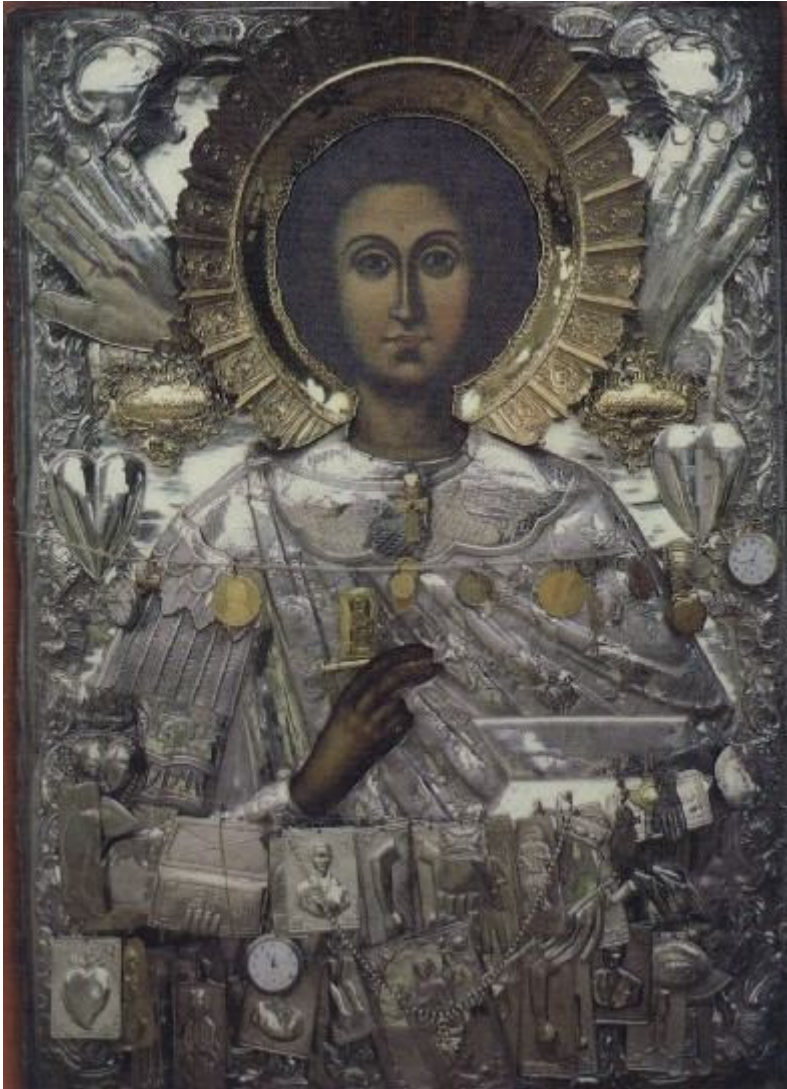


Holy Trinity Newsletter

June/July 2009



Miracle working Icon of St. Panteleimon on Mt. Athos

The following excerpt on St. John Chrysostom for the 21st Century I found at www.orthodoxinfo.com. It is a fiery presentation and one I enjoyed reading quite a bit. I thought you all might edified by it as well.

Saint John Chrysostom for the 21st Century

By The Very Reverend Josiah Trenham, Ph.D.

Continued from last newsletter...

Bible Study in the Christian Life. St John did not just model intense devotion to the study of Holy Scripture, but he labored to inculcate faithful Bible reading in the lives of his parishioners. Chrysostom's devotion is seen not only in his focused memorization and mediation upon the entirety of the Scriptures, but also in the labor of love he made of exegesis. His commentaries upon all of Saint Paul's 14 Epistles, as well as upon the Gospels of Matthew and John, and the Acts of the Apostles, show how important he considered every word of Scripture to be in the life of the Christian and of the Church. And he was not devoted just to the New Testament, but to the Old Testament as well. His homilies on New Testament books include literally thousands of quotations from the Old Testament, from which he drew all the fundamental paradigms for his typological understanding of the New. He also gave himself to extended commentary upon select books of the Old Testament such as multiple homiletical series on the first book of Moses, called Genesis, extended commentary on the Psalter, and upon other wisdom books such as Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Job. He preached on the life of Saul, David, and Hannah the Prophetess. He expounded the Prophecy of Isaiah. His work was immense. We have no larger corpus in Greek patristic literature than that of Saint John Chrysostom.

