

A SAINTLY EXAMPLE OF PURITY

THE GREAT MARTYR BARBARA lived and suffered during the reign of the Emperor Maximian in the early years of the 4th century. Her pagan father Dioscorus was so protective of her that he placed her in a tower so that she could have no contact with anyone he considered to be unworthy. Alone in her tower, Barbara would often ponder the beauty of creation that she could study from her lofty perch. She was able to reach the conclusion that all of this was the work of the One, True God.

When Barbara became old enough to marry, her father brought her many suitors, whom she rejected one by one. Thinking she might change her mind if she was exposed to the world outside her tower, Dioscorus allowed her to leave and mingle with others. Little did he realize that many of the new people she met were Christians! Soon Barbara became one of them herself.

Upon returning from a trip, Dioscorus was furious to find that Barbara had cut a cross into one of her marble walls. When she told him that she was a Christian, he tried to kill her with his sword. Barbara was able to flee and hide on a nearby mountain, but the next day, her father captured her and took her to the local governor for execution. She willingly submitted to brutal torture and ultimately to martyrdom, understanding that this was the greatest way she could show her love for Christ. Before dying, Barbara prayed to God that everyone who would remember her in prayer should not be subjected to a sudden death and deprived of receiving the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

She met her end by the merciless hand of her father. Divine justice prevailed though, as Dioscorus was struck down and killed that same day.

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



**ST.DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
NORTH WILDWOOD, NEW JERSEY
DECEMBER 3, 2023**

14TH SUNDAY OF ST. LUKE (BLIND MAN)

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.

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 notify parents that Sunday school has already started! 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.

OUR NEW ST DEMETRIOS WEBSITE: Attention everyone: 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).

YOUTH GROUP NEWS:

Fr. Michael would like to schedule a Youp Group Gathering on Saturday, December 16th At 11:00 am.

LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS: The Ladies are collecting for their yearly "Christmas Card Drive. The deadline for this event is Sunday, December the 10th. The cost is \$25.

LITURGICAL 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)

UPCOMING MEMORIAL SERVICE:

A 40 day Memorial service will be chanted on Sunday, December the 10th in memory of our brother in Christ, Konstantinos Andy. May his soul rest in peace and may his memory be eternal.

LITURGICAL PROGRAM FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER:

Tuesday, December 5th: Great Vesper Service which will be held at St. Nicholas (Atlantic City). Time 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 6th: Feast Day of St. Nicholas(Atlantic City) 9:00 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy.

Sunday, December 10th: 10th Sunday of St. Luke: Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

Sunday, December 17th: 11th Sunday of St. Luke: Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

Sunday, December 24th: Sunday before the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ: Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

SUNDAY EVENING SERVICE: EVE OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD: This service will begin at 7:00 pm ATTENTION EVERYONE: There will be no service on Christmas Day.

Sunday, December 31st: Sunday before Epiphany:

STEWARDSHIP NEWS:

Attention all Parishioners: By now everyone in the Parish has received their 2024 Stewardship Pledge Card. Please find some time to fill it out and send it to the church office. Remember we are all in this together and we value everyone's input and support. The church should always be a priority in our lives and we should always think of ways to commit our lives to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We must dedicate our gifts to the unfinished task of the Church through Christian Education of our youth, through philanthropy both here in our parish and through the Outreach program. We give our pledge every year in loving memory of all those who have gone before us, of all whose hearts and hands have served this community with their love and dedication. Let's not forget, we are to give willingly and happily that which we feel shows our thanks and love to God for His many gifts that He offers to us every day of our lives. Every year we look forward to our younger families to get on board and help out their community. The older generation has paid their dues, now it's time for you the younger group to get involved with your church. So let's make that challenge and sign your 2024 Stewardship Pledge Card with a minimum donation of \$750 per family and \$500 for single persons. May God bless our "St. Demetrios Stewards".

Ἀπολυτίκιον Ἀναστάσιμον.

Ἦχος α'. Αὐτόμελον.

