

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



**12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
20 August 2023**

## 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost



### Where is our Treasure? A Homily by Archbishop Cyril Bustros

Human beings cannot be satisfied with transitory things. Their hearts yearn for eternal things. That was the concern of the rich man of today's Gospel. He wants to possess eternal life. So he asked Jesus: "Master, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?" Jesus told him to keep the Commandments. The young man replied: "All these I have observed; what do I still lack?" Then it was that Jesus zeroed in on that young man's real lack: "If you wish to be perfect, go and sell all you have and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, and follow me". Then we read the sad words: "When the young man heard this he went away sad; for he had great possessions."

### Eternal life starts now

When we speak of eternal life, we instinctively think of the life after death. But eternity is not a matter of time rather it is a matter of quality. For with the Incarnation of the eternal Son of God, the quality of time changed. When the Son of God "descended from heaven", as we say in the Creed, heaven came to earth, and the eternity filled time. That is what Paul means when he says: "When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son" (Galatians 4:4). And St. John, reflecting on the incarnation of the Word of God in the prologue of his Gospel, says: "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; and we saw his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father... And from his fullness have we all received, grace upon grace" (John 1:14-16). With the fullness of time, we received the fullness of grace and truth, because the eternal Word of God "became flesh and dwelt among us."

This is the treasure Jesus speaks of when he compares the Kingdom of God to a treasure: "The Kingdom of God is like a treasure hidden in a field. A man happens to find it, so he covers it up again. He is so happy that he goes and sells everything he has, and buys that field." (Matthew 13:44). Notice that in both this parable and in the text of the rich man, Jesus uses the same expression. Here he says: "he goes and sells everything he has". And to the rich man he says: "go and sell all you have". In the parable, Jesus compares the Kingdom of God to a treasure, and to the rich man he says: "go and sell all you have and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven".

Notice the contrast between the two figures: The man who found the treasure is “so happy that he goes and sells everything he has, and buys that field.” The rich man “went away sad; for he had great possessions”.

Jesus came to help us to find the true treasure. When he speaks of the riches of this life, he says: “Do not store up treasures for yourselves on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and thieves break in and steal. Instead store up treasures for yourselves in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also” (Matthew 6:19-21).

And he concludes speaking of the slavery of money: “No one can be the slave of two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot be the slave both of God and of money” (Matthew 6:24).

## **Possessed by possessions**

The true problem is not that the young man had many possessions, but that the possessions had him. He was possessed by his possessions. They came first in his life. They were his real god. That is why Jesus asked him to give them to the poor. He could not inherit eternal life unless God came first in his life; unless he was willing to free himself of his enslavement.

We spend our lives storing up things we cannot take with us when we die. Amos Wells expressed it in this way:

“Things! Things! Things!  
Things that take our precious time,  
Hold us from the life sublime,  
Things that only gather dust,  
Things that rot and things that rust,  
Things that mold and things that freeze,  
Things that harbor foul disease,  
Things that mock and that defy  
Till at last we grimly die  
Of things, things, things!”

We store up things in our lives and we die of our concern for things; things that eventually end up in junkyard. No wonder the apostle John declares:

“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If you love the world, you do not have the love for the Father in you. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the pride of possessions is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world passes away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God lives forever.” (1 John 2: 15-17).

“He who does the will of God lives forever”. Eternal life starts here on earth when we do the will of God.

What is more important: “to have”, or “to be”; to “have more possessions”, or to be more human, more generous, more kind to everyone and loving everyone?

Jesus came to change the quality of our being. That is our true treasure. And Christian religion does not teach us how to have new things, but how to become a new being, born again in the name of Jesus and in the Spirit of God.

Jesus came to teach us the way to the fullness of our being, to the fullness of life, to true happiness. Remember that the man who found the treasure was “so happy” while the rich man “went away sad and sorrowful”. Could it be that Jesus was even more sad and sorrowful?

God offers us the most precious treasure, his own eternal life which was manifested to us in his Son Jesus Christ and through his Holy Spirit. The only thing he asks us is to accept this gift, and to live according to it. He gave us the most wonderful gift of all, the fullness of life here and the promise of eternal life after death. This promise is given to us in love. What joy and happiness when we accept it! What sorrow and sadness both for us and for God when we refuse it. Jesus says in the book of Revelation: "Behold! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come into his house, and eat with him, and he with me" (3:20).

