



ALL-MERCIFUL SAVIOR MISSION NEWSLETTER

meeting at: 4315 S. 1st St., Suite F, Austin, Texas 78745 ph.:731-5920

mailing address: 1509 Cullen Ave., Austin, TX 78757

www.allmercifulsavior.com

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST, OCT. 23, 2005

civil date / church date



THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Oct. 23 / Oct. 10	SUNDAY	18th of Pentecost. Tone 1. Holy Fathers of the 7th Oecumenical Council. Service 10 a.m.
Oct. 24 / Oct. 11	Monday	Holy Apostle Philip of the 70. All Elders of Optina Monastery in Russia.
Oct. 25 / Oct. 12	Tuesday	St. Martin the Merciful, Bishop of Tours in France.
Oct. 26 / Oct. 13	Wednesday <i>Fast</i>	St. Zlata (Chryse), new-martyr of Bulgaria under the Muslim Yoke.
Oct. 27 / Oct. 14	Thursday	Sts. Nazarius, Gervasius, Protasius, & Celsus, martyrs of Milan.
Oct. 28 / Oct.. 15	Friday <i>Fast</i>	Many new-martyrs of Russia, incl. Sts. Athanasius & Seraphim.
Oct. 29 / Oct. 16	Saturday	St. Longinus, centurion who stood by the Lord's Cross. Vigil 6:30 p.m.

* *Fast, OW* means that oil and wine are allowed that day. **Fast, FOW* means fish is also allowed that day.

TEACHINGS OF ST. JOHN CASSIAN ON THE 8 PASSIONS--PART 3

... **Love of money.** The third struggle facing us is that with the spirit of love for money—an alien passion, which is foreign to our nature. This passion originates from faint-heartedness, spiritual carelessness and absence of love for God. Other passions are seemingly implanted into human nature and consequently are conquered only after lengthy labours. The sickness of love of money comes to a person later in life and fastens on to the soul from without. That is why in the beginning it is easy to dislodge. However, should it take root in our heart because of our apathy and continued neglect, it will become more ruinous than the other passions and consequently would be very difficult to remove. Entrenched love of money, according to Apostle Paul, is "*a root of all kinds of evil*" (1 Tim. 6:10), because it arouses all the other passions.

You can be sick with love of money without having money. In this condition, even voluntary poverty will not be beneficial to the person that luxuriates in thoughts of riches. Just like those who, although are not defiled in body, are pronounced unclean of heart according to the word of the Gospel (Matthew 5:28), so are those that are not burdened by great wealth can be adjudged on a similar level as avaricious, because they are such in heart and mind. This is because they didn't have the opportunity to accumulate wealth and not because of their will, which in God's eyes always has more weight than want. That's why we must in every way be careful, so that the fruits of our labour are not wasted. It is regretful when the poor lose the fruits of their poverty by reason of their sinful desire to be rich.

Anger. In the fourth struggle we are faced with the task of eliminating the deadly poison of anger from the depths of our soul. Because as long as it nests in our hearts and blinds our mind's eye with a destructive gloom, we are unable to develop the correct distinction between good and evil, nor clarity of consciousness, nor maturity to give advice, nor be communicants of life, nor hold on firmly to the truth. We are unable to absorb the true spiritual light, for it is said: "*Mine eye is consumed because of grief*" (Psalm 6:7). We are unable to become communicants of wisdom, because "*anger resteth in the bosom of fools*" (Eccles. 7:9). Although regarded as being sensible, we cannot realize longevity of life, because: "*Even the wise perish because of anger*" (Proverbs 15:1). We cannot always hold the scales of truth properly, according to the heart's directive, for "*the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God*" (James 1:20). Although we may be of a famous descent, we cannot regard ourselves as esteemed, because "*an angry man is unseemly*" (Proverbs). Although we may command great knowledge, we are unable to possess maturity to give advice, because "*He that is soon angry dealeth foolishly*" (Proverbs 14:17). Although nobody may bothers us, we can never be at peace, away from disturbances and confusion, because "*an angry man stirreth up strife, and a furious man aboundeth in transgression*" (Proverbs 29:22). (Next week: Sadness and Despondency or Loss of Hope)

