

## **The Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost; The Ninth Sunday of Luke**

Gregory the Wonderworker, Bishop of Neo-Caesarea

Gennadios and Maximos, Patriarchs of Constantinople;

Nikon the wonderworker, disciple of Sergios of Radonezh; Hilda, Abbess of Whitby

**Sunday, November 17, 2019**

**Tone 5; Eothinon 11**

### **Apolytikion for the Resurrection (Tone 5)**

Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

### **Apolytikion for St. Gregory off Neo-Caesarea (Tone 8)**

By vigilance in prayer, and continuance in the working of wonders, thou didst acquire thine achievements as a surname; wherefore, intercede with Christ our God, O Father Gregory, to enlighten our souls, lest we sleep in sin unto death.

### **Apolytikion for our Patron, Michael the Archangel (Tone 2)**

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

### **Kontakion for the Entrance Theotokos (Tone 4)**

The sacred treasury of God's holy glory, the greatly precious bridal chamber and Virgin, the Savior's most pure temple, free of stain and undefiled, into the House of the Lord on this day is brought forward and bringeth with herself the grace of the Most Divine Spirit; her do God's Angels hymn with songs of praise, for she is truly the heavenly tabernacle.

## **Daily Readings**

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

*Thou, O Lord, shalt preserve us and keep us from this generation.  
Save me, O Lord, for the godly man hath disappeared.*

## **The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians (6:11-18)**

Brethren, see with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the Law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh. But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. Peace and mercy be upon all, who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God. Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

THE GOSPEL (for the Ninth Sunday of Luke)

## **The Reading of the Holy Gospel is according to St. Luke (12:16-21)**

The Lord spoke this parable: "The land of a rich man brought forth plentifully; and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns, and build larger ones; and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." As He said this, Jesus called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

## **The Synaxarion**

On November 17 in the Holy Orthodox Church we commemorate our father among the saints Gregory the wonderworker, bishop of Neo-Caesarea.

### **Verses**

Gregory, who wrought many wonders aforetime,  
Standing in God's presence, worketh yet more wonders.  
On the seventeenth the great Thaumaturge (wonderworker) died.

The miracle-working Gregory was called a second Moses. Although born a pagan, he became aware of the meagerness and insufficiency of pagan philosophy. Gregory then turned to Christian teachers with whom he studied and from whom he received baptism. To dedicate himself solely to Christ God, Gregory withdrew to the wilderness and lived in rigorous asceticism. Bishop Phaedimus of Amasea wanted to consecrate him Bishop of Neo-Caesarea. The clairvoyant Gregory perceived this intention and hid from the bishop's emissaries. Finally, Phaedimus consecrated him in absentia, and Gregory had to accept the office of bishop. The Most-holy Theotokos and St. John the Theologian appeared to him in a vision and gave him the Symbol of Faith—"The Creed"—which the First Ecumenical Council ratified. He died around the year 270 in great old age. When he arrived in Neo-Caesarea as bishop, he found only seventeen Christians in that pagan city. At the end, Gregory left the city Christian, with only seventeen pagans.

On this day, we also commemorate Gennadios and Maximos, patriarchs of Constantinople; Nikon the wonderworker, disciple of Sergios of Radonezh; and righteous mother Hilda, abbess of Whitby. By their intercessions, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

November 18 in the Holy Orthodox Church we commemorate the holy Great-Martyr Plato of Ancyra in Galatia.

### **Verses**

Plato almost escaped unnoticed; that Plato,  
I mean, whom the broad sword slaughtered.  
On the eighteenth, a saber slew Plato.

Plato is the brother of the holy Martyr Antiochus the Physician (July 16). While still a youth, he left home and went through the cities, preaching the Word of God to pagans, amazing his audience with the persuasiveness and beauty of his speech, and his profound knowledge of Greek learning. For this, Plato was arrested and brought for trial to the temple of Zeus before the governor Agrippinus. At first, the judge attempted to persuade the saint to turn away from Christ by flattery. He

assured the youth that he might be on a par of intellect with the greatest of the philosophers Plato, if only he worshipped also the pagan gods. To this, Saint Plato answered that the wisdom of the philosopher, although great, was but ephemeral and limited; whereas the true, eternal and unbounded wisdom comprised the Gospel teachings. Agrippinus ordered the holy Martyr Plato to be beheaded, and he entered the Heavenly Kingdom in 266.

