

# **The Thirty-second Sunday after Pentecost and the Fifteenth Sunday of Luke**

**Commemorating the Holy Apostle Timothy and Anastasios the Persian**

Venerable Joseph the Sanctified of Crete

**Sunday, January 22, 2012**

**Tone 7; Eothinon 10**

## **Apolytikion of the Resurrection (Tone 7)**

Thou didst shatter death by Thy Cross, Thou didst open paradise to the thief; Thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment-bearing women into joy. And didst bid Thine Apostles proclaim a warning, that Thou hast risen O Christ, granting to the world the Great Mercy.

## **Apolytikion of St. Timothy the Apostle (Tone 4)**

When Thou didst learn what things were good in life thou didst live in all sobriety and didst endure thyself with a good conscience as befits thy sanctity. Thou didst learn from the chosen vessel ineffable teaching and having kept the faith thou didst finish the self same course. O Hieromartyr and Apostle Timothy, intercede with Christ God to save our souls.

## **Apolytikion of St. Anastasios the Persian (Tone 4)**

Thy Martyr, Anastasios, O Lord, in his courageous contest for Thee received as the prize the crowns of incorruption and life from Thee, our immortal God. For, since he possessed Thy strength, he cast down the tyrants and wholly destroyed the demons' strengthless presumption. O Christ God, by his prayers, save our souls, since Thou art merciful.

## **Apolytikion of our Patron the Archangel Michael (Tone 4)**

O ye foremost of the heavenly hosts we beseech thee, though we are unworthy, pray that we may be encompassed with a shadow of Thy unearthly glory, preserving us who kneel and cry endlessly: deliver us from oppression since ye are the prince of the Highest Power.

## **Kontakion of the Presentation of Christ (Tone 1)**

[in anticipation of the Feast of the Presentation (February 2<sup>nd</sup>)]

Thou, O Christ God, Who by Thy Birth, didst sanctify the Virgin's womb, and, as is meet, didst bless Simeon's arms, and didst also come to save us; preserve Thy fold in wars, and confirm them whom Thou didst love, for Thou alone art the Lover of mankind.

## **Daily Readings** [Arabic text below]

THE EPISTLE (for the Thirty-second Sunday after Pentecost)

*The Lord will give strength to His people.  
Ascribe to the Lord, O sons of God; ascribe to the Lord honor and glory.*

### **The Reading from St. Paul's First Epistle to Timothy (4:9-15)**

Timothy, my son, the saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, Who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. Command and teach these things. Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Until I come, attend to the public reading of scripture, to preaching, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophetic utterance when the council of elders laid their hands upon you. Practice these duties; devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress.

THE GOSPEL (for the 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke; "Zacchaeus Sunday")  
[Pastoral Sermon printed below]

### **The Reading of the Holy Gospel is according to St. Luke (19:1-10)**

At that time, Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector, and rich. And he sought to see Who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Jesus, for He was to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. And when they saw it they all murmured, "He has gone in to be the guest

of a man who is a sinner.” And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold.” And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost.”

## **The Synaxarion – January 22<sup>nd</sup>**

On January 22, we commemorate the holy Apostle Timothy, disciple of the holy Apostle Paul.

### **Verses**

*Timothy, in longing after divine laurels,  
dyed the earth with his blood when beaten with cudgels.  
On the twenty-second Timothy's spirit was taken.*

Timothy was one of the Seventy Apostles, born in Lystra in Lycaonia. Timothy first met with the great Apostle Paul in Lystra and was himself a witness when Paul healed the one lame from birth (Acts 14:8-10). Later, Timothy constantly traveled with of Paul, to places like Achaia, Macedonia, Italy and Spain. Sweet in soul, he was a great zealot for the Faith, and a superb preacher. Timothy contributed much to the spreading and establishing of the Christian Faith. Paul calls him “my own son in the faith” (I Tim. 1:2). After Paul’s martyrdom, Timothy had John the Evangelist as his teacher. But when John was banished from Ephesus to the island of Patmos, Timothy remained in Ephesus to serve as bishop. During the time of an idolatrous feast in 93 A.D., the pagans attacked Timothy and killed him. Later, his honorable relics were interred in the Church of the Twelve Apostles in Constantinople along side of the graves of Luke the Evangelist and Andrew the First-called.