Τοῦ λίθου σφραγισθέντος ὑπὸ τῶν
Ἰουδαίων, καὶ στρατιωτῶν φυλασσόντων
τὸ ἄχραντόν σου σῶμα, ἀνέστης τριήμερος
Σωτήρ, δωρούμενος τῷ κόσμῳ τὴν ζωὴν. Διὰ
τοῦτο αἱ Δυνάμεις τῶν οὐρανῶν ἐβόων σοι
Ζωοδότα· Δόξα τῇ ἀναστάσει σου Χριστέ,
δόξα τῇ βασιλείᾳ σου, δόξα τῇ οἰκονομίᾳ σου,
μόνε Φιλάνθρωπε.

Ἦχος γ'. Θείας πίστεως.

Μέγαν εὖρατο ἐν τοῖς
κινδύνοις, σὲ ὑπέρμαχον ἢ
οἰκουμένη, ἀθλοφόρε τὰ
ἔθνη τροποῦμενον. Ὡς οὖν
Λυαίου καθεῖλες τὴν
ἐπαύριον, ἐν τῷ σταδίῳ
θαρρύνας τὸν Νέστορα,
οὕτως ἅγιε μεγαλομάρτυς
Δημήτριε, Χριστὸν τὸν
Θεὸν ἱκέτευε, δωρήσασθαι
ἡμῖν τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

Κοντάκιον.

Ἦχος γ'. Αὐτόμελον.

Ἡ Παρθένος σήμερον, τὸν προαιώνιον
Λόγον, ἐν Σπηλαίῳ ἔρχεται, ἀποτεκεῖν
ἀπορρήτως. Χόρευε ἡ οἰκουμένη
ἀκουτισθεῖσα, δόξασον μετὰ Ἀγγέλων καὶ τῶν
Ποιμένων, βουληθέντα ἐποφθῆναι, Παιδίον
νέον, τὸν πρὸ αἰώνων Θεόν.

Resurrectional Apolytikion.

Mode 1. Automelon.

Τοῦ λίθου σφραγισθέντος.

The stone having been sealed by the
Pharisees and chief priests, * and Your all-
immaculate body being guarded by soldiers,
* You rose on the third day, O Lord and
Savior, granting life unto the world. * Then
the powers of the heavens cried out to You, O
Giver of Life, and shouted, * "Glory to Your
resurrection, O Christ! * Glory to Your eternal
rule! * Glory to Your plan for saving us, only
benevolent God!" [GOASD]

Third tone

You have proved to be for all
the world the great champion
in time of peril, as the victor
in routing the barbarians.
Thus as you put down the
boasting of Lyaïos, imparting
courage to Nestor in the
stadium; so, O holy One,
great Martyr Demetrios,
beseech Christ our God for
us that we may know the gift
of His great mercy.

Kontakion.

Mode 3. Automelon.

Ἡ Παρθένος σήμερον.

On this day the Virgin Maid * goes to the
grotto to give birth * to the pre-eternal Word
* in an ineffable manner. * Dance for joy,
all the inhabited earth, on hearing. * Glorify
along with Angels and with the shepherds *
Him who willed that He appear as * a newborn
Child, * the pre-eternal God. [SD]

Πρὸς Ἐφεσίους Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ
ἀνάγνωσμα.

ΔΙΑΚΟΝΟΣ

Πρόσχωμεν.

