



# ALL-MERCIFUL SAVIOR MISSION NEWSLETTER

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

mailing address: 1509 Cullen Avenue, Austin, Texas 78757

website: <http://www.allmercifulsavior.com>

## TWENTIETH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST, NOV. 6, 2005

civil date / church date



### THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Nov. 6 / Oct. 24	<b>SUNDAY</b>	20th of Pentecost. Tone 3. Sts. Arethas of Omir & 4,299 other Martyrs. <b>Service 10 a.m.</b>
Nov. 7 / Oct. 25	Monday	Sts. Marcian & Martyrius, notaries, martyrs. St. Tabitha, raised by St. Peter.
Nov. 8 / Oct. 26	Tuesday	St. Demetrius of Thessalonica, great-martyr, myrrh-streamer.
Nov. 9 / Oct. 27	Wednesday	<i>Fast</i> St. Nestor of Thessalonica, martyr.
Nov. 10 / Oct. 28	Thursday	Sts. Terence, Neonilla, & their children Sarbelus, Photus, et al., martyrs.
Nov. 11 / Oct. 29	Friday	<i>Fast</i> St. Anastasia the Roman, nun, martyr of Thessalonica.
Nov. 12 / Oct. 30	Saturday	Sts. Zenobius, bishop, & his sister Zenobia, martyrs. <b>Vigil 6:30 p.m.</b>

## TEACHINGS OF ST. JOHN CASSIAN ON THE 8 PASSIONS--PART 5

... **Despondency.** The sixth struggle facing us is that of despondency or melancholy. Despondency is akin to sorrow and is experienced mostly by people who commit themselves to a solitary life. It especially disturbs the ascetic at midday. Some Holy Fathers refer to it as the "midday demon" mentioned in Psalm 90.

**Vainglory.** The seventh struggle facing us is that with the spirit of vainglory—this multifaceted, deceitful and subtle passion, which often is very hard to notice and recognize, and to protect oneself from. Other passions are plain and unvaried, but this one is multifaceted and attacks the warrior of Christ from all sides, during his struggle and even after he has won victory. Vainglory attempts to wound the warrior through all kinds of ways: his clothing, and his physical build, and walk, and voice, and being well read, and his work, and his vigilance, and fasting, and praying, and solitary life, and his knowledge, and education, and silence, and submissiveness, and humility, and benevolence. It is akin to a dangerous rock hiding below the waves, which inflicts a sudden disastrous wreck to the seafarers when they least expect it.

Other passions, according to our efforts in surmounting and defeating them, wane and weaken every day. In fact, sometimes, because of a change in our location and living circumstances, they get exhausted and become subdued. Apart from this, because of their conflict with our opposing good deeds, it is easier for us to watch out and avoid them. However, the passion of vainglory, even though vanquished, continues to battle with great hardness and when it is considered dead, through its own demise comes to life, becoming healthy and powerful. While the other passions tyrannize those that they have overwhelmed, this passion oppresses its conquerors more callously and vanquishes them through conceited thoughts about their victory over it. It is in this that the subtle cunning of the enemy is revealed — that the Christ's warrior strikes himself with his own arrows. *(to be continued)*

## SAINTS OF OCTOBER 24

**Holy Martyr Arethas:** This holy martyr suffered for the Christian Faith with over four thousand Christians—priests, monks and nuns, men, women and children. Arethas was the eparch in the town of Nagran, in the southern Arabian land of Omir. He was ninety-five years old when he suffered. Dunaan, a cruel Jewish persecutor of Christians, then governed Omir. Determined to eradicate all Christians from his land, he surrounded the Christian town of Nagran, and sent a message to the people saying he would put them all to death unless they renounced Christ. The citizens closed the gates, and Dunaan attacked the city wall for a long time without success. Then the iniquitous governor swore to the citizens that he would do nothing to them, if only they would open the gate for him to enter and receive the tribute that they owed him—

