

ANNIVERSARY OR OUR DEPARTED FOR THIS SUNDAY

<u>DAY</u>	<u>NAME OF THE DEPARTED</u>	<u>ANNIVERSARY</u>
20	Naame Dahdaly	11
21	Marie Mirshak	34
22	Jacob Elyoussef	1
22	George Hambly	67
23	Rose Bardwell	20
23	Victoria Tannous	14
23	Joulia Chamie	13
24	Linda Kerba	30
24	Said Bosada	67

ETERNAL LIGHT

- **Feb 9:** For the good health of Ibrahim Michael Ghneim from his parents. In loving memory of Paraskiva Ghneim Agban from Rose & George Ghneim
- **Feb 23:** In loving memory of Adel Younes from his family.
- **Mar 15** In loving memory of Yvonne Younes from her family.
- **Ushers, Jan 26:** Souheil El-Achhab, George Boutros, Issa Bisharat and Maien Qaqish
- **2 years memorial for Fouad El-Hage and 15 years memorial for Ortanse El-Hage** offered by their children and their families. May their memory be eternal.
- **Please**, pray for the health of the following parishioners: Ellen, Robert, Alex, Sam, Elias, Isabelle, Nassar, Valentine, Lucy, Nina, Sonia, Samer, George and Elizabeth. If you have any names of people who need prayers, email them to father.
- **Check our new website** www.stgeorgeto.org
- **University Students:** Fr. George would like to build a database to keep in touch with our students at the universities. Please, email Fr. George your children name, email and phone number who are attending universities at this time.
- Ladies General Meeting: February 2nd after the Divine liturgy in the choir loft.
- Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Three Hierarchs on Wednesday 29th at 7 PM.
- February 22nd Soul Saturday. We will pray for all our departed. Orthros at 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy at 10:30 AM followed by Trasagion for all the Departed.
- Dates to keep on your calendar: **Great Lent begins on March 2nd.** Palm Sunday April 12th. Pascha April 19th.
- **ENVELOPES AND CALENDARS 2020:** Please make sure to pick up your **new envelops** at the back of the church as well as **2020 church calendar**. Have a blessed year.
- **Blessing of Homes:** Father will start blessing homes on **January 7th**. If you like to have your home blessed, please fill out the form for blessing homes.
- Engaged couple's preparation class on Saturday January 25th at 2:30 PM.
- Bible Study will be stopped during the month of December, we will resume in January again.
- **Preparation for the Bible Bowl** is starting now. We will meet together each week to study St. John Gospel. Please, contact Peter for more information. Email: peter.brubacher@pm.me
- **SAVE THE DATE – On MARCH 6-7, 2020** we will be welcoming **Dr. Philip Mamalakis**, author of "Parenting towards the Kingdom: Orthodox Principles of Child-rearing." Every parent, parent-to-be, grandparent and caregiver will benefit and enjoy Dr. Mamalakis's Orthodox and researched-based, down-to-earth, approach to child rearing. We pray everyone will take advantage of this special opportunity to learn how we can all help the children who are entrusted to us by God to grow as Orthodox Christians.

Why Do We Have Our Homes Blessed?

Phyllis Meshel Onest, M.Div.

Begin Everything with Prayer

Since we are reminded in Scripture to begin whatever we do with prayer, it has been the practice of Orthodox Christians for centuries to have new dwellings blessed either before or just after settling in. This has been extended to one's business or office, and even college dorm rooms. "The service performed by the priest to bless the new dwelling is somewhat similar to the consecration of a church [in the Russian practice] in that holy water, holy oil, and incense are used and a lesson from the holy Gospel is read. All the rooms of the house are sprinkled with holy water and each of the four outer walls are anointed with the sign of the Cross with holy oil, a candle placed before them, and after the censuring of the house, the lesson from the Holy Gospel is read [in Greek practice the service of the Small Blessing of Waters is generally done]. At the conclusion of the blessing, the inhabitants are blessed with holy water: the husband first, followed by the wife and then the children - the oldest first. Relatives and friends present are then blessed." (*Marriage and the Christian Home*, by Rev. Michael B. Henning, p.24.)

