

SAMPSON THE INNKEEPER OF CONSTANTINOPLE

Reading:

Saint Samson was from Rome and flourished during the reign of Saint Justinian the Great. Being a physician, he came to Constantinople, where he so distinguished himself for his virtue and his love for the sick and the poor that Patriarch Menas ordained him priest. The Emperor Justinian was healed by him, and out of gratitude built him a large hospital, which was afterwards known as "The Hospice of Samson." Saint Samson is one of the Holy Unmercenaries.

Apolytikion in the Plagal of the Fourth Tone

In thy patience thou hast won thy reward, O righteous Father. Thou didst persevere unceasingly in prayer; thou didst love the poor, and didst provide for them in all things. Wherefore, intercede with Christ our God, O blessed and godly-minded Samson, that our souls be saved.

Kontakion in the Plagal of the Fourth Tone

We come together, praising thee with hymns and psalms, O righteous one, as an unrivalled physician and as an intercessor pleasing unto God; O divinely-wise Samson, ever having recourse to thy godly shrine for help, we glorify Christ Jesus, Who gave thee the grace to work thy cures.

TODAY'S READER: GARY KENT

EPISTLE Romans 10:1-10

BRETHREN, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they 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 every one 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.

GOSPEL Matthew 8:28-34. 9:1

AT THAT TIME, when Jesus came to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes, two demoniacs met him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one would pass that way. And behold, they cried out, "What have you to do with us, O Son of God? Have you 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 you cast 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.



KEEPING WATCH OVER THE HEART OF OUR HEART

The chief concern of the Orthodox Church is the healing of the human soul. The Church has always considered the soul as the part of the human being that needs healing because in the region of the physical heart there functions something that the Fathers called the *nous*. The *nous* to refer to this noetic energy that functions in the heart of every spiritually healthy person. *It is the heart of our heart*. Abba Savas of the Monastery of Philotheou teaches: "Your mind, your nous is a coffee cup, from which your heart drinks and is filled. If the cup has good stuff in it, the heart will drink of good. If the cup is not full and pours into the heart continually, the heart will thirst. If there is room left in the cup, if it is not filled with good to drink, the enemy will come and pour poison into your cup, as much as is space for it. A little drop of poison is just a bitter taste in the heart's whole lot of poison, like something that sours the stomach, is nearly deadly for the heart. So why drink poison? Fill the cup to the rim, or better, keep it overflowing with the good drink that is spiritual thoughts, sobering joys of Christ's mercy, of death, of the Church, of the Panagia, of the Saints, etc. When you see poison has been added to your cup, start dripping in, pouring in, much good stuff. Open the Scriptures, the Psalms, or best of all the dripping faucet of "Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me". Then the enemy will rage helplessly, for without any room to add poison to your cup, he will not be able to reach your heart and wound it. This is the

"secret" of watchfulness and continual prayer -- a FULL cup of divine good. Keep the cup full of good, and keep that drink flowing into your thirsty heart, to quench its thirst and to edify it constantly. May you overthrow the enemy, by the Name of Christ, by His grace, and by His Cross, the invincible weapon, unto the salvation of your souls, and that we may share the glory of His Dominion, now and forever!"

THIRD HOUR PRAYERS

Lord, Who sent down Your Holy Spirit in the third hour to Your Apostles; take not Your Spirit from us, but rather restore Your Spirit in us who pray to You, O Good One.

You are blessed, O Christ our God, Who made the fishermen wise by sending down Your Holy Spirit. Through them You have captured the world into their nets. Glory to You, O Lover of Mankind!

PRAYER OF ST. MARDARIOS

O God the Master, Father All-Powerful, O Lord, the Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy spirit; One Godhead, One Power, have mercy on me a sinner and save me, Your unworthy servant, as You are the knower of all judgments. For You are blessed now and always. Amen.

MEMORIALS

A Memorial Service will be offered today for **Vasiliki Koudellou (4 years)** requested by her son and daughter-in-law, Stavros and Photini Koudellou. May her memory be eternal!

PRAYER LIST: Antonia "Nitsa" Kempf, Connie Kanaris, Diana Lazar, George Markomanolakis, Argie Palaios, Katherine Panagakos, Priscilla Preuss, George Virvan, Sylvia Basdekas, George Speris, Mariah Smiley, Doris Webb, the child Camille Feruzzi who is gravely ill, the child Heather Greene, Irene Pappas, Marty Levine, Lindsey Reijsoo, the child Ashley Lyvers, the child Alexis Ross, Joseph Papadakis, Marilyn Kauffman, the child Joseph Saxon, Francine Bruggeman, Estrella Grandea Ocampo, Stephanie Skanderis, Georgia Haldas, Eric Ricasa, Theodosia Karmiris, and Robert Shriver. **US ARMED FORCES:** (Col.) Fr. Alexander Webster, Rev. Fr. John Kalantzis, Lt. Nicholas Karnaze, Spc. Spiro Nino, John Xanthakos, Colonel James Karas, and Gary Hogman (Iraq) and his wife Cindy, and 2nd Lt. Phillip Natsios.

