

We would like to welcome all parish visitors and invite you to join us after the Liturgy for Coffee hour.

Orthodox Church of the Mother of God OCA – Diocese of New York-New Jersey

V. Rev. Dr. Matthew Searfoorce, Rector

Sub-Deacon Edward Dawson Sub-Deacon Vlashi

Parish Council President: Trudy Ellmore Parish Council Vice President: Holly Dawson



Sunday, January 17, 2016

Gospel: Luke 18:18-27

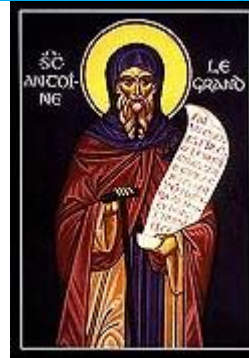
Saint: Luke 6:17-23

Tone 8

Epistle: Colossians 1:12-18

Saint: Hebrews 13:17-21

33rd Sunday after Pentecost: Venerable and God-bearing Father Anthony the Great



*Glory to
Jesus Christ!*

*Glory
Forever!*

Venerable and God-bearing Father Anthony the Great

You imitated the ways of zealous Elijah, and followed the straight path of John the Baptist. You became a desert dweller / and strengthened the world by your prayers. Father Anthony, intercede with Christ God that our souls may be saved.

Today's Commemorated Feasts and Saints

33rd Sunday After Pentecost — Tone 8. Venerable and Godbearing Father Anthony the Great (356). Ven. Anthony of Dymask (Novgorod—ca. 1224). Ven. Anthony of Chernoezérsk (16th c.).

Prayer Requests

For Health of:

Tamara Zimmerman, Richard Dantine, Jr., & Lisa Dantine, on their birthdays, offered by their families.

Father John Udics who has been readmitted into ICU in the University of Pennsylvania Hospital, offered by the Diocese of NY/NJ.

For Memory of:

Barbara (Aunt) & Dorothy (Mother in-law), offered by Trudy and Phil.
Michael Peleszak, offered by Richard and Linda.

Pannikhida Service:

Maria (Mother) & Eugene (Brother), offered by Liz Pastore.

Liturgical Schedule:

Saturday, January 23rd
6:30 pm: Vespers

Sunday, January 24th
9:30 am: Sunday School
9:40 am: Hours
10:00 am: Divine Liturgy

Saturday, January 30th
6:30 pm: Vespers

Sunday, January 31st
9:30 am: Sunday School
9:40 am: Hours
10:00 am: Divine Liturgy
12:15 pm: Council Meeting

Saturday, February 6th
6:30 pm: Vespers

Sunday, February 7th
9:30 am: No School
9:40 am: Hours
9:45 am: General Confession
10:00 am: Divine Liturgy

Saturday, February 13th
6:30 pm: Vespers

Bulletin Sponsors:

**Linda & Richard Dantine
and their families.
Trudy & Phil Ellmore
Liz Pastore**

Readings:

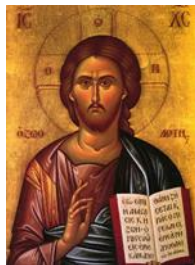


Epistle: Colossians 1:12-18

Brethren, give thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation; for in him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or authorities--all things were created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the first-born from the dead, that in everything he might be pre-eminent.

Saint: Hebrews 13:17-21

Brethren, obey your leaders and submit to them; for they are keeping watch over your souls, as men who will have to give account. Let them do this joyfully, and not sadly, for that would be of no advantage to you. Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in all things. I urge you the more earnestly to do this in order that I may be restored to you the sooner. Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in you that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

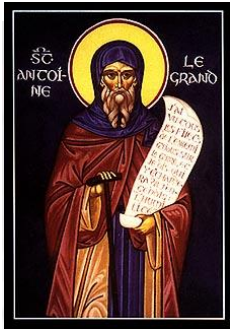


Gospel: Luke 18:18-27

At that time, a ruler asked him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother.'" And he said, "All these I have observed from my youth." And when Jesus heard it, he said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." But when he heard this he became sad, for he was very rich. Jesus looking at him said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." Those who heard it said, "Then who can be saved?" But he said, "What is impossible with men is possible with God."

