

KILLING THE MESSENGER FAILS TO SILENCE THE MESSAGE!

Every Orthodox Christian is familiar with the tragic details that led to the beheading of St. John the Baptist. Soon after baptizing Christ in the Jordan, John was arrested and imprisoned by Herod Antipas, the son of the infamous ruler of the same name, who reigned at the time of our Lord's birth. His "crime" was speaking out against the King for his marriage to Herodias, his brother Philip's wife.

Not content with merely seeing the Baptist in captivity, Herodias devised a plan for his untimely demise. When Herod promised her daughter Salome anything she wanted after pleasing the King with her dancing at his birthday celebration, she instructed her to make this gruesome request: "I WANT YOU TO GIVE ME AT ONCE THE HEAD OF JOHN THE BAPTIST ON A PLATTER."

It is interesting to note that soon after this terrible deed had been carried out, Herod and Herodias were driven into exile by Prince Aretas, whose daughter had been Herod's lawful wife! It is recorded that they lived in great need and poverty for the rest of their lives.

It is equally fitting that Salome's life ended in tragedy as well. While living in Spain with her exiled mother and step-father, Salome fell into the frozen Sikaris River. The ice broke, and Salome found herself in the water up to her throat. After struggling as the ice pierced her neck, she was eventually decapitated. Ironically, her body was washed away, and those who found Salome's head brought it to her mother on a platter, in a manner similar to how she had once received the blessed head of the Baptist!

The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin Vestal, Cliffwood, New Jersey Litho in U.S.A.



Saint John
The Forerunner



ST.DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
NORTH WILDWOOD, NEW JERSEY
August 27, 2023

12th Sunday of Matthew

WELCOME ALL VISITORS:

On behalf of the Parish Council, Fr. Michael, and the entire family of St. Demetrios, we would like to welcome our Visitors for joining us today in our sacred worship service. If you need any assistance please notify any of the Parish Council members. God Bless our Visitors and may your stay here be pleasant and memorable. Please don't hesitate to come again.

SPONSORING COFFEE HOUR:

During the summer, The Ladies Philoptochos Society will not be sponsoring any coffee hours. If anyone is interested in sponsoring the coffee hour please contact the Church office –Monday-Wednesday-Friday (609) 522-0152 or contact Parish Council President Nick Konides (609) 425-0179.

STEWARDSHIP NEWS:

All our local and seasonal members and visitors are invited to register and enroll in our parish for the 2023 membership and join in weekly worship and to support of our parish "Stewardship Program" and ministries. The annual minimum enrollment offering is \$750 per family, and \$500 for single people. Please complete the parish membership registry forms that are available in the Narthex. Families that are in arrears are invited to reinstate their membership and participation in our parish life and ministries.

LITURGICAL PROGRAM FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER:

Friday September 1st-We would like to wish everyone in the parish: A

Happy Ecclesiastical New Year!

Sunday September 3rd-13th Sunday of Matthew

Orthos-8:30 am Divine Liturgy 9:30 am

Monday September 4th-Happy Labor Day to Everyone in the Parish!

Sunday September 10th –Sunday Before Holy Cross

Orthos-8:30 am Divine Liturgy 9:30 am

Thursday September 14th-The Elevation of the Holy Cross

Orthos-8:30 am Divine Liturgy 9:30 am

Sunday September 17-Sunday After the Holy Cross

Orthos-8:30 am Divine Liturgy 9:30 am

Sunday September 24, 1st Sunday of Luke

Orthos-8:30 am Divine Liturgy 9:30 am

ECCLESIASTICAL DECREE:

Attention All Parishioners: It has come to the attention of Fr. Michael that we have parishioners that have been divorced (civilly) and have not taken care of their Ecclesiastical responsibilities to the church. If you are in this situation, please contact Fr. Michael and he will begin the application for an Ecclesiastical Divorce from the Church. If this does not occur, then you will be deprived of certain Ecclesiastical necessities within the Church. For further details please contact Fr. Michael. Thank you.

SICKNESS AND HOSPITALIZATION:

Whenever someone is sick particularly with a terminal illness or hospitalized, Fr. Michael should be notified so that he may visit the sick, offer prayers and give Holy Communion and anoint with Holy Unction.

