

**St Ignatios of Antioch
Melkite Greek Catholic Church
1003 Merry Street
Augusta, Georgia 30904
706 364-6219**



**2nd Sunday after Pentecost
11 June 2023**

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



FISHERS OF MEN

(Mt. 4:18-23)

ON THE FIRST SUNDAY that occurs during the Apostles' Fast our Church regularly reminds us of the call of the leaders of these apostles by the Lord. The Gospel passage read at the Divine Liturgy is Mt 4:18-23, the call of the fishermen. Mark and Luke also tell of this incident, at the effective beginning of Christ's public ministry.

The call of these disciples seems unusually abrupt to many readers. Jesus approaches some fishermen and says "Follow me," and they do. In the Gospel of John we read of a previous encounter that may make this prompt response a bit less jarring.

Meeting Jesus at the Jordan

John describes both Jesus and some of those who would become His followers among those around John the Baptist at the Jordan. While Jesus and the apostles mentioned in John were from Galilee, they may have first met in Judea, where John was baptizing. John the Baptist had acquired a reputation for radical holiness and had drawn people from even farther away than Galilee (see Mk 3:8). It is not unreasonable that religious Galileans like Jesus and His future followers would have traveled to Judea as well.

In John we read: *"Again, the next day, John stood with two of his disciples. And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, 'Behold the Lamb of God!' The two disciples heard him speak, and*

they followed Jesus. Then Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, ‘What do you seek?’ They said to Him, ‘Rabbi’ (which is to say, when translated, Teacher), ‘where are You staying?’ He said to them, ‘Come and see.’ They came and saw where He was staying, and remained with Him that day (now it was about the tenth hour). One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, ‘We have found the Messiah’ (which is translated, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus” (Jn 1:35-42).

The disciples’ question, “Where are you staying?” implies that Jesus was not at home; He was a visitor in lodgings. His fellow Galileans were thus doubly attracted to Him. He had John’s endorsement and He was from their own native region. It is also in light of this passage that the Byzantine Churches call Andrew the First-Called of the apostles.



Next called of the apostles, according to John, would be Philip and Nathaniel. As John tells it, *“The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, ‘Follow Me.’ Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, ‘We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.’ And Nathanael said to him, ‘Can anything good come out of Nazareth?’ Philip said to him, ‘Come and see’” (Jn 1:43-46).*

Back in Galilee

The Gospels do not dwell on Jesus’ return from the Jordan. Matthew outlines it in a few words: *“Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee. And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum... From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’” (Mt 4:12, 13, 17).* This was the same message that John was spreading around Judea (see Mt 3:1) – it is as if Jesus was continuing John’s work in Galilee.

The Gospel of John reports how, soon after returning to Galilee, Jesus “and His disciples” (Jn 2:2) attended a wedding at Cana. This is the first we hear that Jesus has disciples. When did they begin to follow Him? Once Jesus began His own ministry He quickly surrounded Himself with local followers, some of whom had been attracted to John the Baptist.

When Jesus approached Andrew and Peter as they were fishing, He invited them to follow Him, but with a promise. *“Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men”* (Mt 4:20). This image becomes clearer at the end of Matthew’s Gospel when Jesus tells His eleven foremost disciples, *“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations”* (Mt 28:19). Ultimately these former fishermen would be catching their “fish” in Asia Minor and Europe.



The Kingdom of God

All through Jesus’ ministry the preaching of Jesus was filled with “kingdom talk.” The Lord’s Prayer, the parables, and even His final word to Pilate, *“My kingdom is not of this world”* (Jn 18:36), all use this term drawn from Jewish experience and expectation.



In Jewish history the kingdom of God was a worldly entity, the kingdom of David. This kingdom was short-lived. It was divided on the death of David’s son, Solomon, and then destroyed by the Babylonians in the sixth century BC. From then until the coming of Christ the Jews largely lived under foreign rule, but always looked for the restoration of “God’s kingdom,” meaning their independence.