He considered ignorance of the Scriptures amongst the laity to be the supreme cause for the weakness of the Church and the eclipse of her witness. He called upon his faithful to read the appointed liturgical lections prior to coming to the Divine Liturgy so that they could understand the text and sermon more adequately. He challenged his people to discuss the readings and the sermon on the way home from services, using the image

of twisting a newly-picked flower in one's fingers so as to examine its beauty from all sides. Christians should discuss the readings and homily around the dinner table on the Lord's Day, and the father of the home should fulfill his duty to read Holy Scripture to his family every day without fail.

To read the rest of Fr. Josiah's Article, please see: www.orthodoxinfo.com.

ON GAURDING ONESELF FROM THE GOOD THAT IS PROPER TO FALLEN HUMAN NATURE.

Chapter 7 from "The Arena" by Bishop Ignatius Brianchianinov; an excerpt.

Has some good thought come to you? Stop! Whatever you do, do not rush to implement it or carry it out over-hastily, without thinking. Have you felt some good impulse or inclination in your heart? Stop! Do not dare to be drawn by it. Check it with the Gospel. See whether your good thought and your heart's good impulse tally with the Lord's holy teaching.

You will soon see that there is no agreement whatever between the good of the Gospel and the good of fallen human nature. The good of our fallen nature is mixed with evil, and therefore this good has itself become evil, just as delicious and wholesome food becomes poison when it is mixed with poison.

Guard yourself from doing the good of fallen nature. By doing this good, you develop your own fall, you develop within you self-opinion and pride, and you will attain the closest conformity with demons. On the other hand, by doing the good of the Gospel as a true and faithful disciple of the God-Man, you will become like the God-Man. 'He who loves his life will lose it, but he who hates his life in this world will keep it in eternal life.' (cf. John 12:25). 'If anyone wants to follow in My steps, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for Me and for the Gospel will save it.' (Mark 8:34, 35).

The Lord orders the complete renunciation of fallen nature, and hatred for its motives and impulses, not only for those that are obviously evil, but for all without exception, even the apparently good. It is a great disaster to follow the righteousness of fallen nature. This implies and involves rejection of the Gospel, rejection of the Redeemer, rejection of salvation. 'Whoever does not hate his own life cannot be My disciple', said the Lord (Luke 14:26)....

In our time the majority of people, proud of their progress and claiming to be Christians who do a lot of good, have been striving for the perfection of the righteousness of fallen nature and have turned their backs with scorn on the righteousness of the Gospel. Let this majority listen to what the Lord says:

This people draws near to Me with their mouth
And honors Me with their lips,
But their heart is far from Me.
So they worship Me in vain,
While teaching the doctrines
And commandments of men. (Matthew 5:8)

The man who practices human righteousness is full of self-opinion, arrogance, self-deception. He preaches and blows his own trumpet about his good deeds without paying the least attention to what our Lord forbids (Matthew 6:1-18). He repays with hatred and revenge those who dare to open their mouths for the most reasonable and well-meaning contradictions of his righteousness. He considers himself deserving and more than deserving of both earthly and heavenly rewards.

On the other hand, one who practices the commandments of the Gospel is always immersed in humility...He is kind and merciful to his enemies and prays for them as brothers who have been allured away by demons, as members of one body who are spiritually sick, as his benefactors, and as instruments of the providence of God.

Wisdom from the Scriptures...

As fruit reveals how a tree is cultivated,
So a man's reasoning process reveals his heart.
Do not praise a man before he reveals the way he reasons,
For this is the way a man is tested. (Wisdom of Sirach 27:6-7)

Additions to the Family!

Nicholas Changas was born to David and Christina on May 16, 2009. Να Σας Ζήσει!

Roman Horner was born to Jeff and Anna Horner on May 19, 2009. Να τον Χαίρεσθαι!