and that he would take it and immediately withdraw. The Christians believed him and opened the gate. Then the oath-breaking Jew summoned the aged Arethas, the clergy and other distinguished citizens and beheaded them all with the sword. He then perpetrated a horrible slaughter in the town. Learning of this, the Byzantine Emperor Justin was greatly grieved, and wrote a letter to the Ethiopian Emperor, Elesbaan, requesting him to set out with an army against Dunaan to avenge the innocent blood of the Christians. Elesbaan obeyed Justin, attacked the governor of Omir with his army, defeated him, slew his entire army, and beheaded him. By a revelation from God, a certain devout man named Abramius was installed as governor of Omir, and again by God's revelation, St. Gregory of Omir (December 19) was installed as archbishop. Christians rebuilt the Church of the Holy Trinity in Nagran that Dunaan had burned, and also built a church to the Holy Martyr Arethas and the other martyrs of Nagran. St. Arethas and the others suffered and received martyr's wreaths from the Lord in the year 523.

**St. Elesbaan, King of Ethiopia:** Inflamed with zeal for the Christian Faith, this pious king raised an army against the governor Dunaan, the wicked persecutor of Christians in the land of Omir. However, at the battle's outset, Elesbaan had little success and much of his army perished in the arid desert. He then wept bitterly before God, and vowed to become a monk if God would help him conquer the mortal enemy of Christianity. Defeating Dunaan, Elesbaan returned to Ethiopia, immediately left the imperial court and entered a monastery, where he lived a strict life of asceticism as a true monk for fifteen full years. God endowed him with the grace of miracle-working before and after his death. He entered into rest in the year 555.

**Icon of the Holy Theotokos, "Joy of All That Sorrow."** This name is given to one of the wonderworking icons of the Most-holy Theotokos. On this day the icon is celebrated for the miraculous healing in Moscow, of Euphemia, the sister of Patriarch Joachim, in the year 1688. Euphemia had a serious wound in the side and as the doctors failed in their treatments, she prayed with tears to the Most-holy Theotokos. Then, she heard a voice: "Euphemia, go to the Church of the Transfiguration of my Son; there you will find the icon, 'Joy of All Who Sorrow.' Have the priest pray for you before this icon and you will be healed." Euphemia did so, and was immediately made well.

**Venerable Arethas:** After dwelling in asceticism in the Monastery of the Kiev Caves, he He reposed in the year 1190.

—From the Prologue From Ochrid by St. Nikolai Velimirovitch (+1956, Illinois)

## NEWS

- Fr. Aidan will be sending out funds appeal letters this week, both to the members of our mission and its friends and supporters, and possible supporters. If you have some time this week, why not volunteer to help Father with the mailouts? Your help will be appreciated.
- Today **Sunday School** starts at noon. The service will last till 11:30, then there will be a chance for refreshments and for the kids to unwind a bit, before Fr. Aidan begins the noon catechism. Our children are our future—help support their education in the most important area of their lives.
- Corrections: Last week's Halloween article referred to the springtime pagan feast of Beltane—it is the pagan feast of *Samhain* which occurred at the general time of Halloween. Also, last Saturday was titled Nov. 6 instead of 5.
- Fr. Aidan has an update regarding our jurisdictional situation, mainly a possible time that he may be speaking with the Bishop to whom we were recommended.
- Yes, once again the **Western Saints Icon Project**, started by Fr. Aidan in 1998, has been expanded. Now 322 Western Saints are represented, up from 213 when Fr. Aidan restored the Project using All-Merciful Savior's site.

## SCRIPTURES THIS WEEK

Today: Galatians 1:11-19, Luke 16:19-31

Mon. 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5; Luke 10:22-24

Tue. 1 Thessalonians 1:6-10; Luke 11:1-10

Wed. 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Luke 11:9-13

Thu. 1 Thessalonians 2:9-14; Luke 11:14-23

Fri. 1 Thessalonians 2:14-19; Luke 11:23-26

Sat. 2 Corinthians 3:12-18; Luke 6:1-10

---

**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, t. 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!

---

**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!