On this day, we also commemorate the Martyr Romanos of Antioch; Martyrs Zacchaeus the deacon and Alphaeos the reader of Caesarea in Palestine. By the intercessions of Thy Saints, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

## LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Fast of the Holy Nativity - November 15 - December 24

[This fast is divided into two periods: 1) November 15 - December 19 - the traditional fasting discipline includes no meat, poultry, dairy, fish, wine and olive oil on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, with provision for wine and oil (some also permit fish) on Tuesdays and Thursdays; with fish, wine and olive oil on Saturdays and Sundays; 2) December 20-24 - the traditional fast is Monday through Friday with provision for wine and olive oil on Sunday, December 24.]

**Feast of the Presentation of the Holy Theotokos - November 21**

**The Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost  
Thirteenth Sunday of Luke**

Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, Great Vespers, 5 p.m.

Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, Orthros, 8:45 a.m., Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.

### **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.

**Parish Council Meeting - Tomorrow, Monday, November 18th, 7 p.m.**

## THE CHRISTMAS FAST – ADVENT

The Church ordains that this preparation begins on November 15. The Fast is forty days long and is sometimes known as Philip's Fast because it begins the day after November 14, which is dedicated to St. Philip the Apostle.

The Fast has very ancient origins. Leo the Great, in the Fifth Century, made mention of it as an ancient, established Fast, which gave importance to the event of the Birth of Christ by the Church, even at that time. The Christians Church did not universally observe the Fast in length and method until the Council of Constantinople in 1166 AD. It was at that Council that the ancient regulations and various customs and traditions of the churches were studied and forty days was chosen to be most representative.

Many of us want the Feast without the penitential note that precedes it. We want Christmas without Advent. The result is that most of us only “observe” the day of Christmas and fail to “keep” the day holy. The Christmas fast gives us time to meditate upon the meaning of our Lord's coming (God born as a man) – in the past, present, and future. Only to the extent that we prepare carefully for His Coming can we receive Him worthily. Hence, as Christmas approaches, we should be aware of the meaning of the Christmas fast (Advent) upon us and our souls. Consciences need examination; sins need to be forgiven. Above all, souls need refreshment with His Sacramental Presence when the Christmas Fast ends and Christ is born.

## OFFERINGS

The Holy Bread is being offered and the Coffee Hour hosted this morning by Sonia Karam in loving memory of her husband, Anton Karam (+1907). Memory eternal. Prayers are also offered for the continued health of her son, Jimmy and his family; daughter, Linda, and her family, and the Ababseh, Abughazaleh, Azzam and Hallak families.

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

for the one-year memorial of Dorothy Nelson (+16 November, 2018),  
mother of Eric Nelson. Memory eternal.

for the continued health of Phyllis Grates.

---

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Capital Funds Campaign Committee Meeting - Next Sun., Nov. 24**

## Father Timothy on Vacation

Father Timothy is on vacation and will be returning late on Thursday, November 21st. We thank Father Minas who is substituting for him this morning. Father Timothy may be reached by e-mail, voice call or text in the event of an emergency. For any other non-emergency needs, please contact his Pastoral Assistant: Subdeacon Richard Ajalat (818-800-2418) or by e-mail <[rajalat@stmichaelvannuys.org](mailto:rajalat@stmichaelvannuys.org)>.

## Teen SOYO Raffle

Tickets for our Annual Teen SOYO Holiday Raffle are available each Sunday until the date of the drawing, Sunday, December 8, 2019, during our Church School Christmas Program. Proceeds from the raffle will help Teen SOYO sponsor the Special Olympics at the Antiochian Village and our St. Michael Teen Program.

## Christmas Toy Collection

We will again be collecting new toys for the children of prisoners. The toys should not include guns or require batteries. We especially need sports items: soccer balls, basketballs, and games for the children. All financial contributions should be turned in no later than Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, and all toys should be at the church by the date of our Christmas Program – December 8<sup>th</sup>. All toys and clothing will be distributed by the Archdiocese Prison Ministry with the assistance of our parish in Palmdale.

