

SAINT PELAGIA THE PENITENT

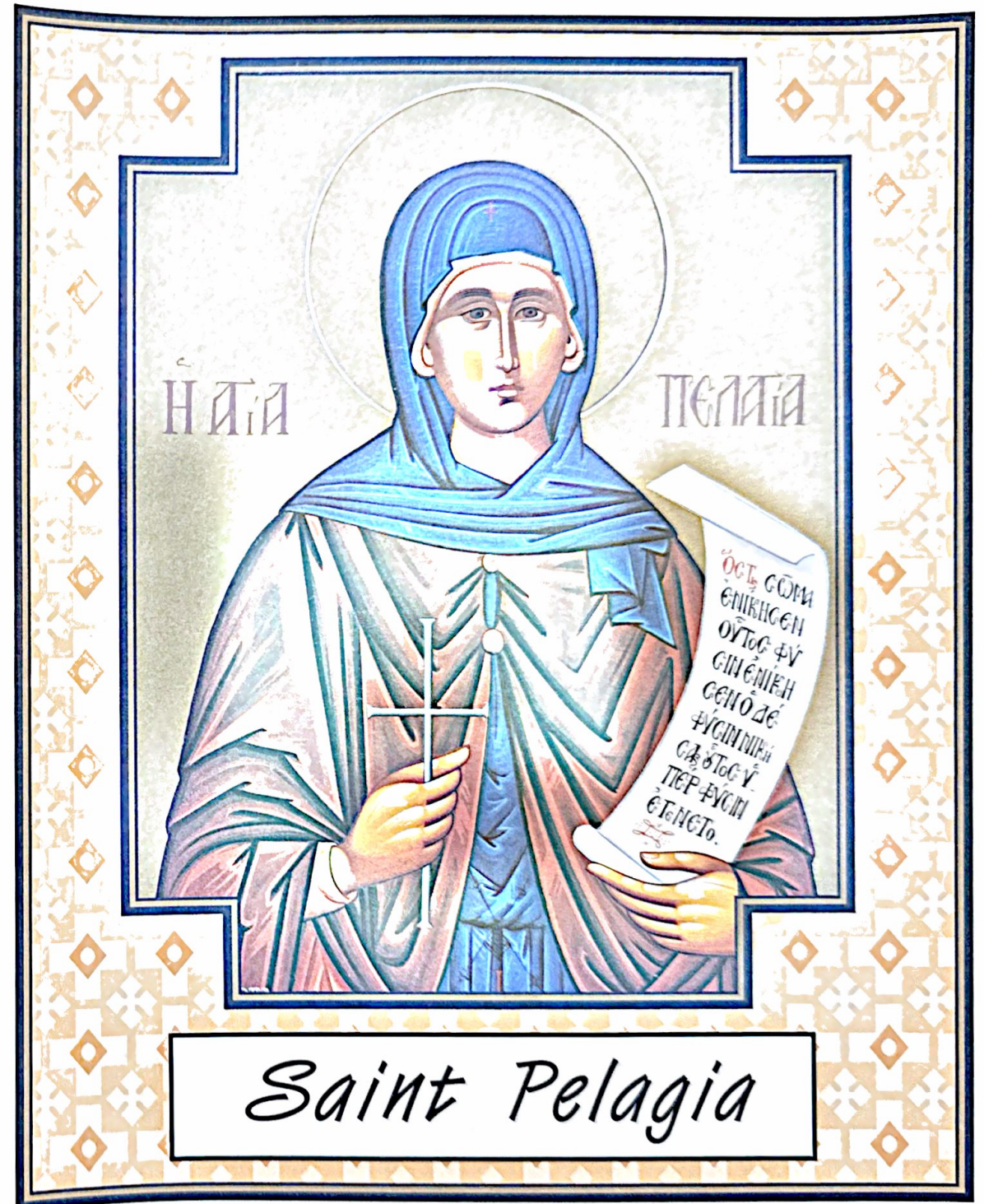
A remarkable story that comes to us from the spiritual treasury of the saints is that of Pelagia the Penitent. She was a woman of striking beauty who led a life of debauchery in the city of Antioch. The world was her home: she was an actress and dancer, dressed in the finest silk, covered with jewels, scented with the most fragrant of perfumes - and not a thought about sin, soul or salvation.

