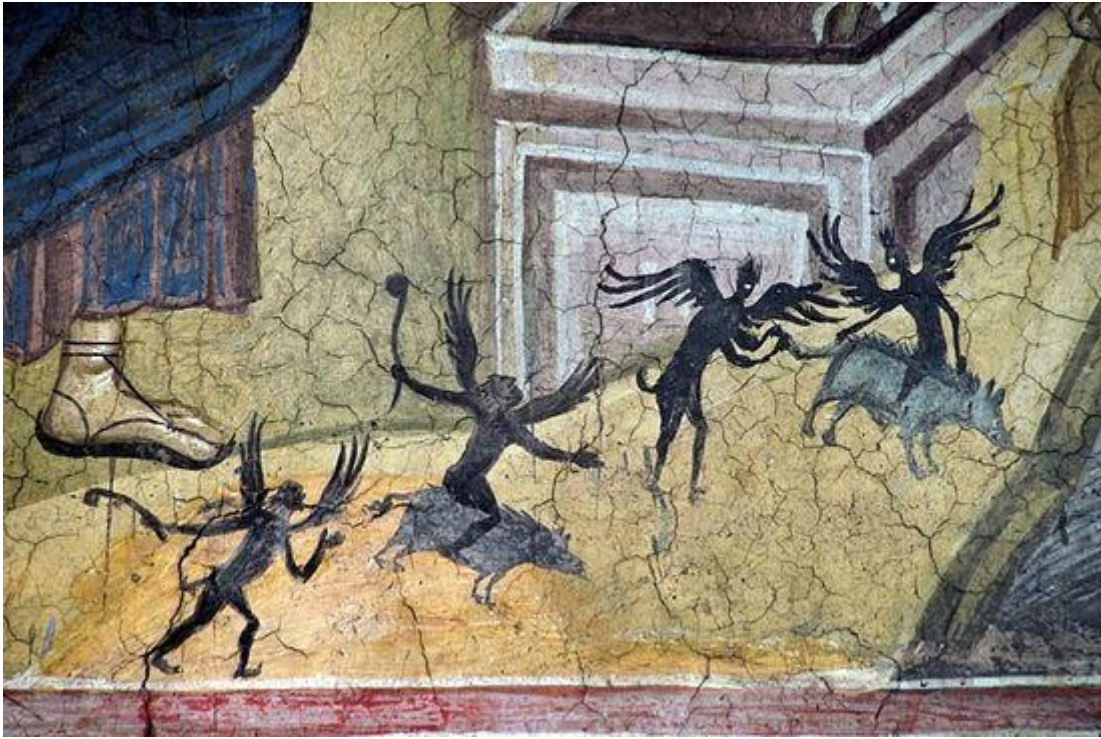


**St Ignatios of Antioch
Melkite Greek Catholic Church
1003 Merry Street
Augusta, Georgia 30904
706 364-6219**



**21st Sunday after Pentecost
22 October 2023**

21st Sunday after Pentecost



Christ Calls a Demoniac

THE GOSPELS RECORD SEVERAL INSTANCES when the Lord Jesus called people to be His followers. At times He called people to leave their homes and livelihoods and follow Him. He called Peter and Andrew, James and John as they were busy fishing *“and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him”* (Matthew 4:22). Similarly Matthew walked away from his toll booth and followed Jesus (cf., [Matthew 9:9](#)); the other disciples whose calls are not recorded in the Gospels did the same.

Sometimes the Lord called but was refused. The cost of following Jesus was more than some people could bear. To the rich young man who wanted to be perfect Jesus said, *“If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”* When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth” (Matthew 19:21-22).

In other instances the Lord raised objections Himself before the would-be follower could discover through failure and discouragement that following Christ meant enduring hardships. Thus *“a teacher of the law came to Him and said, ‘Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go.’ Jesus replied, ‘Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head’”* (Matthew 8:19-20). The Lord wanted this teacher of the law to know that following Christ would not provide the comfortable lifestyle he may have been anticipating.

To a procrastinator, however, He gave the opposite advice. *“Then another disciple said to him, ‘Lord, first let me go and bury my father.’ But Jesus told him, ‘Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead’”* (Matthew 8:21-22). The Lord surely wanted followers but He had a different approach based on the readiness of the person before Him.

This passage suggests the hurdles that people in any age will face when they consider following the Lord in a radical way: fear of the unknown, self-concern, pre-occupation and attachment to other things all can hinder us from following Christ.