Readings continued: Saint: Luke 6:17-23

At that time, Jesus stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all the crowd sought to touch him, for power came forth from him and healed them all. And he lifted up his eyes on His disciples, and said: "Blessed are you poor, for yours is the Kingdom of God. Blessed are you that hunger now, for you shall be satisfied. Blessed are you that weep now, for you shall laugh. Blessed are you when men hate you, and when they exclude you and revile you, and cast out your name as evil, on account of the Son of man! Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven."



Venerable and God-bearing Father Anthony the Great

Saint Anthony the Great is known as the Father of monasticism, and the long ascetical sermon in *The Life of St Anthony* by St Athanasius (Sections 16-34), could be called the first monastic Rule.

He was born in Egypt in the village of Coma, near the desert of the Thebaid, in the year 251. His parents were pious Christians of illustrious lineage. Anthony was a serious child and was respectful and obedient to his parents. He loved to attend church services, and he listened to the Holy Scripture so attentively, that he remembered what he heard all his life.



Bulletin Sponsors/Prayer Requests: Use the sign-up sheet at the candle stand for the health of, eternal memory of or a Pannikhida for a loved one or friend, for a donation of \$10. Bulletin Sponsors/Prayer Requests will be remembered during Divine Liturgy for the day/week that you signed up for.

Candles/Memorial Candles: Candles may be purchased at the candle stand, suggested donation of \$10 for a large one and \$2 for a small one.

Private Confessions: Can be heard a half hour before any service. See Father Matthew for other times and **General Confession:** Will be at 9:45 am on the first Sunday of the month.

Pannikhida Service: The third Sunday of each month there will be a Pannikhida after Divine Liturgy. If you would like your loved ones to be remembered please give a list of names to Father Matthew before that Sunday for those to be remembered in the month.

Special Announcements for the bulletin can be submitted by E-Mail:

ChurchMotherOfGod@outlook.com

The Living Clean Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets every Friday from 8-9:15 pm downstairs in the community room.

The Grey Book Step Meeting Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets every Tuesday from 7-8:00 pm downstairs in the community room.



Orthodox Church of the Mother of God: Parish News

Next Council meeting will be January 31, 2016 at 12:15 pm

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held Sunday, February 14, 2016 at 12:15 pm. Please attend. Your voice counts!



NY/NJ Diocese News

Calling all Altar Servers! - 01/14/16

The 6th Annual Altar Servers Retreat will be convened at St. Basil's Academy, Garrison NY on 12-14 February 2016. Last year over 50 participants attended the retreat where they enjoyed fellowship, education, and spiritual enrichment under the guidance of Archbishop Michael. We look forward to another successful retreat where altar servers learn the basics and fundamentals of assisting at Divine Services. A special feature at this year's retreat will be learning how to serve a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy along with how to read and chant in church. Those servers who are interested in attending the retreat should contact their parish priest for information and registration forms. There are no accommodations for women to participate in this event. Registration is now open!



Orthodox Church in America (OCA) News

January 17 is “Sanctity of Life Sunday”

January 17, 2016 will be observed as “Sanctity of Life Sunday” in parishes across the US. Special liturgical petitions and prayers are available on the [Prayers for Orthodox Christians page](#) and in [PDF format](#).

The day serves as a prelude to the annual March for Life, marking the 43rd Anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion in the United States, in the US Capital on Friday, January 22. As in past years, Orthodox Christians from across the country will gather to proclaim the sanctity of God's precious gift of life and to remember the millions of victims abortion has claimed over the past four decades.

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon will be among the Orthodox Christian hierarchs, clergy, seminarians and faithful participating in the annual March for Life in the US Capital on January 22. Among the other members of the Orthodox Church in America's Holy Synod of Bishops expected to participate are His Eminence, Archbishop Benjamin; His Eminence, Archbishop Melchisedek; and His Eminence, Archbishop Michael. As in years past, students from Saint Tikhon's Seminary, South Canaan, PA and Saint Vladimir's Seminary, Yonkers, NY, will be among the marchers.

