

Scripture Readings

EPISTLE Galatians 2:16-20 Brethren, you know 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 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."



Gospel Reflection: Making the Tough Choices



"If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me." In this saying, Jesus offers us the very nature and definition of Christian discipleship: self-denial, struggle, and submission. His instruction is clear: we must first set aside personal passions, desires, wants and ideas. We need to push the "self" out of the center of our heart, devotion and existence, and place there instead the Lord, as the sum and substance of our life's meaning. Otherwise, we cannot claim to be true disciples. Secondly, we must learn to carry our cross as He carried His. This will involve suffering - being an outcast; resisting distorted social values; standing up and witnessing for the right, the just and the good; and enduring the struggle of self-conversion. Remember, the Lord clearly stated that those who are ashamed of Him and His words in this "sinful generation" - of them will the Son of Man also be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father. The Cross calls us to overcome our hesitancy about our faith, and to embrace Christian courage boldly. Lastly, we are summoned to follow Jesus - to submit our will to His. This means we are called to live an Orthodox lifestyle every day, to make our homes true "churches," and to come together as families for prayer, reading the Scripture, and discussing and learning more about our faith. This can be a genuine challenge, but Jesus was not one to avoid the difficult path. He freely chose it. Most importantly, the Cross calls us to love, to relate to others in gentleness and mercy, to do what Jesus did throughout His life - be God's presence to all who touched Him. This is the summons of the Cross. Jesus is clear in His expectations of us. It is for us to respond accordingly.



Is God Calling YOU to Holy Orthodoxy?

A new inquiry class will begin soon. It is designed for adults who want to become members of the Orthodox Church. Through discussions, guest speakers, and personal sharing, the path to the ancient faith of the Apostles will be laid out clearly and enthusiastically — culminating in the Holy Mysteries of Baptism or Chrismation. Sessions will be held at 7:30 PM on October 3, 17, 31; November 14, 28; and December 12, in the Church Library. If the Holy Spirit is prompting you to join the Orthodox faith community, come to these sessions. It could be the most important decision of your life!

The Holy Greatmartyr Euphemia the All-Praised



Patriarch Bartholomew Venerating the Holy Relics of St. Euphemia

Saint Euphemia, born in the Asia Minor city of Chalcedon, lived in the 3rd century. She was the daughter of pious parents. From her youth, she dedicated her life to Christ and practiced the virtues of prayer, fasting and chastity. According to tradition, Euphemia was arrested for refusing to offer sacrifices to the Greek pagan god Ares and was tortured to death in 303. When the Fourth Ecumenical Council convened in Chalcedon in 451, the hundreds of delegates gathered in the church of St. Euphemia where her holy relics were housed. The council repudiated the heretical doctrine of monophysitism (that Christ only had a Divine nature), and set forth the Chalcedonian Creed, which describes the "full humanity and full divinity" of Jesus Christ, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity. Both

the Monophysite and Orthodox parties were well-represented at the council, so the meetings were quite contentious, and no decisive consensus could be reached. The holy Patriarch Anatolius of Constantinople proposed that the Council submit the decision of the Church dispute to the Holy Spirit, through His undoubted bearer St. Euphemia the All-Praised. The Orthodox hierarchs and their opponents wrote down their confessions of faith on separate scrolls and secured them with their seals. They opened the tomb of the saint and placed both scrolls upon her bosom. Then, in the presence of the emperor Marcian, the participants of the Council shut the tomb, putting on it the imperial seal and setting a guard to watch over it for three days. During these days, both sides imposed upon themselves strict fasting and prayer. After three days, the patriarch and the emperor, in the presence of the Council, opened the tomb and found the scroll with the Orthodox confession was held by St Euphemia in her right hand, while the scroll of the heretics lay at her feet. As though alive, St. Euphemia raised her hand and gave the scroll to the patriarch. Because of this miracle, many of the heretics accepted the Orthodox confession, while those remaining obstinate in their heresy were consigned to the Council's condemnation and excommunication. This miracle is attested by a letter sent by the council to Pope Leo I: "For it was God who worked, and the triumphant Euphemia who crowned the meeting as for a bridal, and who, taking our definition of the Faith as her own confession, presented it to her Bridegroom by our most religious Emperor and Christ-loving Empress, appeasing all the tumult of opponents and establishing our confession of the Truth as acceptable to Him, and with hand and tongue setting her seal to the votes of us all in proclamation thereof."

