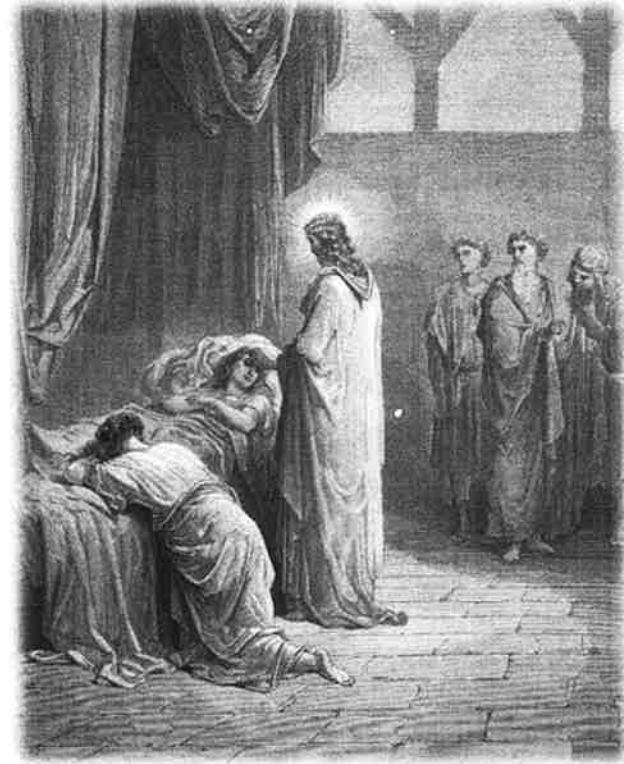


## St. Cosmas and Damian – Feast Day November 1<sup>st</sup>

Sts. Cosmas and Damian were unmercenaries and miracle-workers. They were brothers both in the flesh and in the spirit, born somewhere in Asia Minor of a pagan father and a Christian mother. After their father's death, their mother Theodotia devoted all her time and effort to educating her sons and raising them as true Christians. God helped her, and her sons matured as sweet fruit and luminaries of the world. They were learned in the art of medicine and ministered to the sick without payment, not so much with medicine as by the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. They were called "unmercenary physicians," that is, unpaid physicians, for they healed freely and thus fulfilled the commandment of Christ: *Freely ye have received, freely give* (Matthew 10:8). So careful were they in healing men free of charge that Cosmas became very angry with his brother Damian because he accepted three eggs from a woman, Palladia, and ordered that he not be buried alongside his brother Damian after his death. In fact, St. Damian did not accept these three eggs as a reward for healing the ailing Palladia, but rather because she adjured him in the name of the Most-holy Trinity to accept these three eggs. Nevertheless, after their death in the town of Fereman, they were buried together according to a revelation from God. The holy brothers were great miracle-workers both during their life and after their death. A snake crawled through the mouth and into the stomach of a certain farm laborer during his sleep, and the unfortunate man would have died in the greatest pain had he not, in the last moment, invoked the help of Saints Cosmas and Damian. Thus, the Lord glorified forever the miracle-working of those who glorified Him on earth by their faith, purity and mercy.

*“Let us Attend!”*



*“Little girl, arise.”*

A PARISH BULLETIN OF  
ALL SAINTS ORTHODOX CHURCH

Olyphant, Pennsylvania

Rev. Paul J. Witek, Ph.D., Rector

201.315.5722

3 November 2024

**19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

## Bulletin, Sunday, 3 November 2024

**19th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 2.** Martyrs Akepsimas the Bishop, Joseph the Presbyter, and Aeithalas the Deacon, of Persia (4th c.). Consecration of the Church of the Holy Great Martyr George in Lydda (4th c.). Martyrs Eudoxios, Agapios, Atticus, Marinus, Oceanus, Eustratios, Karterios, Nikopolitianos, Styrax, and Tobias, at Sebaste (ca. 320). Ven. Aceptimas, Hermit, of Cyrrhus in Syria (4th c.). St. Snandulia of Persia (4th c.).