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

### Holy Bread Offering List

Nov 24 - open  
Dec 1 - the Hallak and Azzam families  
Dec 08 - open  
Dec 15 - open  
Dec 22 - open  
Dec 24 and 25 - open

### Coffee Hour Hosts Calendar

Nov 24 - open  
Dec 1 - the Hallak and Azzam families  
Dec 08 - Church School Lenten Buffet  
Dec 15 - The Khouri/Lewin Families  
Dec 22 - the Meena family

**Please contact Fr. Timothy (818/219-3761; [pastor@stmichaelvannuys.org](mailto:pastor@stmichaelvannuys.org)) to sign-up to offer Holy Bread and Cindy Tamoush at: (818-345-4363; [famtam5@socal.rr.com](mailto:famtam5@socal.rr.com)) to sign-up for the Coffee Hour.**

## Fall Food Collection

We are again assisting a local food pantry ("Loaves and Fishes") in their new location in Van Nuys. Please phone Cindy Tamoush at: 818-345-4363 if you are able to participate in our Thanksgiving and/or Christmas food collection. Here are ways that you may choose to participate:

1. If you'd like me to shop for you, write a check out to: "St. Michael Church," earmarked: "Holiday Food Collection" (tax deductible)
2. You may purchase grocery script in any amount. Don't forget to use your Ralph's Reward Card that will help St. Michael benefit from your purchase.
3. Due to the lack of space, Loaves and Fishes is requested any of the following items: personal care items, deodorant soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, sanitary napkins and disposable razors, large disposable diapers, men and women's socks, bottled water, and any store gift cards in \$5 or \$10 denominations. Please do not provide us with clothing or household items.

**All food items must be delivered to our church kitchen next Sunday, November 24 and/or Sunday, December 22.**

Thank you for your support,

Cindy Tamoush  
Charity Coordinator

### **Upcoming Events (see the foyer bulletin board for more information)**

Day Retreat: "The Inner Heaven of Man: An Exploration of the Healing of Mind, Heart and Will According to the Teaching of St. Nicholas of Zica; led by V. Rev. John Finley - Saturday, November 23; 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
St. Barnabas Church (Costa Mesa)

Fast in Preparation of the Holy Nativity - November 15 to December 24

St. Matthew Feast Day and Nativity Retreat  
St. Matthew Church (Torrance), November 15-17; Father John Finley speaker: "Building a Christian Community in a Fractured World"

Special Meeting of the Voting Membership - Sunday, November 24  
[for the purpose of accepting nominations for Council members]

Placing of the Dome Cross in Place - Sunday, November 24  
following the Divine Liturgy

Thanksgiving Weekend Iconography Retreat with Iconographer:  
Khouriye Randa Al Khoury Azar - November 25-30; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
with free hour lunch break; (TAHS 1020 Base Line Rd., La Verne 91750)

St. Michael Teen “Friendsgiving!”  
Saturday, November 30 at the home of Anna & Cooper Rowe  
R.S.V.P. by today - November 10

“Sex Education in Public Schools: What Parents Should Know”  
Half-day Seminar by Dr. Keith Buhler, Saturday, December 7;  
1:30 to 4:15 p.m., St. Simeon Mission (Santa Clarita)

Young Adult “Ugly Sweater Party” - Saturday evening, December 7

Church School Christmas Program Rehearsal - Saturday, December 7  
with lunch and the visit of St. Nicholas

50th Anniversary Church School Christmas Program  
at the end of Liturgy, Sunday, December 8

Advent Retreat (St. Michael Church, Whittier) with Fr. Patrick Reardon  
“Prayer and the Word of God;” Saturday, December 14, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
RSVP at: [StMichaelWhittier@gmail.com](mailto:StMichaelWhittier@gmail.com); [www.stmichaelwhittier.org](http://www.stmichaelwhittier.org)

Teen Christmas Caroling Event - Saturday, December 21, 2019

The Feast of the Holy Nativity (Christmas) - Wednesday, December 25  
Christmas Eve Liturgy (Paramon), 3:30 p.m.; Christmas Day, 10 a.m.

### **The Placing of the Dome Cross**

Next Sunday, November 24, 2019 the holy cross (donated by Emile Skaff in memory of Carrie Deeb Skaff) will be placed at the top of the dome of our new church sanctuary. This will take place at the end of the Divine Liturgy at approximately 11:30, just before the coffee hour on that day.