Happy are those who find the treasure of their life in sharing the heavenly banquet with Jesus Christ Our Lord and Savior! And we conclude with St. Augustine, in his Confessions: "Our hearts are restless, O Lord, until they rest in you". Amen!

## Sunday Collections

Attendance	Date	Collection
50	25 June 2023	5,002.00
31	2 July 2023	\$429.00
38	9 July 2023	1,547.00
34	16 July 2023	1,365.00
44	23 July 2023	540.00
22	30 July 2023	0.00
55	6 August 2023	1,550.51
32	13 August 2023	33.81

## 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, Medical Personnel and First Responders

### For the Dead:

## 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

**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](http://NationalCatholicSingles.com) for more information and to register. (Can't find your question answered on the website? Call 512-766-5798.)



**AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS**, Troop 1917, is starting its 12<sup>th</sup> year! Our Christ-centered, very active troop based at St. Teresa of Avila, 4921 Columbia Road, Grovetown, has opening for every level, ages 5 – 18.

AHG'S mission statement is "Building women of integrity through service to God, family, community, and country". And our motto is "Faith, Service, Fun" and the girls grow closer to Christ through religious awards programs and devotionals. Service is integral to AHG, and our troop provides more than six community service opportunities each year. Girls love AHG because they make great friends and participate in exciting and challenging activities including camping and other outdoor adventures.

If you and your daughter(s) would like to see what we're all about, please email our registrar, Noelia, at [jfniperez@gmail.com](mailto:jfniperez@gmail.com), for more information. We are holding our kickoff party on August 24<sup>th</sup> and Parents University on August 31<sup>st</sup>, so email her soon to check out our amazing troop!

**THE DIOCESE OF SAVANNAH** is sponsoring a Eucharistic Revival day August 26th hosted at Saint Teresa of Avila and led by Eucharistic Preachers Father Malachy Napier and Father Mathias Thelen. Fr. Malachy is a Conventional Franciscan of the Renewal (CFR), who grew up as a parishioner at Saint Joseph. Fr. Mathias is the co-founder of Encounter Ministries. Bishop Parkes will celebrate Mass at 4:30 PM. The day will be a powerful time to encounter Jesus in the Eucharist. It will include perpetual adoration, family adoration, a youth track, paid childcare, confession, and a

Eucharistic Procession and Healing Service. Register via the Saint Teresa of Avila website or parish office.

**THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SOCCER CHALLENGE** will be held on September 9<sup>th</sup> at 2607 Lumpkin Rd., Augusta at 9am. Boys and Girls aged 9 – 14 are invited to participate. For details contact Kevin at [KevinRNewhall@gmail.com](mailto:KevinRNewhall@gmail.com)

## **Upcoming Calendar**

Aug 25 – Friday, Reader's Vespers

Aug 26 - Saturday, Great Vespers - Reader's Vespers

Feast of the Nativity of Mary – Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>

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



# Resurrectional Troparion

(Tone 3)



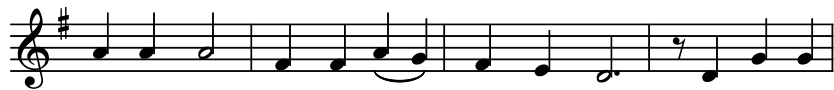
Let all in Hea - ven re - joice and all on earth



be glad, for the Lord has ex-er-ted po-wer with His



arm, by death He has tram-pled up-on Death, and



has be-come the first-born from the dead. He has de-



- li - ver'd us from the bo-som of Ha - des and has



gran-ted to the world great mer - cy.



# Troparion of Dormition

(Tone 1)



In gi-ving birth you have pre-served your vir-gi-ni-



- ty and in fal-ling a-sleep you did not for-sake the



world, O Mo-ther of God. You have passed to life be-ing



the Mo-ther of Life. Through your in-ter-ces-



- sion, save our souls from death.

# Kondakion of the Dormition

(Tone 2)



Nei-ther death nor the tomb could hold the Mo-



-ther of God, our watch-ful Pro-tec-tress and



our un-fail-ing hope. Since she is the



Mo-ther of Life, Christ who dwelt in her e-ver-vir-



-ginal womb lif-ted her up to the e-ter-nal



life.

