

EPISTLE Hebrews 11:33-40, 12:1-2

BRETHREN, all the saints through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated - of whom the world was not worthy - wandering over deserts and mountains and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect. Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfection of our faith.

TODAY'S READER: MANOLI ANAGNOSTIADIS

GOSPEL Matthew 10:32-33; 37-38; 19:27-30

THE LORD said to his disciples, "Every one who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven; but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny him before my Father who is in heaven. He who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he who loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and he who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me." Then Peter said in reply, "Lo, we have left everything and followed you. What then shall we have?" Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of man shall sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. But many that are first will be last, and the last first."

The Apostles Fast begins tomorrow, June 20. No meat or dairy is permitted. Fish is allowed. This fast lasts until June 29—the Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul the Apostles.

THE SIX CATEGORIES OF HOLY SAINTS IN THE ORTHODOX CHURCH



1. **The Apostles**, who were the first ones to spread the message of the Incarnation of the Word of God and of salvation through Christ.
2. **The Prophets**, because they predicted and prophesied the coming of the Messiah.
3. **The Martyrs**, for sacrificing their lives and fearlessly confessing Jesus Christ as the Son of God and the Savior of mankind.
4. **The Fathers and Hierarchs** of the Church, who excelled in explaining and defending, by word and deed, the Christian Faith.
5. **The Monastics**, who lived in the desert and dedicated themselves to spiritual exercise (askesis), reaching, as far as possible, perfection in Christ.
6. **The Just**, those who lived in the world, leading exemplary lives as clergy or laity with their families, becoming examples for imitation in society.



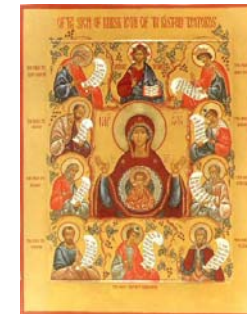
SAINTHOOD FOR US?

How often do we look at the Saints of the Church and say to ourselves "Well, I'm off the hook. I'm no saint and I'll never be one." In this way we "excuse" ourselves from living the struggles and rigors of the Orthodox spiritual life. The Saints were not perfect. Each of them over thousands of years of Christian faith would readily admit that they were "the first among sinners." We do not honor Saints because they were perfect. We honor them because, day after day, in so many little and sometimes great ways, **they kept focus on God, they remembered Him living in their hearts.** In this sense, the holiness of the Saints was a matter of struggling each day to keep a spiritual consciousness no matter what work or task they were called to do. To be sure, that kind of mindfulness demanded discipline—yes, discipline and practice, but NOT perfection. Each of us is called to this kind of mindfulness of God. We are called to practice the presence of God in our hearts. Yes, every one of us is called to sainthood — to living explicitly in the presence of God who, Himself, dwells eternally and intrinsically in the heart of our heart. Sainthood is less about moral or ethical perfection, and more about *how mindful we are everyday, every minute, of God living in and through us.* Achieving that kind of holiness demands, firstly, **an active and regular prayer life.** We cannot be mindful of our Divine Lover each day unless we communicate actively with Him. Secondly, acquiring that mindfulness means drawing away from those things which

PRAYER LIST: Virginia Demitral, Sandi Treer, Constantina Speris, Spiro Gianniotis, Ralph Vallone, Christopher Bacas, Antonia "Nitsa" Kempf, Connie Kanaris, Diana Lazar, George Markomanolakis, Argie Palaios, Katherine Panagakos, George Virvan, Mariah Smiley, Doris Webb, the child Camille Feruzzi, the child Heather Greene, Irene Pappas, Marty Levine, Lindsey Reijsoo, the child Alexis Ross, Joseph Papadakis, the child Joseph Saxon, Francine Bruggeman, Stephanie Skanderis, Georgia Haldas, Eric Ricasa, Milton Kayafas, Maureen Shriver, Tiffany Keiker, Mary O'Hara, William Coulopoulos, Matina Mantis, Anna Wakefield, Nate Cekay, and Robert Shriver. **US ARMED FORCES:** Rev. Fr. John Kalantzis, Lt. Nicholas Karnaze, Spc. Spiro Nino, John Xanthakos, Colonel James Karas, and Gary Hogman (Iraq) and his wife Cindy, 2nd Lt. Phillip Natsios, Private Louis Tiches, EG Robert Stock, and Lance Corporal Brett Hughes, and Lt. Cmdr. Michael Starsiak

obstruct us, distract us, pull us away from the Divine Indwelling. In this regard, **fasting** is a proven tool for refocusing our eyes on things holy and away from things mundane. Lastly, achieving consciousness of God requires **lectio divina** — spiritual reading and study. Reading the lives and experiences of the Saints is helpful in giving us role models to imitate on our spiritual journey. You are NOT off the hook. Today we honor those whom we should imitate. Their holiness should be OURS.

