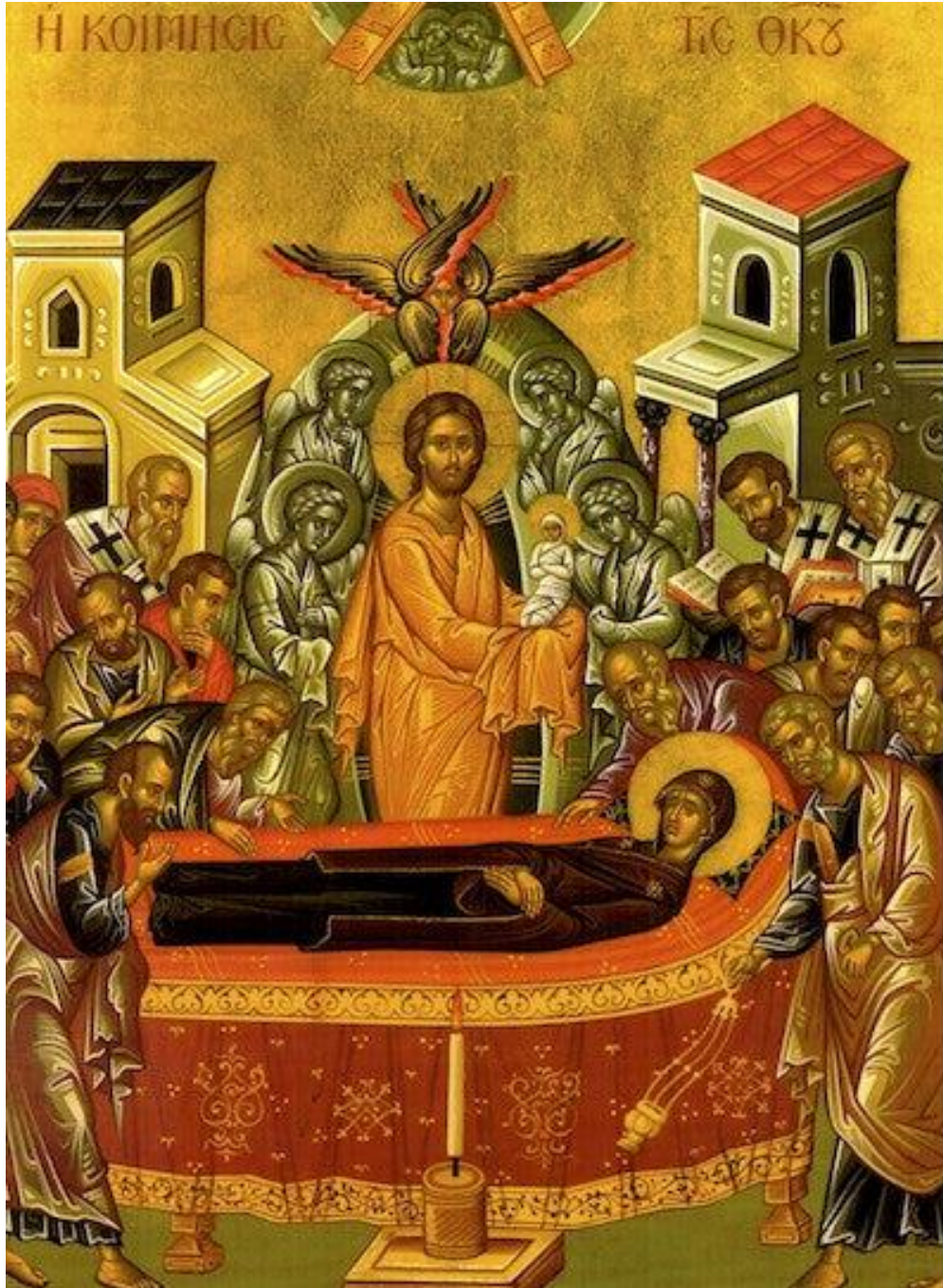


**St Ignatios of Antioch
Melkite Greek Catholic Church
1003 Merry Street
Augusta, Georgia 30904
706 364-6219**



**11th Sunday after Pentecost
13 August 2023**

11th Sunday after Pentecost



Forgive as We Forgive

THE LORD'S PRAYER IS UTTERED to God each day by countless Christians in most of the world's languages. It is said two or three times in each of our daily liturgical services as well. Yet sometimes it seems that we are not listening to the words we ourselves are reciting.

