

Saint Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church

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The Twenty Second Sunday after Pentecost

(11.21.2021)

Luke 16:19-31

There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence. Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prop thets; let them hear them. And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead. (KJV)

St. Archangel Michael and Other Bodiless Powers

Luke 10:16:21

He that heareth you heareth me; and he that despiseth you despiseth me; and he that despiseth me despiseth him that sent me. And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name. And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven. In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight (KJV)

The Holy Gospel places great importance on careful listening and hearing.

Attentive believers see God at work in daily life. Attentive listeners hear the word of God, keep it and benefit.

Today's Gospel from St. Luke about Lazarus and the rich man speaks about the value of listening to Moses and the Holy Prophets. If Moses and the prophets are not heard, neither will be one coming from the dead be persuasive.

The Church wants us to know that God is, always is and always will be. Confidence can be firmly placed in God. Strength and hope are always well placed in God.

The Holy Gospel helps believers to sort through the trials and challenges of life. The Holy Gospel enables believers to deal with the stresses and conflicts in life. The Holy Gospel teaches the value of love and charity in life.

The rich man had the opportunity to change the course of his life while he was alive. All he had to do was show compassion on the beggar nearby. He ignored the beggar and suffered lasting torment.

Every person has a beggar nearby. Wise believers heed the Gospel and show love and compassion to the people in daily life. Eternal life comes through love of God and love of neighbor.

The gulf between neighbors is bridged by love and care. The present world has too many divisions and gulfs separating neighbors. Love, communication and compassion between neighbors are too often absent.

Maintaining distance and lack of communication with neighbors does not make for loving relationships. Families too often suffer from lack of love due to members being held at a distance and being ignored.

Parish churches grow when each person entering the church feels welcome and loved. Parishes are stronger when attentive to the neighborhoods in which they are located.

Parish churches benefit when ensuring that the neighbors nearby experience the love of Jesus Christ. Neighbors of Orthodox churches feeling welcome to enter the church for Divine services become better neighbors.

Jesus Christ is to be shared and proclaimed with love through every parishioner. Christ's love is carried beyond the church building into the home, the neighborhood and the community.

Believers professing Christ at Holy Baptism and at each Divine Liturgy are to make Christ's love alive in daily life throughout the week. Hunger in the soul exists in every neighbor and in every neighborhood.

Every parishioner, every believer is a missionary for Christ. To the extent a believer lives the love of Christ, the missionary role is fulfilled. The gulf between neighbor and neighbor is bridged with the love of Jesus Christ.

Lazarus was cared for after he departed this life. His suffering was limited to earthly life. The rich man would suffer for eternity. Jesus Christ eliminates the need for suffering in this life and hereafter when neighbors care for neighbors.

Today's Gospel messages intend for believers to experience the Kingdom of God. Experiencing the Kingdom of God requires attentive hearing of the word of God and keeping it.

In the Gospel, it is often written, “he who has ears to hear, let him hear.”. When we close the distance between ourselves and our neighbor with love, we show love of God. The Kingdom of God is reached by love of God and neighbor.

*The Twenty Second Sunday after Pentecost. Synaxis of Archangel Michael and Other Bodiless Powers. November 8/21, 2021. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania.
Father Rodney Torbic*