The Vocation of the Gadarene

The Gadarene whom Jesus healed (cf., [Luke 8:27-39](#)) wanted to follow Jesus as well; the Scripture says that he “*begged to go with Him,*” but the Lord had another plan for him. “*Jesus sent him away, saying, ‘Return home and tell how much God has done for you.’ So the man went away and told all over town how much Jesus had done for him*” (Luke 8:38-39).

The Gadarenes had made it clear that they wanted Jesus to go away. He would not force Himself on them. At the same time He wanted to leave them with a permanent reminder of His presence: their own fellow countryman whom He had delivered. This man had once been a burden to the townspeople; now he would be a blessing.

The apostles were told to go through the world preaching the Gospel; this man’s call was to go home and do the same in his village. Was his call by Christ less of a vocation than that of the apostles? It was different, surely, but it was a vocation nonetheless.

Some people in the Church tend to think that “vocation” refers exclusively to the calling of a cleric or monastic. The Lord does call some people in every age to serve the Church as priests, deacons, chanters, etc. He does invite others to serve Him as a monk or nun, or as a member of a religious community. But these are not the only people whom He calls to serve Him.

Our Fundamental Vocation

Every person baptized into Christ has a vocation. The essence of that vocation is perhaps best expressed in the First Epistle of Peter: “*But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light*” (1 Peter 2:9).

There are three important aspects of our universal vocation expressed in this passage. First, our vocation is to a priesthood: what the Scripture calls a “royal priesthood.” Christ is the true kingly priest and because we have been baptized into Him and sealed in His Holy Spirit we share in His priesthood. Secondly, we share in this priesthood as members of a people, the people of God. We are not individually priests, as are the ministers of the altar, but members of a priesthood because of our common union with Christ the High Priest.

This passage also tells us the reason for this priesthood: “*that you may declare the praises of*” God. Our vocation as members of the royal priesthood is to share in the Church’s call to proclaim the work of God in Christ. Some, like the apostles and evangelizers, are called to bring the Gospel to the ends of the earth. Others, like the Gadarene whom Jesus delivered in the Gospel or the Samaritan Woman, are called to show forth God’s love for mankind in their own corner of the world. Still others – most of us in fact – are called to share in the Church’s common vocation to proclaim Christ.

How Can We “Proclaim?”

When we think about “proclaiming God’s works” we invariably think about speaking or writing. There is a host of other ways by which the Church makes the Good News present in our world. At the Bridegroom Matins on

Holy Tuesday we are reminded that the abilities we have received are often the way in which the Lord makes known to us our way of responding to this call:

“Come, O faithful, let us work eagerly for the Master, for He distributes wealth to His servants; and let us increase the talent of grace, each one according to his ability. Let one adorn his wisdom with good deeds. Let another beautify the celebration of the service. Let someone strong in faith communicate the word to the uninitiated, and another dispense his wealth to the poor. Thus, we shall increase what has been loaned to us and, like faithful stewards of grace, shall be worthy of the Master’s joy. O Christ God, make us worthy of that joy, for You are the Lover of Mankind.”

Through each of these ways and countless others believers can take their place in the royal priesthood, joining in the Church’s mission to declare through word or work *“the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.”*

What Happened to the Gadarenes?

The Gospels record that the Lord Jesus sent the man He had healed back home to witness to his neighbors. They do not tell us whether he was successful: was this village converted or not?

We do know that by the third century AD the village was all but deserted. The crag which overlooked the Sea of Galilee, however, had become a place of pilgrimage for Christians seeking to commemorate the healing of the Gadarene. By the fifth century a large monastery serving the pilgrims had been established there. The monastery was expanded in the sixth century but abandoned after a catastrophic earthquake destroyed much of the area in 749. Ruins of the monastery were excavated in the 1970s by the Israeli department of antiquities and were later incorporated into a national park.

A poster for a "Fall Dance for Life" event. The background is a warm orange-brown color with decorative autumn leaves and pumpkins. At the top, it says "Augusta Spirit and Truth Young Adult Ministry Presents". The main title "FALL DANCE FOR LIFE" is in large, bold, yellow letters inside a dark brown, cloud-like shape. To the right of this shape, the date "Saturday October 28" is written in large, bold, dark brown letters, with "7 - 10 pm" below it. Below the main title, there are two pumpkins. Underneath the pumpkins, it says "Come support a pro-life cause! 18+ are welcome". At the bottom, there is a table with ticket prices and event details.

Tickets:	\$10 BEFORE Oct 13th	Wear your best Halloween costume! Winner gets a prize! Location: St. Mary on the Hill Parish Hall
	\$15 AFTER Oct 13th	
	\$20 at the door	

Call/Text to purchase tickets: 706.267.3352
Or email catholicaugustanewsletter@gmail.com.
Tickets are limited.
100% of proceeds go to benefit Pregnant Choices!