On this day, we also commemorate the Venerable-martyr Anastasios the Persian. When Emperor Heraclius warred with the Persians, Anastasios deserted to the Christians. He went to Jerusalem where he was baptized and tonsured a monk. Anastasios joyfully read the hagiography of the holy martyrs; and in reading it, he moistened the book with his tears and ardently yearned for martyrdom. The Lord finally crowned him with the martyr’s wreath on this day in 628 A.D., in the town of Bethsaloe near Nineveh.

On this day, we also commemorate the Venerable Joseph the Sanctified of Crete. *By the intercessions of Thy Saints, O God, have mercy upon us. Amen.*

#### **A Note Regarding Holy Communion**

Since we understand Communion to mean that we have all things in common, sharing an identical Faith, *only* those who are members of the Orthodox Church and who have prepared themselves through prayer, fasting and recent Confession may participate in Holy Communion. (We invite all, however, to partake of the blessed bread which is distributed at the dismissal.) Please see the Pastor for inquiries on how to become a member.

#### **ملاحظة بخصوص تناول القربان المقدس**

إن مفهومنا لتناول القربان يعنى عمومية المشاركة فيه لذوى العقيدة الواحدة، إلا إن المشاركة في سر القربان المقدس هنا مقتصر فقط على أعضاء الكنائس الارثوذكسية والذين يحضرون أنفسهم بالصلاة والصوم والاعتراف منذ فترة قريبة (وعلى كل حال، فإننا ندعو الجميع للمشاركة في الخبز المقدس الذى يوزع عند إنتهاء مراسيم القداس). إذا رغبت أن تصبح عضواً في الكنيسة الارثوذكسية رجاء مراجعة الكاهن.

## **OFFERINGS**

Holy Bread and wheat\* are being offered this morning by Marcia O'Dea and family for the six-month memorial for the newly-departed servant of God and Priest Thomas O'Dea of blessed memory and eternal repose (+10 July, 2011).

The Five Loaves for the Feast of the Holy Apostle is being offered this morning by Father Timothy Baclig, celebrating his Feast Day and his 29<sup>th</sup> year in the Holy Priesthood.

Memorial Prayers are being offered this morning by Pat & Michael Malouf and family for the one-year memorial of Pat's brother, Steven Peck (+15 January, 2011); also for the three-day memorial of Pat's father, the newly-departed Robert Peck (+19 January, 2012). Memory eternal.

The coffee hour is being hosted this morning by the Blair family with prayers offered for Chad's parents, Wayne & Carol, his brother, sister-in-law and daughter, Marc, Jess and Auria.

Special offerings and requests for prayer are being made . . .

by the Deeb, Kouri and Najjar families in celebration of the Feast day of Father Timothy (January 22<sup>nd</sup>) and Anthony Najjar, who recently celebrated his Feast Day (January 17<sup>th</sup>). May God grant them many years!

for Ryan Tamoush who begins “boot camp” with the U.S. Marine Corp this week. May the Archangel Michael watch over him and may God keep him safe in his protective care.

## LITURGICAL CALENDAR

[Note: Wednesday and Fridays are observed as days of fasting]

### **The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost; 17<sup>th</sup> of Matthew The Sunday of the Canaanite Woman**

Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers, 5 p.m.

Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 8:45 a.m., Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.

### **Feast of the Presentation of Christ (February 2<sup>nd</sup>)**

Vesperal Divine Liturgy, Wednesday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 6:30 p.m.

### **The Sunday of the Pharisee and the Publican – Sunday, Feb. 5**

[there is no fasting during week of February 6 – 10]

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\* The offering of wheat (*amha*) for memorial services is a practice that can be traced back to the middle of the fourth century. In earlier times, bread and wine with olives, cheese or rice were offered in charity, and those who partook of them would pray, “Blessed be his/her memory.” The wheat is cooked sometimes with honey or sugar, mixed with figs, raisins, nuts and other sweets. The grain and fruit brought to the commemoration of the dead signifies that the dead will truly rise again from the grave, for both grain, which is sown in the earth, and fruit, which is laid on the earth, decays first and afterwards brings forth abundant ripe, whole fruit. The honey or sugar used with the wheat signifies that after the resurrection of the Orthodox and the righteous, there awaits a joyous and blessed life in the Heavenly Kingdom and not a bitter sorrowful one. The wheat prepared from grain expresses the faith of the living in the resurrection of the dead to a better life, just as that seed, having fallen upon the ground, although undergoing corruption yet grows to attain a better appearance. (See I Corinthians 15:35-57)

# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **Scouting**

On Sunday, February 5, 2012, Scouts from all over the United States will celebrate National Scout Sunday. The Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the Americas has designated this also as Orthodox Scout Sunday. All of our young people who are Scouts are asked to wear their uniforms to church on that day. The Eastern Orthodox Committee on Scouting supports our youth through an extensive Religious Award Program. This program is designed around a scout's spiritual life and consists of young people aged 5-18, and the adults who lead them. It gives the scout a chance to work closely with their spiritual Father to earn their award. The unique bond formed at this age is a stepping stone for the rest of their spiritual life. If your son or daughter is a Cub Scout, Brownie, Girl Scout or Boy Scout, they may enroll in the program. It includes a work booklet that involves the participation of the parent, scout and parish priest. Awards are presented at designated times with the completion of a unit. Parents: Please contact Tania Mulry, Church School Superintendent for more information.

## **GoodSearch – What is it?**

GoodSearch is an on-line search site that is not unlike Google that helps you locate websites and on-line information. GoodDining can also be utilized to find restaurant discounts that, when used, earns us money as well. Each time you use these services, St. Michael church can gain a contribution at no cost to you! Natalie Malouf, our Webmaster is available to answer any questions you may have.

## **House Blessings**

Father Timothy is available to bless homes by appointment. He may be reached by phone (818-219-3761) or e-mail: <[pastor@stmichaelvannuys.org](mailto:pastor@stmichaelvannuys.org)>. While pastoral visits to your home and house blessings may occur on almost day of the year, Father will be scheduling many house blessings up until the time of Great Lent (February 27, 2012).

**Note to Coffee Hour hosts: coffee and paper goods will be provided each week.**

### **Holy Bread Offering List**

Jan 29 – The Abdun-Nur family

Feb 05 – The Tamoush family

Feb 12 – The Sarchizian family

Feb 19 – The Sarchizian family

Feb 26 – open

Mar 04 – open

### **Coffee Hour Hosts Calendar**

Jan 29 – Margaret Abdun-Nur and  
Minnie Lush

Feb 05 – The Abraham and Meena families

Feb 12 – The Soffa and Nassief families

Feb 19 – Church School Pancake Breakfast

Feb 26 – open

Mar 04 – open

**Please contact Father Timothy (818/219-3761; [pastor@stmichaelvannuvs.org](mailto:pastor@stmichaelvannuvs.org))  
to sign-up to offer Holy Bread for any of the open upcoming Sundays.  
Contact Frieda Kabbash (818)707-6478; [frieda702@aol.com](mailto:frieda702@aol.com)) to host the Coffee Hour.**

## **Parish Work Day – Sunday, February 12**

Our parish home requires our personal attention. Your availability in affording some time to help us with our parish clean-up day would be greatly appreciated and will help to save us some needless fees. "Home is where the heart is," and as Valentine's Day rapidly approaches, the personal care of our parish home is a vital part of our Christian stewardship. Sunday, February 12, 2012 has been scheduled for our first day of cleaning. Bring a change of clothes, if necessary, to participate in an afternoon of fellowship following Liturgy. A list of various odd jobs will be made available on that day. Should you have any questions, please see Don Meena. Note: If your teen son or daughter has the need for "community service" school credit, this is an excellent opportunity to have them sign-up with Father Timothy.

## **St. Mark Golf Tournament Re-scheduled**

The postponed St. Mark Golf Tournament has been re-scheduled for Monday, February 6, 2012 at the Aliso Viejo Country Club (33 Santa Barbara Dr., Aliso Viejo, CA, 92656; Registration, 9 a.m., Shotgun at 11 a.m., Reception/dinner at 5 – 8 p.m. You can now register on-line at: <[www.st-mark-church.org/golf/](http://www.st-mark-church.org/golf/)>.

## Camp Scholarships

March 1, 2012 is the deadline for all summer camp scholarship applications for any young person in our parish, provided by the Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch. Please contact Father Timothy for more information.

