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Sunday, July 6th, 2014

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church

4th Sunday of Matthew

SUCCESS

Henry Ford once said, "Success is not rare. It is common. Very few miss a measure of it. It is not a matter of luck or of contesting, for certainly no success can come from preventing the success of another. It is a matter of adjusting one's efforts to overcome obstacles and one's abilities to give the services needed by others. There is no other possible success. Most people think of it in terms of getting; success, however, begins in terms of giving."

COMING UP...

- ◆ *Clergy- Laity:*
July 6th – July 9th
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- ◆ *Circle of Friends: Thurs.*
July 10th 6PM
MOVIE NIGHT
(Monuments Men)
- ◆ *Parish Council:*
Tues. July 15th
6PM
MEETING

HOLY COMMUNION REMINDER– Please follow Ushers Instructions

We welcome those visiting with us today and ask that only Baptized/Chrismated Orthodox Christians who are properly prepared through prayer, fasting and Holy Confession to come forward to receive Holy Communion. Women are kindly asked to remove their lipstick prior to receiving Holy Communion. Non-Orthodox visitors are welcome to receive the blessed bread from the Priest at the end of the Divine Liturgy and to join us for fellowship in our hall. We ask that everyone please dress appropriately for church. **Visitors: we ask that you fill out a yellow welcome card & give it to an usher.**

EPISTLE READING

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

The Gospel of 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.

Resurrectional Apolytikion

Let the Heavens rejoice, and let the Earth be glad,
Εὐφραινέσθω τὰ οὐράνια, ἀγαλλιášθω τὰ ἐπίγεια
(Page 45)

Kontakion

O protection of the Christians unashamable, meditation to the Maker immovable, despise not, the pleading voices of those in sin, but hasten, O good one, to the help of all of us, who in faith cry out to you: Speed up your intercession, and press on your

supplication, O Theotokos who always protects, all those who honor you.

Προστασία τῶν Χριστιανῶν ακαταίσχυντε, μεσιτεία πρὸς τόν Ποιητὴν αμετάθετε, μὴ παρίδης, αμαρτωλῶν δεήσεων φωνάς, ἀλλὰ πρόφθασον ὡς αγαθή, εἰς τὴν βοήθειαν ἡμῶν, τῶν πιστῶς κραυγαζόντων σοι: Τάχυνον εἰς πρεσβείαν, καὶ σπεύσον εἰς ἱκεσίαν, ἡ προστατεύουσα αἰεί, Θεοτόκε τῶν τιμώντων σε.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION: HYMNS AND WHERE THEY CAN BE FOUND

Hymns of Divine Liturgy insert can be found in the pews to allow you to follow along. The hymns in the bulletin will be the variable ones specific to that week or change from the common hymns that you will find in the insert located in the pews.

Baptism: An Orthodox Perspective

(This is the first article in a series that will examine the meaning of Baptism and its connection to the Eucharist)

Baptism is our death, burial and resurrection in union with Christ. But baptism unites us not only with Christ but also with his people, who are the Church. We are baptized into the community of faith to participate in its entire life and traditions. Baptism in essence makes us part of Christ's deified humanity, integrating us into His body, the Church, and taking our private life into a new life to be shared with all in Christ. This is one of the primary answers to those who contend that they need not come to church since they are fully capable of worshiping Christ in their own homes. In our homes we cannot enter into a life long communion with God's Body, participate in the sacraments, or consume the Eucharist, the very source of life of the Church. Baptism is the very foundation on which the Church rests and as such it is an ecclesial event, or rather it should be a community event.

Baptism is the initial and fundamental mystery through which we enter the life of the Church. In Genesis we learn that God made man in His image and likeness. After the Fall our image was distorted and we lost our likeness to Him. The first steps toward this restoration and salvation through Christ's Incarnation, death and resurrection, are bestowed upon us initially through baptism. We are born anew into a fresh image of God by destroying the old image distorted by sin and evil. After baptism the mystery of the Holy Chrism is administered. We are given the gift of the Holy Spirit, which will take us beyond our new image given to us through baptism. We are now allowed to constantly grow, with the help of the Eucharist, into the likeness of God. Herein lays the obvious connection between these three sacraments. The Eucharist is the center and source of our entire life in the Church. Baptism and chrismation open the doorway for us to participate in a continual communion with God

through the Eucharist, the liturgy, and through many other feasts and fasts of the year of which Great Lent is the most important. The Eucharist preserves and protects what we have been blessed with and what we have been freely given by God through baptism and chrismation so that we may continue to live in God and Him in us. Baptism and Chrismation lead us into the life of the Holy Trinity, and the Eucharist is the continuation and fulfillment of that life.