Orthodox Christian marchers are asked to gather before noon at 17th Street NW and Constitution Avenue—look for the iconic “Orthodox Christians for Life” banner and signs. The pre-March rally will begin at noon with an opening invocation by His Eminence, Metropolitan Evangelos of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey. At the conclusion of the program, participants will make their way to the US Supreme Court. At the end of the March, Metropolitan Tikhon will offer prayers for those who have fallen victim to abortion.

On Friday evening, January 22, a two-day retreat titled “Pro-Life is Pro-Woman” will begin at 4:00 p.m.

at the OCA’s Saint Nicholas Cathedral. Topping the list of speakers will be Khouria Frederica Mathewes-Green, who will be joined by Archpriest Chad Hatfield, Chancellor of Saint Vladimir’s Seminary; Archpriest Eric G. Tosi, OCA Secretary; and Hierodeacon Herman [Majkrzak], Liturgical Music Instructor at Saint Vladimir’s Seminary. While especially geared toward young adults and college students, the retreat will be open to all. [Detailed registration and related information is available](#) on the OCA web site.

Metropolitan Tikhon and the hierarchs also will attend Friday’s annual Rose Banquet, slated to be held at the DC’s Downtown Renaissance Hotel at 6:00 p.m. Pro-Life representatives from all 50 states and abroad are expected to be present.

In related news, His Grace, Bishop Paul will deliver the opening prayer at the 11th annual “March For Life Chicago” on Sunday, January 17 at 2:00 p.m. This year’s March is expected to attract over 10,000 individuals. Marchers are asked to gather at Federal Plaza at 2:00 p.m. for the pre-March rally. [Additional information may be found](#) on the web site of the Diocese of the Midwest.



The Ritsi Family Serving in Albania



Dn. Stephanos Ritsi, son of Father Martin & Presvytera Renee, grew up in the mission fields of Kenya and Albania for ten years. Upon arriving back in the United States the Ritsi family moved to Saint Augustine, Florida. Dn. Stephanos attended his last years of middle school, and high school in Saint Augustine. He then got his Bachelors degree in Political Science from the University of Florida (Go Gators). In 2006, Dn. Stephanos went on a Short Term Missions team to Kenya. On this trip he realized that he was called to become a long term missionary. He applied to Holy Cross School of Theology to prepare himself for missionary service and recently graduated with a Masters of Divinity and a certificate from the Boston Theological Institute in Missions and Ecumenism.

Dkn. Alexandria Ritsi, daughter of Louis and Valerie Polychronopoulos, grew up in a south suburb of Chicago and attended Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church in Palos Hills. She has lived in Chicago all of her life and was very active in her Church community and youth groups. Growing up, Dkn. Alexandria knew she wanted to serve the Church and be a teacher. Dkn. Alexandria went to Hellenic College and while a student there, learned about the missionary ethos of the Orthodox Church. Through experience in Mission Classes offered at Hellenic College, Dkn. Alexandria realized her vocation in becoming a missionary.

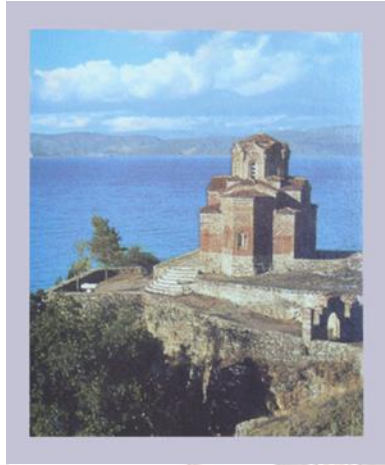
Dn. Stephanos and Dkn. Alexandria met at Holy Cross/Hellenic College in 2008. They were very active in teaching Sunday School and leading retreats serving at Fr. Luke Veronis' Parish of Sts. Constantine and Helen in Webster, Massachusetts.

Together, Dn. Stephanos and Dkn. Alexandria, have traveled to Kenya on OCMC missions teams in 2010 and 2011 to help prepare themselves to become missionaries.