By announcing that the kingdom of God was at hand the Lord was dismissing the ideas that the kingdom was a matter of political independence and therefore something in the material future. For Jesus the “kingdom” was something of the spirit. With the incarnation it is “at hand.” With the spread of Christ’s public ministry through the ministry of the apostles it *“has come near to you”* (Lk 10:9) because the kingdom of God is inner communion with Him. It was already realized in Christ and would become possible for anyone with His death and resurrection which occasioned the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. As St Paul writes, *“For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross”* (Col 1:19, 20).

Thus the kingdom of God is life in and with God, which is now ours mystically through our sharing in the life of the Church and in the ways we make Christ’s teachings the basis of our life. The kingdom will come in power at the end of the age when *“Christ who is our life appears”* and those who are in Him will share in His glory (see Col 3:1-4).

Jesus' "Good News"

The message preached by both Jesus and the Forerunner was that the kingdom of heaven is at hand. In Mark's Gospel a comment is added: *"Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel'"* (Mk 1:14, 15).

We associate the term "gospel" with the four New Testament texts which speak of the life and message of Christ. In the Roman Empire a "gospel" was an imperial proclamation heralded with fanfare – "good news," as it is often translated. By adopting that word the apostles were saying that Jesus was the "real news" in our world.

"The kingdom of heaven has no price tag on it: it is worth as much as you have. For Zacchaeus it was worth half of what he owned, because the other half that he had unjustly pocketed he promised to restore fourfold. For Peter and Andrew it was worth the nets and vessel they had left behind; for the widow it was worth two copper coins; for another it was worth a cup of cold water. So, as we said, the kingdom of heaven is worth as much as you have."

~ St. Gregory the Great, Forty Gospel Homilies, 5.1

✠CALL OF THE FIRST DISCIPLES✠



Sunday Collections

| Attendance | Date | Collection |
|------------|---------------|------------|
| 40 | 9 April 2023 | 580.00 |
| 28 | 16 April 2023 | 10.00 |
| 30 | 23 April 2023 | |
| 30 | 30 April 2023 | 1,041.00 |
| 31 | 7 May 2023 | 552.00 |
| | 14 May 2023 | 680.00 |
| | 21 May 2023 | |
| 31 | 28 May 2023 | 431.00 |
| 23 | 4 June 2023 | 363.00 |

Divine Liturgy Intentions: For the Living:

Bishop Francois, Fr. John Azar, Fr. James Graham, David Mangelsdorf, Brian Frank, Maria Barklage, Nookid Graham, Ali de la Vega, Dn. Kent & Diana Plowman, A Special Parish Intention, Mandie, Stephanie, Nick Baiad, Debi Hull, Charlie & Kathleen Barnette, Medical Personnel and First Responders

For the Dead:

Lou Toscano, Rev. Romanos Russo

Announcements

We are live-streaming on our Facebook page at the following days & times:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday – 8:00AM, The Third Hour

Friday – 6:00 PM Weekday Vespers

Saturday – 6:00PM Great Vespers

Sunday – 9:00AM Orthros & 10:00AM Divine Liturgy

WE'VE BEGUN PRAYING the 3rd Hour on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 8am. This is a short prayer service from our version of the Liturgy of the Hours. It lasts less than 20 minutes or so. Come join us!

PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES AROUND TOWN – Most Holy Trinity parish will be hosting a Men's Holy Hour every Friday morning from 6-7am. There will also be a coffee hour and reflection time afterwards – Men from all parishes are invited to attend for whatever portion of the time they are available. For the Ladies – St. Joseph's will be hosting a Women's Holy Hour on the first Monday of each month at 7pm.