ΑΝΑΓΝΩΣΤΗΣ

Eph 5:8-19

Ἀδελφοί, ὡς τέκνα φωτὸς περιπατεῖτε [ὁ
γὰρ καρπὸς τοῦ φωτὸς ἐν πάσῃ ἀγαθωσύνῃ καὶ
δικαιοσύνῃ καὶ ἀληθείᾳ] δοκιμάζοντες τί ἐστὶν
εὐάρεστον τῷ Κυρίῳ· καὶ μὴ συγκοινωνεῖτε
τοῖς ἔργοις τοῖς ἀκάρποις τοῦ σκοτοῦς, μᾶλλον
δὲ καὶ ἐλέγχετε, τὰ γὰρ κρυφῇ γινόμενα ὑπ'
αὐτῶν αἰσχρὸν ἐστὶν καὶ λέγειν· τὰ δὲ πάντα
ἐλεγχόμενα ὑπὸ τοῦ φωτὸς φανεροῦνται· πᾶν
γὰρ τὸ φανερούμενον φῶς ἐστί. Διὸ λέγει·
"Ἐγειρε, ὁ καθεύδων, καὶ ἀνάστα ἐκ τῶν
νεκρῶν, καὶ ἐπιφάσει σοι ὁ Χριστός. Βλέπετε
οὖν ἀκριβῶς πῶς περιπατεῖτε, μὴ ὡς ἄσοφοι
ἀλλ' ὡς σοφοί, ἐξαγοραζόμενοι τὸν καιρὸν,
ὅτι αἱ ἡμέραι πονηραὶ εἰσι. Διὰ τοῦτο μὴ
γίνεσθε ἄφρονες, ἀλλὰ συνιέντες τί τὸ θέλημα
τοῦ Κυρίου. Καὶ μὴ μεθύσκεσθε οἴνῳ, ἐν ᾧ
ἐστὶν ἀσωτία, ἀλλὰ πληροῦσθε ἐν Πνεύματι,
λαλοῦντες ἑαυτοῖς ψαλμοῖς καὶ ὕμνοις καὶ
ᾠδαῖς πνευματικαῖς, ᾄδοντες καὶ ψάλλοντες τῇ
καρδίᾳ ὑμῶν τῷ Κυρίῳ.

* The reading is from Paul's Letter to the
Ephesians.

DEACON

Let us be attentive.

READER

Eph. 5:8-19

Brethren, walk as children of light (for the
fruit of light is found in all that is good and
right and true), and try to learn what is pleasing
to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful
works of darkness, but instead expose them.
For it is a shame even to speak of the things
that they do in secret; but when anything
is exposed by the light it becomes visible,
for anything that becomes visible is light.
Therefore it is said, "Awake, O sleeper, and
arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you
light." Look carefully then how you walk, not
as unwise men but as wise, making the most of
the time, because the days are evil. Therefore
do not be foolish, but understand what the will
of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine,
for that is debauchery; but be filled with the
Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and
hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making
melody to the Lord with all your heart. [SD]

Ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Λουκᾶν ἁγίου Εὐαγγελίου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα.

ΙΕΡΕΥΣ

Πρόσχωμεν.

(Δόξα σοι, Κύριε, δόξα σοι.)

ΔΙΑΚΟΝΟΣ

Λου ιη' 35 - 43

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἐγένετο ἐν τῷ ἐγγίζειν τὸν Ἰησοῦν εἰς Ἱεριχὼ τυφλός τις ἐκάθητο παρὰ τὴν ὁδὸν προσαιτῶν. ἀκούσας δὲ ὄχλου διαπορευομένου ἐπυνθάνετο τί εἴη ταῦτα. ἀπήγγειλαν δὲ αὐτῷ ὅτι Ἰησοῦς ὁ Ναζωραῖος παρέρχεται. καὶ ἐβόησε λέγων· Ἰησοῦ, υἱὲ Δαυὶδ, ἐλέησόν με. καὶ οἱ προάγοντες ἐπετίμων αὐτῷ ἵνα σιωπήσῃ· αὐτὸς δὲ πολλῷ μᾶλλον ἔκραζεν· Υἱὲ Δαυὶδ, ἐλέησόν με. σταθεὶς δὲ ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἐκέλευσεν αὐτὸν ἀχθῆναι πρὸς αὐτόν. ἐγγίσαντος δὲ αὐτοῦ ἐπηρώτησεν αὐτόν λέγων· Τί σοι θέλεις ποιήσω; ὁ δὲ εἶπε· Κύριε, ἵνα ἀναβλέψω. καὶ ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν αὐτῷ· Ἀνάβλεψον· ἡ πίστις σου σέσωκέ σε. καὶ παραχρῆμα ἀνέβλεψε, καὶ ἠκολούθει αὐτῷ δοξάζων τὸν Θεόν· καὶ πᾶς ὁ λαὸς ἰδὼν ἔδωκεν αἶνον τῷ Θεῷ.