A Blessed Repose

Christos Tryfonas (6 Months)
Evgenia Tryfonas (6 Months)
Maaria Magginas (1 Year)
Andreas Kouros (1 Year)
Konstantinos Magginas (6 Years)
The child of God Alexander James Plotas
(7 Years)

May they rest in peace and rise in glory and may their memory be eternal!



Forty-Day Blessing

Given to the child of God,
Athena Theodora,, daughter
of Eleni and Andrew Mirisis
God grant her many years!

Second Tray Today for Holy Cross

A second tray will be passed today to benefit the Hellenic College/Holy Cross School of Theology. Please help assist in preparing future priests for service and future Orthodox students for productive faith-filled lives.

For Their Health and Salvation

His Eminence Metropolitan +Panteleimon; His Eminence Archbishop +Pavlos of Aleppo and His Eminence Mar +Gregorios Ioanna of Aleppo, who were kidnapped; Metropolitan +Kallistos of Diokleia, Georgia Mavromihalis, Robert West, Amanda Lawrence, Ourania Mantzouranis, Maria Kritzas, Cathy, Janie Pappas, Eleni Gourmani, Anne Savas, the child of God Trey Anderson, Dimitrios Papapostolou, Angela Apidououlos, the child of God Amelia Marghi, the child of God Seraphina Marie Vasilatos, Adib Marghi, Betty Jean Dubard, Aris Peterson, Nicholas Ellis, Katherine Ellis, Kelly, Jon Wood, Tom Dale, Joy Kizzie, Marie Burpeau, Bill Pastis, Evangelia Pantazakos, George Dizelos, Constantina Speris; Andrew Katson; Selena Pappas

ORTHODOX SPIRITUAL LIFE AND LEARN-

2018-2019 BIBLE STUDY: “The Gospel of St. John: Beholding the Glory” This year’s Scripture study focuses on the fourth Gospel, composed by St. John the Theologian. Join us every Thursday at 10:30 AM or 7:00 PM in the Church library to explore the depths of the Gospel written by “the disciple whom Jesus loved.”

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 2018-2019: Beginning today in the Church library: “The Shared Experience of the Orthodox Christian Faith.” Our theme this year is that our faith is not primarily about ideas or concepts, rules and regulations. It is about our relationship and our personal connectedness with Jesus Christ in the experience of our everyday lives.

PARISH ACTIVITIES

FEED THE HUNGRY: TODAY, in the kitchen, following Divine Liturgy. Every third Sunday of the month, St. George volunteers prepare and deliver food to four Rockville area shelters that serve over 100 adults and children in need. We meet for about two hours to manage food preparation and cleanup. Teenagers and young people are especially encouraged to assist and support.

GOYA: TODAY, Annual GOYAn/Parent Informational Meeting following Divine Liturgy, to kick off the new year and answer any questions. Light refreshments will be provided. Today is also GOYA Induction Sunday. After the Divine Liturgy, Fr. Dimitrios will say a prayer of blessing for the induction of the new GOYA Board. And then the newly inducted GOYA President Christopher Agritellis will give a speech

YOUTH MINISTRIES: The new registration form below replaces all registration forms for Sunday School and its Choir, Altar Boys, HOPE & JOY (Hellenic Orthodox Primary Education and Junior Orthodox Youth), GOYA, Dance Troupe, and St. George Counselors-in-Training (C.I.T.s) for Events and Retreats. Please register your children for all appropriate age group ministries at <https://stgeorge.org/ministries/youth-ministries-registration>

DANCE TROUPE: Sunday, Sept. 23, in the Chapel following Divine Liturgy. Required parents meeting for all level dancers, new and current. Register now for this year’s dance season at <https://stgeorge.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/245/responses/new> - for information, contact Maria Giakoumatos at dancetroupe@stgeorge.org For Stewards over the age of 18 please register at: <https://stgeorge.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/245/responses/new>

FALL FUNDRAISER: Friday, Oct. 5, in the Grand Hall. Internationally acclaimed HBO comedian Basile will be performing his celebrated “Growing Up Greek in America” show as our special guest. More about Basile at <https://basilelive.com/> – details to come!

