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Sunday, October 19th, 2014

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church 3rd Sunday of Luke

A MAN OF STRENGTH

It is widely known that in times of great crisis, men and women alike often have the ability to perform nearly impossible, superhuman feats of strength. This saint falls into this category.

St. Averkios was Bishop of Hierapolis in the region of Phrygia in the late second century. Hierapolis was a predominantly pagan city, and Averkios very quietly went about his business of tending to the spiritual needs of his small flock. In the year 186 A.D., however, this unassuming saint was driven to a point of righteous indignation that gave him the strength of 10 men!

A pagan festival was going on in Hierapolis that was rowdier and more immoral than the ones that regularly occurred there. Averkios was so incensed by this that he went to their temple by night, smashing the idols it contained and pushing over the temple's support columns, causing it to collapse! The infuriated pagans sought out the Bishop at his cathedral, looking to put him to death by hanging. Just as the mob was about to seize him, three young men, who were possessed by demons, fell at the feet of Averkios, pleading for his help. Through the prayers of this man of God, they were healed immediately. The pagan attackers were so moved by what they witnessed that 500 of them were baptized that very night!

The fame of Averkios spread throughout the Roman Empire. Many healings are attributed to him. Even the Emperor Marcus Aurelius turned to him when his court physicians and pagan priests could not cure his young daughter of an unknown disease. Averkios was summoned to the Emperor's palace in Rome, where his prayers to the Lord brought about the healing of the ailing girl.

According to Holy Tradition, Averkios foretold the day of his own death. He fell asleep in the Lord in his beloved town of Hierapolis in 198 A.D.

COMING UP...

- ◆ *Sunday School:*
TODAY at 10AM
OPEN HOUSE for
1st- 3rd Grades
- ◆ *Bible Study: Mon.*
Oct. 20th 6PM-7PM
- ◆ *Inquirer's Class:*
Wed. Oct. 22nd
6:30PM-8PM
- ◆ *GOYA: Fri. Oct. 24th-*
Sun. Oct. 26
Volleyball
Tournament in St.
Petersburg
- ◆ *Sunday School: Sun.*
Oct. 26th 10AM
OPEN HOUSE for
4th- 6th Grades
- ◆ *Ladies Philoptochos*
Society: Sun. Oct.
26th following
Liturgy
BAKE SALE
- ◆ *Ladies Philoptochos*
Society: Mon. Oct.
27th 10:30AM
GENERAL MEETING
- ◆ *Bible Study: Mon.*
Oct. 27th 6PM-7PM
- ◆ *Parish Council:*
Tues. Oct. 28th 6PM
MEETING

HOLY COMMUNION REMINDER- *Please follow Ushers Instructions*

We welcome those visiting with us today and ask that only Baptized/Chrismated Orthodox Christians who are properly prepared through prayer, fasting and Holy Confession to come forward to receive Holy Communion. Women are kindly asked to remove their lipstick prior to receiving Holy Communion. Non-Orthodox visitors are welcome to receive the blessed bread from the Priest at the end of the Divine Liturgy and to join us for fellowship in our hall. We ask that everyone please dress appropriately for church.

Visitors: we ask that you fill out a yellow welcome card & give it to an usher.

...if you are new to the community or are visiting for the first time. Please, remember to fill out a yellow card and pass it on to an usher before communion. Thank you!

EPISTLE READING

St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 11:31-33; 12:1-9 BRETHREN, the God and Father of the Lord Jesus, he who is blessed for ever, knows that I do not lie. At Damascus, the governor under King Aretas guarded the city of Damascus in order to seize me, but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped his hands.

I must boast; there is nothing to be gained by it, but I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven-whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. And I know that this man was caught up into Paradise-whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows-and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. Though if I wish to boast, I shall not be a fool, for I shall be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. And to keep me from being too elated by the abundance of revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan, to harass me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I besought the Lord about this, that it should leave me; but

he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." I will all the more gladly boast of my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

GOSPEL READING

The Gospel of Luke 7:11-16

At that time, Jesus went to a city called Nain, and his disciples and a great crowd went with him. As he drew near to the gate of the city, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow; and a large crowd from the city was with her. And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." And he came and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." And the dead man sat up, and began to speak. And he gave him to his mother. Fear seized them all; and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has arisen among us!" and "God has visited his people!"

