



The Forerunner

Weekly Parish Bulletin

Sunday, October 3, 2021

2ND SUNDAY OF ST. LUKE

St. Dionysios, the Areopagite (Hieromartyr)



RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION

(Tone 6)

When Mary stood at Thy grave, looking for Thy sacred body, angelic powers shone above Thy revered tomb; and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led Hades captive and wast not tempted thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world, O Thou, Who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. DIONYSIOS THE AREOPAGITE

(Tone 4)

Since thou hadst been instructed in uprightness thoroughly and wast vigilant in all things, thou wast clothed with a good conscience as befitteth one holy. Thou didst draw from the Chosen Vessel ineffable mysteries; and having kept the Faith, thou didst finish a like course, O Hieromartyr Dionysios. Intercede with Christ God that our souls be saved

APOLYTIKION OF THE HOLY NATIVITY OF CHRIST

(Tone 4)

Thy Nativity O Christ our God, has shone on the world the Light of knowledge; for by it those who worshipped the stars were taught by a star to adore thee the Sun of Righteousness, and to know thee the Day Spring from on high. Wherefore O Lord, glory to thee.



ORDINARY KONTAKION

(Tone 2)

O protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the Creator most constant, O despise not the suppliant voices of those who have sinned; but be thou quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession, and speed thou to make supplication, thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.

PROKEIMENON

“O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance. Unto Thee will I cry, O my God”

(Ps. 28:9;1)

THE READING FROM THE SECOND EPISTLE OF ST. PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

(2Cor. 4:6-15)

Brethren, seeing that it is the God who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, the same also shone in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the exceeding greatness of power is from God, and not from us. We are pressed on every way, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; smitten down, but not destroyed; always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the

life of Jesus may also be manifested in our body. For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our mortal flesh. So, then, death is working in us, but life in you. But having in us the same spirit of faith, according to that which is written, "I believed, and therefore I spoke," we also believe, and therefore we also speak, knowing that the One who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up through Jesus, and will make us stand together with you. For all things are for your sakes, that the grace, which is multiplied through the thanksgiving of many, may abound to the glory of God.

THE READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. LUKE

(Lk. 6:31-36)

The Lord said: "As you wish that men would do to you, do so to them. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful."

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRIEST

By: Fr. Michael Gillis

"Love In A Time Of Uncertainty"

St. Isaac the Syrian said that only the tomb is the "land of certainty". Writing to hermits

living in the desert, St. Isaac wanted to free them from the delusion that they could be certain about anything in this world. I wonder if St. Isaac was reflecting on the words of St. Paul in 1 Corinthians 8: "Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. If anyone thinks he knows anything, he knows nothing as he ought to know it. But if anyone loves God, this one is known by Him."

I have known a few scientists throughout my life, real scientists, people who make their living studying the minutiae of the physical world. One thing I have noticed about these people is that although they may be very arrogant regarding fields of general scientific knowledge, areas that are not their area of expertise, when it comes to the details of their particular field of study, they have much less certainty, much more humility. That is, the more they know about something, the more they know that there is so much more that they do not know.

Today we live in a time of uncertainty; but really, today is no more uncertain than yesterday nor the day or year or century before. Certainty is a kind of delusion. It is a delusion that conveniently forgets that there is much, much more going on in the world than we know and can see. How, then, can we live in peace when our life is enveloped in uncertainty? How do we escape the fear of uncertainty?

St. Isaac tells us that fear is actually the right place to start. If we do not experience a bit of fear at a frightening prospect, then we are already deluded and not in touch with reality. Fear is the right place to start. However, fear, St. Isaac tells us, can be "swallowed up" by faith. That is, beginning with a clear-eyed assessment of the fearful possibilities (as far as

you can surmise them), then we turn our attention to God, who holds our lives in His hands. When we believe in God, then our fear can be swallowed up by faith, like a big fish swallowing a small one.

Faith in God delivers us from fear. However, faith is still only the middle step. Faith itself can be swallowed up by love. St. Isaac tells us that faith opens a knowledge of God in which we begin to experience and know, know personally, the love of God. And as we know the love of God, even faith takes a second seat. Love becomes the most important thing. Which is why, I think, St. Paul points out that love is much more important than knowledge about things, or even knowledge about faith. (The specific knowledge St. Paul is talking about in 1 Corinthians 8 is a knowledge related to faith: whether or not it is appropriate to eat meat sacrificed to idols.)

Fear, faith and love: all three are aspects of our life in Christ. Fear of God, which sometimes just means fear of the unknown, is swallowed up by faith in God—swallowed up, but never fully removed, at least not until the age to come. And even faith itself, although always important and at hand, even faith can be swallowed up by love.

I do not know what will happen tomorrow, nor how the winds of government and society will shift and change. But both St. Paul in the New Testament and St. Isaac the Syrian in his Homilies tell us that if we love, love God and

love our neighbour, then we will not go wrong no matter what the future will bring.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you wish to announce something on The Forerunner, please e-mail Elias Neto at neto.elias@aol.com by Thursday

- Due to the new health restrictions, masks are now mandatory for both Youth and Volunteers attending the Fraser Valley Orthodox Youth Group on Thursday.
- Through October we will continue with Saturday and Sunday Matins (9:00 am) and Divine Liturgy (10:00 am). Vespers on Saturday (6:00 pm) and Wednesday (7:00 pm). Daily Matins (7:00 am) on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings.
- Fr. Michael plans to take five days at the Monastery in October, Monday the 18 to Friday the 22.
- If you do not feel comfortable coming to Church due to health concerns, you may watch Saturday Vespers and Sunday Liturgy on the Church's Facebook page and receive Holy Communion at the Church after the Liturgy. Alternatively, Fr. Michael is willing to offer a mid-week Divine Liturgy just for your family upon request.

For pastoral care, please contact:

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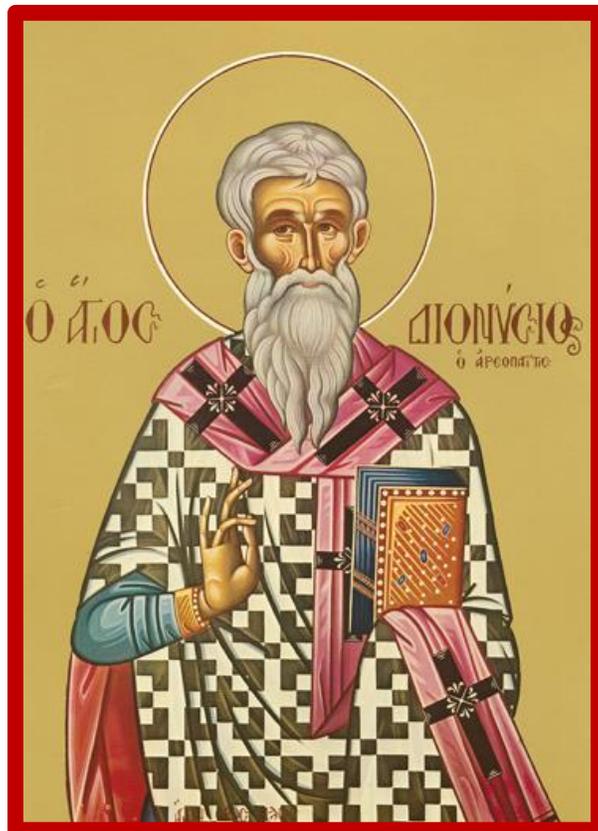
HOLY NATIVITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Thank you for your presence today!

PRAYERS FOR THE DEPARTED

PRAYERS FOR THE LIVING



Icon: St. Dionysios, the Areopagite (Hieromartyr)