Dn. Stephanos and Dkn. Alexandria were engaged in Yosemite, California in 2009 and married in Saint Augustine, Florida in 2010.

Dn. Stephanos & Dkn. Alexandria arrived in Albania as long term missionaries in April of 2013. Since arriving in Albania, Dn. Stephanos and Dkn. Alexandria have been learning about the Albanian culture and have been studying the Albanian language. On January 22, 2014 Stephanos was ordained to the Diaconate by His Beatitude Archbishop Anastasios.

Dn. Stephanos serves as a Deacon at the Resurrection of Christ Cathedral in Tirana. He also works in the Archdiocesan Young Adult Office as well as teaches at the Resurrection of Christ Seminary. Dkn. Alexandria works at the Protagonist School teaching English, helps with young adult events and is one of the Church photographers. In April of 2015, they welcomed their first son, Moses Anastas. The Ritsi Family look forward to many years serving in Albania.



Prayers by the Lake, St. Nikolai Velimirovich, XL:

With prayer I cleanse the vision of my faith, lest it lose sight of you in the mist, O my Most Radiant Star.

"What use will your prayer be to God?" ask the swarthy workers of the earth.

You speak rightly, sons of earth. What use is the mariner's telescope to the North Star, when it sees the mariner even without a telescope? But do not ask me, since you already know, what use a telescope is to a mariner.

Prayer is necessary for me, lest I lose sight of the salvation-bearing Star, but the Star does not need it to keep from losing me.

What would become of my inner vision, if I were to stop training it with prayer?

Are the soldiers of the earth not trained, extensively and strenuously, to see targets in the distance?

Are weavers of silk not trained, extensively and strenuously, to recognize the finest fibers?

How could I not train the vision of my faith to see my sole treasure as clearly as possible?

Trapped in a web of illusions, I have barely caught sight of a way out, so do you really expect me to lose sight of it?

Get it into your heads, my fellow wayfarers, that seeing God is not a cheap affair. You who sacrifice fortunes to see the luxuriance of the tropics or the polar lights of the arctic, must pay more dearly to see the One for whom the luxuriance of the tropics is poverty and the polar lights are a tallow candle.

When you give even your entire life in order to see Him, you have barely paid a penny. Nevertheless He is magnanimous and good-hearted, and expects nothing more from you than this.

You who train your bodies, who every morning do not forget to exercise your arms and legs, your head and neck, are you in truth contemplative beings--you who are like samurai warriors? Are you in truth contemplative beings, if you maintain that your faith in God will become and remain clairvoyant without training? All the stars of Heaven, which have seen the experience of your fathers, bear witness to me that your faith will go blind, if indeed it had ever even begun to see at all. And in place of the lost blessing there will remain a hypocritical vision in name only.

Keep your eyes blindfolded for just three days, and afterward you will find that the light of the sun hurts them. Sever your bond with God for just three hours and you will find it painful to look at His light again.

You ask me: how long does my prayer last? Can you understand me when I tell you that it lasts longer than my days? For by my prayer I must train your faith also, and open its eyes, and show it how to see and whom it is seeing. Truly, I continuously fill both my days and yours with prayer.

I ceaselessly cense my faith with prayer, lest the scents of the world blind it.

I ceaselessly call upon all the celestial spheres to sustain me in my prayer for everlasting prayerfulness, so that I too may be deemed worthy to gaze upon that Glory and Beauty, which is wide open to their gaze.

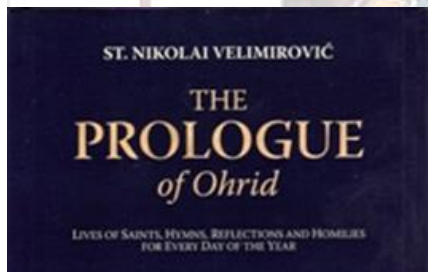
Oh my fellow wayfarers, how majestic is the vision of faith! I swear to you, if you only knew how majestic it is, your prayer would never pause or end.

