



NEWSLETTER & DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

17th Week after Pentecost

Monday, September 28 — Sunday, October 4, 2020



**Great Martyr Euphēmia the
All-praised**



**Martyr Sophia and her three
daughters at Rome**



**Greatmartyr Eustáthios
Placidus, with his wife and
children, of Rome**

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~ A NOTE FROM FATHER JOHN ~

Many people find themselves in a state of total dejection. Many young people find life hopeless or at least living in a state of fear that leads to hopelessness. Like the Prodigal son who sold all of his living and was eating husks, the pigs' food, we can wake up and go home to our Father who will greet us with open arms, kill the fatted calf and celebrate our return. The return is a result of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, dying on the Cross, rising from the dead, ascending to Heaven and sitting at the Right hand of God and sending down the Holy Spirit. The Resurrection gives all of us hope and all hope exists in Jesus Christ. In the Gospel of St. John, chapter 3:16, he says, “For God so loved the world that He gave His Only Begotten Son, that whoso ever believes on Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” It is our passion to love God and love our neighbor that keeps our life in obedience to God. We can accomplish this by sharing our experience of the Resurrection with everyone we meet. In Sothern California, we have mountains, an ocean with beautiful beaches and in general a myriad of distractions. In all this people still find their way to all of life's difficulties. Our job is to give each soul we encounter hope.

Glory to Jesus Christ!

~ “TWITTER SUMMARY” ~

The main points from Sunday's sermon, in 280 characters or less!

We perform rituals and create superstitions all the time in the secular world. We need to recognize our behaviors and make sure that they are aligned with Christ, not the world. This world is not the end of life. We do not want anything to stand between us and the resurrection. When we live in remembrance of death, death has no sting.

~ THOUGHTS FOR EVERY DAY ~

Scripture and liturgical readings to enrich your prayer life every day of the week

<p align="center">~ MONDAY~ (9/28)</p> <p>Holy Scripture: Ephesians 1:22-2:3 Mark 10:46-52</p> <p>Excerpt from the Menaion: Troparion of the Holy Greatmartyr Nicetas in Tone IV — Taking up the Cross of Christ ardently, as it were a sword,/ thou didst make haste to do battle with the enemy,/ and, suffering for Christ, thou didst at last commit thy sacred soul to the Lord,/ and hence thou hast been vouchsafed to receive from Him gifts of healing,/ O greatmartyr Nicetas. Entreat Christ God that our souls be saved.</p> <p>Commemoration of the Day: Great-martyr Nicetas the Goth (372)</p>	<p align="center">~ TUESDAY~ (9/29)</p> <p>Holy Scripture: Ephesians 2:19-3:7 Mark 11:11-23</p> <p>Excerpt from the Menaion: Troparion of the Holy Greatmartyr Euphemia in Tone IV — Thy ewe-lamb Euphemia crieth out to Thee with a loud voice, O Jesus:/ "I love Thee, O my Bridegroom,/ and, seeking Thee, I pass through many struggles:/ I am crucified and buried with Thee in Thy baptism / and suffer for Thy sake, that I may reign with Thee;/ I die for Thee that I might live with Thee./ As an unblemished sacrifice accept me,/ who sacrifice myself with love for Thee// By her supplications save Thou our souls, in that Thou art merciful.</p> <p>Commemoration of the Day: Great-martyr Euphemia the All-praised, of Chalcedon (304)</p>
<p align="center">~ WEDNESDAY~ (9/30)</p> <p>Holy Scripture: Ephesians 3:8-21 Mark 11:23-26</p> <p>Excerpt from the Menaion: Martyrs Sophia and her three daughters, Troparion in Tone IV — In their sufferings, O Lord, / Thy martyrs received imperishable crowns from Thee our God; / for, possessed of Thy might, / they set at nought the tormentors and crushed the feeble audacity of the demons.// by their supplications save Thou our souls.</p> <p>Commemoration of the Day:</p>	<p align="center">~ THURSDAY~ (10/1)</p> <p>Holy Scripture: Ephesians 4:14-19 Mark 11:27-33</p> <p>Excerpt from the Menaion: Venerable Father Eumenius, Bishop of Gortyna, the Wonderworker, Troparion of the Hierarch in Tone IV — The truth of things revealed thee to thy flock as a rule of faith, / a model of meekness and a teacher of abstinence/ wherefore thou hast attained the heights through humility/ and riches through poverty.// O hierarch Eumenius our father, entreat Christ God that our souls be saved.</p>

