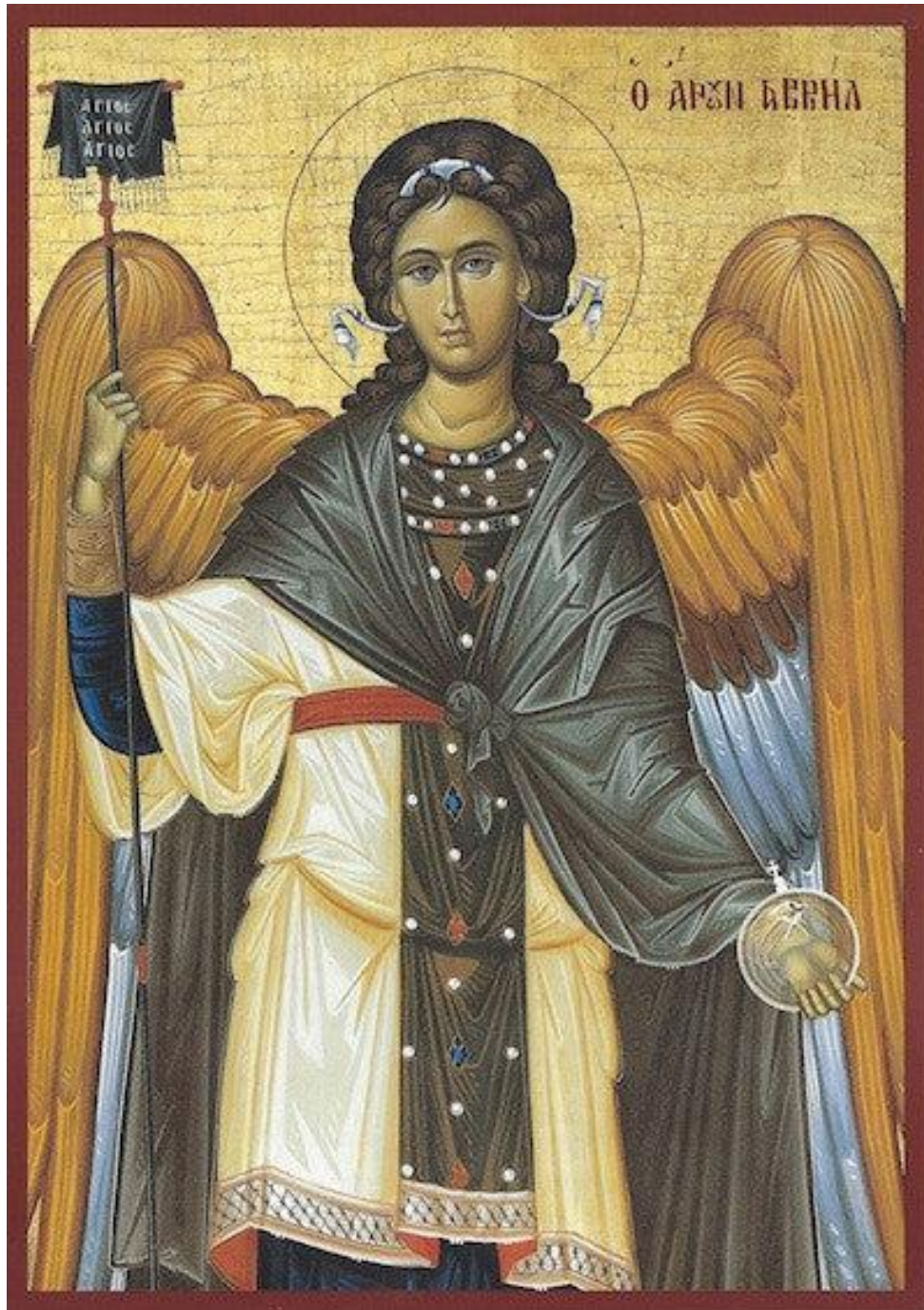
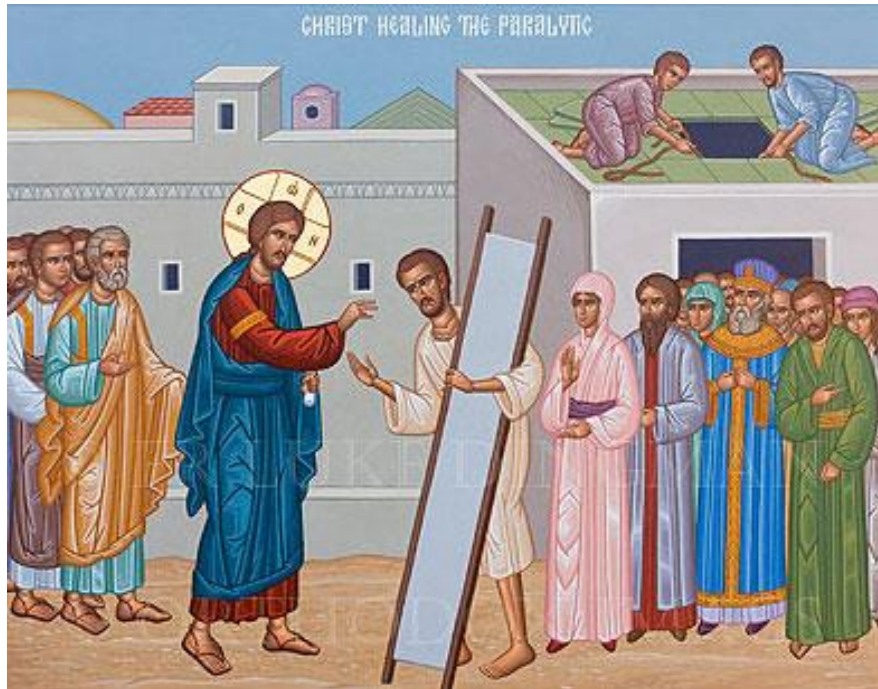