Sayings of the Ascetics of the Orthodox Church, XXXIX:

**II. The Realities of the Spiritual World
Sin and Evil**

Our world is guided by two principles and sources: God and the devil. All that is better in the world of men has its source in God, and all that is bad has the devil as its principle and source. In the final account, all good comes from God, and all evil from the devil.

St. Justin Popovich, Explanation of I John 3:11



1. Venerable Anthony the Great

Anthony was an Egyptian and was born about the year 250 A.D. in the village of Koman near Herculea. Following the demise of his noble and wealthy parents, he divided the inherited estate with his sister, who was a minor, and provided for her with some relatives. Anthony distributed his half of the estate to the poor and, he, in his twentieth year, dedicated himself to the ascetical life for which he yearned from his childhood. In the beginning Anthony lived a life of asceticism in the proximity of his village but, in order to flee the disturbances of people, he withdrew into the wilderness on the shore of the Red Sea, where he spent twenty years as a recluse not associating with anyone except with God through constant prayer, reflection and contemplation, patiently enduring unspeakable temptations from the devil. His fame spread throughout the entire world and many disciples gathered around him whom he placed on the path of salvation by his example and words. During the eighty-five years of his ascetical life, only twice did he go to Alexandria. The first time to seek martyrdom during the time of the persecution of the Church and, the second time at the invitation of St. Athanasius, in order to refute the accusation of the Arians: supposedly that he, too, was an adherent of the Arian heresy. Anthony died in the one-hundred fifth year of his life, leaving behind an entire army of his disciples and imitators. Even though Anthony was not a scholar, nevertheless, he was a counselor and teacher of the most learned men of that time, as was St. Athanasius the Great. When certain Greek philosophers tempted him with literary wisdom, Anthony shamed them with the question: "Which is older, the understanding or the book? Which of these two was the cause of the other?" Ashamed, the philosophers dispersed for they perceived that they only had literary knowledge without understanding and Anthony had understanding. Here is a man who attained perfection in as far as man, in general, can attain on earth. Here is an instructor to instructors and a teacher to teachers, who, for a full eighty five years perfected himself and only in that way was he able to perfect many others. Filled with many years of life and great works, Anthony died in the Lord in the year 335 A.D.

2. The Holy Emperor Theodosius the Great

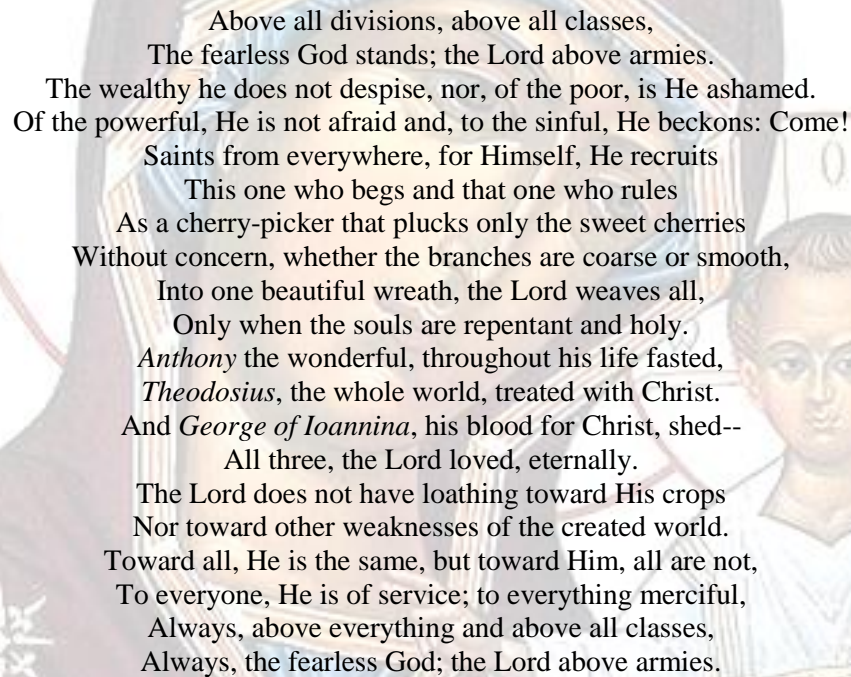
This glorious and zealous emperor in the Faith reigned from 379 A.D. to 395 A.D. Constantine the Great banned the persecution of Christians. Theodosius the Great went one step further, he outlawed the offering of idolatrous sacrifices in his realm. He assisted with strengthening and spreading the Christian Faith throughout the world.