50 PLUS: Saturday, Oct. 6 Pilgrimage to Agia Skepi (Holy Protection) Monastery in White Haven, PA. Cost is \$35.00 per person. Please arrive at St. George by 8:30 AM – bus departs at 9:00 AM sharp. Register now with Maria Kopsidas at (240) 421-9909.

GOYA: Annual Bishop George Memorial Basketball Tournament, Oct. 13-14. Please consider purchasing an ad or donating. Order forms are due Sept. 19. Place order and pay online at <https://stgeorge.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/225/responses/new> - for information, contact stgadbook@gmail.com

GREEK SCHOOL: Friday and Saturday classes have begun. Register at <https://www.stgeorge.org/education/greek-school/> - for information, contact Eirini Iatrou at eirini.iatrou@gmail.com

Kindly bring this Bulletin home for deeper review and family discussion of the Gospel lessons and divine grace offered to you today. Many thanks!



THE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE

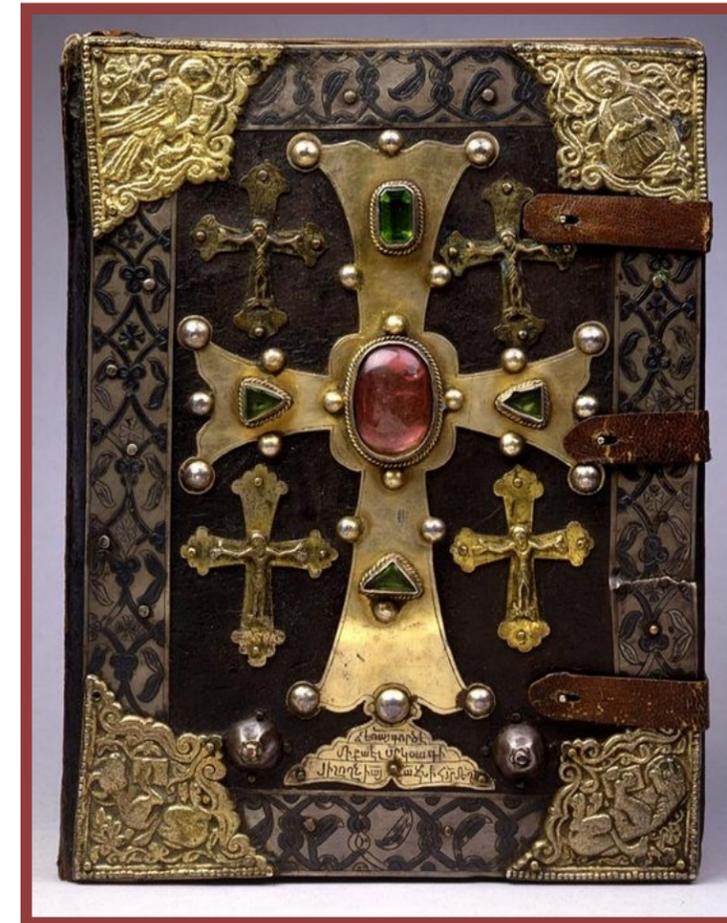


Rev. Fr. Dimitrios J. Antokas, Presiding Priest



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SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE PRECIOUS AND LIFE-GIVING CROSS

THE HOLY GREATMARTYR EUPHEMIA

SEPTEMBER 16, 2018

“We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee, because by Thy Precious and Life-Giving Cross Thou has redeemed the world.”

Resurrection Apolytikion Grave Tone (Tone 7)

By death on Thy Cross thou didst death dissolve; and opened to the thief the way to Paradise. Thou didst transform the lament of the women bearing myrrh, and commanded the disciples the message to proclaim, that Christ our God has risen from the dead, and granted to the world great mercy.

Apolytikion of St. George

O Trophy-Bearer, Great Martyr George, who freed captives, supported the poor, healed the sick, was a champion of kings, intercede with Christ God that our souls be saved!

Ἀπολυτίκιον

Ὡς τῶν αἰχμαλώτων ἐλευθερωτῆς, καὶ τῶν πτωχῶν ὑπερασπιστῆς, ἀσθενούντων ἰατρός, βασιλέων ὑπέρμαχος, Τροπαιοφόρε Μεγαλομάρτυς Γεώργιε, πρέσβευε Χριστῷ τῷ Θεῷ, σωθῆναι τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.