EASTERN ORTHODOXY FACT SHEET PART 5

... **Spirituality.** The Orthodox world-view is that of a world and a humanity fallen from its original blessed state into a middle state, where each of us struggles in the quest of salvation and the heavenly kingdom. Salvation is through the death and bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ, but is a work God shares with the free will of the person, meaning that struggle and work is necessary on our part in accepting God's salvation. Prayer is struggle, fasting is struggle, virtue is struggle, and this idea of struggle and suffering for God's sake is much stronger in Orthodoxy than in the Western-originating Christian faiths. There is much emphasis on humility and on constant warfare against the passions, the bad thoughts and feelings that well up in each human being.

Martyrdom. The (passive) giving of one's life or enduring of great suffering, in order not to deny the faith or to commit sin, has been a real and present experience for the Orthodox from the first century. The 20th century was especially full of bloody persecutions of Orthodox Christians, especially from Communist and Islamic powers.

Religious War. Orthodox have frequently fought in wars which carry a religious significance, but the Orthodox attitude does not see virtue in such war, only (at best) a necessary step to secure one's homeland or cultural-religious heritage in the face of attack.

Moral Teaching. The Orthodox morality is traditional Christian teaching. The trend of the last 100 years to accept a wide range of behaviors and lifestyles has left no mark on the Orthodox moral teaching. Responses to contemporary conditions are flexible, but the moral teaching is not considered to be. No one is rejected because of some moral failing, but a believer is counseled and, through Confession, forgiven his sins, encouraged, and given a fresh start within the context of lifelong, unceasing struggle against the passions.

End of Eastern Orthodoxy Fact Sheet by Greek Archdiocese & Fr. Aidan Keller

NEWS

- Today is our second **Sunday School**, starting at noon. The service will last until 11:30, then there will be a chance for refreshments and for the kids to unwind a bit, before Mary-Martha and Maria begin the noon catechism. Please take some time to thank them for their efforts with the children, since the children of the church are our future!
- Fr. Aidan has important news regarding our jurisdictional situation. Please take a moment after the service today to listen to what may be possible for the future of our church.
- All-Merciful Savior has received kind donations from various of the faithful in different places, in different states of our country. Please pause in prayers today to ask our Lord to bless our benefactors and keep them under the protecting veil of the Theotokos' prayers.
- October is the last month of our lease. Please take a moment after services today as we will discuss whether we wish to pay for one more month in our current location.
- Yes, once again the **Western Saints Icon Project**, started by Fr. Aidan in 1998, has been expanded. Now 266 Western Saints are represented.

SCRIPTURES THIS WEEK

Today.: 2 Corinthians 9:6-11; Luke 7:11-16

Mon. Philippians 4:10-23; Luke 7:36-50

Tue. Colossians 1:1-11; Luke 8:1-3

Wed. Colossians 1:18-23; Luke 8:22-25

Thu. Colossians 1:24-29; Luke 9:7-11

Fri. Colossians 2:1-7; Luke 9:12-18

Sat. 1 Corinthians 15:58-16:3; Luke 5:17-26

Troparion, tone 8. O All-Merciful Saviour, Thou Luminary like the sun: | Through the light of Thy radiance grant us eloquence, | that with pure conscience we may sing praises on Thy feast all-divine, | glorifying Thee the only-begotten Son, and the consubstantial Spirit; | for Thou givest us peace and great mercy.

Kontakion, tone 4. I committed every abomination, O All-Merciful Saviour, | and fell into the pit of despair. | Yet I groan from the depths of my heart | and cry to Thee, O Word: | Hasten, O Merciful One, | and quickly help us, | for merciful art Thou!

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