## Prokimenon

**Reader:** Sing praise to our God, sing praise! Sing praise to our King sing praise!

**All:** Sing praise to our God, sing praise! Sing praise to our King sing praise!

**Reader:** All you peoples, clap your hands! Shout to God with cries of gladness!

**All:** Sing praise to our God, sing praise! Sing praise to our King sing praise!

**Reader:** Sing praise to our God, Sing praise!

**All:** Sing praise to our King sing praise!

### Readings for the Week:

Monday: 2<sup>nd</sup> Cor 8:7-15

Mark 3:6-12

Tuesday: 2<sup>nd</sup> Cor 8:16-9:5

Mark 3:13-19

Wednesday: 2<sup>nd</sup> Cor 9:12-10:8

Mark 3:20-27

Thursday: 2<sup>nd</sup> Cor 10:7-18

Mark 3:28-34

Friday: 2<sup>nd</sup> Cor 11:5-21

Mark 4:1-9

Saturday: 1<sup>st</sup> Cor 2:6-10

Matt 22:15-22

### Saints of the Week:

<b>Aug. 20:</b> 6th Day of the Dormition; Holy Prophet Samuel
<b>Aug. 21:</b> 7th Day of the Dormition; Holy Apostle Thaddeus and the Woman Martyr Bassa and her sons, Theognis, Agapios and Pistos
<b>Aug. 22:</b> 8th Day of the Dormition; Holy Martyr Agathonicos and his companions
<b>Aug. 23:</b> Leave-taking of the Dormition; Holy Martyr Luppus and the Hieromartyr Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons
<b>Aug. 24:</b> Holy Hieromartyr Eutyches, Disciple of St. John the Baptist
<b>Aug. 25:</b> Transfer of the Remains of the Holy Apostle Bartholomew; commemoration of the Holy Apostle Titus
<b>Aug. 26:</b> Holy Martyrs Adrian and his wife Natalia
<b>Aug. 27:</b> Holy Father Poemen; and of the Holy Martyr Phanurios the newly-revealed

## Word Search

V	V	F	D	X	A	D	U	L	T	E	R	Y	S	Q	L	N	N
U	M	A	L	C	R	H	O	R	L	Q	F	U	X	O	I	F	L
Z	X	T	A	F	G	O	O	D	M	A	S	T	E	R	N	H	F
Q	V	H	E	X	A	O	H	S	U	E	W	R	Z	W	D	X	I
I	H	E	T	G	P	L	F	E	J	X	C	X	N	K	I	C	M
H	B	R	S	G	G	X	S	K	A	U	U	E	K	S	S	E	J
K	I	P	C	T	C	N	A	E	A	V	E	Q	V	K	C	V	B
W	E	I	O	P	N	U	V	Z	W	D	E	Q	Q	I	I	I	Z
L	Y	G	C	S	E	E	T	Z	L	I	E	N	J	L	P	G	G
R	D	T	P	I	S	R	M	E	T	R	T	N	P	L	L	Z	R
P	A	Y	Z	K	B	E	F	D	N	G	E	N	J	B	E	G	O
N	S	R	H	R	O	M	S	E	N	R	R	Z	E	E	S	T	B
E	R	U	S	A	E	R	T	S	C	A	Z	C	P	S	B	J	H
M	L	A	L	E	S	H	G	Q	I	T	M	K	J	R	S	W	G
V	V	E	F	I	L	E	T	H	I	O	K	M	Q	L	Y	C	I
C	N	K	F	T	V	Q	L	O	X	G	N	Z	O	V	M	Z	E
W	M	N	C	I	B	Z	Z	L	M	D	R	S	S	C	F	O	N
G	U	N	L	A	C	K	I	N	G	C	A	M	E	L	I	T	M

Adultery  
Camel  
Commandments  
Disciples  
False Witness  
Father  
Give  
Good Master

Heaven  
Jesus  
Kill  
Lacking  
Life  
Mother  
Needle  
Neighbor

Perfect  
Poor  
Possessions  
Sad  
Sell  
Steal  
Treasure

# **Parish Information:**

**Rt. Rev. Michael Skrocki, JCD**  
**Pastor**

**[abounamike@aol.com](mailto:abounamike@aol.com)**

**Knights of Columbus**  
**JFK Council**

1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month, 7pm  
Most Holy Trinity

**4<sup>th</sup> Degree Assembly**  
2<sup>nd</sup> 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.