorts of attacks has grown in our current age.

Various ideas, different lifestyles, and compromise with the world stream in from every direction. The words for vices change. Lying, for example, becomes "slyness"; hypocrisy becomes "politeness"; bad faith becomes "wisdom"; fornication becomes "the body's needs"; and libertinism becomes "freedom." Concepts are inverted and values are overthrown. The humble person becomes someone with a weak personality; the chaste person, someone unnatural; the thrifty, a miser; and the miser, conscientious. There are countless, innumerable examples of this. ...

Knowledge of the self alone preserves us in upright struggle and provides us with the humility that brings down God's grace, which, in turn, strengthens us and gives us victory over all the temptations of the evil one.

Originally published March 16, 2015.

Announcements and Upcoming Events

For a full calendar of events and services at All Saints, see our website www.allsaintsorthodox.org

Today:

- Coffee hour downstairs after Liturgy

This week:

- **Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday:** Morning prayers, 9am.
- **Tuesday, July 11:** July parish council meeting, 7:30pm (online)
- **Wednesday, July 12:** Vespers, 7pm.
- **Saturday, July 15:** Vespers, 7pm.
- **Sunday, July 16:** Orthros & Divine Liturgy, beginning 8:30am.

TWO POINTS OF ETIQUETTE & COURTESY from Fr. Andrew:

- We have limited seating in the church for those who need it. I have heard of one case of a person who has been going downstairs during the sermon because no seats were available. Please, if you or your child are able to sit on the floor or stand, be observant and offer your seat to those who may need it more, particularly those who are older or who have physical constraints.
- It has also come to my attention that some have been congregating downstairs during liturgical services. If you need to go downstairs for any reason during services, please make it quick, and then come back upstairs. We are here to worship! There should never be anyone “hanging out” and talking downstairs during services. Thank you! Please see me if you have any questions or concerns.

Our **ARCHDIOCESE NATIONAL CONVENTION** will be held in Phoenix, July 24-30. Patriarch John of Antioch and Metropolitan Saba will both be there! If this would be of interest to anyone, registration is open at antiochianevents.org.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES DRIVE FOR ST. PIUS V SCHOOL: Once again we here at All Saints are having our annual school supplies drive for St. Pius V School from **Sunday, July 15 to Sunday, August 5, 2023**. St. Pius is a needy Catholic school on the west side of Chicago that has received donations from us in past years. This year the principal has recommended that we give our donations in monetary form so that she can purchase

exactly what the school needs, so we will be collecting funds for the school instead of school supplies. When you donate in check form, please make it out to *All Saints Church* and on the memo line state that it is for St. Pius. If you have any questions about this project, please contact Pat K.

Volunteer Schedule

Date	Reader	Prosphora	Greeter	Coffee	Food
Sunday, July 9	Michelle C	Dn Walid	Sandy A	Zach C	G-K
Sunday, July 16	Jim K	Debbie K	JoAnne	Domitille	L-P
Sun., July 23	Paul K	Pat K	Azizeh	Lydia A	R-Z
Sun., July 30	Joseph L	Domitille	Domitille	Alina S	A-F

For Sunday coffee hour, the church has been divided into four parts alphabetically (A-F, G-K, L-P, and R-Z). On your assigned week, please bring something simple to share with everyone for coffee hour.

*If you have children, please monitor them as they go through the coffee hour line, and help them clean up after themselves. **Weekly clean-up will be the responsibility of those providing coffee hour.** And of course, things go faster when we all pitch in and help!*



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

JULY 9-15 2023

ADAPTED FROM THE
LECTIONARY OF THE ANTIOCHIAN ARCHDIOCESE

For our daily Old Testament readings, we will be reading straight through the Minor Prophets, according to the order and numbering of the Orthodox Study Bible.

Sunday, July 9: Hieromartyr Pancratius, Bishop of Taormina in Sicily

Luke 24:12-35 / Romans 10:1-10 / Matthew 8:28-9:1

Monday, July 10: Righteous Father Anthony of the Kiev Caves

Amos 6 / Romans 16:1-27 / Matthew 11:20-24

Tuesday, July 11: Euphemia the Great Martyr

Amos 7 / 1 Corinthians 1:1-31 / Matthew 11:25-30

Wednesday, July 12: Proclus & Hilary the Martyrs of Ancyra

Amos 8 / 1 Corinthians 2:1-16 / Matthew 12:1-8

Thursday, July 13: Synaxis of Archangel Gabriel

Amos 9 / 1 Corinthians 3:1-23 / Matthew 12:9-14

Friday, July 14: Apostle Aquila of the 70

Micah 1 / 1 Corinthians 4:1-13 / Matthew 12:14-21

Saturday, July 15: Vladimir, Equal-to-the-Apostles of Kiev

1 Corinthians 4:14-5:13 / Matthew 12:22-30

ALL SAINTS IS A PARISH OF THE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
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