WEEKDAY LITURGIES FOR JUNE AND JULY OF 2009

(All Liturgies below start at 9:00 am)

Saturday, June 6 – Saturday of Souls

Monday, June 8 – Monday of the Holy Spirit

Wednesday, June 17 – The Martyr Isauros and those with him

Wednesday, June 24 – Nativity of St. John the Baptist

Monday, June 29 – Sts. Peter and Paul

Saturday, July 11th – Great Martyr Euphemia

Friday, July 17th – Great Martyr Marina

Monday, July 20th – Prophet Elias

Monday, July 27th – Great Martyr Panteleimon

Nashville Holy Trinity GOYA Upcoming Events:

June 7th GOYA pool party at the home of Chris Botsaris.

July 1-6: St. Nicholas Summer Camp at Camp NaCoMe in Centerville, TN!

Please find forms at www.southerncamp.com.

Sacraments for May 2009!

Kari Preuss and Michael Slukich were married on May 9th, 2009, with Paul Preuss being the Koumbaro. May God grant you Many Years!



Philoptochos News.

Philoptochos will host the 2nd Annual Pentecost Picnic on June 7th, 2009, following the Divine Liturgy and the Kneeling Vespers. We hope to see everyone there! Also, check with Philoptochos board members about baking dates for the Festival!

Prayers by the Lake by Bishop Nikolai Velimirovich

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With fasting I gladden my hope in You, my Lord, Who are to come again. Fasting hastens my preparation for Your coming, the sole expectation of my days and nights.

Fasting makes my body thinner, so that what remains can more easily shine with the spirit.

While waiting for You, I wish neither to nourish myself with blood nor to take life--so that the animals may sense the joy of my expectation.

But truly, abstaining from food will not save me. Even if I were to eat only the sand from the lake, You would not come to me, unless the fasting penetrated deeper into my soul.

I have come to know through my prayer, that bodily fasting is more a symbol of true fasting, very beneficial for someone who has only just begun to hope in You, and nevertheless very difficult for someone who merely practices it.

Therefore I have brought fasting into my soul to purge her of many impudent fiancé's and to prepare her for You like a virgin.

And I have brought fasting into my mind, to expel from it all daydreams about worldly matters and to demolish all the air castles, fabricated from those daydreams.

I have brought fasting into my mind, so that it might jettison the world and prepare to receive Your Wisdom.

And I have brought fasting into my heart, so that by means of it my heart might quell all passions and worldly selfishness.

I have brought fasting into my heart, so that heavenly peace might ineffably reign over my heart, when Your stormy Spirit encounters it.

I prescribe fasting for my tongue, to break itself of the habit of idle chatter and to speak reservedly only those words that clear the way for You to come.

And I have imposed fasting on my worries so that it may blow them all away before itself like the wind that blows away the mist, lest they stand like dense fog between me and You, and lest they turn my gaze back to the world.

And fasting has brought into my soul tranquility in the face of uncreated and created realms, and humility towards men and creatures. And it has instilled in me courage, the likes of which I never knew when I was armed with every sort of worldly weapon.

What was my hope before I began to fast except merely another story told by others, which passed from mouth to mouth?

The story told by others about salvation through prayer and fasting became my own.

False fasting accompanies false hope, just as no fasting accompanies hopelessness.

But just as a wheel follows behind a wheel, so true fasting follows true hope.

Help me to fast joyfully and to hope joyously, for You, my Most Joyful Feast, are drawing near to me with Your radiant smile.

The Apostles' Fast begins on June 15th and Ends on June 29th, the Feast day of Sts. Peter and Paul.

Vacation Bible School is Back! June 15th-19th from 8:45 am until 11:45 am. We will be learning about the equipment on the Ark of Salvation! Children ages 4 until rising 6th Graders (i.e., they just completed 5th Grade). We are interested in our High Schoolers helping out, too!

Please contact Kibble Walker if you can help with VBS at: tomkibble@bellsouth.net. Please contact the Church office and let us know if your young ones plan on attending: 615-333-1047.

GOYA CONTACT UPDATE!

If you are not receiving emails about GOYA activities and you want to be, please contact Leslie Richard at (615) 868-2167 or email leslier@madisonacademy.com.

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