KOINONIA MONTHLY NEWSLETTER:

We have established our (NEW MONTHLY NEWSLETTER) which is named "KOINONIA". This newsletter was distributed via email. Going forward, please send all Church event related pictures via email to the Church Secretary, Julie Reeb, at frmichaelstdemetrios@gmail.com Most importantly, in order for our parishioners to be able to read the Newsletter, you must submit your E-mails so we can send the newsletter out to your computers. You can submit these to the email listed above or you can give this information to our Parish Council Secretary, William Mitchell. We will also have a few newsletters printed for those who have no computers or smart phones.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED:

Fr. Michael is looking for a few Sunday school teachers that would offer their time and talents to the children of the parish. If anyone is interested please contact Fr. Michael 609-522-0152 ext 101 or cell 667-328-1083.

Απολυτίκιον Αναστάσιμον.

Ἦχος γ'.

Εὐφραινέσθω τὰ οὐράνια, ἀγαλλιάσθω τὰ
ἐπίγεια, ὅτι ἐποίησε κράτος ἐν βραχίονι αὐτοῦ,
ὁ Κύριος· ἐπάτησε τῷ θανάτῳ τὸν θάνατον·
πρωτότοκος τῶν νεκρῶν ἐγένετο· ἐκ κοιλίας
ἄδου ἐρρύσατο ἡμᾶς, καὶ παρέσχε τῷ κόσμῳ
τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

Resurrectional Apolytikion.

Mode 3.

Let the heavens be glad. Let the earth
rejoice exceedingly. For the Lord has shown
strength with his arm. He trampled death by
death. He became the first-born of the dead.
Out of the belly of Hades, He has rescued
us, and to the world He has granted the great
mercy. [GOASD]

Απολυτίκιον Αγίου Δημητρίου

Μέγαν εὐράτο ἐν τοῖς κινδύνοις, σέ
υπέρμαχον ἡ οἰκουμένη, αθλοφόρε τὰ ἔθνη
τροποῦμενον. Ὡς οὖν Λυαίου καθεῖλες τὴν
ἐπαρσιν, ἐν τῷ σταδίῳ θαρρύνας τὸν
Νέστορα, οὕτως ἅγιε μεγαλομάρτυς
Δημήτριε, Χριστὸν τὸν Θεὸν ἱκέτευε,
δωρῆσασθαι ἡμῖν τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

Apolytikion/Dismissal Hymn

The world has found in you a great champion in time of peril, as you
emerged the victor in routing the barbarians. For as you brought to
naught the boasts of Lyaios, imparting courage to Nestor in the
stadium, in like manner, Holy one, great Martyr Demetrios, invoke
Christ God for us, that He may grant us His great mercy.

Κοντάκιον.

Ἦχος δ'.

Ἰωακείμ καὶ Ἄννα ὄνειδισμοῦ ἀτεκνίας,
καὶ Ἀδὰμ καὶ Εὕα, ἐκ τῆς φθορᾶς τοῦ θανάτου,
ἠλευθερώθησαν, Ἄχραντε, ἐν τῇ ἀγία γεννήσῃ
σου· αὐτὴν ἑορτάζει καὶ ὁ λαός σου, ἐνοχῆς
τῶν πταισμάτων, λυτρωθεὶς ἐν τῷ κράζειν σοι·
Ἡ στεῖρα τίκτει τὴν Θεοτόκον, καὶ τροφὸν τῆς
ζωῆς ἡμῶν.

Kontakion.

Mode 4.

Both Joachim and Anna from their
sterility's stigma, and Adam and Eve from
their mortality's ruin have been set free, O
immaculate Maid, by your holy nativity. For
this do your people hold celebration, redeemed
from the guilt of transgression as they cry to
you, "The barren one bears the Theotokos, the
nourisher of our Life." [GKND]

Πρὸς Κορινθίους Α' Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου
τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα.

ΔΙΑΚΟΝΟΣ

Πρόσχωμεν.

