



NEWSLETTER & DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

17th Week after Pentecost

Monday, October 11 — Sunday, October 17, 2021



**Hieromartyr Gregory, bishop
of Greater Armenia**



**Hieromartyr Cyprian,
Virgin-martyr Justina and
Martyr Theoctist of
Nicomedia**



**Hieromartyr Dionysius the
Areopagite**

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~ A NOTE FROM FATHER JOHN ~

We come to Church with the expectation that we will draw closer to God. St John Chrysostom says, “You can not pray at home, like you can at church, where there is a great multitude; where exclamations are cried out to God as from one great heart, and where there is something more: the unions of minds, the accord of souls, the bond of charity, the prayers of priests.” It is the joining together in prayer, “Where two or more are gathered in His Name,” that unifies our voice to God and makes for a powerful prayer. Coming to Church to pray also draws us closer to God through the beautiful icons, hymnography and theology being presented in each service. If you include the community, the scent of incense, and the beautiful singing, it takes our minds and hearts to God where we fulfill the first commandment, to love God with all our heart mind and soul and to then be able to love our neighbor as our self.

Glory to Jesus Christ!

— Fr. John

~ TWITTER SUMMARY ~

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

It is up to Christ whether He will save us and whether we will live another day. We live in a world of confusion, but the winds and the waves of this world are stilled by trust in Christ.

~ THOUGHTS FOR EVERY DAY ~

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

<p align="center">~ MONDAY ~ (10/11)</p> <p>Holy Scripture: Ephesians 1:22-2:3 Luke 4:37-44</p> <p>Excerpt from the Menaion: St. Chariton of Palestine, Troparion in Tone VIII — With the streams of thy tears thou didst irrigate the barren desert,/ and with sighs from the depths of thy soul thou didst render thy labors fruitful an hundredfold./ Thou wast a beacon for the whole world, radiating miracles.// O our father Chariton , entreat Christ God that our souls be saved.</p> <p>Commemoration of the Day: Venerable Chariton the Confessor, abbot of Palestine (350)</p>	<p align="center">~ TUESDAY~ (10/12)</p> <p>Holy Scripture: Ephesians 2:19-3:7 Luke 5:12:16</p> <p>Excerpt from the Menaion: Venerable Father Cyriacus the Anchorite, Troparion in Tone I — A desert dweller, an angel in the flesh,/ and a wonderworker wast thou shown to be,/ O our God-bearing father Cyriacus,/ for having acquired heavenly gifts through fasting, vigilance, and prayer,/ thou dost heal the infirm,/ and the souls of those who have recourse to thee with faith./ 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!</p> <p>Commemoration of the Day: Venerable Cyriacus the Hermit of Palestine (556)</p>
<p align="center">~ WEDNESDAY~ (10/13)</p> <p>Holy Scripture: Ephesians 3:8-21 Luke 5:33-39</p> <p>Excerpt from the Menaion: Holy Hieromartyr Gregory of Greater Armenia, Troparion in Tone IV — 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 Gregory, entreat Christ God, that our souls be saved.</p>	<p align="center">~ THURSDAY~ (10/14)</p> <p>Holy Scripture: Hebrews 9:1-7 Epistle, Theotokos Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28 Gospel, Theotokos</p> <p>Excerpt from the Menaion: Protection of the Theotokos, Troparion, Tone IV — Overshadowed by thy coming, O Mother of God,/ we the right faithful people, celebrate today with splendor,/ and gazing at thine all-precious image,/ we say with compunction:/ Cover us with thy precious omophorion,/ and deliver us from all evil,// entreating thy Son, Christ our God, that He save our souls.</p>

