

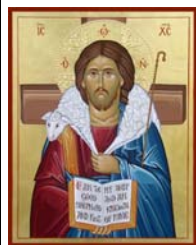
EPISTLE Romans 5:1-11

BRETHREN, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in our hope of sharing the glory of God. More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us. While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Why, one will hardly die for a righteous man -- though perhaps for a good man one will dare even to die. But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we are now justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. Not only so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received our reconciliation.

TODAY'S READER: JEANNE KITSOULIS

GOSPEL Matthew 6:22-33

The Lord said, "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is sound, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is not sound, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add one cubit to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O men of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek all these things; and your heavenly Father knows you need them all. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well."



PRAYER BEFORE VACATION OR A JOURNEY

Lord Jesus Christ my God, be my Companion, guide and protector during my journey. Keep me from all danger, misfortune and temptation. By Your divine power grant me a peaceful and successful journey and safe arrival. In You I place my hope and trust and You I praise, honor and glorify, together with Your Father and Holy Spirit now and forever and ever. Amen. Lord Jesus, You traveled with the two disciples after the resurrection and set their hearts on fire with Your grace. Travel also with me and gladden my heart with Your presence. I know, Lord, that I am a pilgrim on this earth, seeking the citizenship which is in heaven. During my journey surround me with Your holy angels and keep me safe from seen and unseen dangers. Grant that I may carry out my plans and fulfill my expectations according to Your will. Help me to see the beauty of creation and to comprehend the wonder of Your truth in all things. For You are the way, the truth and the life, and to You I give thanks, praise and glory forever. Amen



WHY DO WE WORRY?

Jesus in today's Gospel brings across a pointed lesson: worrying about the things of this life is useless. *Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you!* Why therefore do we worry and become anxious? **We worry because deep down we do not trust that God will take care of us** as Jesus promised. Why do we not trust? We do not trust God, in a literal and concrete sense, **because He is not real to us.** He is an "idea", a far off entity to whom we pay proper respect, but who we never imagine is viscerally engaged in our life and living. And why is God not "real" to us? Because we are weak in talking to Him in prayer and above all else, weak in listening to Him talk to us. Our prayer life may be catch as catch can—quick and then on to other important things. We perhaps do not read His word in Sacred Scripture *everyday*. Our attendance at Divine Liturgy may be sporadic, or if we do attend regularly, we may not have the proper disposition or may use the time to visit our neighbors. If God remains a virtual stranger to us, deep down, in our heart of hearts, we will find it hard to trust that He will see us through life's problems and struggles. Thus, **we worry — because we believe that somehow it is all up to us.** How do we grow to trust that His promise is true for us? We become determined to pray more and with greater fervor, to read His word everyday, to keep the fast, to attend Divine Liturgy every week, to develop the ability to be quiet in His presence and listen for His voice. **In short, we come to know the Living God, in an intimate way, as lovers do** — not simply as a concept. In becoming real for us, we learn to trust Him and trust the fact that, even if things don't always go our way, He will take care of us. This is how we eliminate most of the worry in our lives. **Remember the sequence: do the works of ascetic struggle, God**

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:** LCDR. Rick Fisher, 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

becomes more real to us, we learn to trust in His promise to take care of us, and we eliminate more and more worry from our lives. **"Seek ye FIRST the Kingdom of God and His righteousness — and all these things will be added unto you!"** How seriously do you want to get rid of worry and anxiety in YOUR life?

MEMORIAL SERVICE

A Memorial Service will be offered today for **Constantinos Fales (10 Years)**, requested by his loving family; and for **Michel (19 Years)** and **Michalitsa (2 Years) Matsangakis**, requested by their loving family. May their memory be eternal!



THE WITNESS OF THE HOLY NEW MARTYRS

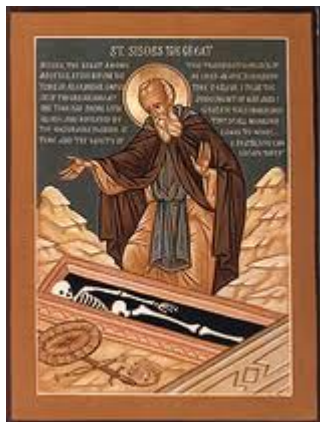
The Third Sunday after Holy Pentecost is a day for glorification of the many known and unknown Greek Orthodox and other Orthodox Christian martyrs who were killed by the Moslems of the Ottoman Empire since the fall of the Holy City, Constantinople, to the Godless Hagarenes. Long before the New Martyrs of Russia lived, these martyrs stood as living examples of total giving for Christ's name and in the name of the Holy Faith. ***"The new martyrs, who with unremitting battle have cast down the ancient deception,/ have exalted the Faith of the Orthodox;/ for, having abolished the worship of the iniquitous and professed Christ boldly,/ they now unceasingly entreat Him as perfect God, that He grant us great mercy. "*** (Apolytikion of the Holy New Martyrs.)