PASTORAL VISITATIONS

Please inform the Church Office 301-469-7990 (ext 300) of any loved ones who are hospitalized or "shut-ins," so they may be visited and receive the grace of Holy Communion.

SUMMER YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Camp Good Shepherd, which is the summer camp of the Metropolis of New Jersey and located in Branchville, NJ, will be holding two sessions for GOYA aged persons (12-18) and one session for JOY aged children (7-11). The first GOYA session is from July 11-17 and the second session is from July 18-24. The JOY session is from July 25-31. For further information and for registration forms, please visit the Metropolis of New Jersey website: www.nj.goarch.org, or contact Fr. George: frgeorge@stgeorge.org.

Ionian Village, the official summer camp of our Archdiocese, will be holding two summer sessions for GOYA aged youths. Session 1 will be held from July 1-20 and session 2 from July 25 through August 15. For further information and registration forms, please visit the website www.ionianvillage.org, or contact Fr. George: frgeorge@stgeorge.org.

WORDS OF COUNSEL FROM ST. ANTHIMOS OF CHIOS (+ 1960)

Remain children, in your calling and to the repentance to which God has called you. Keep our holy Faith unshakeable in your sacred souls. Keep the dogmas, the traditions and canons of our Mother Church faithfully and piously. Keep the rule of prayer and let not prayer be missing from your heart. Guard yourselves from pride, anger, and too much talking, because from these one falls into great and unhealable evils. Always give charity to the poor according to your ability and do not forget to be hospitable and to do good works so that our Lady Theotokos blesses and multiplies all, since "he who is charitable to the poor lends, in fact, to God."Do not cease working the virtues. Do not neglect to strive for your immortal soul. Work uncomplainingly and undisturbedly to hand over your precious soul unspoiled into God's hands.



A REMINDER

When you make your stewardship offerings by check, PLEASE REMEMBER TO WRITE ON THE MEMO LINE "2010 STEWARDSHIP." Checks are coming in without ANY identification or with "Donation" written on them. Please assist our financial staff by indicating that your offering is TOWARDS STEWARDSHIP — otherwise the offerings will be placed in the general fund rather than under your stewardship pledge. Many thanks!

ST. GEORGE BULLETIN

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF
ST. MATTHEW
JUNE 27, 2010**



What is curious about today's Gospel passage from Matthew is the reaction of the townspeople to Jesus. Jesus delivers two of their number from powerful demons. The townspeople hear of this and go out to meet Jesus. When they saw him, they begged him to leave their neighborhood." You might think they would embrace one who has the power to deliver from evil, demons, and all that is destructive. Instead, they ask Jesus to leave. So it is with us. Don't we cling to sin in our lives and would sooner not be reminded by Jesus that we are living a lie? Don't we grow comfortable with the darkness, used to it, and purposely avoid the Light? Doesn't Jesus power to change our lives and redirect them towards true spiritual living scare us? We would sooner He not upset our comfort with our old habits and sinful ways. Are you comfortable with your sin? Do you avoid making the changes that Jesus demands and the Church expects? Will you too ask Jesus to leave the neighborhood of your soul and remain in your comfortable ways? Something to think about.....

Resurrectional Apolytikion

When the women Disciples of the Lord had learned from the Angel the joyful message of the Resurrection and had rejected the ancestral decision, they cried aloud to the Apostles triumphantly: Death has been despoiled, Christ God has risen, granting His great mercy to the world.

**TUESDAY, JUNE 29
HOLY APOSTLES
PETER AND PAUL
(IN FREDERICK)**

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30
SYNAXIS OF THE HOLY
APOSTLES**

**Orthros 8:30 AM
Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM**

THE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT GEORGE

7701 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda,
Maryland 20817
Office 301-469-7990
Fax 301-469-5945
www.stgeorge.org

Rev. Fr. Dimitrios J. Antokas
Proistamenos:
Email: FrAntokas@stgeorge.org

Rev. Fr. George Khitiri
Email: FrGeorge@stgeorge.org

Rev. Fr. Nicholas Despotides,
Emeritus