3. The Holy Neo-Martyr George of Ioannina

George was an Albanian. He was born in the village of Churkli, Albania of very impoverished farmer parents. The Turks used force to persuade George to embrace Islam, but he remained steadfast in the Christian Faith for which he was hanged in Ioannina on January 17, 1838 A.D. Even unto today, George is a great miracle-worker and healer.

Hymn of Praise

St. Anthony the Great – St. Theodosius the Great – St. George the New Martyr



Above all divisions, above all classes,
The fearless God stands; the Lord above armies.
The wealthy he does not despise, nor, of the poor, is He ashamed.
Of the powerful, He is not afraid and, to the sinful, He beckons: Come!
Saints from everywhere, for Himself, He recruits
This one who begs and that one who rules
As a cherry-picker that plucks only the sweet cherries
Without concern, whether the branches are coarse or smooth,
Into one beautiful wreath, the Lord weaves all,
Only when the souls are repentant and holy.
Anthony the wonderful, throughout his life fasted,
Theodosius, the whole world, treated with Christ.
And George of Ioannina, his blood for Christ, shed--
All three, the Lord loved, eternally.
The Lord does not have loathing toward His crops
Nor toward other weaknesses of the created world.
Toward all, He is the same, but toward Him, all are not,
To everyone, He is of service; to everything merciful,
Always, above everything and above all classes,
Always, the fearless God; the Lord above armies.

Reflection

St. Anthony teaches: "Learn to love humility, for it will cover all your sins. All sins are repugnant before God but the most repugnant of all is pride of the heart. Do not consider yourself learned and wise; otherwise, all your effort will be destroyed and your boat will reach the harbor empty. If you have great authority, do not threaten anyone with death. Know, that according to nature, you too are susceptible to death and that every soul sheds its body from itself as the final garment." In Byzantium there existed an unusual and instructive custom during the crowning of the emperors in the Church of the Divine Wisdom [St. Sophia]. The custom was that when the patriarch placed the crown on the emperor's head, at the same time, he handed him a silk purse filled with dirt from the grave. Then, even the emperor would recall death and to avoid all pride and become humble.

Contemplation

To contemplate the persecution of the Lord Jesus for righteousness sake:

1. His persecution as a child by Herod;
2. His persecution as a man and Messiah by the Jewish scribes and elders;
3. His persecution as God by many of our contemporary scribes and elders both Jewish and Christian.

Homily:

About two different types of wisdom

"For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in the eyes of God" (1 Corinthians 3:19).

Even this scriptural concept is one great news which Christianity proclaims to the world. One is the wisdom according to God and from God and the other is the wisdom according to the world and from the world. Wisdom, according to God, is from the Holy Spirit. The apostles were filled with such wisdom when the Holy Spirit descended upon them. Wisdom, according to the world, is from the senses and from material and it represents true insanity before God if it is not seasoned and inspired by the Holy Spirit of God.

All worldly wisdom which is guided only by the physical senses, without regard for the Holy Spirit, is insanity before God and before God's angels; for such a wisdom does not perceive either the spirit or the purpose of this world; rather it knows this world only as ashes from without and ashes from within; as ashes which the wind of chance piles up and strews at one moment this way and at another moment that way.

All wisdom of man which is directed only by the senses and by physical conceptions and fantasies is insanity before God and before angels and saints of God, for it does not know man as man; that is, as a spiritual being related to God, rather it knows man only as a body from without and as a body from within; as a body according to form and as a body according to essence. It is the same as if a monkey, looking at an iron locomotive, described it and said, "This is iron on the outside and iron on the inside; iron which heats it and iron which operates it, iron which gives it direction and iron which stops it!"