Back to "The Fall"

From Scripture we know that whatever God created was good, but with "the Fall", evil entered the world, corrupting the creation. God the Father sent His Son Jesus to save it by effecting a "new creation". This is celebrated at Theophany, specifically with the Great Blessing of Water. "The consecration of the waters on this feast places the entire world - through its 'prime element' of water - in the perspective of the cosmic creation, sanctification, and glorification of the Kingdom of God in Christ and the Spirit." (*The Orthodox Faith, Vol. II, Worship*, by Fr. Thomas Hopko, p.127.) All the readings, hymns, prayers, and actions of the day speak of God's presence in our entire world and universe, His creation.

Through water all of the creation is once again sanctified by God, becoming good again, the way God had intended.

The Feast of Theophany

The Feast of Theophany (or Epiphany) commemorates the Baptism of our Lord in the Jordan River by John the Baptist. We know from the troparion of the day that "the Trinity was made manifest" to us. But there's more to it than this. "When Jesus descends into the depths of the river, there occurs a profound upheaval. It is not the one baptized who is purified, for he is spotless; but it is the water that is transfigured and illumined. This water, which was believed to be transparent and purifying, is in fact polluted, inhabited by evil spirits, servants of the old gods. ... By purifying the elements, by sanctifying matter, Jesus frees the cosmos from the powers of evil." (*The Incarnate God, Vol. I*, Catherine Aslanoff, French edition editor, translated by Paul Meyendorff, p.163.)

The Great Blessing of Water and the Home

The Great Blessing of Water takes place at the end of that day's Liturgy. Since our homes cannot be brought to the Church, the Church - through the priest and cantor - go to the homes. There the service of blessing, which began in the church, is finished with the sprinkling of water in the home. Traditionally, in most Orthodox parishes, the priest personally visits all his parishioners each year to pray with them in the place where they live, and to bless their surroundings with the newly sanctified water of Theophany (January 6/13). By sanctifying our living quarters, our private place, we extend the grace of God to our individual dwellings. (In very large parishes a yearly visit may not be possible. In areas of the country where the winter is harsh, I know of at least one parish where houses are blessed at the beginning of the ecclesiastical year in September.)

We also bring the blessed water to our homes to use throughout the year to bless our homes and to drink whether we are ill or as part of our daily prayer life. "There are many occasions in family life when a sip of holy water can help to remind us of the blessing that was given 'to bestow sanctification', 'unto healing of soul and body', 'to be a fountain welling forth unto life eternal', as the priest prayed in the litany of Epiphany day." (*Little Falcons: Water*, Vol. 5, No. 2, 1998, p.33.)

Weaving Christ into Our Lives

The blessing of homes by these holy waters maintains the spiritual association between the 'family church' and the parish, as well as again providing for the sharing of God's spiritual gifts. ... This annual blessing is not as elaborate as the blessing of the new dwelling, but because of this it should not be overlooked, for it is in this way that the grace of God is extended to individual dwellings." (*Marriage and the Christian Home*, p.25.)

If the priest comes to bless the home when the children are present, they have the opportunity to see the parish priest in a different and personal situation. If the priest permits, they can lead the way through the house, or hold a candle. They can show him their rooms or pets or favorite toys. They receive a blessing with water. For children, the house blessing shows the connection of the Church to the home.

In Summary

What does it mean to ask God to bless something? All things in the world have been spoiled right along with us. God must bless His world again in order for it to be the way that He wants it to be. For this reason, God sent His Son Jesus and the Holy Spirit to the world: to bless everyone and everything that He made, to make all things good again. When the priest comes to bless our homes, he asks God to have mercy on the house, to rid it of every evil and to fill it with every blessing. What a wonderful way to begin the New Year!

DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2020
TONE 7 / EOTHINON 10; THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF PENTECOST
& FIFTEENTH SUNDAY OF LUKE ("ZACCHAEUS")

VENERABLE XENOPHON, HIS WIFE, MARY, AND THEIR TWO SONS, ARKADIOS AND JOHN, OF
 CONSTANTINOPLE; TRANSLATION OF THE RELICS OF VENERABLE THEODORE THE STUDITE

Deacon: For Metropolitan Paul, Archbishop John, and for their quick release from captivity and safe return, let us pray to the Lord.

الشماس: مِنْ أَجْلِ الْمَثْرُوبُولِيَّتِ بُولُسَ وَالْمِطْرَانَ
 يُوْحَنَّا وَفَكَ اسْرِهِمَا وَعَوْدَتِهِمَا سَالِمِينَ، إِلَى الرَّبِّ
 نَطْلُبُ.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

الجوقة: يَا رَبُّ ارْحَمْنَا.

- *During the Little Entrance, chant the Resurrectional Apolytikion. The Eisodikon (Entrance Hymn) is "O come, let us worship... save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead..."*

THE EISODIKON (ENTRANCE HYMN) OF ORDINARY SUNDAYS

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ. Save us, O Son of God, **Who art risen from the dead**; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

هَلِّمُوا لِنَسْجُدَ وَنَزْكَعَ لِمَسِيحٍ، مَلِكِنَا وَإِلَهِنَا. خَلِّصْنَا
 يَا ابْنَ اللَّهِ، يَا مَنْ قَامَ مِنْ بَيْنِ الْأَمْوَاتِ، لِنُرْتِّلَ
 لَكَ. هَلِّلُوبِيَا.

- *After the Little Entrance, chant the apolytikia in the following order:*

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE SEVEN

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.

حَطَمْتَ بِصَلِيبِكَ الْمَوْتَ، وَفَتَحْتَ لِلصَّ
 الْفِرْدَوْسَ، وَحَوَّلْتَ نَوْحَ حَامِلَاتِ الطَّيِّبِ، وَأَمَرْتَ
 رُسُلَكَ أَنْ يَكْرِزُوا، بِأَنَّكَ قَدْ قُمْتَ أَيُّهَا الْمَسِيحُ
 الْإِلَهُ، مَانِحًا الْعَالَمَ الرَّحْمَةَ الْعُظْمَى.

- *Now sing the apolytikion of the patron saint or feast of the temple.*

KONTAKION OF THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN TONE ONE

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.

أَيُّهَا الْمَسِيحُ الْإِلَهُ، يَا مَنْ بِمَوْلِدِهِ قَدَّسَ الْمُسْتَوْدَعَ
 الْبَتُولِي، وَبَارَكَ يَدَيْ سِمْعَانَ كَمَا لاقَ، وَأَدْرَكْنَا
 الْآنَ وَخَلَّصْنَا. إِحْفَظْ رَعِيَّتَكَ بِسَلَامٍ فِي الْحُرُوبِ،
 وَأَيِّدِ الْمُلُوكَ الَّذِينَ أَحْبَبْتَهُمْ، بِمَا أَنَّكَ وَحْدَكَ مُحِبُّ
 لِلْبَشَرِ.

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 the First Epistle of St.

الرَّبُّ يُعْطِي قُوَّةً لَشَعْبِهِ.
 قَدِّمُوا لِلرَّبِّ يَا أَبْنَاءَ اللَّهِ، قَدِّمُوا لِلرَّبِّ مَجْدًا
 وَكَرَامَةً.

Paul to St. 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.