**Epistle:** 2 Corinthians 11:31–12:9; **Gospel:** Luke 8:41–56

*Our souls and minds are strengthened and fortified by the regular reading of the Holy Scriptures. Daily readings can be found on the parish's wall calendar, or online by visiting the OCA's daily reading page <https://www.o.ca.org/readings>.*

### **Schedule**

- **Tuesday, 5 November 2024, 6PM Parish Council Meeting.**
- **Wednesday, 6 November 2024. 9AM, Akathist to the Holy Angels.**
- **Friday, 8 November 2024, 9:30AM, Divine Liturgy Patronal Feast Day of St. Michael's Church, Jermyn**
- **Saturday, 9 November 2024. 5:00–5:45PM. Fr. Paul available for Confession ; 6PM Great Vespers.**
- **Sunday 10 November 2024, 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost. 9:30AM Divine Liturgy, Honoring of Veterans. Followed by Agape Coffee Hour Fellowship.**

## Announcements

~ A warm welcome to all our visitors. Please join us downstairs for Agape Coffee Hour Fellowship.

~ Our sister parish of St. Michael's Orthodox Church in Jermyn will celebrate its Patronal Feast on Friday, 8 November 2024 at 9:30AM. Fr. Paul will be attending and concelebrating with the faithful of St. Michael's. please join us.

~ We offer up our prayers this week to the Holy Archangels and Angels that interceded for us and protect us in our lives. Give special attention to praying to your guardian angel throughout your day to help you in your daily tasks and routines.

### **Prayers to our Guardian Angel.**

O angel of God, my holy guardian, given to me from heaven, enlighten me this day, and save me from all evil. Instruct me in doing good deeds, and set me on the path of salvation. Amen.

O angel of Christ, holy guardian and protector of my soul and body, forgive me of everything I have done to offend you every day, and protect me from all influence and temptation of the evil one. May I never offend God by my sin. Pray for me to the Lord, that He may make me worthy of the grace of the All-holy Trinity, and of the Most Blessed Theotokos, and of all the Saints. Amen.

SATURDAY

Fast-free

# NOVEMBER 2

1 Corinthians 15:58-16:3  
Luke 9:1-6

There is no better way to teach a child Christianity than to live it truly and from the heart. You cannot teach what you do not live.

*St. Silouan the Athonite*

**MARTYRS ACINDYNOS, PEGASIOS, ANEMPODISTOS, ELPIDOPHOROS, APHTHONIOS, AND 7,000 OTHERS.** During the fourth-century Christian persecution of King Saphur II of Persia, Acindynos, Pegasios, and Anempodistos were secret Christians serving in his court. They were arrested and brought before him because they taught the Christians. They confessed their faith and endured many tortures but remained unharmed. When they were taken back to Saphur unharmed, he believed that they were magicians, and in his confusion, Saphur lost his hearing and speech. Seeing the king's anguish, Acindynos healed him, and this caused the king to become enraged. He ordered more tortures, but they were preserved again unharmed. When a soldier named Aphthonios saw that boiling lead did not harm them, he accepted the Christian faith and shouted, "Great is the Christian God!" and he was beheaded. The three martyrs were sewn into animal skins and thrown into the sea, but St. Aphthonios appeared and saved them. However, they were recaptured and martyred along with 7,000 other Christians. Elpidophoros, a senator of high rank, courageously denounced Saphur for slaughtering innocent Christians, and he was beheaded along with King Saphur's mother, who came to believe in Christ.



**COMMEMORATIONS:** Acindynos, Pegasios, Anempodistos, Elpidophoros, Aphthonios, and 7,000 with them; Anthony the Confessor; Attikos, Eudoxios, Agapios, Karterios, Eustratios, Pactobios (Tobias), Nikopolitianos, Styrax, and companions, at Sebaste; Marcian of Cyrrhus; Martyrs Domna, Domnina, and Cyriaca; Cyprian of Storozhev, former outlaw; Victorin and Basil Luzgin, of Glazomicha; Erc, Bishop of Slane, Ireland; Gabriel Urgebadze of Georgia; Justus of Trieste; Lambros, Theodore, and one who is anonymous, in Vrachori; Martyrs of senatorial rank beheaded under Marcus Aurelius; *Shuisk-Smolensk* Icon of the Mother of God.

SUNDAY

**Fifth Sunday of Luke**  
Fast-free

# NOVEMBER 3

2 Corinthians 11:31-12:9  
Luke 16:19-31

Prayer is a request for what is good, offered by the devout of God. But we do not restrict this request simply to what is stated in words... We should not express our prayer merely in syllables, but the power of prayer should be expressed in the moral attitude of our soul and in the virtuous actions that extend throughout our life... This is how you pray continually—not by offering prayer in words, but by joining yourself to God through your whole way of life, so that your life becomes one continuous and uninterrupted prayer.

