

Scripture Readings

EPISTLE I Corinthians 3:9-17 Brethren, we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and another man is building upon it. Let each man take care how he builds upon it. For no other foundation can any one lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any one builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw - each man's work will become manifest; for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work which any man has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire. Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If any one destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and that temple you are.

GOSPEL Matthew 14:22-34 At that time, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He dismissed the crowds. And after He had dismissed the crowds, He went up into the hills by Himself to pray. When evening came, He was there alone, but the boat by this time was many furlongs distant from the land, beaten by the waves; for the wind was against them. And in the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea. But when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately He spoke to them, saying "Take heart, it is I; have no fear." And Peter answered Him, "Lord, if it is you, bid me come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus; but when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." Jesus immediately reached out His hand and caught him, saying to him, "O man of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they entered the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped Him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God." And when they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret.



Gospel Reflection: Be Not Afraid, I Go Before You Always!



"Take heart, it is I, have no fear," says Jesus reassuringly in today's Gospel passage. He was responding to his disciples, already terrified of the billowing waves and fierce winds, and now watching the Lord walking on the raging sea towards them. Perhaps they sensed that things could not become any worse in their lives. Panic set in, even for these veteran men of the sea. When Jesus identified Himself, Peter still would not believe it. Jesus bid he come to Him on the water. The first among the Apostles started out towards the Lord but sank when he took his eyes off Christ and paid more attention to his surroundings. So it is with us. Life throws difficulties, problems, storms, and pains our way. Now, more than ever, social scientists suggest that our society is experiencing pervasive and deeply unsettling fear and anxiety. It is expressed in an escalation of vitriol and even violence, causing a sense of divisiveness that we have not felt in American society in

decades. For Christian believers, our challenge is to keep the eyes of our heart fixed on Jesus. No matter how difficult things may seem, He tells us not to fear, for He is always present, His hand outstretched to us in love and reassurance. Our task is to keep our gaze fixed on Him, to continually pray to Him, to listen for His voice, to follow His life as the example for our life. It is when we stop doing these things – when we lose the proper focus in our lives – that we, like Peter, sink into an ocean of fear and despair. Reading the Gospels to encounter the way Jesus lived life, to hear His words of peace, and to learn His actions of mercy and healing will help assuage our fears and help restore a sense of calm deep down within us - a genuine spiritual peace of heart. Let us heed the words of the Book of Deuteronomy amid our current challenges: "Be strong and of good courage. Do not fear or be afraid; for the Lord your God, He is the One who goes with you; He will not leave you or forsake you." (Deut. 31:6) Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus the Merciful, the mighty presence of God, and the healer of our souls and bodies. Trust Him and, most importantly, live the life He lived! To Him be glory unto ages. of ages. Amen.

St. Agathathonikos and Companions: The Martyrs' Witness for Christ



The Orthodox Church every August 22 celebrates the memory of the Martyr Agathonikos and Martyrs Zoticus, Theoprepus, Acindynus, Severian, Zeno, and others, who suffered under the reign of Emperor Maximian (285 -305). St. Agathonikos and his companions lived in Pontus (northeastern Turkey). They had developed an intense missionary activity according to the Holy Gospel. They converted many pagans to Christ and baptized them in the name of the Holy Trinity. At the beginning of the persecutions of Christians, the governor of Nicomedia went to Pontus, arrested the saints, and ordered that they should be taken to Thrace for trial by the emperor. Several of them were put to death during this journey because they were unable to proceed further due to the wounds received while beaten and tortured. After having refused to worship the idols, St. Agathonikos together with other Christians was beheaded by order of Maximian.

Apolytikion

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.

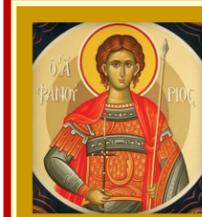
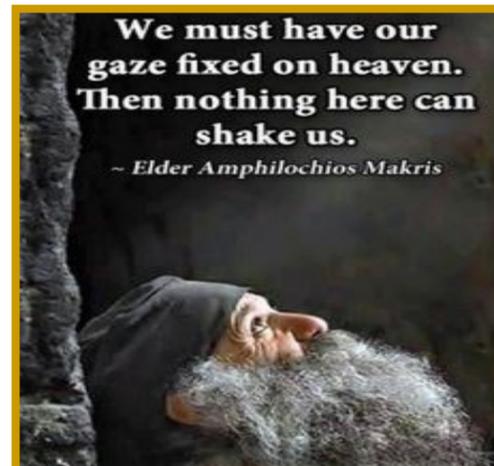
Save and Protect, O Lord,

His Eminence Metropolitan Panteleimon of Antinoes, His Eminence Metropolitan Kallistos of Diokleia, Abbess Christophora, Constantina Speris, Anatoly Seraphim, Megan, Patrick, Paul, Doris, Shelika, Ethan, Evan, Nicole, Dean, Ourania Mantzouranis,

Eternal Rest, O Lord!