## **Parish Council Nominations**

Next Sunday, November 24, 2019 we will be holding a brief Special Meeting of the Voting Membership solely for the purpose of receiving and accepting nominations for Parish Council members to be elected for there (3), three-year terms (January, 2020 to December, 2022). At this meeting the Nominations Committee will present their report and additional nominations will be open from the floor. It is important that persons being considered be able to fulfill the commitment to serve. Therefore it is necessary that all nominees first be personally asked if they would accept nomination, and second be approved by the Pastor as someone who is qualified. The Parish Constitution prescribes that all nominees must be at least twenty-five years of age or older, have been a pledging members of the parish for at least one year and have fulfilled the canonical requirements of the Faith [Article VI, Sec. 2]. The nominees must also be committed in attending monthly Parish Council meetings held on the third (3rd) Sunday of each month. We sincerely thank Connie Abdun-Nur Barilla (Vice-Chair) [ending her first term; able to be nominated]; Carrie Sadd Khouri [ending her second term and unable to be nominated] and Michael Mitchell (Chair) [ending his second term and unable to be nominated]. Our three (3) one-year appointed members whose terms are expiring are: Eric Nelson (Secretary), [ending his eighth consecutive year (two three year terms and two appointed terms) and unable to be nominated]; Julie Bitar [ending her first appointed term and able to be nominated]; and Dan Raju [ending his first appointed term and able to be nominated]. The Parish Council election will be held on two (2) consecutive Sundays: December 1 and 8. Council members whose terms are unexpired are: Richard Ajalat, Joe Ayoub, Regan Hines, Adam Lamar, Deacon Andrew Monsue and Kris Thabit. Charmaine Darmour is also completing her ninth (9th) consecutive year as President of the Antiochian Women. Please speak with Connie Abdun-Nur Barilla (Vice-Chair) or Father Timothy should be interested in serving on our Parish Council.

## **Ancient Faith Radio**

Consider spending your time during the fast hearing the educational podcasts of Ancient Faith Radio. Simply go to: [www.ancientfaith.com](http://www.ancientfaith.com)

**St. Michael Antiochian Orthodox Church  
of the San Fernando Valley**

16643 Vanowen Street, Van Nuys, California 91406-4622

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Michael:

The last quarter of 2019 is upon us and perhaps it is time to do some tax planning for our tax filings in the spring of 2020.

The 2019 Tax Law has changed our ability to deduct certain items and in other cases has capped the amount we are able to deduct. For instance, there is a cap on deductions for State Taxes and Property Taxes. The government however has not put a cap on the amount of Charitable Donations you are able to deduct according to your income.

We ask that you prayerfully consider St. Michael Church in your charitable giving to both benefit yourselves and in like manner benefit the church. There are several members of our parish who have neither pledged or donated to our new Building Fund Project and it is now time to do so. A pledge form is attached with this bulletin for your convenience. Also, listed below are several options to consider on how to donate to St. Michael Church:

A charitable donation of long-term appreciated securities, i.e., stocks, bonds and/or mutual funds that have realized significant appreciation over time is one of the best and most tax-efficient of all ways to give. This method of giving has become increasingly popular in recent years. There are two main advantages:

- 1) Any long-term appreciated securities with unrealized gains (meaning they were purchased over a year ago, and have a current value greater than their original cost) may be donated to the church with the benefit of receiving a tax deduction for the full fair value of the securities—up to 50% of the donor's adjusted gross income;
- 2) Since the securities/stock is being donated rather than sold, capital gains taxes from selling the securities no longer apply. And the more appreciation the securities have, the greater the tax savings will be.

Second: A Qualified Charitable Deduction (QCD) is an option for anyone 70.5 years of age or older. You are able to take advantage of withdrawing from your personal IRA (Individual Retirement Account) without paying Federal or State Taxes. This will give the donor an opportunity to fulfill their pledge. You would not be able to take a tax deduction on the donation, however, not having to pay Federal or State Taxes on the IRA withdrawal far exceeds the benefit of a tax deduction. [Your IRA deduction cannot exceed \$100,000 per year.]

In both of the above options the funds would need to be transferred from either your Securities Brokerage Account or IRA Account directly to the St. Michael Antiochian Orthodox Church Brokerage Account in order for the donation to qualify.

One other possible means of doubling your donation is corporations that provide a Matching Funds Program. You should inquire with your company's Human Relations Office for more information.

May God grant you and your family His divine grace with continued health and prosperity.

In Christ,

Ron Zraick

St. Michael Antiochian Orthodox Church

Chair, Capital Funds Campaign Committee. [ronaldzraick@gmail.com](mailto:ronaldzraick@gmail.com)

---

### **Senior Ride Option**

GOGO Grandparent is a safe and affordable transportation service for seniors needing a ride to and from any location. The company also provides assistance with seniors using walkers and wheelchairs. For more information go to: [gogograndparent.com](http://gogograndparent.com) or phone: 855-464-6872.