**St Ignatios of Antioch
Melkite Greek Catholic Church
1003 Merry Street
Augusta, Georgia 30904
706 364-6219**



**6th Sunday after Pentecost
9 July 2023**

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



THE SON OF MAN FORGIVES SINS (MT 9:1-8)

WE READ IN MATTHEW 9:1-8 that, when people brought a paralyzed man to the Lord Jesus, He healed the man's paralysis, but not before telling him, "Your sins are forgiven" (Mt 9:2). The bystanders' initial thought that Jesus had blasphemed was replaced by wonder. As Matthew described it, "*they marveled and glorified God, who had given such power to men*" (Mt 9:8).

The Lord Jesus, of course, was more than just a man. His full humanity was joined without confusion to the divine nature of the Word of God. He forgave sin, then, as the only-begotten Son of the Father. But the onlookers' amazement would be justified in time: God would give men the power to forgive sin, in the Church.

When the glorified Christ appeared to His disciples after His resurrection, He told them, "*Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained*" (Jn 20:22, 23). The Church was to extend the presence of Christ in the world both physically and spiritually by imparting the forgiveness of sins to those who came to it in faith.

“First” and “Second Baptism”

The first place where the Church bestows forgiveness of sins is in the **Mystery of Baptism**. When we are buried with Christ in baptism we rise to a newness of life marked by deliverance from the power of sin. Infants brought for baptism, of course, have no sins of which

they may be guilty; adults who receive baptism with repentance are freed from their past sins. As the priest announces at the eighth day removal of the baptismal garments, “you have been baptized, enlightened, chrismated, sanctified and cleansed in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit!”

The early Church recognized that believers might fall into serious sin, particularly when threatened with imprisonment and death during the Roman persecution of Christians. It began using its ability to forgive sin in a new way. Those guilty of serious sin would be reconciled to the Church after confessing their sin and undergoing a period of repentance – what came to be called the **Mystery of Repentance**.

Today we express repentance and experience the forgiveness of sins through the Church in a number of ways:

Daily prayer of repentance – For a member of Christ’s Body, the Church, prayer is the most basic way to experience God’s forgiveness. As St John of Kronstadt said, “Often during the day I have been a great sinner, and at night, after prayer, I have gone to rest justified and whiter than snow by the grace of the Holy Spirit, with the deepest peace and joy in my heart” (My Life in Christ, Part 1).

Regular Self-Reflection – Periodic, even daily self-examination helps us to see the direction of our lives. Our entire existence should be lived in the light of the Holy Spirit. We examine our actions, thoughts and feelings, then, not to condemn ourselves but to affirm our true selves in Christ who has taught us to live for God’s glory.