Brethren, who is able to be filled with the wisdom of God except him who, at first, empties himself of the insanity's of the world? With God's help, each one of us can do this. However, to our desires and to our efforts, without Faith, God's help goes to assist us. For God alone is Goodness, Wisdom and Holiness.

O Good Lord, Wise and Holy, fill us with Your Life-creating wisdom.

To Thee be glory and praise forever. Amen.



The Morning Offering – Daily Inspiration with Abbott Tryphon

Lifeless Prayer

When prayer becomes dry and lifeless

When we find ourselves struggling with prayer, and feel that it has become dry and lifeless, we are sometimes tempted to stop praying. When our prayer has become a struggle, it is good to remember that God knows our needs, and even knows what we want to say when we don't seem to know.

This is the time we need to just pray without worrying about it. When we find we can't keep our minds focused on the formal morning and evening prayers, as found in our prayer book, it is perfectly acceptable to simply light our lampada (hanging oil lamp), sit quietly before our icons, and let silence be our voice.

God wants to enter into our heart, and requires only our permission and cooperation. This relationship does not require an emotional response, for, like all relationships, we are not always open to an emotional response. Being real with God is far more important than being emotional, since emotions can be contrived and fleshly. As in all relationships, there are times when we do feel moved by emotions, but the lack of such feelings in no way represents a lack of love for God, because God cares for us, and God knows we love him, even when suffering in those dry times.

With love in Christ,
Abbot Tryphon



Daily Reflection

Lead us not into Temptation

"...And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from the evil one." (Lk 11: 4)



This part of the Lord's Prayer usually gives rise to questions. But today I'd like to reflect on the answer; the answer to which it points. It points me to the ultimate answer, the ultimate solution to the challenges of "temptation": God's power. The Lord tells me in His prayer something I have been learning from experience: that my own "power," be it of will, of self-knowledge, of scientific or psychological analysis or whatever, is not the ultimate answer to the challenges of "temptation" or "the evil one." While I have found that I can quite ably, at times even scientifically, take apart the workings of the will and mind, I am nonetheless not able to put them back together again. The power to "restore" wholeness to my humanity in its thinking, wanting, and acting, belongs to God. That is to say, "salvation" is a job only He can accomplish, in us and with us.

Today let me focus on the Solution, because the "problem" is well-known to me. Let me seek the power of God throughout my daily routine, in communion with Him. Because I have tried my own power, and failed. Let me let God be the God of my life today, letting His will be done. *"For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen."*

Daily Readings with Early Church Fathers and Mothers

"Good People" from Testimonies of the Twelve Patriarchs

The minds of good people aren't empowered by the deceitful spirit of the devil. For the angel of peace guides their souls. They don't gaze passionately on corruptible things or gather riches for their pleasure. They don't delight in pleasure. They don't hurt their neighbors. They don't gorge themselves with food. They don't sin through prideful eyes, for the Lord is their portion. The good mind doesn't accept the glory and dishonor of people and it doesn't deceive, lie, fight, or curse. For the Lord dwells in these people and light up their souls. they are always joyful towards everyone. Their good mind doesn't have two tongues of blessing and cursing, insult and honor, sorrow and joy, quietness and trouble, hypocrisy and truth, or poverty and wealth, but they have one frame of mind toward everyone: pure and uncorrupted. They don't have double sight or double hearing because in everything they do, speak, or see, they know that the Lord is watching their souls. They cleanse their minds so that they won't be condemned by God or other

people.