“Forgive us our trespasses,” we pray, “as we forgive those who trespass against us.” Forgive us the way we forgive others – is this really the way we want to be treated? Do we want God to use the way we forgive others as the yardstick to measure how He should forgive us?

The unforgiving steward in Christ's parable ([Matthew 18:23-35](#)) clearly sees no connection between being forgiven and granting forgiveness. He could not see his master's generosity as a model to imitate in dealing with those who owed him. The message was apparently too subtle – it had to be re-taught with a stick so he was handed over to be tortured.. And in case we too miss the point, Jesus adds: *“So my heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses”* (v.35).

When Do We Forgive?

Probably everyone feels they have been wronged at one time or another: in the family or at work, by another individual or by society in general. Many of us would have a hard time forgiving the one(s) who wronged us when asked. But the Lord's teaching is: don't wait to be asked. You reach out to the other.

In 1981 a Turkish fundamentalist, Mehmet Ali Acga, attempted to assassinate Pope John Paul II. Two-and-a-half years later the pope visited the gunman in prison, took him by the hand and offered words of pardon and forgiveness. “I was able to meet my assailant,” the pope said

afterwards, “and repeat to him the pardon I had given him immediately” at the time of the shooting.

The picture made the cover of *Time* with the caption, “Why Forgive?” That’s not the way of the world. It was a professor at Baylor, the Baptist university in Waco, Texas who best explained it to the folks at *Time*. “A whisper, perhaps, to Aca, the Patriarch’s words and action reverberate loudly around the world till this day as an altar call to the spiritually deaf. In forgiving his young misguided enemy the Head of the Catholic Church offered a troubled, hate-filled world an unforgettable image of grace.”

When Do We Ask Forgiveness?

There are times when, rightly or wrongly, someone may have something against us. We actually may have done something to offend another, or that person may have thought that we did. An Athonite elder tells how a monk once offered to help the elder on his errands. The elder declined, not wanting to burden the monk. On his way out of the monastery, the elder met another monk who was going the same way and they went off together. The first monk took that as “proof” that the elder disliked him. When the elder learned of the monk’s reaction, he apologized profusely, even though he had done nothing wrong. His relationship to the monk was more important to the elder than showing who was “right.”

The world might say, “Tell him to get over it, get a life.” The elder was following the Lord’s approach: *“If you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift”* (Matthew 5:23-24).

Seeking reconciliation with others by asking forgiveness is a prerequisite for offering one’s gift. This sentiment is at the heart of two church rituals: the kiss of peace at the Divine Liturgy and the mutual exchanges at Forgiveness Vespers on the eve of the Great Fast. While these rites can be – and often are – trivialized into simple greetings, they are meant to express the importance of setting right our relationships before entering any important spiritual act.

How Do We Ask Forgiveness?

In 2011 the Italian manufacturer Benetton mounted a shock ad campaign featuring a photoshopped picture of Pope Benedict XVI passionately kissing Sheikh Ahmed el-Tayeb. A spokesman for the manufacturer described the picture and others like it as “symbolic images of reconciliation... to stimulate reflection on how politics, faith and ideas, when they are divergent and mutually opposed, must still lead to dialogue and mediation.”

After a major Vatican protest and threatened lawsuit, Benetton “apologized” saying, “We are sorry that the use of an image of the pontiff and the imam should have offended the sensibilities of the faithful in this way.”

Notice that the company did not say “Forgive us.” They did not accept any responsibility for offending others; they said they were sorry that others found what they did offensive. As an

apology, this was meaningless. It was like the politician stating that he or she “misspoke” when “I lied” or “I was wrong” would have been the appropriate response.

We echo Benetton’s reluctance to accept any responsibility for their actions all the time.

Admitting that I did anything wrong or apologizing in any real way goes against the sense of superiority that is part of our broken nature. Our pride does not allow us to say “I’m sorry – forgive me” except in the most trivial ways. With our worldly values we see humility as a weakness, especially when challenged rather than as a virtue.

According to the Gospel, however, loving as we have been loved, forgiving as we have been forgiven, and asking forgiveness when we have offended is fundamental to our life in Christ.

“Forgive Us Our Trespases”

How necessary, how providential, how salutary that we are reminded that we are sinners, since we have to beg for forgiveness, and while we ask for God’s pardon, we are reminded of our own consciousness of guilt! Just in case anyone should think himself innocent and, by thus exalting himself, should more utterly perish, he is taught and instructed that he sins every day, since he is commanded to pray daily for forgiveness.