A Relationship with a Confessor/Spiritual Father – Each person is in a different place in his or her journey. We may on occasion find thoughts in the Scriptures or the Fathers that touch our hearts, but finding someone who knows you and knows the ways of Holy Tradition is like taking a giant step in the Christian life. The fullest dimension of spiritual guidance involves sharing our thoughts and yearnings, not just our sins with this spiritual guide.

Receiving the Eucharist – Several times during the Divine Liturgy we are reminded that the Eucharist is given to us “for the remission of sins.” To receive this gift we must approach “discerning the Body,” as St Paul says: sensing the depth of this Mystery and our unworthiness to take part in it. And so before receiving we say the prayer “I believe, Lord, and profess” specifically asking for the pardon of our offences – the deliberate and the indeliberate, whether committed knowingly or inadvertently – so that we may receive the remission of sins and eternal life in this mystery.

Observing the Church’s Fasts - The Fasts are another liturgical expression of repentance. Rearranging our lives in obedience to the Church’s weekly and seasonal fasts is a most practical

way of affirming our commitment to life in Christ, a daily reminder that “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God” (Mt 4:4).

The Mystery of Confession – As we have seen, Confession was at first considered a “second baptism,” a starting over in the Christian life, when a person had committed serious sin. Over the centuries it became more widely used and is considered appropriate today whenever a person feels the need for it, particularly:

- When a serious sin has been committed;
- When a habitual sin has overwhelmed the Christian;
- When a Christian has stopped growing spiritually and needs a reorientation of priorities.

Confession, along with prayer and fasting is also a customary preparation for important spiritual experiences such as receiving the Eucharist or other mysteries and observing the Great Feasts of the Church year as a part of the Christian’s ongoing repentance. Thus we read in the Didache (late first or early second century), “On the Lord’s Day come together and break bread ... having confessed your transgressions that your sacrifice may be pure.”

No “Cheap Forgiveness”

Some people think that for us to obtain forgiveness we simply need to say a prescribed prayer or undergo a stipulated rite without any real connection to one’s heart. Obtaining God’s forgiveness is not the religious equivalent of paying a traffic ticket. Our sin is forgiven only when two conditions are met.

The first condition is that we extend to those who may have hurt us the same forgiveness we seek to receive from God. We are reminded of this each time we recite the Lord’s Prayer: “forgive us...as we forgive.” If this is not clear enough we also have the Lord’s caution, “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses” (Mt 6:14, 15).

The second condition is that we do something about our sin. This may mean that we make some kind of restitution: return stolen property, try to rebuild another’s reputation which we have harmed, or the like. It may mean that we take steps to avoid repeating the same kind of offence in the future, particularly if our sin is habitual like indulging in gossip or unseemly talk. As the nineteenth century Greek Orthodox saint, Cosmas the Aetolian, once remarked: “Even if every spiritual father, patriarch, and hierarch, with all the people forgive you, you are unforgiven if you don’t repent in action.”

To repent in action does not simply mean resolving not to sin again. Like New Year’s resolutions, such declarations rarely are kept for long. We simply do not have the power to keep

ourselves from sin. Repenting in action means, first of all, turning to God in prayer to be delivered from our sin. We are counseled to repeat continually the prayer of the tax collector, “O God, be merciful to me a sinner.” Only God, who forgives us when we sin, can prevent us from falling into sin... and that only when we continually desire Him to do so. The sincerity of our prayer to be delivered from sin is shown by how often we are moved to utter it.

Sunday Collections

Attendance	Date	Collection
	14 May 2023	680.00
	21 May 2023	
31	28 May 2023	431.00
23	4 June 2023	363.00
24	11 June 2023	715.00
39	18 June 2023	1,502.00
50	25 June 2023	5,002.00
31	2 July 2023	\$429.00

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, Nick Baiad, Charlie & Kathleen Barnette, Richie Damici, Kirk Weidman, Medical Personnel and First Responders

For the Dead:

Greta Madeline Nino

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.

MELKITE MUSIC 101

There is nothing like Melkite music. For beginners, the task of learning Byzantine chant can be daunting, however. This three-week series will cover some of the basics of Melkite music and give participants the tools to continue learning in their own communities. Each session will last two hours with a ten-minute break in the middle. Participants will be able to practice music, ask questions and learn where to find essential materials and resources.

Each session will run from 6-8pm (**CDT**) on Thursday July 20, 27 and August 3. Abouna Justin will open the Zoom link at 5:30 pm (CDT) so that those who wish to virtually 'attend' Vespers may do so.