### **Ancient Faith Radio**

Consider spending your time during the fast hearing the educational podcasts of Ancient Faith Radio. Simply go to: [www.ancientfaith.com](http://www.ancientfaith.com)

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

[The Sacrament of Confession with Absolution is available by appointment or up until 15 minutes prior to the services.]

### **The Sunday before The Holy Nativity**

#### **“The Sunday of the Genealogy”**

Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup> – Great Vespers, 5 p.m.

Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> – Orthros, 8:45 a.m., Divine Liturgy,\* 10 a.m.

### **THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY IN THE FLESH OF OUR LORD, GOD, AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST**

Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> (Christmas Eve and *Paramon*)

The Ninth Royal Hour, 3 p.m. Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great\* – 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup> (Christmas Day)

Orthros and the Christmas Canon, 8:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy,\* 10 a.m.

[There is **no** fasting from December 25<sup>th</sup> to January 4<sup>th</sup>]

### **The Circumcision of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ and the Feast of St. Basil the Great (New Year’s Day)**

Tuesday, December 31<sup>st</sup> (New Year’s Eve) – Great Vespers, 5 p.m.

with prayers for the New Year

Wednesday, January 1<sup>st</sup> (New Year’s Day) – Orthros, 8:45 a.m.;

Divine Liturgy,\* 10 a.m., with prayers for the New Year

### **THE GREAT FEAST OF HOLY THEOPHANY (EPIPHANY)**

Friday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> - The Prayers of The Royal Hours, 6 a.m., 9 a.m., noon, and 3 p.m.

Saturday, January 4<sup>th</sup> - The Eve of Forefeast (*Paramon*) – [observed as a strict fast day]

Great Vespers of the Forefeast (*Paramon*)

Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup> - Orthros, 9 a.m., The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom\* 10 a.m. followed by the service of The Great Blessing of the Waters

Great Vespers of Holy Theophany, 5 p.m.

Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup> — Festal Orthros, 8:30 a.m. immediately followed by  
The Festal Divine Liturgy

\* *Services with Holy Communion*

**PASTORAL SERMON**  
**The Ninth Sunday of Luke**  
**By V. Rev. Timothy Baclig**  
**November 17, 2019**

Upon hearing today's Gospel lesson, you and I should ask ourselves: "How much is enough?" What do I need in order to live a life in such a way that I am not hoarding my possessions?

We all have responsibilities with serious concerns: a) providing for our family; which may include avoiding debt; doing everything we can to ensure that our children are educated; preparing for the needs of our retirement and concerns for our medical expenses. All of these things come with great uncertainty. They can, at the same time be excuses for not sharing with others, especially those with great needs. Some of us, especially if we are blessed with good fortune, consider every possible way of avoiding taxes; we carefully plan our deductions, consider ways to multiply our income with wise investments; you know what I'm taking about. My point is: so much of our financial planning is without much certainty. We worry about tomorrow, but we clearly know that our Lord teaches us that we should not; yet our lives are seem largely dependent upon what resources we have.

So then I must ask: What does this morning's Gospel say to us? A great deal about what I've just said is relative if we are to take seriously what is taught by our Lord in the Gospel: Let me review some of His words with you. It is interesting to note that one-third of our Lord's teaching has a direct bearing upon what we do (or don't do) with our resources:

1. [Matthew 6:25ff] *...do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? (v. 33) But seek first [the Kingdom of God] and His righteousness...*

2. [Matthew 6:21; Luke 12:34] *Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. **For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.***

For the past two Sundays we have heard lessons that have focused our attention upon doing good works. Specifically, we have been reminded that our rich heritage in Christ, who is Himself, the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets, calls us to be merciful. Moreover, it was made clear that “being merciful” should be the motivation of “making sacrifices.”