فصل من رسالة القديس بولس الرسول الأولى

إلى تيموثاوس. (4:9-15)

يا وُلدي تيموثاوس، صَادِقَةٌ هِيَ الْكَلِمَةُ وَجَدِيرَةٌ بِكُلِّ قَبُولٍ * فَإِنَّا لِهَذَا نَتَعَبُ وَنُعَيِّرُ، لَأَنَّا أَقْنِينَا رَجَاءَنَا عَلَى اللَّهِ الْحَيِّ الَّذِي هُوَ مُخَلِّصُ النَّاسِ أَجْمَعِينَ، وَلَا سِيَّمَا الْمُؤْمِنِينَ * فَوَصِّ بِهَذَا وَعَلِّمْ بِهِ * لَا يَسْتَهْنِ أَحَدٌ بِفُنُوتِكَ، بَلْ كُنْ مِثَالًا لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ فِي الْكَلَامِ وَالتَّصَرُّفِ وَالمَحَبَّةِ وَالإِيمَانِ وَالعِفَافِ * وَاطْبُ عَلَى الْقِرَاءَةِ إِلَى حِينِ قُدُومِي وَعَلَى الوَعْظِ وَالتَّعْلِيمِ * وَلَا تُهْمِلِ المَوْهَبَةَ الَّتِي فِيكَ، الَّتِي أُوتِيَتْهَا بِنُبُوءَةٍ، بِوَضْعِ أَيْدِي الكَهَنَةِ * تَأَمَّلْ فِي ذَلِكَ وَكُنْ عَلَيْهِ عَاكِفًا لِيَكُونَ تَقَدُّمُكَ ظَاهِرًا فِي كُلِّ شَيْءٍ.

THE GOSPEL

(For the Fifteenth Sunday of Luke—"Zacchaeus")

The reading from the Holy Gospel 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

فصل شريف من بشارة القديس لوقا الإنجيلي

البشير والتلميذ الطاهر (19:1-10)

فِي ذَلِكَ الزَّمَانِ، فِيمَا يَسُوعُ مُجْتَازًا فِي أَرِيحَا، إِذَا بِرَجُلٍ اسْمُهُ زَكَا كَانَ رَئِيسًا عَلَى العَشَارِينَ، وَكَانَ غَنِيًّا * وَكَانَ يَلْتَمِسُ أَنْ يَرَى يَسُوعَ مَنْ هُوَ، فَلَمْ يَكُنْ يَسْتَطِيعُ مِنَ الجَمْعِ لِأَنَّهُ كَانَ قَصِيرَ القَامَةِ * فَتَقَدَّمَ مُسْرِعًا، وَصَعِدَ إِلَى جُمَيْرَةٍ لِيَنْظُرَهُ، لِأَنَّهُ كَانَ مُزْمِعًا أَنْ يَجْتَازَ بِهَا * فَلَمَّا انْتَهَى يَسُوعُ إِلَى المَوْضِعِ، رَفَعَ طَرْفَهُ فَرَأَاهُ، فَقَالَ لَهُ: يَا زَكَا اسْرِعِ أَنْزِلْ، فَالْيَوْمَ يَنْبَغِي لِي أَنْ أَمْكُثَ فِي بَيْتِكَ * فَأَسْرَعَ وَنَزَلَ وَقَبِلَهُ فَرِحًا * فَلَمَّا رَأَى الجَمِيعُ ذَلِكَ تَذَمَّرُوا قَائِلِينَ: إِنَّهُ دَخَلَ لِيَحُلَّ عِنْدَ رَجُلٍ خَاطِيٍّ * فَوَقَفَ زَكَا وَقَالَ لِيَسُوعَ: هَاءَ نَدَا، يَا رَبُّ، أُعْطِيَ المَسَاكِينَ نِصْفَ أَمْوَالِي. وَإِنْ كُنْتُ قَدْ غَبَنْتُ أَحَدًا فِي شَيْءٍ، أَرُدُّ أَرْبَعَةَ أَضْعَافٍ * فَقَالَ لَهُ

<p>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.”</p>	<p>يَسُوعُ: الْيَوْمَ قَدْ حَصَلَ الْخَلَاصُ لِهَذَا الْبَيْتِ لِأَنَّهُ هُوَ أَيْضاً ابْنُ إِبْرَاهِيمَ * لِأَنَّ ابْنَ الْبَشَرِ إِنَّمَا آتَى لِيَطْلُبَ وَيُخَلِّصَ مَا قَدْ هَلَكَ.</p>
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- *The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom continues as usual.*