But one day her entourage passed by the Church of the Martyr Julian, where there was a man of great sanctity and zeal for Christ, Bishop Nonnos. He happened to be preaching outside the doors, and Pelagia heard him. She was stricken in heart at the message of the Gospel, and could not contain her tears as she sobbed at his feet. The Bishop soon exorcised her, baptized her, fed her the Bread of Life, and rejoiced at the rebirth of this penitent soul.

News of her transformation spread quickly throughout the city, and a crowd gathered at the church. They complained to the Bishop and beseeched Pelagia to return to her former way of life. But she persevered in faith. Then she took her fancy clothes, jewelry and gold and gave it all to the Church for distribution to the poor. She freed her servants, bidding them to escape from the bondage of this sinful world.

On the eighth day after baptism, when she laid aside her white Baptism robe, Pelagia dressed herself in a simple garment of repentance and made her way to the Holy Land. There, near the Garden of Gethsemane, she dwelt in a solitary cell and was never seen again in Antioch. She was found one day by an ascetic of the desert, asleep in Christ, and then was buried by the faithful. People came from near and far to praise God for this sinner who became a saint.

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ST.DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
NORTH WILDWOOD, NEW JERSEY
October 8, 2023
3rd SUNDAY OF LUKE

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:

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.

55th FALL "GLENDI" DINNER DANCE:

CHANGE OF DATE

Mark your calendars! **Saturday, November 4, 2023**, 7:00 pm until 12:00 am. On the occasion of Saint Demetrios Name Day. The evening will include: 6:00 pm Hors D'oeuvres and Cocktails, followed by a Mezedakia-Dinner. Cash bar, dancing and singing. Live Music Provided. Tickets are being printed and will be available next week. Please call Parish Council President Nick Konides 609-522-0152 ext 103 or the Church Office at ext 102.

GREEK SCHOOL: Classes are every Friday night 4:30 pm – 7:30 pm.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: On behalf of the Parish Council, Fr. Michael, and the entire family of St. Demetrios, we would like to welcome our new Sunday School Teacher, Sophia Kiniropoulos. We would like all parents to have their children at the church by 9:45 am. Every Sunday after the Gospel reading the children will go to their Sunday School classroom and then come back to receive their Holy Communion.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS: Fr. Michael will be meeting with the Youth Group on October 14th at 11:00 am.

NEW ST. DEMETRIOS WEBSITE:

Exciting news! We have a new website! Please add www.stdemetriosnewjersey.com as a favorite on your devices. Be advised that the new website is now LIVE. Please review and enjoy. Donations are able to be processed on our website via the DONATIONS tab where you will find the VANCO QR Code (shown below).

LITURGICAL PROGRAM FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER:

WINTER SCHEDULE

(For Sunday Hours -9:00 am Orthos and 10:00 am Divine Liturgy)

(For Weekday Services -9:00 am Orthos and 9:30 am Divine Liturgy)

(For Vesper Services-6:00 pm)

Sunday, October 15th, Sunday of the Holy Fathers (7th Ecumenical Council)

Orthos 9:00 am – Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

Sunday October 22nd, 6th Sunday of Luke-Orthos 9:00 am-Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

Wednesday, October 25th, St. Demetrios Name Day-Great Vespers 6:00 pm

(small reception after church)

Thursday, October 26th, St Demetrios Feast Day Celebration-Orthos 8:45 am-Divine

Liturgy 9:30 am (reception after church)

Saturday, October 28th, Holy Protection of the Theotokos/OXI Day –Orthos 9:00 am-

Divine Liturgy 9:30 am-Doxology will take place at the end of the Divine Liturgy.