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GLOSSARY: Troparion (tro-pah-ree-on); *plural*, Troparia: A brief poem in accentual metre, expressing the theme of a feast. Kontakion (kon-tah-kee-on); *plural*, Kontakia: A special kind of Troparion that expresses the teaching of a Feast. It summarizes and applies the meaning of a feast of day. Orthros (*Orthros*): The word literally means *early morning*. It is the name of the service, which by some has been called *Matins*, and still by others, *Lauds*, though it does not correspond exactly to either of the Western Services. Eothinon (ee-oh-thee-non): meaning – *pertaining to the dawn*. They are the eleven assigned readings of the Gospel during the Orthros Service, pertaining to the eleven appearances of our Lord to His Disciples after the Resurrection. Synaxis (see-nax-sees) “the gathering or coming together” as it pertains to a celebration of a commemoration or feast. Following a major Feast a “Synaxis” commemorates the “co-stars” of the Feast, i.e., following the Feast of the Presentation of Christ (Ss. Simeon and Anna), following the Feast of the Birth of Christ (the Holy Virgin Mary), following the Feast of Holy Theophany (St. John the Baptist), etc. Synaxarion (see-nax-sah-ree-on) the summary of a Feast, describing a historical significance and meaning of a commemoration.

### **PASTORAL SERMON** **The Fifteenth Sunday of Luke** **By V. Rev. Timothy Baclig** **January 22, 2012**

Since the days of Zacchaeus, very little has changed. Today people in certain professions have a stigma attached to their person, very often due to the abuses, if not poor conduct of a few who are reported about in the news.

Zacchaeus, mentioned in this morning’s Gospel, was a tax collector for the hated Roman state which practiced the oppressive taxation during the times of Jesus. As a tax collector Zacchaeus was regarded by his fellow Jews to be a great sinner and a man completely given over to worldly values. He was a man of the harsh realities of the world—ruthless competition for wealth, exploitation of every opportunity, the aggressive pursuit of selfish interests. Religion was not for him.

Zacchaeus, for some reason, however, was curious and interested in Jesus. It was not mere curiosity but the first stirrings of faith that made him risk embarrassment by climbing a tree in order to see Jesus as he passed through Jericho.

At the end of today's Gospel we hear Jesus say to Zacchaeus, "...this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."

There definitely was something about Zacchaeus' conscience that prompted him to seek, to see and to hear Jesus. And because of this desire, God brought about a wonderful change in Zacchaeus, an astonishing liberation from his old self, his previous ways of thinking and the values and life pattern of a tax collector of that time.

Notice that it was outside of the Synagogue and away from the temple where the encounter took place. Zacchaeus probably did not even think of going to the Synagogue or Temple, and even if he did, the religious custom of his time would not have allowed him to enter. But the day that Jesus spoke in the city of Jericho (a town that had a high population of priests); Zacchaeus went out of his way to be amidst the crowd.

St. Kyril writes: *Zacchaeus was chief of tax collectors, a man entirely (abandoned) given to covetousness... But he did not continue among their number... He sought to see [Jesus], but the multitude prevented him.* St. Kyril goes on to say that it was not so much the people that had prevented him from seeing Jesus, as it was his sins. *He was of [small] stature, not merely in a bodily point of view, but also spiritually.* Zacchaeus could, in no other way see him, unless he was raised up from the earth. St. Kyril then comments: *...for in no other way can a man see Christ and believe in Him, except by mounting up into the sycamore [tree], by rendering foolish his members which are upon earth, fornication, uncleanness, etc.*

The same is true for any of us whose lives are so preoccupied with our concerns of this world. The Divine Liturgy for us is a time for "laying aside all earthly [worldly] cares" as we are about to sing in the Cherubic Hymn. It is not for the purpose of escaping the realities of our life, but to help us in gaining a right perspective on life – that life, that is for us eternal life.

The radical transformation in Zacchaeus' life was the love of God working through Christ. Christ through His personal presence and divine love touched Zacchaeus and completely changed him. The conversion power of God's love flowing through Christ transformed Zacchaeus into a new, free and joyful man. I again want to point out to us that it was not in the Synagogue or around the Temple where this transformation

took place but by the personal encounter that Zacchaeus had by seeking, and by Jesus' personal visit to Zacchaeus' home.

The prayer of the priest during the blessing of a home begins with the phrase: *O Thou who didst enter under the roof of Zacchaeus, bringing salvation to him and to his house... grant your protection, your guidance and help to your servants and all their petitions which are unto salvation...*" This prayer reminds us that our salvation is first and foremost to any petition, just as our most frequent prayer in the church: the prayer that encompasses all of our needs and desires is for God's great mercy.