*St. Basil the Great*

**VENERABLE ELIAS THE WONDERWORKER OF EGYPT.** Elias lived as an ascetic for seventy years on dry and inaccessible rocks in the Thebaid desert of Antinoe. When he was a young man, he only ate once a week, and in his old age, he would eat just three ounces of bread every evening with three olives. His appearance was terrible, and he trembled greatly in his old age. God granted Elias the gift of healing the sick. In his writings, Elias admonishes us to keep our minds from evil thoughts, knowing that such thoughts are thrown at us by diabolical powers in order to preoccupy our minds from seeking God. St. Elias died peacefully at the age of 110.



**COMMEMORATIONS:** Achaemonides (Hormisdas) of Persia; Theodore of Ancyra; Snandulia of Persia; Pimen of Zographou; Akepsimas, Joseph, and Aeithalas of Persia; Elias of Egypt; Hubert of Liege; George the Young; Nicholas of Georgia; Aceptsimas of Cyrrhus; Pirminius of Germany; Anna of Kiev; 9 slain by the sword; 28 slain by fire; Martyrs Dasius, Severus, Andronas, Theodotus, and Theodota; Winifred of Wales; Rumwold of Buckingham; Translation of the relics of St. Apostolos the New; Meeting of St. Sava and St. Symeon the Myrrhgusher of Serbia at Vatopedi; Dedication of the Church of Great Martyr St. George in Lydda; (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of November: Holy Martyrs of Neapolis; Synaxis of All Saints of Cappadocia; Commemoration of the Miracle of St. Spyridon in 1673).

## NOVEMBER 4

Philippians 2:12-15  
 Luke 12:13-15, 22-31

Children, I beseech you to correct your hearts and thoughts, so that you may be pleasing to God. Consider that although we may reckon ourselves to be righteous and frequently succeed in deceiving men, we can conceal nothing from God. Let us, therefore, strive to preserve the holiness of our souls and to guard the purity of our bodies with all fervor. *Ye are the temple of God*, says the divine Apostle Paul; *If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy* (1 Cor. 3:16-17).

*St. Nicholas of Myra*

**HIEROMARTYRS NICANDER, BISHOP OF MYRA, AND HERMAS THE PRESBYTER.** Nicander and Hermas were Disciples of the Apostle Paul. Apostle Titus ordained them to the priesthood, and they converted many pagans to the Christian faith. Because of this, they were reported to the prefect Libanus who tortured them repeatedly. They would not deny Christ, so they were dragged by horses over stones, lacerated with iron hooks, and cast into a hot oven. Finally, they were pierced in the head and heart with spears and buried alive in a pit.



**COMMEMORATIONS:** Ioannicios the Great of Bithynia; Nicander, Bishop of Myra, and Hermas the priest; Sylvia, mother of Gregory the Dialogist; Porphyrios the Mime of Ephesus; Mercurius the Faster of the Far Caves in Kiev; Luke, Bishop of Novgorod; Nicander, founder of Gorodnozersk Monastery, Novgorod; Paul, Metropolitan of Tobolsk; Simon of Yurievets and Zharki, fool-for-Christ; John III Doukas Vatatzes the Merciful, Emperor of Nicaea; George Karslides of Drama, and his sister Virgin Anna; John, Stephen, and Isaiah the Georgians; Clether of Cornwall; Birnstan of Winchester; Agricola and Vitalis of Bologna.

## NOVEMBER 5

Philippians 2:16-23; Luke 12:42-48

The way you speak to others is how Christ will treat you. The same measure you measure others is the same He will measure you. As you forgive the sins of others, He forgives yours. With what love and reverence you seek Him, with such, on His part, He is towards you.

*St. Joseph the Hesychast*

**ST. GREGORY OF CASSANO, CALABRIA.** Gregory was raised in a noble family. When he was young, his father died, and soon his mother began seeking a wife for him. However, Gregory wanted to devote himself to God. He left home and went to Bishop David of Cassano, asking to become one of his clerics. Within a year, Gregory was ordained to the priesthood. He went to a monastery and was tonsured a monk, and he became the disciple of Abbot Pachomius. Eventually, Gregory was elected abbot of that monastery, but he always remained humble and an example to the other monks. Gregory was granted the gift of miracleworking, and he cast out demons in two youths. The Saracens once invaded his monastery demanding money, and when they saw how little there was, they tortured Gregory and gathered wood to burn him alive. Suddenly, the Saracens' limbs became paralyzed, but Gregory healed them. Soon his fame spread, and many people came to him for his teachings and prayers. St. Gregory later founded a monastery in Germany and reposed peacefully in 1002.