July 20...Session 1: Introduction and Definitions, How to learn Melkite Music.
Divine Liturgy Music,
Learning the Eight Tones (part 1: Tones 7, 8, 1 and 2)

July 27...Session 2: Learning the Eight Tones (part 2: Tones 3, 4, 5 and 6), Praying Vespers

August 3...Session 3: Praying Orthros, Feast Day Music

Those interested should email Abouna Justin at protosouth@stgeorgebham.com with "MELKITE MUSIC" in the subject line of the email. He will send out a Zoom link and any further details.

Calling all single Catholics! August 25th-27th, 2023 - Join 400+ singles coming from all parts of the US (and beyond!) at the 22nd National Conference for Single Catholics at St. John's Resort, in Plymouth, MI *OR participate virtually and engage with others via the online socials and small group discussions.* This is your chance to connect with like-minded singles (of all ages). The weekend includes talks by dynamic speakers, music, social events, Mass, adoration, fellowship and more. (If joining us in-person, use the promo code (**PARISH23**) when you register to get \$50 off! *Discount for the first 50 sign ups nationwide to use this code.*) Visit NationalCatholicSingles.com for more information and to register. (Can't find your question answered on the website? Call 512-766-5798.)



Upcoming Calendar

July 19 – Wednesday, No 3rd Hour

July 23 – Blessing of cars in honor of St. Elijah

Aug 6 – Sunday, Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord

Aug 14 – Monday, Vespers, Feast of the Dormition – 7pm

Aug 15 – Tuesday, Divine Liturgy, Dormition – 7pm

Feast of the Nativity of Mary – Sept. 8th

Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross – Sept. 14

Resurrectional Troparion

(Tone 5)



Let us, O faith - ful, praise and wor-ship the Word,



co-e-ter-nal with the Fa-ther and the Spi - rit, born of the



Vir - gin for our sal - va - tion, for He was



pleased to be lif - ted in the flesh up - on the Cross and



to en-dure death and to raise the dead by His



glo - ri - ous Res-sur - rec - tion.

Prokimenon

Reader: You, O Lord, will us and preserve us always, from this generation.

All: You, O Lord, will us and preserve us always, from this generation.

Reader: Happy are those whose faults are taken away, and whose sins are covered.

All: You, O Lord, will us and preserve us always, from this generation.

Reader: You, O Lord, will us and preserve us always, from this generation.

All: From this generation.

Readings for the Week:

Monday:	1 st Cor 5:9-6:11	Matt 13:54-58
Tuesday:	1 st Cor 6:20-7:12	Matt 14:1-14
Wednesday:	1 st Cor 7:12-24	Matt 14:35-15:11
Thursday:	1 st Cor 7:24-35	Matt 15:12-21
Friday:	1 st Cor 7:35-8:8	Matt 15:29-31
Saturday:	Rom 12:1-3	Matt 10:37-11:1

Saints of the Week:

July 9: Hieromartyr Pancratios, Bishop of Taormina in Sicily
July 10: The 45 Martyrs of Nicopolis in Armenia
July 11: Great-Martyr, Euphemia; and the blessed Olga, Princess of Kiev
July 12: Holy Martyrs Proclus and Hilarion
July 13: Archangel Gabriel; Stephen the Sabaite
July 14: Holy Apostle Aquila, one of the Seventy Disciples; and of our holy father Joseph the Confessor, Archbishop of Thessalonica
July 15: Martyrs Cyricos and Julitta; Vladimir, Grand Prince of Kiev
July 16: Hieromartyr Athenogenes and his ten disciples

Word Search

Y	F	A	S	P	U	B	L	A	S	P	H	E	M	E	S
S	U	Q	D	D	E	C	E	W	R	D	C	L	E	O	C
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Arise
Blasphemes
Boat
Courage
Crossed
Crowds
Faith

Fear
Forgiven
Glorified
Hearts
House
Pallet
Paralytic

Scribes
Sins
Son
Thoughts
Town
Walk

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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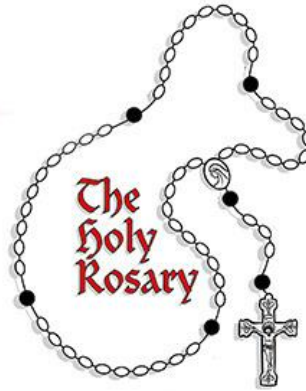
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