Sunday, October 29th, 7th Sunday of Luke-Orthos 9:00 am -Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Month of October:

General Assembly Meeting-Sunday, October 15, 12:00 pm

Great Vesper Service-Wednesday, October 25th, 6:00 pm Celebration of the Feast Day of

St. Demetrios- Thursday, October 26th, 8:45 am- Orthos 9:30 am Divine Liturgy

Month of November:

55th Fall Glendi Dinner Dance-Saturday, November 4, 7:00 pm until 12:00 am.

Parish Council Mtg- Saturday November 4th, 4:00 pm

Philoptochos-50/50 Drawing, November 6th



"A HOUSE NOT MADE WITH HANDS"

It can be said that there is only one goal that Christians should have as they labor throughout their lives: striving to make a "home" for ourselves in God's eternal kingdom. As the Apostle Paul reminds us in his 2nd Letter to the Corinthians: *"We have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."*

Sacred Tradition tells us an inspiring story of the APOSTLE THOMAS that truly reinforces these words. Thomas took our Lord's Great Commission - "Go and teach all nations" - to heart, carrying the Gospel of Jesus Christ to far away India. While doing missionary work there, Thomas heard that King Gundapor wanted to build a magnificent palace for himself and was seeking workers to carry out his wishes. Thomas went to the king and convinced him that he was just the man to get this job done. The king paid him in advance with a large sum of gold, but instead of

building a palace, Thomas gave the gold away and went about his own appointed task of "building" Christ's Church.

When the king discovered this, he immediately threw Thomas into prison. That very night, Gundapor's brother died. An angel took the brother's soul to heaven and showed him a palace glorious beyond belief. "This palace," the angel said, "is the true palace Thomas built with his charitable deeds." Then the angel returned the man's soul to his body. When he was revived, he proceeded to tell the king of his glorious heavenly experience. The amazed king immediately ordered Thomas to be released from prison and summoned him to teach him and his brother about Christ and his heavenly kingdom. They were both baptized, and it is said that King Gundapor spent the rest of his life doing charitable deeds and helping others, so that he might build for himself a more wonderful "palace" in Paradise!

A cheerful giver

Have you ever given something to somebody... but you didn't really want to? Maybe your parents made you share something that you wanted to keep to yourself, or you gave away something that you would have rather had instead. It doesn't feel like giving when we don't *want* to give, does it?



In today's epistle reading, Saint Paul tells some of the early Christians that they should give to others because they want to (not because somebody made them do it!). He says, "For God loves a cheerful giver." That's right! God wants us to be cheerful and happy about giving to others, and about helping others too. Our Lord never forces us to give to others or to help others.

Did you know that when God asks us to do something, He shows us the way first? God was the most cheerful giver of all! He gives us help with things every day. But even more, He gave His whole life for us. He gives us a place in heaven with Him. God gives...and He is a cheerful giver! In another part of the Bible, we read, "It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." God is a cheerful giver!

If our Lord can give so much and be happy about it, do you think we can give to others too, and be happy and cheerful about it too? Let's try!

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

- Apostle
- Cheerful
- Compassion
- Corinthians
- Deacon
- Epistle
- Generous
- Giver
- Philip
- Servant

F Y N P X P Z T G J W D R C X
Z R R V I H X R N U E E J O A
G D D E D I U L N A V A D M N
T I P S Z L C D C I V W F P M
L G Y I K I C O G A O R E A D
U S U I W P N J C K E C E S D
F G E N E R O U S P C X R S H
R Y P Y X H G K I Z J Y T I E
E L L G I Z L S R Z M Z H O G
E D M W X E T X T I P F L N W
H Q K G C L H G C S F T D B B
C V D Z E G N I E L T S O P A
S N A I H T N I R O C K A M K
T K L G C M L M I U Q R S Y U
S A L N K G T A B F Y K C X G