GREEK SCHOOL FOR PRESCHOOLERS (GSP)

has a few openings in each class for the 2011-2012 school year. Please visit the <http://www.stgeorge.org/education/greek-preschool> for applications, forms and more information, or contact paula.spiliotopoulos@verizon.net or dsamiosferat@gmail.com.

LITTLE ANGELS

is in the process of planning for next year, let us know what would work best for you and your little ones through our survey at this link <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/5NJDQRG> We look forward to your feedback.



VENERABLE SISOES THE GREAT JULY 6

Venerable Sisoës the Great (+429) was a monastic hermit who struggled in the Egyptian desert, in a cave blessed by the struggles of his predecessor, the Venerable Antony the Great. Engaged for 60 years in spiritual struggle in the desert, St. Sisoës achieved great spiritual purity and so grasped the gift of working miracles, that by his prayers, he once even brought a deceased youth back to life. Unusually strict with himself, St. Sisoës was very merciful and sympathetic toward his neighbors, and received everyone with love. The Venerable Saint taught his visitors humility. In answer to one desert dweller who asked him how he had managed to achieve constant mindfulness of God, the Saint noted: "This, my son, is but little; most important of all is to consider yourself

to be the lowliest of all, for such self-disparagement facilitates one's acquisition of humility." Asked by the monastics whether for a monk who had fallen into sin one year of repentance was sufficient, St. Sisoës replied: "I believe in the mercy of our Man-loving God, and if a man should repent with all his soul, God will accept his repentance in three days." As Venerable St. Sisoës lay on his deathbed, the disciples gathered around their elder noticed that his face had become radiant. They asked the dying man what he beheld. Abba Sisoës replied that he was looking upon the Holy Prophets and Apostles. His disciples asked him "With whom are you conversing?" He answered that the Angels had come for his soul, and that he was asking them for but a little more time in which to repent. His disciples objected: "Father, you are not in need of repentance." However, with great humility, the Saint replied: "Truly, I do not know whether I have even begun to repent." As soon as he had uttered those words, his face became so radiant that the brethren could not dare look upon it. The Venerable Saint had just managed to relate to them that he beheld the Lord Himself, when his Holy Soul departed for the Heavenly Kingdom.

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 27, 2011

Income \$670,283.17*

Expenses \$677,913.31**

* - Includes any income (funds received) from Stewardship, Candles, Trays, Donations, Facility Rentals, Spring Festival, Fall Fundraiser, 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.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ST. MATTHEW THE HOLY NEW MARTYRS OF THE TURKISH YOKE

JULY 3, 2011



*"Therefore, I tell you, do not be anxious
about your life....."*

While worrying seems to be a natural human trait, Jesus in today's Gospel tells us that it will not help our spiritual development at all. There is one thing that should be our primary concern: "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all things shall be given unto you as well." Simply put, amidst all the worries of our daily life, **GOD MUST COME FIRST**. Seeking His Kingdom must be our chief work. That means tending our spiritual life EVERYDAY—through prayer, fasting, and spiritual study. It means reaching out to others in love through concrete and specific ways. **Honestly — is GOD the first priority in your life?** Are you as concerned about your soul as much as you are about everything else? Serious questions for serious times!

Resurrectional Apolytikion

When You descended unto death, O Lord who yourself are immortal Life, then did You mortify Hades by the lightning flash of Your Divinity. Also when You raised the dead from the netherworld, all the Powers of the heavens were crying out: O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory be to You.

Resurrectional Kontakion

You rose from the tomb, O Savior all-powerful, * and Hades beheld the marvel and was struck with fear, * and the dead were rising up, and creation beholds and rejoices with You, * and Adam is also exultant; O my Savior, and the world ever sings Your praise.

THE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT GEORGE

7701 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda,
Maryland 20817
Office 301-469-7990 + Fax 301-469-
5945

www.stgeorge.org

Proistamenos:

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

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

Rev. Fr. Nicholas Despotides,
Emeritus