Calling ALL Fathers and Sons

*Trail Life USA is a church-based,
Christ-centered, boy-focused
mentoring and discipleship journey
that speaks to the heart of a boy.*

JOIN US

**Thursdays at 6:30pm
in St. Teresa of Avila's Ed Building
Rooms 3-4**



**GA2011Troopmaster@gmail.com
TrailLifeUSA.com**



Trail Life

**Our Motto is
Walk Worthy**



WE HAVE RECEIVED A VERY GENEROUS OFFER – during the season of the Christmas Fast (beginning 15 November) an anonymous parishioner has offered to match any donations we receive two to one. This is a wonderful opportunity to make your generosity to the parish count even more!

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS JFK Assembly 180 will be having a complete online fundraiser through Double Good to benefit Guitars for Vets from Oct. 19 at 5 p.m. to Oct. 23 at 5 p.m. This is a 12-week program that teaches veterans who have issues with PTSD or other combat-related injuries, mental health issues, or sexual trauma to play guitar as a mode of healing. At the end of the program, the graduate receives a guitar of their own. The guitars are priced at around \$210 per guitar not to mention the material that comes along with it.



<https://popup.doublegood.com/s/lwta6670>

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS are doing their annual Catholic Citizens Essay Contest. The Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest is open to all Catholic students — in public, private or parochial schools — in grades 8-12 during the current school year. Contestants must write from 500 to 750 words on this topic: How can the Church evangelize in the digital age? The deadline for entry is the 29th of October. There are monetary awards. If interested, see Fr. Michael for an application.

Sunday Collections

Attendance	Date	Collection
39	27 August 2023	21.00
29	3 September 2023	511.50
40	10 September 2023	618.00
31	17 September 2023	75.00
31	24 September 2023	0.00
27	1 October 2023	60.00
39	8 October 2023	\$1,192.00
40	15 October 2023	\$451.00

Divine Liturgy Intentions:

For the Living:

Bishop Francois, Fr. John Azar, Fr. James Graham, Fr. Michael Copenhagen, David Mangelsdorf, Brian Frank, Nookid Graham, Ali de la Vega, Dn. Kent & Diana Plowman, Mandie, Nick Baiad, Charlie & Kathleen Barnette, Alfonso de la Vega, Michael A Skrocki, 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

JOIN US IN 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 OPPORTUNITES 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.

Resurrectional Troparion

(Tone 4)



The wo - men di - sci - ples of the Lord, ha - ving



learned from the an - gel the joy - ful an -



- nounce - ment of the re - sur - rec - tion, and ha - ving re -



- jec - ted the an - ces - tral sen - tence proud - ly told the A -



- pos - tles: Death is de - spoil - ed Christ God is ri -



- sen, be - stow - ing to the world great mer - cy.

Prokimenon

Reader: How great are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you have wrought them all.

All: How great are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you have wrought them all.

Reader: Bless the Lord, O my soul! You are very great indeed, O Lord my God!

All: How great are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you have wrought them all.

Reader: How great are your works, O Lord!

All: In wisdom you have wrought them all.

Readings for the Week:

Monday:	Colossians 2:13-20	Luke 11:29-33
Tuesday:	Colossians 2:20-3:3	Luke 11:34-41
Wednesday:	Colossians 3:17-4:1	Luke 11:42-46
Thursday:	Colossians 4:2-9	Luke 11:47-12:1
Friday:	Colossians 4:10-18	Luke 12:2-11
Saturday:	2 nd Cor 5:1-10	Luke 9:1-6

Saints of the Week:

Oct. 22: Holy Abercius Bishop of Hieropolis; and the 7 martyred children of Ephesus
Oct. 23: Holy Hieromartyr James, brother of the Lord, first bishop of Jerusalem
Oct. 24: Holy Great-Martyr Arethas of Najran and his companions
Oct. 25: Holy Martyrs Marcian & Martyrius
Oct. 26: Holy Great-Martyr Demetrius
Oct. 27: Holy Martyr Nestor
Oct. 28: Holy Martyrs Terence & Neonila; and of our Father Stephen the Sabaite
Oct. 29: Venerable Martyr Anastasia; and our Father Abramius

Word Search

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

Abyss
Chains
Cliff
Clothes
Country
Devil
Drowned
Forcing

Gerasenes
Guard
House
Lake
Legion
Possessed
Proclaiming
Return

Ropes
Spirit
Swine
Tombs
Torment
Town
Wilderness

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.