

EPISTLE Colossians 3: 4-11

BRETHREN, when Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away; anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

TODAY'S READER: ROBYN ANDRIS

GOSPEL Luke 17: 12-19

AT THAT TIME, as Jesus entered a village, He was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices and said: "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." When He saw them He said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus's feet, giving Him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then said Jesus: "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" And He said to him: "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

MEMORIAL SERVICE

A Memorial Service will be offered today for **Helen Konstantina Collier (40 Days)**, requested by her husband Chris Collier and her daughters Christina and Joanna; for **Savvas Koudellou (10 Years)** requested by his children and grandchildren; and for **Thomas Anagnostopoulos (23 Years)**, requested by his wife, Panagiota, his children and grandchildren. May their memory be eternal!

40 DAY BLESSING

Last week, we celebrated a 40-Day Blessing for **Moussa Alexios**, son of Ussama and Angela Baggili. May God grant him many years!



Tuesday, January 17, is the Feast of **St. Anthony of Egypt**, called "**the Great**", the Father of eremitic Monasticism in the Orthodox Church. **ORTHROS is at 8:30 a.m. and Divine Liturgy is at 9:30 a.m.** Please join us in honoring this great Saint whose way of life began the great monastic journey for thousands of monks and nuns.



Wednesday, January 18, is the Feast of **Sts. Athanasios and Cyril, Patriarchs of Alexandria**. **Orthros will be at 8:30 a.m. and Divine Liturgy at 9:30 a.m.** Both Saints were seminal in establishing the early teaching of the Church over against various heresies.



PRAYER LIST: Igumen Seraphim, Rev. Fr. Basil Kissal, Lee Konjas, Constantina Speris, Joseph Papadakis, Nate Cekay, Chris Calender, Robert Shriver, Demitra Aposporos, **Dr. Joseph Paul Smith**, Vasiliios, Omorfia Spathopoulos, Evie Konjas, Alex Kanaris, Conni Kanaris, Artemis, Dolores Shriver Smith



ONE SINGLE LEPER: THE COURAGE TO WITNESS

The parable of the Ten Lepers in today's Gospel is a familiar one, and one filled with many lessons. The most apparent one is regarding giving thanks to the Lord for the way he reaches into our "leprosy" to heal us—again and again. Each of us has that woundedness—of body, of mind, of emotion or of soul. It may be different for each of us, but it nonetheless is real, painful, and spiritually troubling. Into that mess the Lord extends His hand of healing—not necessarily in the way we ask, but in the way we need. Only one of ten returned to publically give thanks. The others must have simply gone on to live their lives totally unmindful of returning to the Lord to express thanks, love, and devotion. It was as if the healing was a private matter, as though personal redemption was a secret—not to be discussed in public. Only one returned to give witness, to proclaim what the God-Man had done for him. One single leper overcame personal adversity through the Lord's ministry and proclaimed that great work in front of all. It is that way all too often with our Orthodox faith. **The notion of giving public testimony, a witness for all to see and hear, gives many if not most Orthodox believers the chills.** We have become accustomed in recent decades to divorcing faith and society. The idea that our faith should inform our personal, moral and political views is summarily dismissed. The result is what the late Father Richard John Neuhaus called "the naked public square": a sanitized space where arguments are unwelcome if they spring from religious conviction, appeals to once self-evident truths are neither embraced nor challenged but reflexively dismissed as mere opinion, and debates about life's most fundamental questions are ruled out of bounds before they can begin. In the naked public square, the division between faith

and reason, God and man, private truth and the public ethic is absolute and impermeable. This pervasive attitude—even among Orthodox—spells the certain death of evangelism, the silencing of the Gospel preaching that the Lord commanded, and the reduction of the Apostolic faith to mere *private devotion*. It makes the public witness of the Holy Martyrs who spilled their blood in witness to their faith—of little consequence. The overt and demonstrative witness of that single healed leper caused the Lord to say to him "Rise, go your way, your faith has saved you!" **It was as if Jesus was saying "Greater even than my healing of you, is your witness and proclamation of that healing."** This is a powerful lesson drawn from today's Gospel—and it suggests some personal questions that each of us must answer. How comfortable am I with witnessing my Orthodox faith to others? How do I tell others the good things and the healings that the Lord has done for me? Am I embarrassed and afraid of seeming "too religious" if I speak or act in witness to my faith? Recall the words of the Christ: **"Whosoever shall confess me before men, him also will I confess before my Father in Heaven. But whosoever denies me before men, him shall I deny before my Father in Heaven."** (Matthew 10: 32-33) Challenging words for all of us. Will you be with the *nine* or will you be on your knees proclaiming the Lord before all to see with the *one*?