Our Christian Tradition (in both the East and West) has observed a fast during the Season of Advent. Our church has kept a fast in preparation for the Great Feast of our Lord’s coming. However, unlike Great Lent, this period of forty days has, over the years, tended to place greater emphasis upon the practice of doing good works. The whole legend of Santa Claus, for example, based upon the real person of St. Nicholas the Wonder-worker, is commonly depicted as a kind and charitable saint, who was a doer of good deeds, especially to the poor. Yet, without minimizing the discipline of fasting and prayer practiced during the season, fasting, we should understand, does not exclusively mean abstinence from foods. Fasting can also, and very possibly mean, the abstinence of the many other things that we have found ourselves “consuming:” **things** that we may have become possessive of, or very possibly attached to; even behavior that we have found ourselves compelled to do. The foolish rich man spoken of in today’s Gospel is a good example. **He lacks an understanding of God as his Source and selfishly hoarded his goods.**

St. Gregory the Great addresses the fast in this way: “...let no one believe that fasting alone is sufficient; for the Lord tells us by the mouth of the prophet, ‘The kind of fasting I want is this: Remove the chains of oppression and the yoke of injustice, and let the oppressed go free.’ And then he continues, ‘Share your food with the hungry and open your homes to the poor. Give clothes to those who have nothing to wear, and do not refuse to help your own relatives (Isaiah 58:6, 7). The Lord therefore blesses the fast that uplifts our hands in almsgiving before His eyes, which is joined to the love of our neighbor, and founded on compassion.’”

We live in a land that has prided itself upon freedoms that have provided each of us with countless opportunities for our every ambition. If either by working hard, such as our parents or grandparents did, some of whom were immigrants, or if it was our good fortune to become the inheritors of all that they achieved to make our life much easier, **our standard of living is largely spoken of in terms of our possessions.** And so the very words of our Lord Jesus Christ in the verse preceding today's lesson could not be more alarming: "*Watch out!*" He said, "*Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses*" (verse 15). The Lord then proceeds to present us with a parable that describes a successful man who defines his life in terms of what he possesses, and further, considers the purpose of his life in this world solely in terms of being a consumer. We hear the rich man in today's Gospel says to himself, "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry" (verse 19). These words are part of the writings of the Old Testament author of Ecclesiastes. They are the very words that are also found in the prophesy of Isaiah. However in Isaiah, the phrase ends with the words: "...for tomorrow we die" (Isaiah 22:13). It is not mentioned in the quote because the Gospel lesson draws the same conclusion: the rich man's life ends with death.

Today's lesson is also a good study into the mind of the greedy. In commenting on the rich fool, St. Basil says: *His heart is tormented, devoured with anxiety. For what [others might rejoice in] brings pain to the [greedy]. [The rich man is not happy that] his storehouses are stuffed full. The overflowing riches which his storehouses are unable to hold are a torment to his soul, lest perhaps the overflow should bring some of their blessing to those in want!* The man in the parable is truly selfish, according to Basil.

Our Lord's concludes the lesson of the parable with the warning: that possessing the rich man's attitude and his way of thinking is foolish. Why? Because it would be more proper for one's goal in life to be focused upon becoming "rich towards God" – the Giver of every gift, the Provider and Source of all things.

In last week's Gospel lesson we heard our Lord say, *I desire mercy not sacrifice (Matthew 9:10)*. The man in today's parable was neither merciful nor sacrificial. He considered his life blessed by having the ability to selfishly hoard his riches. He gave no thought to the fact that he would not be able to take any of his possessions with him to the grave. He was in fact, deluded in his thinking: perceiving himself rich, he was in fact

very poor. Thinking of his wealth in terms of the abundance of his possessions, he gave no thought to what it meant to be “rich toward God”.

### Prayer

O Christ our God, have mercy upon us sinners. O Holy Virgin, Mother of God, beneath your compassion we take refuge, despise not our prayer in our spiritual poverty, but by your intercessions, deliver us from all manner of greed, jealousy, pride and envy. O Holy Spirit of God, purify our hearts set aright our minds, and sanctify our souls that we may be found faithful stewards of all that has been entrusted to our care. Establish us in your will; grant that we may remain steadfast in our commitment and earnest in our desire to be rich towards God. For Thou art He who is a ready help to us in our time of need, and to Thee do we ascribe glory, together with the Father who is unoriginate, and our Lord, God, and Saviour Jesus Christ; for blessed art Thou unto ages of ages. A-men.