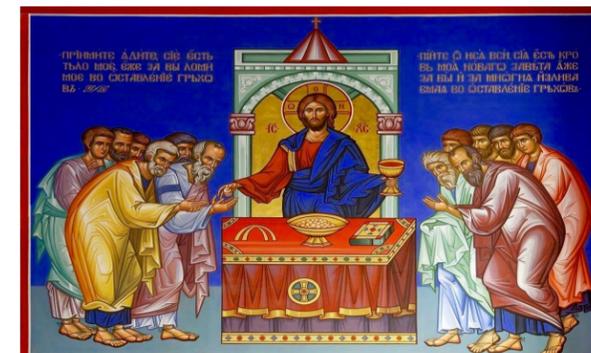
John Galanis (1 year)
Diana Lazar (2 years)
Spiros Hitiris (3 years)
Eleni Svokos (3 years)
Stefania Fadis (48 years)

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



Feast of Saint Phanourios
Friday, August 27, 2021
Orthros 8:30 AM
Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM

St. Phanourios is an important and holy youthful figure who stands out in a particular way among the saints. There is not a whole lot known about his life. We know that he lived during Roman times and was in constant persecution because of his Christian beliefs. According to tradition, his mother is said to have been a tough and hard woman, especially towards the poor. St. Phanourios called on the Archangel Michael to help her change. He begged and prayed not for himself but for his mother to be forgiven, and for her soul to rest in peace. His prayers were said to have been heard by God. Because his name sounds similar to the Greek verb "phanerono," which means "to reveal" or "to disclose," the faithful turn to St. Phanourios to intercede for them and to pray for them when they lose objects. They ask him to reveal them or to bring them something they desire, especially good health, fertility, or even a for a husband and wife for those who are single. When the object is recovered, they bake a sweet bread ("phanouropita") to share with the poor.



CHURCH MINISTRIES

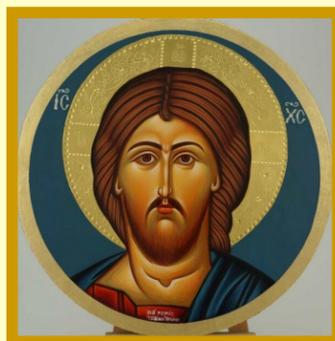
BIBLE STUDY: The Bible Study sessions will continue until the Epistle to the Romans has been completed. It is held on Thursdays at 10:30 AM and 7:00 PM. Sessions are on ZOOM. All are welcome to join this important study! Please bring your Bibles to each session.

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Every Monday at noon, fifteen-minute reflections livestreamed through the Orthodox Christian Network at <https://www.facebook.com/MyOCN/>.

FEED THE HUNGRY: We are grateful to George Kretikos for preparing meals, Tasos Vassilas for delivering meals to local shelters, and Vasilias Contos for enlisting and supervising our GOYANs also preparing sandwiches for our local shelters. We will soon fully resume our important ministry work at St. George on behalf of the hungry in our community. Thank you for your continued support.

PARISH ACTIVITIES

LIGHT A CANDLE: Please make wax and red glass candle offerings and tray offerings at <https://stgeorge.org/livestream/> - thank you for your continued

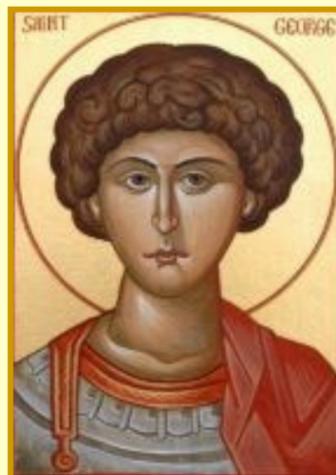


A PRAYER FROM THE PSALMS IN TIMES OF FEAR AND ANXIETY

Psalm 46

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling. There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns. The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts. The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Come, behold the works of the LORD, how he has brought desolations on the earth. He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the chariots with fire. “Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!” The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.”

“BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD!”



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NINTH SUNDAY OF ST. MATTHEW St. Agathonikos and Companions



Jesus Rescues a Fearful Peter

Resurrectional Apolytikion Mode 8

From on high You descended, Most Merciful; for us
You condescended to a three-day burial to set us free from
the passions. O Lord, our Resurrection and our Life, glory to You!

Apolytikion to 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.