PRAYING TO YOUR SAINT



How often do you pray to your patron Saint — the holy one after whom you were named at Baptism/Chrismation? Learn to say the following prayer every morning and keep close to the Saint who speaks your name before the face of

God! "*Saint (Name), Holy Mother of God and all the saints, who have pleased God in Your lives; pray to Christ my Lord that I might live this day in peace love and humility. Pray unto God for me, O Holy Saint (Name), well-pleasing to God: for I turn to you, who are a speedy helper and intercessor for my soul.*"

MEMORIALS

A Memorial Service will be offered today for **Bea Gekas (40 Days)**, requested by Peggy Hackman, her daughter; for **Irene Pandelaras (11 Years)**, requested by her husband Constantine; and for **Dimitrios Zaharopoulos (3 Years) and Athanasios Papaioannou (11 Years)** requested by Rodanthi Zaharopoulos and Dino. May their memory be eternal!.



**METROPOLITAN KALLISTOS TO VISIT
ST. MARK ORTHODOX CHURCH IN BETHESDA**

Metropolitan Kallistos of Diocleia will visit St. Mark Orthodox Church on River Road on Saturday, June 25, and Sunday June 26, 2011. His visit on Saturday from 1-6:00 pm will include several talks: **1.** Orthodoxy in our Daily Life; **2.** Living the Liturgy; and **3.** The Mystery of Inner Prayer: the Message of the Philokalia. His Grace will attend Vespers on Saturday and Divine Liturgy on Sunday morning. Please mark your calendar for this inspirational visit.

**FEAST OF ALL SAINTS
THE HOLY APOSTLE JUDE
JUNE 19, 2011**



**FEAST OF THE
NATIVITY OF
ST. JOHN THE
FORERUNNER**

FRIDAY, JUNE 24

**Orthros 8:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.**

**APOLYTIKION OF
ALL SAINTS**

Throughout the world Thy church, O Lord, Is adorned with the blood of Thy Martyrs, As with purple and fine linen Through them She cries unto Thee, O Christ Send down Thy bounties upon Thy people. Grant peace to Thine estate And upon our souls thy great mercy.

**THE GREEK
ORTHODOX CHURCH
OF
SAINT GEORGE**

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Rev. Fr. Nicholas Despotides,
Emeritus

Toay we celebrated the lives of those who have gone before us and are the “great cloud of witnesses” — All Saints. What is the key to becoming a Saint? It is the willingness to give up all we must to follow Christ. We want to be Saints, but are afraid of changing our life-style, of giving up the people, the things, and the mind-set that keeps us from God. We say we are Orthodox Christians, but our lives are virtually indiscernible from others in society. So afraid are we of appearing or being different, that we leave holiness to monks, nuns, priests, bishops and some pious laity. Today’s feast reminds us: **every Orthodox believer is called to holiness and must decide to literally change his/her life and mind-set to follow Christ.** What is keeping YOU from that decision?

SUMMER PROGRAMS AT ST. KATHERINE IN FALLS CHURCH

St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church in Falls Church, VA is sponsoring two summer programs. The first is a Pre-School Camp for children ages 2 to five years old; from July 5 through August 12, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The second is a Vacation Bible School from June 27 through July 1, for ages 4 through high school age. For more information call St. Katherine at 703-671-1515.

CHURCH SCHOOL AT ST. MARK’S

Saint Mark Orthodox Church on River Road in Bethesda, is holding a Vacation Church School from July 18 through 22 at the Church. The program is for ages 3 to those entering 6th grade in the Fall. Enrollment is limited to the first 50 students. The subject will be *The Saints of North America*, and there will be lunch, games, music and crafts. For more information or to obtain a registration form, contact Ann Prentice at 703-865-3036, or by email at prentice@comcast.net

GREEK PRESCHOOL

Greek School for Preschoolers (GSP) is acception applications for the 2011-2012 school year. Please visit the website for application forms and more information, or contact christinastayias@yahoo.com or contos-george@hotmail.com.

In response to continued inquiries regarding church financials, the Church is publishing year-to-date operating income and expenses in the Sunday bulletin. God bless you and thank you for your support.

January 1 through June 14, 2011

Income \$646,412.61*
Expenses \$647,010.73**

* - Includes any income from Stewardship, Candles, Trays, Donations, Facility Rentals, Spring Festival, Fall Fund-raiser, Greek School, Pre-School Program, Other Income and Harbor School Rent.

** - Includes expenses incurred (funds disbursed) for Administrative Items, Candles, Facility Rentals, Spring Festival, Fall Fundraiser, Greek School, Pre-School Program, Archdiocese Stewardship, For Those Who Serve, Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment, Liturgical, Maintenance, Mortgage Interest, Program Expenses, Taxes & Insurance, Utilities and Transfer to Reserves.