THE DISMISSAL

<p>Priest: May He Who rose from the dead, Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother; by the might of the Precious and Life-giving Cross; by the protection of the honorable Bodiless Powers of Heaven; at the supplication of the honorable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious and all-laudable apostles; of our father among the saints, John Chrysostom, archbishop of Constantinople, whose Divine Liturgy we have now celebrated; of the holy, glorious and right-victorious Martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers; <i>of Saint N., the patron and protector of this holy community</i>; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of the Venerable Xenophon of Constantinople, along with his wife, Mary, and their two sons, Arkadios and John; and Venerable Theodore the Studite, whose memory we celebrate today, and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us, forasmuch as He is good and loveth mankind.</p>	<p>الكاهن: أَيُّهَا الْمَسِيحُ إِلَهُنَا الْحَقِيقِي، يَا مَنْ قَامَ مِنْ بَيْنِ الْأَمْوَاتِ، بِشَفَاعَاتِ أُمِّكَ الْكَلِيَّةِ الطَّهَارَةِ وَالْبَرِيَّةِ مِنْ كُلِّ عَيْبٍ؛ وَبِقُدْرَةِ الصَّلِيبِ الْكَرِيمِ الْمُخْيِي؛ وَبِطَلَبَاتِ الْقُوَّاتِ السَّمَاوِيَّةِ الْمُكْرَمَةِ الْعَادِمَةِ الْأَجْسَادِ؛ وَالنَّبِيِّ الْكَرِيمِ السَّابِقِ الْمَجِيدِ يُوْحَنَّا الْمَعْمَدَانِ؛ وَالْقَدِيسَيْنِ الْمُشْرَفَيْنِ الرَّسُلِ الْجَدِيرَيْنِ بِكُلِّ مَدِيحٍ؛ وَأَبِينَا الْجَلِيلِ فِي الْقَدِيسِينَ يُوْحَنَّا الذَّهَبِيِّ الْفَمِّ رَئِيسِ أَسَاقِفَةِ الْقُسْطَنْطِينِيَّةِ، كَاتِبُ هَذِهِ الْخِدْمَةِ الشَّرِيفَةِ، وَالْقَدِيسِينَ الْمَجِيدِينَ الشُّهَدَاءِ الْمُتَأَلِّقِينَ بِالظَّفَرِ؛ وَأَبَائِنَا الْأَبْرَارِ الْمُتَوَشَّحِينَ بِاللَّهِ؛ وَالْقَدِيسِ (فُلَانِ)، صَاحِبِ وَشَفِيعِ هَذِهِ الرَّعِيَّةِ الْمُقَدَّسَةِ؛ وَالْقَدِيسِينَ الصِّدِّيقِينَ يُوَاكِيمَ وَحَنَّةَ جَدِّي الْمَسِيحِ الْإِلَهِ؛ وَالْبَارَّ كُسِينُوفُونَ الْقُسْطَنْطِينِيَّ وَزَوْجَتَهُ مَرْيَمَ وَوَلَدَيْهِ أَرْكَادِيُوسَ وَيُوْحَنَّا، وَالْبَارَّ ثِيُودُورُوسَ السُّتُودِيْتِي، الَّذِينَ نَقِيمُ تَذْكَارَهُمْ الْيَوْمَ، وَجَمِيعِ قَدِيسِيكَ، اِرْحَمْنَا وَخَلِّصْنَا بِمَا أَنَّكَ صَالِحٌ وَمُحِبٌّ لِلْبَشَرِ.</p>
<p>Priest: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us.</p>	<p>الكاهن: بِصَلَوَاتِ آبَائِنَا الْقَدِيسِينَ، أَيُّهَا الرَّبُّ يَسُوعُ الْمَسِيحُ إِلَهُنَا، اِرْحَمْنَا وَخَلِّصْنَا.</p>
<p>Choir: Amen.</p>	<p>الجوق: آمين.</p>

These texts have been prepared by the Department of Liturgics of the Antiochian Archdiocese

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