National Association of Melkite Youth

NAMY Conference 2023

Our Melkite Mission: Becoming Disciples, Making Disciples

Who: Melkite Youth throughout the US, ages 13-18

When: Monday July 10th- Friday July 14th, 2023

Where: St. Anselm College in Manchester, New Hampshire

Why: Faith, Fellowship, Fun

For more information:

Please contact Fr. Thomas & Pres. Rebekah Moses at namy@melkite.org

Resurrectional Troparion

(Tone 1)



Af-ter the stone was sealed by the Jews, and while the



sol - diers were wat - ching Your spot - less bo - dy,



You rose, O Sa-vior on the third day, be-stow - ing



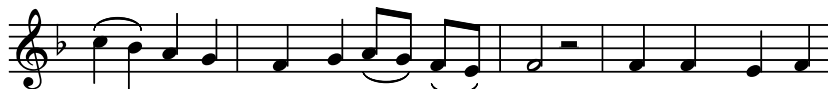
life to the world. There - fore, the hea - ven - ly po - wers



cried out to You O Gi - ver of Life: Glo - ry to Your



Re-sur-rec-tion O Christ, glo - ry to Your King - dom,



glo - ry to Your E-co - no - my O You who a-



- lone are the Lo-ver of man-kind.

Prokimenon

Reader: May your kindness, O Lord, be upon us, for we have hoped in you.

All: May your kindness, O Lord, be upon us, for we have hoped in you.

Reader: Exult, you just, in the Lord; praise from the upright is fitting.

All: May your kindness, O Lord, be upon us, for we have hoped in you.

Reader: May your kindness, O Lord, be upon us,

All: For we have hoped in you.

Readings for the Week:

| | | |
|------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Monday: | Rom 7:1-13 | Matt 9:36-10:8 |
| Tuesday: | Rom 7:14-8:2 | Matt 10:9-15 |
| Wednesday: | Rom 8:2-13 | Matt 10:16-22 |
| Thursday: | Rom 8:22-28 | Matt 10:23-31 |
| Friday: | Rom 9:6-19 | Matt 10:32-11:1 |
| Saturday: | Rom 3:28-4:3 | Matt 7:24-8:4 |

Saints of the Week:

| |
|---|
| June 11: Holy Apostles Bartholomew & Barnabas |
| June 12: Holy Fathers Onuphrios of Egypt & Peter of Athos |
| June 13: Holy Woman Martyr Aquilina; Holy Father Triphyllios, Bishop of Leucosia on Cyprus |
| June 14: Holy Prophet Elisha; Holy Father Methodios, Archbishop of Constantinople |
| June 15: Holy Prophet Amos; Holy Father Jerome, Hermit of Jerusalem |
| June 16: Holy Father Tikhon the Wonderworker, Bishop of Amathonte on Cyprus |
| June 17: Holy Martyrs Manuel, Sabel & Ishmael; and of the Holy Martyr Isaurus and his Companions |
| June 18: Holy Martyr Leontios |

Word Search

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Andrew
Boat
Brothers
Casting
Fishers of Men
Follow
Healing

James
Jesus
John
Kingdom
Left
Net
People

Peter
Preaching
Sear of Galilee
Simon
Synagogues
Walking
Zebedee

Parish Information:

Rt. Rev. Michael Skrocki, JCD
Pastor

abounamike@aol.com

Knights of Columbus
JFK Council

1st Wednesday of the month, 7pm
Most Holy Trinity

4th Degree Assembly
2nd Wednesday of the month, 7pm
St. Ignatios

Publicans Prayer Group
Postponed until Further Notice

New Parishioners:
Please register with Fr. Michael.

Mystery of Holy Confession
Please contact Fr. Michael to set up a convenient time.

Mystery of Christian Initiation
Expectant parents should notify Fr. Michael prior to the birth of the child. Adult converts should contact Fr. Michael so arrangements may be made for any necessary instruction and sacraments.

Mystery of Holy Crowning
Those planning to marry should notify the Fr. Michael
at least six months prior to the desired Wedding date.

Mystery of Holy Anointing
Please notify Fr. Michael when you or a family member is in need of anointing.

To report sexual abuse by clergy, parish personnel or volunteers of the Eparchy of Newton, please call the **Victim Assistance Coordinator** at 1-800-479-5910.

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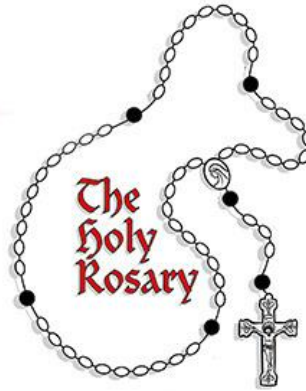
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