### Prayer

O Christ, our God, visit us today that we like Zacchaeus may be transformed in mind, heart and soul. May we lay aside all worldly cares that we may receive You – the King of all. For Thou art our help, our Stronghold, and our Salvation and to Thee do we ascribe glory, together with Thy Father and Thine All-holy, Good, and life giving Spirit; now and ever and unto ages of ages. A-men.

[Arabic Text for the Hymns and Readings]

طروبارية القيامة على اللحن السابع  
حطمت بصليبك الموت وفتحت للصلب الفردوس، وحوّلت نوح حاملات الطيب،  
وأمرت رسلك أن يكرزوا بأثك قد قُمت أيها المسيح الإله مانحاً العالم الرحمة  
العظمى.

طروبارية القديس تيموثاوس على اللحن الرابع  
أيها الشهيد في رؤساء الكهنة تيموثاوس، لقد تعلمت الصلاح، وكنت متيقظاً  
في كل شيء، ولبست استقامة الضمير كما يليق بالكهنة. فاستوعبت من  
الإثاء المصطفى الأسرار المعجزة البيان، وحفظت الإيمان، وأتممت  
شوطك مثله، فاشفع إلى المسيح الإله في خلاص نفوسنا.

طروبارية الشهيد أناستاسيوس على اللحن الرابع  
شهيدك يا ربّ بجهادهِ نال الأكاليلَ غيرَ الباليةِ يا إلهنا، فإنّه أحرز قوتك، فقهر  
المضطهدين وسحق تجبرّ الأبالسةِ الذي لا قوة له. فبشفاعته أيها المسيح الإله  
خلص نفوسنا

## قنداق التقدمة على اللحن الأول

اليوم ظهرت وخلصتنا أيها المسيح الإله، يا من بمولدك قدستَ المستودعَ  
البتولي، وباركتَ يدي سمعان كما يليق. احفظ رعيّتك بسلامٍ في الحروب، وأيد عبيدك  
الذين أحببتهم، أيها المحبُّ البشر وحداً.

## الرسالة

الرب يعطي قوة لشعبه، قدموا للرب يا أبناء الله، قدموا للرب مجداً وعزاً.  
فصلٌ من رسالة القديس بولس الرسول الأولى إلى تيموثاوس.  
يا ولدي تيموثاوس، صادقةٌ هي الكلمة، وجديرةٌ بالقبول التام. فإذا كنّا نتعب  
ونُعير، فلأننا وضعنا رجاءنا في الله الحيّ الذي هو مخلصُ الناس أجمعين،  
وعلى الأخصّ الذين يؤمنون. فعليك أن توصي بهذا وتعلّم. لا تدع أحداً  
يستخفّ بفتوتك، بل كن مثالا للمؤمنين في الكلام والتصرف والمحبة  
والإيمان والعفاف. واطبّ على القراءة والوعظ والتعليم إلى أن أجيء. ولا  
تهملُ الهبة التي فيك، فهي هبةٌ أوتيتها بالنبوة بوضع جماعة الشيوخ أيديهم  
عليك. تأمل في ذلك، وكن عليه عاكفاً حتى يظهر نجاحك في كلّ شيء.

## الإنجيل

فصلٌ شريفٌ من بشارة القديس لوقا

في ذلك الزمان, اجتاز يسوع في أريحا, وكان فيها رجل غني من كبار  
جباة الضرائب اسمه زكا, وكان يلتمس ليرى من هو يسوع. لكنه كان  
قصيرا, فلم يستطع أن يراه لكثرة الجمع. فأسرع إلى جميزة وصعد لها  
ليراه, لأن يسوع كان مزمعا أن يمر بها. فلما وصل يسوع الى هناك, رفع  
نظره إليه وقال: "إنزل سريعا يا زكا لأنني سأقيم في بيتك." فنزل مسرعا  
واستقبله فرحا. فلما رأى الجميع ذلك قالوا متذمرين: "إنه دخل ليقوم عند  
رجل خاطئ." فوقف زكا وقال ليسوع: "هاأنذا يا رب أعطي الفقراء  
نصف أموالي, وإذا ظلمت أحدا في شيء, أرده أربعة أضعاف." فقال له  
يسوع: "اليوم حصل الخلاص لهذا البيت, لأنه هو أيضا من أبناء إبراهيم.  
فابن البشر جاء ليبحث عن الهالكين ويخلصهم