Ἦχος Α'

Τοῦ λίθου σφραγισθέντος ὑπὸ
τῶν Ἰουδαίων, καὶ στρατιωτῶν
φυλασσόντων τὸ ἀχραντὸν σου
Σῶμα, ἀνέστης τριήμερος, Σω-
τήρ, διωρούμενος τῷ κόσμῳ τὴν
ζωὴν. Διὰ τοῦτο αἱ Δυνάμεις
τῶν οὐρανῶν ἐβόων σοι, Ζω-
οδότα· Δόξα τῇ Ἀναστάσει
σου· Χριστέ· δόξα τῇ βασιλείᾳ
σου· δόξα τῇ οἰκονομίᾳ σου,
μόνε Φιλάνθρωπε.

Ἀπολυτίκιον Ἀγίου Δημητρίου

Μέγαν εὗρατο ἐν τοῖς κινδύνοις, σέ
υπέρμαχον ἡ οἰκουμένη, ἁθλοφόρε τὰ ἔθνη
τροποῦμενον. Ὡς οὖν Λυαίου καθείλες τὴν
επαρσιν, ἐν τῷ σταδίῳ θαρρύνας τὸν
Νέστορα, οὕτως ἅγιε μεγαλομάρτυς
Δημήτριε· Χριστὸν τὸν Θεόν· ἱκέτευε,
δωρήσασθαι ἡμῖν τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

Apolytikion/Dismissal Hymn

*world has found in you a great champion in time of peril, as you
aged the victor in touching the barbarians. For as you brought to
us the bread of life, imparting courage to Moses in the
face, in the furnace, holy one, great Martyr Demetrios, invoke
Christ God for us, that he may grant us His great mercy.*

Προστασία τῶν χριστιανῶν ἀκαταίσχυντε, μεσιτεία
πρὸς τὸν Ποιητὴν ἀμετάθετε, μὴ παρίδης, ἁμαρτω-
λῶν δεήσεων φωνάς, ἀλλὰ πρόφθασον ὡς ἀγαθὴ, εἰς
τὴν βοήθειαν ἡμῶν, τῶν πιστῶς κραυγαζόντων σοι·
τάχυνον εἰς πρεσβείαν, καὶ σπεῦσον εἰς ἰκεσίαν, ἡ
προστατεύουσα αἰεὶ, Θεοτόκε, τῶν τιμώντων σε.

O protection of the Christians unashamable, mediation to the
Creator immovable, despise not, the pleading voices of those
in sin, but hasten O good one, to the help of all of us, who in faith
cry out to you: Speed up your intercession, and press on your
supplication, O Theotokos who always protect, all those who honor
you.

Tone I

O SAVIOR, your tomb was sealed with the stone
and the soldiers kept guard over your sacred
body, and yet You rose on the third day, giving
life to the world. Wherefore, O Giver of Life,
the powers of heaven cried out: "Glory to your
resurrection, O Christ! Glory to your kingdom!
Glory to your plan of redemption, O You who
alone are the Lover of Mankind!"

ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΟΣ: Β' Κορινθ. 9:6-11 (Κυρ. ΙΗ')

Ὁ σπείρων φειδομένως φειδομένως καὶ θερίσει, καὶ ὁ
σπείρων ἐπ' εὐλογίαις ἐπ' εὐλογίαις καὶ θερίσει. ἕκαστος
καθὼς προαιρεῖται τῇ καρδίᾳ, μὴ ἐκ λύπης ἢ ἐξ ἀνάγκης·
ἰλαρὸν γὰρ δότην ἀγαπᾷ ὁ Θεός. δυνατὸς δὲ ὁ Θεὸς πᾶσαν
χάριν περισσεῦσαι εἰς ὑμᾶς, ἵνα ἐν παντὶ πάντοτε πᾶσαν
αὐτάρκειαν ἔχοντες περισσεύητε εἰς πᾶν ἔργον ἀγαθόν,
καθὼς γέγραπται· ἐσχόρπισεν, ἔδωκε τοῖς πένησιν· ἡ
δικαιοσύνη αὐτοῦ μένει εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα. ὁ δὲ
ἐπιχορηγῶν σπέρμα τῷ σπείροντι καὶ ἄρτον εἰς βρῶσιν
χορηγῆσαι καὶ πληθύναι τὸν σπόρον ὑμῶν καὶ αὐξήσαι τὰ
γενήματα τῆς δικαιοσύνης ὑμῶν· ἐν παντὶ πλουτιζόμενοι εἰς
πᾶσαν ἀπλότητα, ἥτις κατεργάζεται δι' ἡμῶν εὐχαριστίαν
τῷ Θεῷ.

