

January 25, 2015

Bulletin

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

Orthodox Church in America

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St. Basil the Great, St. Gregory the Theologian, St. John Chrysostom

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2015 33rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 8. St. Gregory the Theologian, Archbishop of Constantinople (389). Sunday of Zacchaeus. St. Moses, Archbishop of Novgorod (1362). Martyrs Felicitas of Rome, and seven sons: Januarius, Felix, Philip, Silvanus, Alexander, Vitalis and Martial (ca. 164). Ven. Publius, Ascetic, of Syria (ca. 380). St. Mares the Singer, of Syria (ca. 430). Icons of the Most-holy Theotokos, “ASSUAGE MY SORROW” (translation to Moscow in 1640), and “THE UNEXPECTED JOY.”

TROPARIA

(Tone 8) Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One! Thou didst accept the three day burial to free us from our sufferings! O Lord, our Life and Resurrection: glory to Thee!

(Tone 1) The sweet-sounding shepherd’s pipe of thy theology overpowered the trumpeting of the orators; for eloquence was also bestowed on you as on one searching the depths of the Spirit. Pray to Christ our God, O Father Gregory, that our souls may be saved!

(Tone 4) In truth you were revealed to your flock as a rule of faith, a model of meekness, and teacher of abstinence, so you won the heights by humility, and riches by poverty, O Holy Father Nicholas, intercede with Christ God to save our souls.

KONTAKION

(Tone 1) By Thy Nativity Thou didst sanctify the Virgin’s womb! And didst bless Simeon’s hands, O Christ God. Now Thou hast come and saved us through love. Grant peace to all Orthodox Christians, O only Lover of Man!

The Prokeimenon in the First Tone: My mouth shall speak wisdom / and the meditation of my heart shall be understanding.

v: Hear this, all peoples! Give ear, all inhabitants of the world.

THE READING FROM THE EPISTLE OF THE HOLY APOSTLE PAUL TO THE HEBREWS (7:26-

8:2) Brethren: Brethren: it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, unstained, separated from sinners, exalted above the heavens. He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people; he did this once for all when he offered up himself. Indeed, the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect for ever. Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, a minister in the sanctuary and the true tent which is set up not by man but by the Lord.

Alleluia, Tone 8

v. Come let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior!

v. Let us come before His face with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT LUKE (19:1-10)

At that time Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector, and rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was to pass that way. When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today.” So he made haste and came down, and received him joyfully. And when they saw it they all murmured, “He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.” And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded any one of anything, I restore it fourfold.” And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost.”

COMMUNION HYMN

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

During the week of January 25, the Church commemorates some of the great Fathers of the early Church, particularly Gregory the Theologian, John Chrysostom, and Basil the Great.

These three bishops and theologians of the late fourth century, who lived in Asia Minor and Constantinople, grace the cover of a new book entitled *Wisdom for Today from the Early Church: A Foundational Study* by Dr. David C. Ford (St. Tikhon's Monastery Press, 2014). The author says that he chose to feature them there "as being representative of all the Saints of the first several centuries of the Christian era – who together, by the grace of the Holy Spirit, made possible the forging of the Christian world."

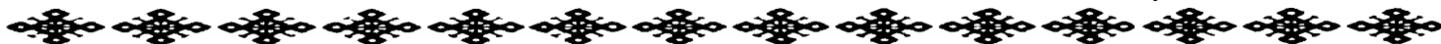
The first chapter of the book is entitled "An Orthodox Understanding of the Book of Acts." This chapter gives the Orthodox reader an invaluable perspective, showing how Acts is the basis of the Church's practice and physical structure. Going verse by verse, Dr. Ford provides insights that won't be found in many other commentaries on Acts. For example, he writes about verses 3: 1-3, in which Peter and John go to the temple at hour of prayer, that the ethnically-Jewish early Christians continued their venerable practice of worshipping four times a day. He then adds that the Orthodox Church, to this day, "has services called the Hours, one for each of these four times."

Dr. Ford deftly interweaves events in the contemporary Church with Acts, as well. Writing about verses 9:3-6, in which Christ appears to Saul on the road to Damascus, he describes the vision of Christ experienced by Daniel Byantoro, a young Muslim, who became the first Indonesian Orthodox convert and later priest and apostle to his homeland.

Chapter 2 carries on the story of the early Church after Acts, and is called "The Apostolic Fathers Encourage and Teach the Faithful." Dr. Ford describes and quotes from several of these early Fathers, again giving insights that may be new to many readers, and will be valuable to all. From "The Letter to Diognetus", written by an unknown author to someone inquiring about the Christian faith, he takes these words describing the life of believers: "For they dwell in their own countries, but only as sojourners; they bear their share in all things as citizens, and they endure all hardships as strangers ...They marry like all other men and they beget children, but they do not cast away their offspring. They have meals in common, but not their wives." The "otherness" of Christians has often been described, but this description is particularly memorable.

The remaining chapters, taking the reader through several more centuries of Church history, are filled with relevant quotations and comments. The writing is appealingly simple but still scholarly, telling the Church's story in ways that encourage reflection and further study. The book's Orthodox perspective adds another layer of enjoyment and value for those who want to learn more about the complicated, fascinating history of the Church.

January 25, 2015



CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE HEALTH AND BLESSINGS OF

- Special Intention Joe Tome
- Health & God’s Blessings John & Gloria Zelenko, Paul Nikoloff,
Stojan & Mira Prusac, Anne Smith Sredich Family
- Special Intention Eugene Akkerman
- Health & God’s Blessings Fr. Thomas Hopko Adams Family
- Fr. Ilya, Fr. Thomas, Fr. Moses, Fr. Lawrence, Fr. Joe, Deacon Anthony, John,
Joseph, Tula, Reggie, Stojan & Mira, Evanka, Walt & Zina, Dorothy, Bosa,

Sunday Offerings for January 18, 2015

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| <i>Weekly Offering Envelope</i> | <i>\$965.00</i> |
| <i>Children's Offering</i> | <i>\$0.00</i> |
| <i>Cemetery Maintenance</i> | <i>\$0.00</i> |
| <i>Charity Envelope</i> | <i>\$20.00</i> |
| <i>Love Inc</i> | <i>\$0.00</i> |
| <i>Diocesan Support</i> | <i>\$0.00</i> |
| <i>OCA Envelope</i> | |
| <i>Charities</i> | <i>\$0.00</i> |
| <i>Missions</i> | <i>\$0.00</i> |
| <i>Candle Fund</i> | <i>\$80.00</i> |
| <i>Coffee Hour</i> | <i>\$0.00</i> |
| <i>Seminarian Fund</i> | <i>\$0.00</i> |
| <i>Loose Offering</i> | <i>\$29.00</i> |
| <i>Kiosk</i> | <i>\$0.00</i> |
| Total Sunday Income Jan. 18, 2015 | <i>\$1,094.00</i> |
| <i>Estimated Average Weekly Expenses</i> | <i>\$3,634.49</i> |

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Actual Income</i> | <i>\$4,108.00</i> |
| <i>Actual Expense</i> | <i>\$10,053.97</i> |
| <i>+/- to date</i> | |

*97 people were in attendance on
Sunday, January 18, 2015*