NEWSLETTER & DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

Week of the Publican and the Pharisee

Monday, February 22 — Sunday, February 28, 2021

Venerable Demetrius, Wonderworker of Priluki, Vologda

Saint Alexis, Metropolitan of Moscow, Wonderworker of All Russia

Repose of Saint Cyril, Equal of the Apostles and Teacher of the Slavs
~ A NOTE FROM FATHER JOHN ~

“For false christs and false prophets shall rise and shall show signs and wonders to seduce if it were possible even the elect” [Mark, Chapter 9]. God called you out of the world. When you were baptized, you died to this world. In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit you went into the water and you came out reborn. Then you were sealed with the Holy Spirit. So, now all you ever have to do is to stay with God. No sin is ever necessary. We must cling to virtue as our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ shows us daily.

Glory to Jesus Christ!

~ “TWITTER SUMMARY” ~

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

St Symeon says we must try to be unleashed from the things that bind us to this world. Even when we do good, we like to get credit. Humility is the force that will drive us closer to God. May we glorify God for all things!
<p>| ~ THOUGHTS FOR EVERY DAY ~ |<br />
| --- | --- |
| Scripture and liturgical readings to enrich your prayer life every day of the week |<br />
| ~ MONDAY~ | ~ TUESDAY~ |
| <strong>(2/22)</strong> | <strong>(2/23)</strong> |
| <strong>Holy Scripture:</strong> | <strong>Holy Scripture:</strong> |
| 2 Peter 1:20-2:9 | 2 Peter 2:9-22 |
| Mark 13:9-13 | Mark 13:14-23 |
| <strong>Excerpt from the Menaion:</strong> | <strong>Excerpt from the Menaion:</strong> |
| <em>Holy Martyr Nicephorus, Troparion, Tone IV</em> — | <em>Holy Hieromartyr Charalampius, Troparion, Tone IV</em> — |
| In his suffering, O Lord, Thy martyr Nicephorus received an imperishable crown from Thee our God; for, possessed of Thy might, he set at nought the tormentors and crushed the feeble audacity of the demons. // By his supplications save Thou our souls. | In his suffering, O Lord, Thy martyr Charalampius received an imperishable crown from Thee our God; for, possessed of Thy might, he set at nought the tormentors and crushed the feeble audacity of the demons. // By his supplications save Thou our souls. |
| <strong>Commemoration of the Day:</strong> | <strong>Commemoration of the Day:</strong> |
| Martyr Nicephorus of Antioch (ca. 257) | Hieromartyr Charalampus, bishop of Magnesia in Thessaly, and Martyrs Porphyrius and Baptus (202) |
| ~ WEDNESDAY~ | ~ THURSDAY~ |
| <strong>(2/24)</strong> | <strong>(2/25)</strong> |
| <strong>Holy Scripture:</strong> | <strong>Holy Scripture:</strong> |
| 2 Peter 3:1-18 | 1 John 1:8-2:6 |
| Mark 13:24-31 | Mark 13:31-14:2 |
| <strong>Excerpt from the Menaion:</strong> | <strong>Excerpt from the Menaion:</strong> |
| <em>Holy Hieromartyr Blaise, Troparion, Tone IV</em> — | <em>St. Alexis, metropolitan of Moscow, Troparion, in Tone VIII</em> — |
| As thou didst share in the ways of the apostles/ and didst occupy their throne,/ thou didst find thine activity to be a passage to divine vision,/ O divinely inspired one./ Wherefore, ordering the word of truth,/ thou didst suffer for the Faith even to the shedding of thy blood./ O hieromartyr Blaise, entreat Christ God, that our souls be saved. | Hastening to thy precious shrine, O holy hierarch Alexis, divinely wise wonder-worker, assembling with love, we celebrate with splendor the memory of thee who art equally enthroned with the apostles, the all-good physician, the right pleasing servant; and we rejoice with songs and hymns, glorifying Christ Who hath given thee such grace to heal and bestowed upon thy city so great a bulwark. |
| <strong>Commemoration of the Day:</strong> | <strong>Commemoration of the Day:</strong> |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hieromartyr Blaise, bishop of Sebaste (316)</th>
<th>St. Alexis, metropolitan of Moscow and wonderworker of all Russia (1378)</th>
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</table>
| **~ FRIDAY~**  
(2/26) |  
 **Holy Scripture:**  
1 John 2:7-17  
Mark 14:3-9  
**Excerpt from the Menaion:**  
Venerable Father Martinian, Troparion, Tone VIII —  
With the streams of thy tears thou didst quench the flames of temptations, O blessed one,/ and taming the billows of the sea and the raging of wild beasts, thou didst cry out:// Most glorious art Thou, O Almighty, Who savest me from fire and tempest!  
**Commemoration of the Day:**  
Venerable Martinian, monk, of Caesarea in Palestine (422) |
| **~ SATURDAY ~**  
(2/27) |  
 **Holy Scripture:**  
2 Timothy 3:1-9  
Luke 20:46-21:4  
**Excerpt from the Menaion:**  
Venerable Father Auxentius, Troparion, Tone I —  
A dweller in the desert, an angel in the flesh/ and a wonder-worker wast thou shown to be,/ O our God-bearing father Auxentius./ Receiving heavenly gifts through fasting, vigils and prayers,/ thou healest the infirm/ and the souls of those who with faith have recourse unto thee/ Glory to Him Who hath given thee strength!/ Glory to Him Who hath crowned thee!/ Glory to Him Who worketh healings for all through thee!  
**Commemoration of the Day:**  
Venerable Auxentius, monk of Bithynia (470) |
| **~ SUNDAY ~**  
(2/28) |  
 **Holy Scripture:**  
1 Corinthians 6:12-20  
Luke 15:11-32  
**Excerpt from the Menaion:**  
Holy Apostle Onesimus, Troparion, Tone III —  
O holy apostle Onesimus/ entreat the merciful God/ that He grant to our souls remission of transgressions.  
**Commemoration of the Day:**  
Apostle Onesimus of the Seventy (109) |
| *“Their sound hath gone forth into all the earth, their words unto the ends of the world.”*  
[Prokeimenon of Pentecost, Tone 8, Liturgy]  
To read more:  
[https://www.holytrinityorthodox.com/calendar/](https://www.holytrinityorthodox.com/calendar/) |
~ PONDER THIS ~

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

**Meeting of the Lord**

The lesson to be learned is that we possess neither the Pharisee’s religious piety, nor the Publican’s repentance, through which we can be saved. We are called to see ourselves as we really are in the light of Christ’s teaching, asking Him to be merciful to us, deliver us from sin, and to lead us on the path of salvation.

~LOOK IT UP ~

Did you know: In the year 862 began the chief exploit of the holy brothers [Sts Cyril & Methodius]. At the request of Prince Rostislav, the emperor sent them to Moravia to preach Christianity in the Slavic language. Saints Cyril and Methodius by a revelation from God compiled a Slavonic alphabet and translated the Gospel, Epistles, the Psalter and many Service books into the Slavonic language. They introduced divine services in Slavonic.

Read more: [https://orthochristian.com/101244.html](https://orthochristian.com/101244.html)

~ PRAYER CORNER ~

- Father John and Matushka Deborah.
- Healthcare workers and anyone at risk of contracting the COVID virus
- Anna and her family
~ BOOKSTORE ~

- New extra-large icons from Russia!
- *The Heavenly Banquet: Understanding the Divine Liturgy* by Fr. Emmanuel Hatzidakis now in stock!
- New to the bookstore: Writings of St Ephraim, St Gregory, & St Dionysios

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!