<p>Martyrs Sophia and her three daughters: Faith (Vera), Hope (Nadezhda), and Love (Lyubov), at Rome (137)</p>	<p>Commemoration of the Day: Venerable Eumenes, bishop of Gortyna (7th c.)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">~ FRIDAY ~ (10/2)</p> <p>Holy Scripture: Ephesians 4:17-25 Mark 12:1-12</p> <p>Excerpt from the Menaion: Holy Martyrs Trophimus, Sabbatius and Dorymedon, Troparion in Tone VIII — <i>God Who is glorified in Trinity hath glorified a trinity of martyrs:/ Trophimus, Sabbatius and Dorymedon./ For, believing in Him, they cast down the enemy.// By their supplications, O Christ God, have mercy upon us.</i></p> <p>Commemoration of the Day: St. Theodore, prince of Smolensk and Yaroslav (1299), and his children Sts. David and Constantine.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">~ SATURDAY ~ (10/3)</p> <p>Holy Scripture: 1 Corinthians 14:20-25 Matthew 25:1-13</p> <p>Excerpt from the Menaion: Holy Greatmartyr Eustathius and those with him, Troparion of the martyrs in Tone IV — <i>In their sufferings, O Lord,/ Thy martyrs received imperishable crowns from Thee our God;/ for, possessed of Thy might,/ they set at nought the tormentors and crushed the feeble audacity of the demons.// By their supplications save Thou our souls.</i></p> <p>Commemoration of the Day: Great-martyr Eustathius (Eustace) Placidus, his wife Martyr Theopistes, and their children Martyrs Agapius and Theopistus, of Rome (118)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">~ SUNDAY ~ (10/4)</p> <p>Holy Scripture: 2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1 Matthew 15:21-28</p> <p>Excerpt from the Menaion : Demetrius of Rostov, the Wonderworker, The Troparion of the Hierarch in Tone VIII — <i>O lover of Orthodoxy and uprooter of schism, healer of Russia and new advocate before God, by thy writings thou didst heal the minds of the foolish. O blessed Demetrius, thou harp of the Spirit, entreat Christ God, that our souls may be saved.</i></p> <p>Commemoration of the Day: Uncovering of the relics (1752) of St. Demetrius, metropolitan of Rostov (1709)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">“Their sound hath gone forth into all the earth, * their words unto the ends of the world.”</p> <p>[Prokeimenon of Pentecost, Tone 8, Liturgy]</p> <p>To read more: https://www.holytrinityorthodox.com/calendar/</p>

~ PONDER THIS ~

A few thoughts to ponder in light of this week's lessons and sermons.

<https://www.oca.org/orthodoxy/the-orthodox-faith/worship/the-church-year/elevation-of-the-cross>

Elevation of the Cross

The holy day of the Elevation of the Cross, although it has an obviously “political” origin, has a place of great significance in the Church today. It remains with us as a day of fasting and prayer, a day when we recall that the Cross is the only sign worthy of our total allegiance, and that our salvation comes not by “victories” of any earthly sort but by the only true and lasting victory of the crucifixion of Christ and our co-crucifixion with him.

When we elevate the Cross and bow down before it in veneration and worship to God, we proclaim that we belong to the Kingdom “not of this world,” and that our only true and enduring citizenship is with the saints in the “city of God” (Eph 2.19; Heb 11.10; Rev 21–22).

(... TO CONTINUE READING, CLICK ON THE LINK ABOVE)

~LOOK IT UP~

Did you know: When the Cross of Christ was found, with it were the other two crosses, those used to crucify the two thieves on either side of Christ. The sign with the inscription, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews", also lay among the three crosses. In order to determine which one was the true cross, a sick woman was told to kiss each of the three crosses. The woman kissed the first cross with no result. She kissed the second cross and again nothing happened. However, when the ailing woman kissed the True Cross, she was immediately made well. It so happened that a funeral procession was passing that way, and so the body of the dead man was placed on each of the crosses, and when it was placed on the True Cross, the dead man came to life.

Read more: https://orthodoxwiki.org/Elevation_of_the_Holy_Cross

~ PRAYER CORNER ~

- Father John and Matushka Deborah.
- Please keep in prayer our older parishioners who, if they contract the COVID-19 virus, will be in greater risk of serious health complications.
- Anna and her family
- Please keep in prayer our heroic parishioners who work in the health care profession and are on the front lines of our society's fight against the Novel Corona Virus and COVID-19 disease.

~ THIS WEEK'S SERVICES ~

Monday	6pm - Vespers (Facebook Live)
Tuesday	8am - Divine Liturgy 6pm - Vespers (Facebook Live)
Wednesday	8am - Divine Liturgy 6pm - Vespers (Facebook Live) 6:40 - Akathist: St. Nicholas the Wonderworker 7pm - Studies in the Faith Class (Facebook Live)
Thursday	6pm - Vespers (Facebook Live) 6:40 - Akathist: Joy of All Who Sorrow
Friday	6pm - Vespers (Facebook Live)
Saturday	7am - Matins 8:30 - Divine Liturgy 5pm - Vigil (Facebook Live)
Sunday	9am - Divine Liturgy

~ BOOKSTORE ~

- New extra-large icons from Russia!
- *The Heavenly Banquet: Understanding the Divine Liturgy* by Fr. Emmanuel Hatzidakis now in stock!

To submit **commemorations for the next Divine Liturgy**, to make an appointment with Fr. John to give **confession by telephone**, to alert us to any pastoral needs, to submit an item for the **Prayer Corner**, or just to chat, please contact Fr. John or Mat. Deborah using the following contact information:

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Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!