ΑΝΑΓΝΩΣΤΗΣ

1Κορ 15:1-11

Ἀδελφοί, γνωρίζω ὑμῖν τὸ Εὐαγγέλιον
ὃ εὐηγγελισάμην ὑμῖν, ὃ καὶ παρελάβετε,
ἐν ᾧ καὶ ἐστήκατε, δι' οὗ καὶ σώζεσθε, τίνι
λόγῳ εὐηγγελισάμην ὑμῖν εἰ κατέχετε, ἐκτὸς
εἰ μὴ εἰκῇ ἐπιστεύσατε. Παρέδωκα γὰρ ὑμῖν
ἐν πρώτοις, ὃ καὶ παρέλαβον, ὅτι Χριστὸς
ἀπέθανεν ὑπὲρ τῶν ἁμαρτιῶν ἡμῶν κατὰ
τὰς γραφάς· καὶ ὅτι ἐτάφη, καὶ ὅτι ἐγήγερται
τῇ τρίτῃ ἡμέρᾳ κατὰ τὰς Γραφάς· καὶ ὅτι
ὤφθη Κηφᾷ, εἶτα τοῖς δώδεκα· ἔπειτα ὤφθη
ἐπάνω πεντακοσίοις ἀδελφοῖς ἐφάπαξ, ἐξ
ᾧ οἱ πλείονες μένουσιν ἕως ἄρτι, τινὲς δὲ
καὶ ἐκοιμήθησαν· ἔπειτα ὤφθη Ἰακώβῳ, εἶτα
τοῖς ἀποστόλοις πᾶσιν· ἔσχατον δὲ πάντων
ὥσπερ εἰ τῷ ἐκτρώματι ὤφθη κάμοι. Ἐγὼ γάρ
εἰμι ὁ ἐλάχιστος τῶν ἀποστόλων, ὃς οὐκ εἰμι
ἱκανὸς καλεῖσθαι ἀπόστολος, διότι ἐδίωξα
τὴν Ἐκκλησίαν τοῦ Θεοῦ· χάριτι δὲ Θεοῦ εἰμι
ὃ εἰμι· καὶ ἡ χάρις αὐτοῦ ἡ εἰς ἐμὲ οὐ κενὴ
ἐγενήθη, ἀλλὰ περισσότερον αὐτῶν πάντων
ἐκοπίασα· οὐκ ἐγὼ δὲ ἀλλ' ἡ χάρις τοῦ Θεοῦ
ἡ σὺν ἐμοί. Εἴτε οὖν ἐγὼ εἴτε ἐκεῖνοι, οὕτως
κηρύσσομεν καὶ οὕτως ἐπιστεύσατε.

The reading is from Paul's First Letter to
the Corinthians.

DEACON

Let us be attentive.

READER

1 Cor. 15:1-11

Brethren, I would remind you in what
terms I preached to you the gospel, which
you received, in which you stand, by which
you are saved, if you hold it fast - unless you
believed in vain. For I delivered to you as
of first importance what I also received, that
Christ died for our sins in accordance with
the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was
raised on the third day in accordance with the
scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas,
then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more
than five hundred brethren at one time, most of
whom are still alive, though some have fallen
asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all
the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely
born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least
of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle,
because I persecuted the church of God. But by
the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace
toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I
worked harder than any of them, though it was
not I, but the grace of God which is with me.
Whether then it was I or they, so we preach
and so you believed. [RSV]

Ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Ματθαῖον ἀγίου Εὐαγγελίου
τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα.

ΙΕΡΕΥΣ

Πρόσχωμεν.

(Δόξα σοι, Κύριε, δόξα σοι.)

