

Fifth Sunday of Matthew :: July 9, 2017

Fourth Tone :: Fifth Orthros Gospel

*Today's commemorations: The Holy Hieromartyr Pancratius, Bishop of Tauromenium in Sicily; Dionysios the Orator; Metrophanes of Mount Athos; Patermuthius the Monk; Euthymios of Karelia; Methodios the Hieromartyr, Bishop of Lampis; Michael Paknanas the Gardener*

**Epistle Reading: St. Paul's Letter to the Romans 10:1-10**

Reader: *O Lord, Your works shall be magnified greatly; You made all things in wisdom.*

Priest: Let us be attentive.

Reader: *Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my God, You are magnified exceedingly.*

Priest: Wisdom.

Reader: *The reading is from the letter of Holy Apostle Paul to the Hebrews.*

Priest: Let us be attentive.

*Brethren:* my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but it is not enlightened. For, being ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law, that every one who has faith may be justified. Moses writes that the man who practices the righteousness which is based on the law shall live by it. But the righteousness based on faith says, Do not say in your heart, "Who will ascend into heaven?" (that is, to bring Christ down) or "Who will descend into the abyss?" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart (that is, the word of faith which we preach); because, if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For man believes with his heart and so is justified, and he confesses with his lips and so is saved.

**Holy Gospel: St. Matthew 8:28-34; 9:1**

*At that time,* when Jesus came to the other side [of Lake Galilee], to the country of the Gergesenes, two demoniacs met him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one would pass that way. And behold, they cried out, "What have you to do with us, O Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?" Now a herd of many swine was feeding at some distance from them. And the demons begged him, "If you cast us out, send us away into the herd of swine." And he said to them, "Go." So they came out and went into the swine; and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and perished in the waters. The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, and what had happened to the demoniacs. And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw him, they begged him to leave their neighborhood. And getting into a boat he crossed over and came to his own city.



**Resurrection Hymn (Fourth Tone)**

Having learned the joyful proclamation of the Resurrection from the angel, and having cast off the ancestral condemnation, the women disciples said to the Apostles triumphantly: death is despoiled and Christ God is risen, granting great mercy unto the world.

**Hymn for the Transfiguration**

**Kontakion of the Theotokos**

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.



**PARISH NOTICES**

We warmly welcome our guests and invite you to join us after Liturgy in the social hall downstairs for conversation and refreshments, hosted today by **the Elkin family**.

**Catechism Class** begins on Thursday, July 20<sup>th</sup> for those who wish to unite themselves to the Holy Orthodox Church. Please speak with Father Sava if you are interested in participating or know someone who might be interested.

Father Sava will be away on pilgrimage from Thursday, July 13<sup>th</sup> through Monday, July 17<sup>th</sup>. If a Priest is needed in Father's absence, please call either Father Angelo Pappas or Father Dennis Heifner. Father Dennis will serve us next Sunday in Father Sava's absence.



**PARISH FINANCIAL UPDATE**

*General Fund, January 1 through June 30, 2017*

Income	\$ 84,376	2017 Stewardship annual goal:	\$ 120,000
Expenses	\$ 81,261	Stewardship giving to date:	\$ 56,905
Net Income	\$ 3,115		

*Rental house:*

Income:	\$ 7,808
Expense:	\$ 6,083
Net Income:	\$ 1,725

Many thanks to the stewards and benefactors who faithfully support the ministries of the Church throughout the year



**THIS WEEK AT TRANSFIGURATION CHURCH**

Wednesday **Great Vespers** at 6:30 P.M. :: Bible Study at 7 P.M.

Saturday (No Vespers)

Next Sunday *July 16<sup>th</sup> — Sunday of the Holy Fathers*

Orthros at 9:00 A.M. :: Divine Liturgy at 10:00 A.M.  
Titus 3:8-15 Matthew 5:14-19



**LOOKING AHEAD**

- July 23 Parish Council meeting
- August 1-14 Dormition Fast
- August 6 Feast of the Transfiguration and Parish Picnic at Tuthill Park
- August 15 Dormition of the Mother of God
- August 27 Parish Council Meeting



## WORDS OF LIFE

Nothing helps you to calm your anger and overcome all the passions as much as love for God and all other people does. It's easier to win by love than by any other struggle.

— Elder Iosif the Hesychast

The passion of conceit is present in some form in almost everyone, which is why the Lord begins the Beatitudes with this point. He highlights the pride lurking in our character as another ancient evil. He enjoins us to imitate Him, Who of His own will became poor and Who is, in truth, blessed. In this way, we will draw down upon us a share in His bliss, since we'll have become like Him by voluntarily becoming poor, insofar as we can and depending on who we are. Saint Paul tells us (Phil. 2, 5 ff). to be of the same mind as Christ, Who, although He is God, did not regard His equality as something to be exploited. Instead, He emptied Himself of His divinity and took the form of a servant.

— Saint Gregory the Theologian

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— Saint John of Kronstadt

We should pray to God every day, extensively, even when we're walking along the street, when we're working or when we go to bed to have a rest after a tiring day. We should glorify God for His work and ask for His mercy. Prayer and compunction are our weapons, the armor of the faithful against evil, which cannot breach it and causes it to leave empty-handed.

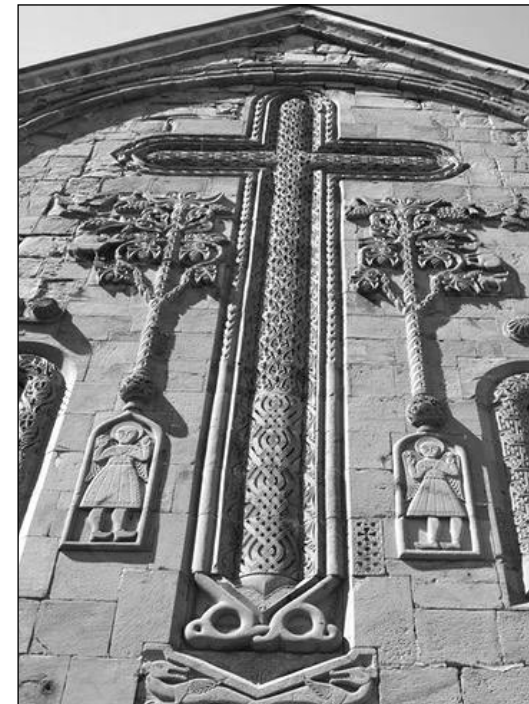
— Elder Filotheos Zervakos

If we trust our intuition on things of the utmost importance, then any and every mistake can be a threat and can even lead to our perdition. So it's in this sense that you should be obedient to the experience of the ancient ascetics, which prevents us from relying on our intuition to such an extent. And what we should certainly do is overcome our self-confidence with a hard psychological and intellectual struggle. Our intuition would, indeed, be absolutely correct, if only we were saints. But if we haven't attained to that sanctity, then our intuition won't work properly, any more than our reason will.

— Elder Sophrony of Essex

The Lord has taken ninety-nine of the steps needed for your salvation. Are you not prepared to take the last remaining step in order to be saved, especially when '... in this way an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be richly provided for you.' (2 Peter, 1: 11)

— Saint Nicholas Velimirovich



*Old Georgian ornaments from Ananuri Church, Mtskheta-mtianeti, Georgia*



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