The Prologue from Ochrid
St Bishop Nikolai Velimirovic

1. SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM, PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE

John was born in Antioch in the year 354 A.D. His father, Secundus, was an imperial commander and his mother's name was Anthusa. Studying Greek philosophy, John became disgusted with Hellenic paganism and adopted the Christian Faith as the one and all-embracing truth. Meletius, Patriarch of Antioch, baptized John, and his parents also subsequently received baptism. Following his parents' repose, John was tonsured a monk and lived a strict life of asceticism. He then wrote a book, *On the Priesthood*, after which the Holy Apostles John and Peter appeared to him, and prophesied that he would have a life of great service, great grace and great suffering. When he was to be ordained a priest, an angel of God appeared simultaneously to John and to Patriarch Flavian (Meletius's successor). While the patriarch was ordaining John, a shining white dove was seen hovering over John's head. Glorified for his wisdom, asceticism and power of words, John was chosen as Patriarch of Constantinople at the behest of Emperor Arcadius. As patriarch, he governed the Church for six years with unequalled zeal and wisdom. He sent missionaries to the pagan Celts and Scythians and eradicated simony in the Church, deposing many bishops guilty of this vice. He extended the charitable works of the Church and wrote a special order of the Divine Liturgy. He shamed the heretics, denounced Empress Eudoxia, interpreted Holy Scripture with his golden mind and tongue, and bequeathed the Church many precious books of his homilies. The people glorified him, the envious loathed him, and the Empress, on two occasions, sent him into exile. John spent three years in exile, and reposed as an exile on the Feast of the Elevation of the Precious and Life-giving Cross, September 14, 407 A.D., in the town of Comana in Georgia. Before his repose, the Holy Apostles John and Peter appeared to him again, as did the Holy Martyr Basiliscus (May 22) in whose church he received Communion for the last time. His last words were, "Glory be to God for all things," and with that, the soul of the golden-mouthed patriarch was taken into Paradise. Chrysostom's head reposes in the Church of the Dormition in Moscow, and his body reposes in the Vatican in Rome.

2. THE HOLY MARTYRS ANTONINUS, NICEPHORUS, GERMANUS AND MANETHA

The first three were watching the pagans worshiping idols with shouts and dancing at one of their feasts. Fearlessly, they went before the crowd and preached the One God in Trinity. Firmilian--the eparch of Palestinian Caesarea, where this occurred--was so enraged at the action of these three Christians that he commanded their immediate beheading. Manetha was a Christian maiden who followed the martyrs as they were being led to the place of execution. She too was arrested, and after cruel tortures, was burned to death. They all suffered in the year 308 A.D. and entered into the eternal joy of the Eternal God.

3. THE VENERABLE MARTYR DAMASCENE

Damascene was born in Galata in Constantinople and at first was called Diamantis. In his youth he lived immorally, and even became a Moslem. Then bitter repentance ensued, and he went to the Holy Mountain, where he lived a life of strict asceticism for twelve years, as a monk in the Lavra of St. Athanasius. But, desiring martyrdom to expiate his sins, Damascene went to Constantinople and visited the mosques, making the sign of the Cross and shouting that the Turks' faith was false and that Jesus Christ is God and Lord. He was beheaded before the gate of the Phanar^{*)} on November 13, 1681 A.D. His relics repose on Halki, in the Monastery of the Holy Trinity.

*) Phanar: a city district, where the Ecumenical Patriarchate is now situated. --Trans.

HYMN OF PRAISE

SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

The Church glorifies St. John
The "Golden-mouth," blessed by God,
Christ's great soldier,
Who is the adornment and boast of the Church:
 Profound of heart and mind,
 And a golden-stringed harp of words.
He plumbed the depths of mysteries,
And found the pearl that shines as the stars.
 Exalted in mind to heaven's height,
 He expounded divine truth;
And his vision is true throughout history.
 He gave all to the Son of God.
He revealed to us the horrors of sin,
 And the virtues that adorn a man;
He showed us the most precious mysteries,
And all the sweet richness of Paradise.
 Evangelist, interpreter of the Gospel
 And bearer of spiritual joy,

Zealous for Christ like an apostle,
He would accept no injustice.
He was tormented like any martyr,
And received his torment as a pledge of salvation.
This servant of Christ showed himself true;
Therefore, the Church glorifies Chrysostom.

REFLECTION

Punishment and reward! Both of these are in the hands of God. But, as this earthly life is only a shadow of the true life in the heavens, so punishment and reward here on earth are only a shadow of true punishment and reward in eternity. The principle persecutors of the saint of God Chrysostom were Patriarch Theophilus of Alexandria and Empress Eudoxia. After Chrysostom's martyric death, bitter punishment befell them both. Theophilus went mad, and Eudoxia was banished from the imperial court by Emperor Arcadius. Eudoxia soon became ill with an incurable disease--wounds opened up all over her body, and worms came out of her wounds. Such was the stench that she gave off, that it was not easy for a person on the street to pass by her house. Physicians used all the most powerful perfumes and incense if only to overcome the stench from the wicked empress, but had little success. The empress finally died in corruption and agony. Even after death, the hand of God lay heavy on her. The coffin containing her body shook day and night for a full thirty-four years until Emperor Theodosius translated the relics of St. John Chrysostom to Constantinople. But what happened to Chrysostom after his repose? Reward--such reward as only God can give. Adeltius, the Arabian bishop who received the exiled Chrysostom into his home in Cucusus, prayed to God after Chrysostom's repose that He reveal to him where John's soul was to be found. Adeltius then had a vision while at prayer. It was as though he were out of himself, and was led through the heavens by a radiant youth who showed him the hierarchs, pastors and teachers of the Church in order, calling each of them by name--but he did not see John. Then that angel of God led him to the passage out of Paradise, and Adeltius was downcast. When the angel asked him why he was sad, Adeltius replied that he was sorry that he had not seen his beloved teacher, John Chrysostom. The angel replied: "No man who is still in the flesh can see him, for he is at God's throne with the Cherubim and Seraphim."