Resurrectional Apolytikion

When Thou, the Deathless Life, didst descend toward Death

Ὅτε κατήλθες πρὸς τὸν θάνατον, ἡ Ζωὴ ἡ ἀθάνατος,
(Page 45)

Kontakion

O protection of the Christians unashamable, mediation to the Maker immovable, despise not, the pleading voices of those in sin, but hasten, O good one, to the help of all of us, who in faith cry out to you: Speed up your intercession, and press on your supplication,

O Theotokos who always protects, all those who honor you.

Προστασία τῶν Χριστιανῶν ακαταίσχυντε, μεσιτεία πρὸς τὸν Ποιητὴν αμετάθετε, μή παρίδης, αμαρτωλῶν δεήσεων φωνάς, ἀλλὰ πρόφθασον ὡς ἀγαθή, εἰς τὴν βοήθειαν ἡμῶν, τῶν πιστῶς κραυγαζόντων σοι: Τάχυνον εἰς πρεσβείαν, καὶ σπεύσον εἰς ἱκεσίαν, ἡ προστατεύουσα αἰεὶ, Θεοτόκε τῶν τιμώντων σε.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION: HYMNS AND WHERE THEY CAN BE FOUND

Hymns of Divine Liturgy insert can be found in the pews to allow you to follow along. The hymns in the bulletin will be the variable ones specific to that week or change from the common hymns that you will find in the insert located in the pews.

On the Holy Spirit: A Look into St. Basil's Book

(This is the second article in a series of articles that will highlight the Person of the Holy Spirit as discussed in St. Basil's book, On the Holy Spirit, yet with an emphasis on the relation of the Three Persons of the Holy Trinity. All quotations are St. Basil words, the Scriptures, or the Creed. In parentheses I refer to where these quotes are found in his book.)

Background: Those that would not admit that the Holy Spirit is God, used as the basis for their argument how the Holy Spirit seemed to be diminished and subordinate to the Father and Son by the use of the prepositions "with the Holy Spirit" and "and the Holy Spirit." So, St. Basil spends a quite a bit of time addressing how the use of these words do not support their argument.

Advice: Perhaps more than any series written, these will only make sense if the prior one is read and understood.)

The church since its earliest days, in its liturgy and worship, glorified the Holy Spirit together with the Father and the Son. The difference recited in the liturgy between the Son and the Spirit is to be seen in the fact that the Son is 'begotten of the Father,' while the Holy Spirit 'proceeds from the Father.' During the sacramental part of the earliest liturgies, in preparation for the Eucharist, the anaphora prayer was recited and addressed to God, with the indication of the Holy Spirit in a Trinitarian dimension. St. Basil states, "Concerning the teachings of the Church, whether publicly proclaimed or reserved to members of the household of faith, we have received some from written sources, while others have been given to us secretly,* through apostolic tradition. Both sources have equal force in true religion." St. Basil goes on to give many examples of the unwritten customs and teachings that have equal import to the written teachings. To ignore or disavow them would be to "fatally mutilate the Gospel." He expounds, "since there are so many unwritten traditions, having great importance in the mystery of true religion, how can they refuse to concede to us the use of a single word (the prepositions 'with,' 'in,' etc.), which comes to us from the Fathers" (Ch. 27).

St. Basil quotes Psalm 32, "by the Word of the Lord the heavens were made, and all their host by the Spirit of His mouth" (Ch. 16). Basil adds, "he who

grasps one end of a chain pulls along with it the other end to himself, so he who draws the Spirit draws both the Son and the Father along with It (Letter 38).

'With' is an especially useful word because it testifies to eternal communion and unceasing cooperation. If we say that the Son is with the Father, we mean two things: first that their persons are distinct, and second, that they are inseparably united in fellowship. 'With' demonstrates that persons mutually share a common act, while 'in' refers to their relationship, to the place or thing in which the action is performed (Ch. 25).

The Spirit is said to dwell *in created things* in many and various ways, but as far as His relationship to the Father and the Son is concerned, it is more appropriate to say that He dwells *with them*, rather than in them. Whenever the union between things is intimate, natural, and inseparable, it is more appropriate to use 'with' since this word suggests and indivisible union. When we use the word 'in' the Spirit, we are confessing our own weakness, since we show that we are not capable of glorifying God on our own; only 'in the Spirit' is this made possible. To worship in the Spirit implies that our intelligence has been enlightened. If you remain outside the Spirit, you cannot worship at all, and if you are in Him you cannot separate Him from God. Light cannot be separated from what it makes visible, and it is impossible for you to recognize Christ, the image of the invisible God, unless the Spirit enlightens you. Once you see the Image, you cannot ignore the Light; you see the Light and the Image simultaneously. It is fitting that when we see Christ, the brightness of God's glory; it is always through the illumination of the Spirit. Through Christ the Image, may we be led to the Father, for He bears the seal of the Fathers very likeness" (Ch. 26).