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY

Let your mercy, O Lord, be upon us, as we have
set our hope on you.

Rejoice in the Lord, all righteous men.

*Lesson from the Second Epistle of Saint Paul
to the Corinthians
(c. 9, v. 6 — 11)*

Brethren, he who sows sparingly also will
reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully
also will reap bountifully. Each one must do as
he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or
under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful
giver. And God is able to provide you with every
blessing in abundance, so that you may always
have enough of everything and may provide in
abundance for every good work. As it is written,
"He scatters abroad, He gives to the poor;
His righteousness endures forever."
He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for
food will supply and multiply your resources and
increase the harvest of your righteousness. You
will be enriched in every way for great gene-
rosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving
to God.

ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΡΙΤΗ

Ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Λουκᾶν

Κεφ. ζ' (7), 11-16

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ ἐπορεύετο ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἰς
πόλιν καλουμένην Ναῖν· καὶ συνεπο-
ρεύοντο αὐτῷ οἱ μαθηταὶ αὐτοῦ ἱκανοί, καὶ
ὄχλος πολὺς. Ὡς δὲ ἤγγισε τῇ πόλει τῆς πό-
λεως, καὶ ἰδοὺ, ἐξεκομίζετο τεθνηκώς, υἱὸς
μονογενῆς τῇ μητρὶ αὐτοῦ· καὶ αὕτη ἦν χήρα·
καὶ ὄχλος τῆς πόλεως ἱκανὸς ἦν σὺν αὐτῇ.
Καὶ ἰδὼν αὐτὴν ὁ Κύριος, ἐσπλαγχνίσθη ἐπ'
αὐτῇ, καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῇ. Μὴ κλαῖε. Καὶ προσελ-
θὼν ἤψατο τῆς σοροῦ, οἱ δὲ βαστάζοντες
ἕστησαν, καὶ εἶπε· Νεανίσκε, σοὶ λέγω, ἐγέρ-
θητι. Καὶ ἀνεκάθισεν ὁ νεκρὸς, καὶ ἤρξατο
λαλεῖν· καὶ ἔδωκεν αὐτὸν τῇ μητρὶ αὐτοῦ.
Ἐλαβε δὲ φόβος ἅπαντας, καὶ ἐδόξαζον τὸν
Θεόν, λέγοντες· Ὅτι Προφήτης μέγας ἐγή-
γερται ἐν ἡμῖν· καί, ὅτι ἐπεσκέψατο ὁ Θεὸς
τὸν λαὸν αὐτοῦ.

THIRD SUNDAY OF LUKE

Luke 7, 11-16

At that time Jesus went to a city called
Na'in, and his disciples and a great
crowd went with him. As he drew near to the
gate of the city, behold, a man who had died
was being carried out, the only son of his
mother, and a large crowd from the city was
with her. And when the Lord saw her, he
had compassion on her and said to her, "Do
not weep." And he came and touched the bier,
and the bearers stood still. And he said,
"Young man, I say to you, arise." And the
dead man sat up, and began to speak. And he
gave him to his mother. Fear seized them all;
and they glorified God, saying, "A great
prophet has arisen among us!" and "God
has visited his people!"