CONTEMPLATION

Contemplate the wondrous creation of the world (Genesis 1):

1. How, in the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth;
2. How the earth was without form and void;
3. How the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

HOMILY

on the foundation and the cornerstone

And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone (Ephesians 2:20).

Brethren, the foundation of the apostles and prophets is their life and work: the Old and the New Testaments. Who unites the apostles and the prophets? Christ the Lord. Without Him, the prophets would not understand the apostles, nor would the apostles understand the prophets. Therefore, He is the fulfillment of the prophets and witness of the apostles. Thus, He is the Cornerstone that ties the prophets and the apostles together, as a cornerstone holds the walls together. The Old and New Testaments are united in Him, have their meaning in Him, revolve around Him, were inspired by Him and are upheld by Him, the Lord Jesus Christ. Where would the pagans and Jews meet, and where would they understand one another, if not in Jesus Christ the Lord? Nowhere, except in Him. In Him and through Him they are united in one new man, in one immortal body, in One, Holy and Catholic Church. Only through the Lord Jesus Christ are the body and the soul united in a loftier and holier friendship. The bonds between the soul and body were at enmity until His coming in the flesh, and that enmity led to the destruction of the soul. He reconciled and sanctified them both. Thus, He became the Cornerstone of every immortal and God-pleasing edifice--be that edifice an individual man or family or nation or the entire race of man--either in the present, in the past, or in the future; of the Old Covenant or the New Covenant. He is the Chief Cornerstone in every building, as He is the Head of the Body, God's Church. O Lord Jesus Christ, our Cornerstone of salvation, have mercy on us and save us. **To Thee be glory and praise forever. Amen.**

Services this Week

- Holy Great-martyr Menas; Holy Mart. Stephen of Dechani, King of Serbia (Wednesday, -November 24th) – Divine Liturgy 09:00 AM**
- St John the Merciful, Patriarch of Alexandria; Venerable Nilus of Sinai(Thursday , November 25th) – 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy**
- St John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople (Friday, -Oktober 26th) – Divine Liturgy 09:00 AM**
- 23th Sunday after Pentecost (Sunday, November 28th) – 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy**

Donations Sunday November 14, 2021

Offering - \$1,022.00 Candles - \$50.00 Dues - \$200

Building Fund

In Memory of Judith Raich – from Ann Luy - \$250

Large Candles

In Memory of Julie Lambrinos from Kumovi Dan & Dyne Tomak

In Memory of Vincent Czubak from Olga Bulich

In Memory of Irene Marinkovich from Olga Bulich

In Memory of Joanne Pavich from Joe & Connie Bartis

In Memory of Zivkovich Family from Janice Fall Urchek

In Memory of Parents Mike & Mildred Tumbas from Robert & Milica Knepp

**IMPORTANT DATES TO PLACE ON YOUR
CALENDAR**

*** TODAY - Sunday, November 21st**

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Luncheon following Divine Liturgy

*** Next Fish Fry –Friday, December 3rd**

*** Sunday, December 5th -Annual Congregational**

Meeting – Liturgy will begin at 9:00 AM

*** Sunday, December 12th**

, - St. Nicholas Slava

**Celebration! Blessing of Slavski Kolac with Honored
Kumovi Peter & Joanne Todorich followed by Banquet
in the Church Hall! Please mark your calendars!**

**Anyone interested in running for and/or remaining on the St
Nicholas Church Council for 2022 must submit their name and
intent in writing to a member of the nominating committee
(Natalie Ofsanko, Carole McAllister and Joseph Golden) ASAP –
You may also leave this information in the Candle Room to the
attention of the Committee.**