*Secretly-does not have the same connotation as today. It meant oral traditions amongst the Christian family.

By Deacon John

To be continued...

SAINTS COMMEMORATED

TODAY, SUNDAY OCTOBER 19th

- Joel the Prophet
- St. Varys the Martyr
- St. John of Rilas

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

We are 9 months into 2014. Please pray and offer your time and talent sheet. Submit your pledge card or ask an usher for a new one. We are currently at \$134,083 and our goal is \$200,000 for 2014!

Everyone please pledge!

HELLENIC-AMERICAN SOCIAL CLUB:

OXI DAY PICNIC: October 30, 11:30 a.m., Jay-Cee Park, Cape Coral. Chicken, Potato Salad, Cole Slaw, and lots more. \$6 per member; \$7 per non-member. Chaired by Kle & Irene Polyviou (242-0270). Call them for your reservation. Pre-payment due by the meeting on Oct 14 so that they know how many to prepare for. Bring your own plates and tableware please.

BROADWAY PALM DINNER THEATER: Sunday, November 30. "A Christmas Carol". Deadline for reservations and payment is at the meeting on Oct 14. Contact Kitty Avtges (437-3028). Need minimum of 20 attendees for discount rate of \$53 per; otherwise the price will be \$57 per person. Need only a few more names to meet the minimum of 20, but it would be great to have more. The theater will not hold our block of reserved tables beyond the 14th.

Day trip to Orlando for the "Singing Christmas Trees". Admission, lunch, and travel - \$62 per person. Limited seating. Date to be set at the Oct 14 meeting (December 12 or 13). Phyllis Mino will be taking reservations and will give final details and accept pre-payment to secure seats.

CHRISTMAS PARTY: Members only. December 9th, 5:30 p.m. Marker 92. Reservations will be accepted at the October 14 meeting.

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

MOVIE NIGHT! Thursday, November 13th at 6PM. Join us in the Fr. Arthur K. Kontinos Community Center for this month's movie, NOAH with Russell Crowe. Admission is \$5 and includes pizza and a soda.

LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY

REMINDER: Monday, October 27th at 10:30am will be our General Meeting. Please make every effort to attend. Coffee Hours hostesses for the month of OCTOBER are Maria Gorrell and Athena Fisk. Thanks to them, and please give them a helping hand.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

<u>Religious Education Teachers</u>	<u>Contact Name</u>
PreK & K Grade Teacher	Olympia Ruppe
PreK & K Grade Assistant	Elaine Greene
PreK & K Grade Assistant	Victoria Todd
PreK & K Grade Assistant	Theresa Thomas
1-3 Grade Teacher	Dorothy Bonstedt
1-3 Grade Assistant	Dr. Cheryl Johnson
1-3 Grade Assistant	Hallie Fenton
4-6 Grade Teacher	Jen-Hope Belis
4-6 Grade Assistant	Poly Mavridou-Hernandez
4-6 Grade Assistant	Niki Georgatos
7-12 Grade Co-Teacher	Tina Kucera
7-12 Grade Co-Teacher	Faith Miller
Floater Assistant (PreK-6)	Joanna Hoch

MARK YOUR CALENDARS... for Sunday School Fall Open House! We invite all parents to attend our Open Houses for their child(ren)'s particular class. This is an opportunity for parents to meet teachers as well as see what your child(ren) is learning every Sunday.

TODAY Fall Open House for 1-3rd Grade Class

October 26 Fall Open House for 4-6th Grade Class

MEMORIAL

Today we offer a 40 day Memorial for the servant of God, Dr. Thomas Drakos, husband of Fran Drakos. May his memory be eternal. A full luncheon will be sponsored by the Drakos Family in his memory today following Liturgy.

2ND TRAY CONTRIBUTIONS

Our Church passes 2 offering trays. The 1st goes towards our Operating Budget, the 2nd tray will continue for the NEW Education Building Fund until paid in Full. In order to receive credit for your donation, for income tax purposes, make sure to put your cash donation in an envelope with your name on it or pay by check.

Praying for You

We offer prayers for health and the needs for the servants of God for Eugenia Loughney, Terry Kalogridis, Louis Eftim, Sophia Katsaris, Doug Kucera, Charlie Mattoff, Mary Spiropoulos, Michael and Ann Conidaris, John Kontinos & Penelope Kontinos.

Please notify the office if there is someone that needs to be added to the prayer list. 239-481-2099