This is what John warns us in his epistle: If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us; but if we confess our sins, the Lord is faithful and just and will forgive us. In his epistle he combines two things, first, that we ought to beg for mercy because of our sins and second, that we will receive forgiveness when we ask for it. This is why he says that the Lord is faithful to forgive sins, keeping faith with what he promised; because he who taught us to pray for our debts and sins has promised that his fatherly mercy and pardon will follow.

St Cyprian of Carthage
On the Lord’s Prayer

Sunday Collections

Attendance	Date	Collection
39	18 June 2023	1,502.00
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	888.51*

** online giving only – in person collection will be added next week*

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

GREAT VESPERS TOMORROW, August 12th will begin at 6:30 rather than the usual 6:00.

THIS TUESDAY IS THE FEAST of the Dormition of the Theotokos. Great Vespers will be celebrated Monday, the 14th at 7pm and Divine Liturgy on Tuesday, at 7pm.

VESPERS FOR THIS COMING SATURDAY, August, 19th, is cancelled due to the Georgia Right to Life Dinner.

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.

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.)



AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS, Troop 1917, is starting its 12th 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, for more information. We are holding our kickoff party on August 24th and Parents University on August 31st, 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 9th 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

Upcoming Calendar

Aug 12 – Great Vespers at 6:30 not 6:00

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

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

Aug 19 – Saturday, Great Vespers – CANCELLED

Aug 25 – Friday, Reader's Vespers

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

Feast of the Nativity of Mary – Sept. 8th

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

Resurrectional Troparion

(Tone 2)



When you des - cend - ed to Death, O Im - mor - tal



Life, You put Ha-des to death by the splen - dor of



Your Di-vin - i - ty, and when You raised the dead



from be - low the earth, all the Hea - ven - ly Po - wers



cried out to You: O Gi - ver of Life, Christ our God,



glo - ry to You!

Troparion of Transfiguration

(Tone 7) 3x



You were trans - fig - ured on the Moun - tain, O Christ



God, show - ing Your Dis - ci - ples as much of Your glo -



- ry as they could hold. Let Your e - ter - nal light shine



al - so up - on us sin - ners, through the prayers



of the Mo - ther of God, O Gi - ver of Light, glo - ry to



You.

Kondakion of the Transfiguration

(Tone 7)



On the Moun - tain You were trans - fig - ured, O



Christ our God, and Your Dis - ci - ples saw as much



of Your glo - ry as they could hold, so that when



they should see You cru - ci - fied, they would know



that You suf - fer wil - ling - ly, and would pro - claim



to the world that You are ve - ri - ly the Splen - dor of



the Fa - ther.

Prokimenon

Reader: My strength and my courage is the Lord, and he has been my Savior.

All: My strength and my courage is the Lord, and he has been my Savior.

Reader: The Lord has chastised me through his teaching, yet he has not delivered me to death.

All: My strength and my courage is the Lord, and he has been my Savior.

Reader: My strength and my courage is the Lord,

All: And he has been my Savior.

Readings for the Week:

Monday:	2 nd Cor 5:10-15	Mark 1:9-15
Tuesday:	2 nd Cor 5:15-21	Mark 1:16-22
Wednesday:	2 nd Cor 6:11-16	Mark 1:23-28
Thursday:	2 nd Cor 7:1-10	Mark 1:29-35
Friday:	2 nd Cor 7:10-15	Mark 2:18-32
Saturday:	1 st Cor 1:26-2:5	Matt 20:29-34

Saints of the Week:

Aug. 13: Leave-taking of the Transfiguration, Holy Maximos the Confessor
Aug. 14: Vigil of the Dormition of the Theotokos, the Holy Prophet Micah
Aug. 15: Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos
Aug. 16: 2nd Day of the Dormition; transfer of the icon of the Holy Veil of our Lord from Edessa to Constantinople; commemoration of the Holy Martyr Diomedes
Aug. 17: 3rd Day of the Dormition; Holy Martyr Myron
Aug. 18: 4th Day of the Dormition; Holy Martyrs Floros and Lauros
Aug. 19: 5th Day of the Dormition; Holy Martyr Andrew the Centurion and his companions
Aug. 20: 6th Day of the Dormition; Holy Prophet Samuel

Word Search

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

Accounts
Angry
Begged
Children
Compassion
Debt
Fell
Forgave

Forgive
Hearts
Heaven
King
Kingdom
Millions
Parable
Patience

Payment
Pity
Released
Servant
Sold
Torturers
Wicked
Wife

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.