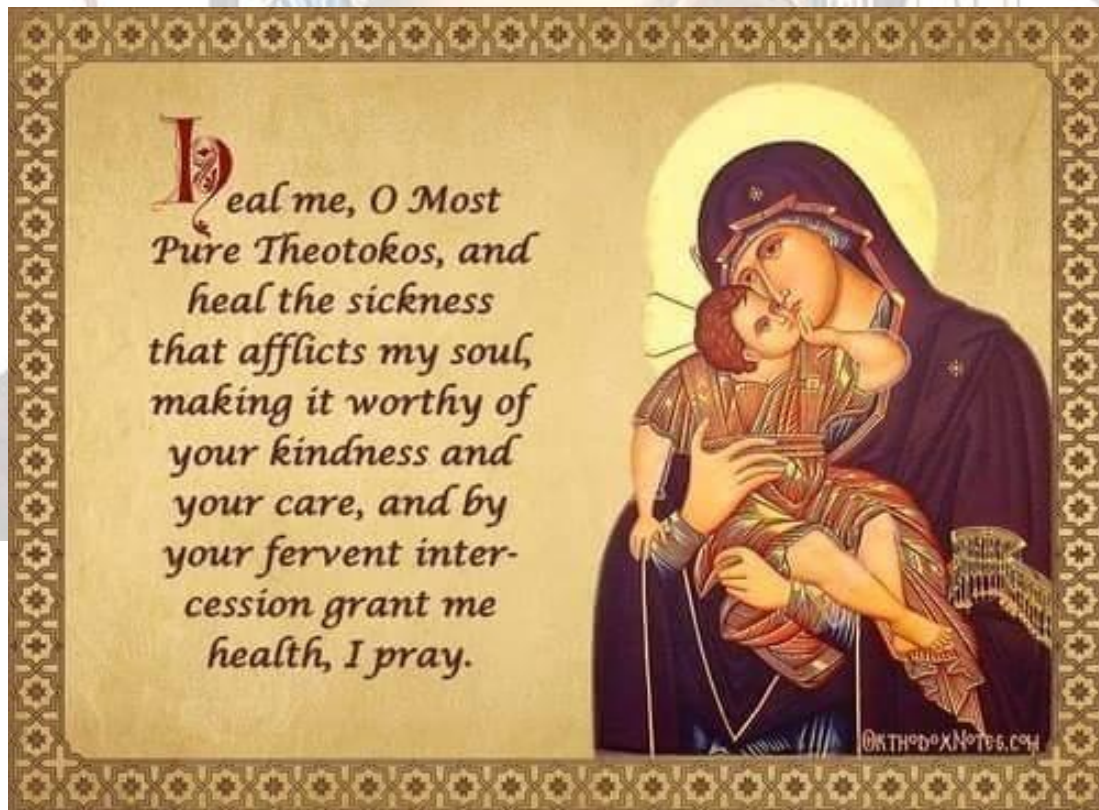
"Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter? Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh." James 3:11-12

From Hudson, CD, Sharrer, JA, and Vanker, L. Day by Day with the Early Church Fathers. Hendrickson: MA, 1999. Pg. 291.

The Philokalia: Daily Readings

God created both the invisible and the visible worlds, and so He obviously also made both the soul and the body. If the visible world is so beautiful, what must the invisible world be like? And if the invisible world is superior to the visible world, how much superior to both is God their Creator?

- St Maximus the Confessor, 400 Chapters on Love



January – 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 8:00-9:15pm – Living Clean NA Group Mtg.	2 6:30 Vespers
3 9:30 No School 9:40 Hours 9:45 Gen'l Confession 10:00 Divine Liturgy / Social	4	5 6:30 Theophany 7:00-8:00pm – The Grey Book Step Mtg. NA Grp	6	7	8 8:00-9:15pm – Living Clean NA Group Mtg.	9 6:30 Vespers
10 9:30 Sunday School 9:40 Hours 10:00 Divine Liturgy / Social	11	12 7:00-8:00pm – The Grey Book Step Mtg. NA Grp	13	14	15 8:00-9:15pm – Living Clean NA Group Mtg.	16 6:30 Vespers
17 9:30 Sunday School 9:40 Hours 10:00 Divine Liturgy / Social	18	19 7:00-8:00pm – The Grey Book Step Mtg. NA Grp	20	21	22 8:00-9:15pm – Living Clean NA Group Mtg.	23 6:30 Vespers
24 9:30 Sunday School 9:40 Hours 10:00 Divine Liturgy/ Social	25	26 7:00-8:00pm – The Grey Book Step Mtg. NA Grp	27	28	29 8:00-9:15pm – Living Clean NA Group Mtg.	30 6:30 Vespers
31 9:30 Sunday School 9:40 Hours 10:00 Divine Liturgy/ Social 12:15 Council Mtg.						