<p>Commemoration of the Day: Hieromartyr Gregory, bishop of Greater Armenia (335)</p>	<p>Commemoration of the Day: The Protection of Our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">~ FRIDAY ~ (10/15)</p> <p>Holy Scripture: Ephesians 4:17-25 Luke 6:17-23</p> <p>Excerpt from the Menaion: Holy Hieromartyr Cyprian & Holy Martyr Justina, Troparion, Tone IV — 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 Cyprian, entreat Christ God, that our souls be saved.</p> <p>Commemoration of the Day: Hieromartyr Cyprian, Virgin-martyr Justina and Martyr Theoctist of Nicomedia (304)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">~ SATURDAY ~ (10/16)</p> <p>Holy Scripture: 1 Corinthians 14:20-25 Luke 5:17-26</p> <p>Excerpt from the Menaion: St. Dionysius the Areopagite, Troparion, Tone IV — Having learned goodness and been watchful in all things,/ arrayed as befitteth a priest, in a good conscience,/ thou didst draw forth ineffable things from the chosen vessel;/ and, having kept the Faith, thou didst complete a course like unto his.// O hieromartyr Dionysius, entreat Christ God, that our souls be saved.</p> <p>Commemoration of the Day: Hieromartyr Dionysius (Dennys) the Areopagite, and with him Martyrs Rusticus and Eleutherius (96)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">~ SUNDAY ~ (10/17)</p> <p>Holy Scripture: 2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1 Luke 6:31-36</p> <p>Excerpt from the Menaion : Holy Hieromartyr Hierotheus, Bishop of Athens, Troparion, Tone IV — Having learned goodness and been watchful in all things,/ arrayed as befitteth a priest, in a good conscience,/ thou didst draw forth ineffable things from the chosen vessel;/ and, having kept the Faith, thou didst complete a course like his.// O hieromartyr Hierotheus, entreat Christ God, that our souls be saved.</p> <p>Commemoration of the Day: Hieromartyr Hierotheus, bishop of Athens (1st c.)</p>	<p>“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.

**Hieromartyr Gregory, Bishop of Greater Armenia, Equal of the Apostles,
Enlightener of Armenia**

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2014/09/30/102818-hieromartyr-gregory-bishop-of-greater-armenia-equal-of-the-apost>

Saint Gregory was suspended head downward, with a stone about his neck, and for several days they choked him with a foul-smelling smoke, they beat and ridiculed him, and forced him to walk in iron sandals inset with nails.

During these torments, Saint Gregory sang Psalms. In prison the Lord healed all his wounds. When Gregory stood before the King cheerful and unharmed, he was astonished and ordered that the torments be repeated. Saint Gregory endured them, not wavering, with his former determination and bearing. They then poured hot tin over him and threw him into a pit filled with snakes, scorpions, and other poisonous creatures. The Lord, however, spared His chosen one, and he was left unharmed.

Some pious women kept him alive for fourteen years by feeding him with bread, secretly lowering it into the pit. A holy angel appeared to the martyr, strengthening and encouraging him. During this time King Tiridates killed the holy virgin Saint Ripsimia (Ριψιμία, or Ριψίμη), the Eldress Gaiané (Γαϊανή), and 32 other Virgin Martyrs (some sources say 35) from Asia Minor. Tiridates, who seemed to have lost his mind after this, recovered six days later. Then the wrath of God struck King Tiridates, his associates, and the soldiers who had participated in the execution of the virgins. Beset by demons, their appearance resembled wild boars, as once happened to Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 4:30). Running through forests and fields, they tore their clothes and devoured their own flesh.

Saint Gregory was taken from the pit, and then he was washed, dressed in clean clothes, and fed. Then he was led to the King. Everyone bowed before him, begging him to ask God to heal the King as well as the others responsible for killing the Holy Virgin Martyrs. First, the Saint asked about their relics, which remained unburied for nine days. Saint Gregory buried the bodies, and then began preaching to the people, urging them to turn away from the

darkness of idolatry and toward Christ. The people came to believe in Christ, and wanted to build a large church. When it was completed, Saint Gregory had the relics of the holy nuns brought into it. Then he led King Tiridates to the church before the bodies of the Saints whom he had slain, so that they might pray to Christ for him. He repented, and at once his face was restored to its original appearance once more.

~LOOK IT UP~

Did you know: The Life of Sts. Cyprian and Justina gives one of the fullest accounts in Christian literature of sorcery and its power over men—and its final defeat by the power of Christ. It is not the product of someone's imagination, but is based on the first-hand testimony of one who was a leading servant of the demons himself.

Read more: http://orthodoxinfo.com/death/cyprian_justina.aspx

~ PRAYER CORNER ~

- Fr Moses
 - Alexander Dubravka
 - Oleg
 - Sr Verena
 - Vaughn
 - Archbishop Benjamin
 - Archpriest Anthony
 - Archpriest Michael
 - Fr John & Mat Deborah
 - John Westley
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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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Matushka Deborah Tomasi * (310) 849-9451 * deborahTomasi@yahoo.com

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!