ΔΙΑΚΟΝΟΣ

Ματ ιθ' 16 - 26

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, νεανίσκος τις προσῆλθε
τῷ Ἰησοῦ γονυπετῶν αὐτῷ καὶ λέγων·
Διδάσκαλε ἀγαθέ, τί ἀγαθὸν ποιήσω ἵνα ἔχω
ζωὴν αἰώνιον; ὁ δὲ εἶπεν αὐτῷ· Τί με λέγεις
ἀγαθόν; οὐδεὶς ἀγαθὸς εἰ μὴ εἷς ὁ Θεός. εἰ δὲ
θέλεις εἰσελθεῖν εἰς τὴν ζωὴν, τήρησον τὰς
ἐντολάς. λέγει αὐτῷ· Ποίας; ὁ δὲ Ἰησοῦς εἶπε·
Τὸ οὐ φονεύσεις, οὐ μοιχεύσεις, οὐ κλέψεις,
οὐ ψευδομαρτυρήσεις, τίμα τὸν πατέρα καὶ
τὴν μητέρα, καί, ἀγαπήσεις τὸν πλησίον σου
ὡς σεαυτόν. λέγει αὐτῷ ὁ νεανίσκος· Πάντα
ταῦτα ἐφυλαξάμην ἐκ νεότητός μου· τί ἔτι
ὑστερῶ; ἔφη αὐτῷ ὁ Ἰησοῦς· Εἰ θέλεις τέλειος
εἶναι, ὑπάγε πώλησόν σου τὰ ὑπάρχοντα καὶ
δὸς πτωχοῖς, καὶ ἔξεις θησαυρὸν ἐν οὐρανῷ,
καὶ δεῦρο ἀκολουθεῖ μοι. ἀκούσας δὲ ὁ
νεανίσκος τὸν λόγον ἀπῆλθε λυπούμενος·
ἦν γὰρ ἔχων κτήματα πολλά. Ὁ δὲ Ἰησοῦς
εἶπε τοῖς μαθηταῖς αὐτοῦ· Ἀμὴν λέγω ὑμῖν
ὅτι δυσκόλως πλούσιος εἰσελεύσεται εἰς τὴν
βασιλείαν τῶν οὐρανῶν. πάλιν δὲ λέγω ὑμῖν,
εὐκοπώτερόν ἐστι κάμηλον διὰ τρυπήματος
ράφιδος διελθεῖν ἢ πλούσιον εἰς τὴν βασιλείαν
τοῦ Θεοῦ εἰσελθεῖν. ἀκούσαντες δὲ οἱ μαθηταὶ
αὐτοῦ ἐξεπλήσσοντο σφόδρα λέγοντες· Τίς
ἄρα δύναται σωθῆναι; ἐμβλέψας δὲ ὁ Ἰησοῦς

εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· Παρὰ ἀνθρώποις τοῦτο ἀδύνατόν
ἐστι, παρὰ δὲ Θεῷ πάντα δυνατὰ ἐστι.

The reading is from the holy Gospel
according to Matthew.

PRIEST

Let us be attentive.

(Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.)

DEACON

Mt. 19:16-26

At that time, a young man came up to
Jesus, kneeling and saying, "Good Teacher,
what good deed must I do, to have eternal
life?" And he said to him, "Why do you call
me good? One there is who is good. If you
would enter life, keep the commandments." He
said to him, "Which?" And Jesus said, "You
shall not kill, You shall not commit adultery,
You shall not steal, You shall not bear false
witness, Honor your father and mother, and
You shall love your neighbor as yourself."
The young man said to him, "All these I have
observed; what do I still lack?" Jesus said to
him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what
you possess and give to the poor, and you will
have treasure in heaven; and come, follow
me." When the young man heard this he went
away sorrowful; for he had great possessions.
And Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly, I say
to you, it will be hard for a rich man to enter
the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, 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." When the disciples heard
this they were greatly astonished, saying,
"Who then can be saved?" But Jesus looked
at them and said to them, "With men this
is impossible, but with God all things are
possible." [RSV]

SERMONS FOR CHILDREN



THE BIBLE

Bible is a word that really means many books put together but they are all in one cover. A library is a place where we keep a lot of books, so the Bible is a small library. The books in it tell us about God and the people of God. The Bible has two large sections. The larger one is called the Old Covenant and has 49 books. A covenant is an agreement between people. The Old Covenant is the first agreement between God and a man called Abraham. This agreement was passed on from Abraham to his son, and from his son to all those who came after him. It tells us how God showed Himself to the people and how they came to love and worship Him.

The second section of the Bible is called the New Covenant. It is the agreement that Jesus made with His followers and through them their followers right on down to us. In the New Covenant we learn about Jesus and His family, the men we call the Disciple-Apostles, and about the early days of the Church which Jesus made for us. The New Covenant is shorter than the Old Covenant and has only 27 books.

In old times the titles of books were taken from their first words. All of these books were written by hand and that's why they are called manuscripts (written by hand). Each Bible book is a separate manuscript. Over a very long time they were put together to make the two sections.