The Church is the Body of Christ. The baptism of water in conjunction with chrismation operates within the Church and makes one a member of the Body of Christ. All those that are baptized become a part of Christ's body. Therefore we are all a part of the same body; we are all an extension of Christ. We have freely given up our right to our body allowing Christ to work in this world through us, the members of His body. Through Him, He expects us to enlarge His kingdom through personal salvation, love, service and sacrifice for others. So in summary, through baptism we are transformed into the body of Christ. We are then deified by the Holy Spirit and the Eucharist, allowing us to be partakers of the divine nature of Christ. These mysteries occur only in the Church, the living body of Christ.

To be continued.....

WRITTEN BY DEACON JOHN

SAINTS COMMEMORATED

TODAY, SUN. JULY 6th

- Sisoës the Great
- Holy Apostles Archippus, Philemon and Onesimus
- Loukia the Virgin-martyr, Rixios and the 24 Companion Martyrs

2ND TRAY CONTRIBUTIONS

Our Church passes 2 offering trays. The 1st goes towards our Operating Budget, the 2nd tray will continue for the NEW Education Building Fund until paid in Full. In order to receive credit for your donation, for income tax purposes, make sure to put your cash donation in an envelope with your name on it or pay by check.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

We are 7 months into 2014. Please pray and offer your time and talent sheet. Submit your pledge card or ask an usher for a new one. We are currently at \$130,000 and our goal is \$200,000 for 2014! Everyone please pledge!

MEMORIAL

Today we offer a 40 day Memorial for the servant of God, Verita Dumitrescu, mother of Claudia Lusardi, Nicolas, Elena and Daniil. Additionally, during coffee hour she will be serving desserts in her honor.

MEMORIAL

Today we offer a 40 day Memorial for the servant of God, Efrosine Mullady, sister of Michel Arboleda.

TRISAGION

Today we offer a 2 year Trisagion for the servant of God, Konstantinos Karelakos, father-in-law of Georgia Mattes.

OUR SYMPATHIES

To Nick & Penny Kontinos on the falling asleep in the Lord of their son, Dean Kontinos. He passed on Mon. June 30th in Fort Myers, FL. May his memory be eternal.

LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY

Coffee Hours hostesses for the month of JULY are Pat Kemp and Marianthi Kazakos. Please lend a hand in helping these ladies.

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

MOVIE & PIZZA NIGHT- Showing: The Monuments Men, Allied Heroes, Nazi Thieves, and the Greatest Treasure Hunt in History to tell the incredible true story of the seven art historians and museum curators who went behind enemy lines during World War II on a mission to recover some of the world's greatest works of art. As the Third Reich begins to

topple, the German army receives explicit orders that in the event of Adolf Hitler's death, they are to destroy every work of art in their possession. Determined to prevent 1000 years of culture from going up in flames, American president Franklin D. Roosevelt approves a proposal by Frank Stokes to form a task force comprised entirely of art experts to enter Germany, recover the works of art, and ensure they are returned to their rightful owners. **The movie is showing Thurs. July 10th at 6pm in the Fr. Arthur K. Kontinos Community Center. Admission is \$5 per person (Covers movie and includes pizza plus a soda.)** Courtesy Text/Call RSVP to Joan Simon 201-826-8991.

LEGACY WALL SIGNING EVENT JULY 26th

4:35 PM See enclosed flyer

BELOW ARE SOME GENTLE REMINDERS ABOUT CHURCH ETIQUETTE & TRADITION

We should offer Christ our "Sunday best," every single day of the week, both in conduct and dress. This is our Lord's house 24/7 and the respect we show should never change from one day to the next. We should always dress neatly and modestly, not only on Sundays. Shoulders and chest areas should be covered, and discretion used concerning skirt lengths, appropriately fitting clothes, excessive make-up and jewelry.

Along with fasting before church (from both food and improper speech), gum is a no-no during services, and in fact, gum should not be used several hours after receiving Holy Communion. Although toddlers and infants may need to drink, eating is to be discouraged.

Please blot lip-stick before venerating Icons and receiving Holy Communion.



Praying for You

We offer prayers for health and the needs for the servants of God for Al Romanosky, George Nicolaidis, Nick Karras, Pamela Strikis, Louis Eftim, Penelope Churchman, Theodore Lizas, John Kontinos, Penelope Kontinos & Stella Demosthenis.

Please notify the office if there is someone that needs to be added to the prayer list. 239-481-2099