The reading is from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

PRIEST

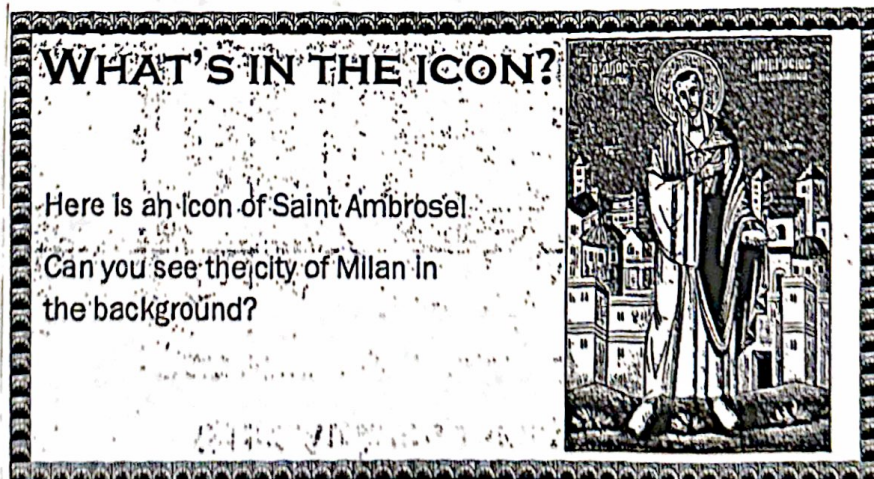
Let us be attentive.

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

DEACON

Lk. 18:35-43

At that time, as Jesus drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging; and hearing a multitude going by, he inquired what this meant. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." And he cried, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" And Jesus stopped, and commanded him to be brought to him; and when he came near, he asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me receive my sight." And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God. [RSV]



The Children's Word

"Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them, for to such is the Kingdom of Heaven." Mark 10:14

Sunday, December 3, 2023

Volume 11, Issue 40

A Ministry of the
Orthodox Christian Network



Be quiet?

Has anybody ever told you to be quiet? If you were a little too loud at home, your parents probably told you to keep it down. It's hard to keep quiet when you really want to say something!

Today we read the Gospel passage about the blind man, whom Jesus healed. This poor man was sitting by the road begging. When somebody told him Jesus was passing by, he cried out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" The people around him told him to be quiet, but the blind man couldn't keep quiet! In fact, he cried out for Jesus even more loudly. When Jesus heard the man, He healed him so he could finally see! So, it was a good thing he didn't keep quiet!

Sometimes you might feel embarrassed to say your prayers or to go to church—especially if you're the only one. When you get older, your friends might want to do fun things right when you want to go to church or say your prayers! Other people might even laugh or make fun of you when you say a prayer before a meal or when you go off to church. But let's remember the blind man in the Gospel today. He had something to say to the Lord, and nobody could keep him quiet about it! Let's try to keep our prayer time as a special time nobody can take away.



SAINT AMBROSE A BABY'S VOTE FOR BISHOP!

Would you listen if a baby told you something important? Probably so! There is a story about how a baby said something important about Saint Ambrose—and everybody listened!

Saint Ambrose of Milan (Italy) wasn't always a Christian. His father was a pagan and believed in false gods, so Ambrose was not baptized when he was young (like you probably were).

But one day, a baby said out loud, "Ambrose should be bishop!" Of course, everybody was so surprised—first that the baby could talk, and second that he thought Ambrose should be bishop. After all, Ambrose wasn't even a baptized Christian yet! But St. Ambrose was soon baptized, and then quickly became a deacon, then a priest, then a bishop.

St. Ambrose was a wonderful saint. Many people became Christian because of his words and his actions. As bishop, he remembered to take care of the poor people, too. Sometimes, emperors and other leaders would do wrong things, and St. Ambrose would stand up to them and set them right. He wasn't shy to say what was right and what was wrong—just as we shouldn't be either! St. Ambrose wrote many things for us to learn about God. We still have many of his writings today—1700 years later. That shows he is still important to us even now!



We celebrate Saint Ambrose on Thurs., Dec. 7th (OC: December 20th).