**EOTHINON 11**

الايوثينا 11

**TONE 5**

اللحن 5

Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

The Ninth Sunday of Luke

Gregory the wonderworker, bishop of Neo-Caesarea

Gennadios and Maximos, patriarchs of Constantinople; Nikon the wonderworker, disciple of  
Sergios of Radonezh; Hilda, abbess of Whitby

**طروبارية القيامة على اللحن السادس**

إنّ القواتِ الملائكية ظهرت عند قبرك الموقر، فالحراسُ صاروا كالأموات، ومريم  
وقفت عند القبرِ طالبةً جسدك الطاهر، فسبيتَ الجحيمَ ولم تُجرّب منها، وصادفتَ  
البتولَ مانحاً الحياة، فيا من قام من بين الأموات، يا ربَّ المجدُّ لك.



## طروبارية رؤساء الملائكة بالحن الرابع

أيها المتقدمون على الأجناد السماويين، نتوسل إليكم نحن غير المستحقين، حتى أنكم بطلباتكم تكتنوفوننا بظل أجنحة مجدكم غير الهولي، حافظين إيانا نحن الجاثين والصارخين بغير فتور، أنقذونا من الشدائد، بما أنكم رؤساء مراتب القوات العلوية.

أيها الأب غريغوريوس، لقد نلت لقبك بتقويماتك لتيقذك في الصلوات، ومواظبتك على صنع العجايب. فتشفع إلى المسيح الإله أن ينيّر نفوسنا، لئلا ننام في الخطايا إلى الموت.

اليوم الهيكل الذي للمخلص، الكلي النقاء، العذراء الخدر ذو الثمن الجزيل، وهي الكنز الطاهر لمجد الإله، إذ تدخل بيت الرب، تدخل نعمة الروح الإلهي معها. فلتسبحها ملائكة الله، لأنها المظلة السماوية.

## الرسالة

الجيل هذا من وتسترنا تحفظنا رب يا أنت  
فني قد البار فان رب يا ،خلصني

(6:11-18) \* غلاطية أهل إلى الرسول بولس القديس رسالة من فصل \*  
الذين كل إن \*بيدي إليكم كتبتها التي الكتابات أعظم ما انظروا ،إخوة يا  
لئلا ذلك وإنما ،تختننوا أن يلزمونكم ،الجسد بحسب يرضوا أن يريدون  
يحفظون لا أنفسهم هم يختننون الذين لأن \*المسيح صليب أجل من يضطهدوا  
فحاشي أنا أما \*بأجسادكم ليفتخروا تختننوا أن يريدون إنما بل ،الناموس  
وأنا لي العالم صليب به الذي ،المسيح يسوع ربنا بصليب إلا افتخر أن لي  
بل ،القلق ولا بشيء الختان ليس يسوع المسيح في لأنه \*للعالم صلبت  
سلام فعليهم ،القانون هذا بحسب يسلكون الذين وكل \*الجديدة الخليفة

حَامِلٌ فَإِنِّي، بَعْدُ فِيمَا أَتَعَاباً أَحَدٌ عَلَيَّ يَحْلِبُ فَلَا \*اللَّهُ إِسْرَائِيلَ وَعَلَى وَرَحْمَةً  
أَيُّهَا رَوْحُكُمْ مَعَ الْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ رَبَّنَا نِعْمَةً \*يَسُوعَ الرَّبِّ سِمَاتِ جَسَدِي فِي  
.آمِينَ. الإخوة.

## الإنجيل

### فصل شريف من بشارة القديس لوقا

قال الربّ هذا المثل: رجلٌ غنيٌ أخصبت أرضه، ففكّر في نفسه قائلاً: ليس لي مكانٌ  
أخزن فيه غلالِي، فماذا أعمل؟ ثم قال: أعملُ هذا: أهدمُ مخازني وابني أكبرَ منها،  
فأجمع فيها كلَّ غلالِي وخيراتي. وأقولُ لنفسي: يا نفسُ، لكِ خيراتٌ كثيرةٌ تكفيكِ  
سنين كثيرةٌ، فاستريحِي وكلي واشربي وتنعّمي! فقال له الله: يا غبي، في هذه الليلةِ  
تُطلبُ نفسك منك. فهذا الذي أعددتَه لمن يكون؟ هكذا يكون مصيرُ من يدخِرُ لنفسِهِ،  
ولا يغني بالله، ولَمَّا قال هذا نادى: من كان له أذنان تسمعان فليسمع!

### ملاحظة بخصوص تناول القربان المقدس

إن مفهومنا لتناول القربان يعني 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 الذي يوزع عند إنتهاء مراسيم القداس). رجاء مراجعة الكاهن. إذا رغبت أن تصبح عضواً في الكنيسة الارثوذكسية