PRAYER TO THE MOTHER OF GOD "NEW ADVENT"

O Theotokos and Mother of the One who was and is and is to come, dawn of the New Jerusalem, we earnestly beseech you, bring us by your intercession so to live in love that the Church, the Body of Christ, may stand in this world's dark as fiery icon of the New Jerusalem. We ask you to obtain for us this mercy as we give glory to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

BIBLE STUDY CONTINUES

A study of the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew has begun and is held every Thursday at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Join us for this spiritually profitable study!

STEWARDSHIP LUNCHEON

The Stewardship Luncheon will be held on Sunday, January 22, 2011. This year's honorees are: Maria Kopsidas, Sofia Chatos, and Melina Assimakopoulos Cohen. Tickets are available at a cost of \$25 for adults and \$15 for children. To make reservations for the luncheon see Mike Sakellarides or George Tzamaras in the Grand Hall after Divine Liturgy.

50 PLUS

At our meeting on the 25th, Zoe Kosmidou, Ph.D., Minister Counselor of Cultural Affairs of The Embassy of Greece will be speaking on "PILLARS OF GREEK CULTURE: Connecting the Past with the Future of Hellenism". **Reminder to Everyone:** Keep the date of Wednesday, February 8th, open for our Annual Valentine's Day Luncheon Party at the Alfio's La Trattoria!

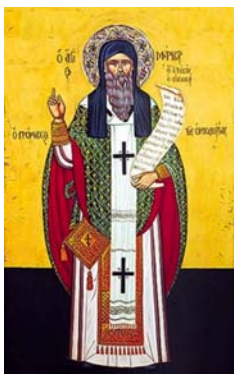
GREEK MUSIC CONCERT ON JANUARY 28, 2012

On January 28, 2012, at 6:30pm, join us for a special music night with "Mortes" and "The Mediterranean Colors Band" in smyrneika, rebetika, paradosiaka and old laika songs. The event will take place in St. George's Grand Hall, and the tickets cost \$20, - children under 16 come free. The event will benefit the Greek School. For tickets, please call Olga Vonikaki at 240-731-0146 or stop by the Greek School office during school hours.

LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS

Our 2012 Membership Drive has begun! Please stop by the Philoptochos table following Liturgy to become a member of one of the largest women's Philanthropic organizations in the U.S. Please join ~ we need your support to help us continue our mission here at our beloved Church of Saint George, as well as for the community at large, and with the many charitable causes that come our way. We thank you in advance! Madonna Calender, Membership Chair, madonnac501@aol.com, 301-365-7097

OUR HOLY FATHER ST. MARK, METROPOLITAN OF EPHEBUS JANUARY 19



The great teacher and invincible defender of the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church, Saint Mark, was the offspring and scion of the imperial city, Constantinople. Reared by most pious parents, and instructed in secular and spiritual wisdom, he became preeminent in both. Saint Mark lived as an ascetic on the Prince's Islands and later in the monastery of Saint George Magana in Constantinople. He passed through all the degrees of the priesthood, and was finally advanced to the dignity of Archbishop and the lofty throne of the Metropolis of Ephesus. At the insistence of Emperor John Paleologos, the Saint was sent to the council of the Latins in Florence, to unite the churches that had been divided for so many years. He astounded the papal teachers with the divine wisdom of his words, and was the only one who did not sign the blasphemous decree of that false council. Because of this, the Holy Church of Christ has ever honored this great man as a benefactor, teacher, sole defender, and invincible champion of the Apostolic Confession. He reposed in 1443.

APOLYTIKION

By your profession of faith, O all-praised Mark, the Church has found you to be a zealot of truth. You fought for the teaching of the Fathers over against the West. You cast down the darkness of boastful pride. Intercede with Christ God to grant forgiveness to those who rightly honor you!

12TH SUNDAY OF ST. LUKE

**ST. JOHN THE HUT-DWELLER
ST. PAUL OF THEBES**

JANUARY 15, 2012



Today we hear the parable of the Ten Lepers — and the one who returned to give thanks. Orthodox Christian life is not about feeling — it is about doing. Jesus never challenged his disciples to feel. He constantly urged them to act, to love, to do justice, to pray, to give thanks. It was by acting that the ten lepers were made clean (turning to go to the priest). It was by acting that ONE was saved because of his faith. (the one who returned to give Jesus thanks). Today's Gospel challenges us to leave the world of religious sentiment and DO the Gospel. A faith which relies on sentiment only, on good feeling, is a faith that is empty. We must ACT on the Gospel — ultimately DO the works of faith.

Resurrectional Aplytikion

When the angelic powers appeared at Your grave, the soldiers guarding it feared and became as dead. And standing by the sepulcher was Mary who was seeking Your immaculate body. You devastated Hades, not afflicted by it. You went to meet the virgin, and granted eternal life. You resurrected from the dead. O Lord, glory to You.

Seqasonal Kontakion

You appeared to the world today, and Your light, O Lord, has left its mark upon us. With fuller understanding we sing to You: "You came, You were made manifest, the unapproachable light."

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