**COMMEMORATIONS:** Galacteon and his wife Epistimia, at Emesa; Apostles Hermas, Patrobus, Linus, Gaius, and Philologus of the Seventy; Gregory, Pope of Alexandria; Domninus, Timothy, Theotimos, Theophilus, Dorotheus, Carterius, Eupychius, and Pamphilus, of Palestine, and the 3 virgins of Palestine; Jonah, Archbishop of Novgorod; Hilarion, recluse of Troekurovo; Silvanus, Bishop of Gaza; Odrada, virgin of Balen; Martyr Kastor and Agathangelos; Gregory of Cassano, Calabria; Cybi, abbot in Cornwall and Wales; Kea, Bishop of Devon and Cornwall; Dositheus of Glinisk Hermitage; Commemoration of the Consecration of the Church of St. Theodore the Tyro in the Sphorakion.

## NOVEMBER 3rd

**1. The Hieromartyr Aicepsimas, Bishop of Naeson, and others with him.**

The eighty-year-old Aicepsimas, filled with every Christian virtue, was sitting one day in his house with his guests when a child, filled with the Spirit of God, ran up to the aged bishop, kissed him on the head, and said: 'Blessed is this head, for it will be martyred for Christ!' This prophecy was soon fulfilled. King Sapor raised a fierce persecution of Christians throughout Persia, and St Aicepsimas was seized and taken before a prince who was also a pagan priest. When the bishop had been arrested and bound, he was approached by one of his household, who asked him what he wanted done about his house. The saint replied: 'It's no longer my house; I'm going to a higher home, and shall not return.' After long interrogation, he was thrown into prison, whence, the next day, were brought a seventy-year-old priest called Joseph and a deacon, Aeithalas. After three years' imprisonment and many sufferings, Aicepsimas was beheaded, and Joseph and Aeithalas were buried up to the waist in the ground, being stoned by a group of men who were without mercy towards Christians. Joseph's body, by God's providence, disappeared that night, and above Aeithalas's body there grew a tree, which healed all manner of disease and pain. Five years passed, then the wicked and jealous pagans cut down this tree. These soldiers of Christ suffered in Persia in the fourth century, in the time of the pagan King Sapor.

**2. The Holy and Great Martyr George.**

On this day we celebrate the translation of St George's relics from Nicomedia to the city of Lydda in Palestine, where he suffered in the time of the Emperor Diocletian (284-305). The sufferings of this wonderful saint are recorded on April 23rd. At the time of his death, St George asked his servant to take his body and carry it to Palestine, to the place where his mother was born, and where he had much land that he had given away to the poor. His servant did this. In the time of the Emperor Constantine (305-337), a beautiful

church was built in Lydda by devout Christians, and, on the occasion of the consecration of that church, the saint's relics were translated and buried there. Innumerable miracles have been wrought by the relics of St George, Christ's great martyr.

**3. Our Holy Father Elias of Egypt.**

He lived in asceticism near Antinoe, the capital of the Thebaid. He spent seventy years on arid and inaccessible rocks in the wilderness. He ate only bread and dates and, as a young man, fasted whole weeks at a time. He healed all manner of pains and weaknesses. He became very shaky in old age, and entered into rest at the age of 110, going to the joy of his Lord. 'Keep your mind from malicious thoughts of your neighbours, knowing that such thoughts are hurled by diabolical power, to keep your mind from your own sins and from seeking God', he said.

\* \* \*

## FOR CONSIDERATION

Among many miracles of St George, this one is recorded: on the island of Mytilene, there was a church dedicated to St George the great and victorious martyr. The inhabitants of the whole island flocked to this church on the saint's annual feast. Learning of this, Cretan Saracens descended one year on the island, laying it waste and enslaving the inhabitants, and then returned to Crete. On that occasion, a handsome young man was taken captive, and was presented by the pirates to their prince in Crete. The prince took him and made him his butler. The boy's parents were in great distress for their son and, when a year had passed and St George's Day came round again, the grieving parents, following the ancient custom, prepared their table and entertained many guests. Remembering her son, the poor mother went to the icon of the saint, fell to the ground and began to beg St George to release her son from slavery. The mother then returned to her guests at table. The host raised his glass and drank to St George, and at that moment their son

appeared among them bearing a decanter in his hands. When they all asked him, in wonder and fear, whence and how he had come there, the young man replied that, just as he was about to serve his owner with wine in Crete, a knight on horseback appeared before him, lifted him onto the horse and carried him in a flash to his parents' home. All were amazed and glorified God, and this wonderful saint, George the victorious commander.

### TO PONDER

Let me ponder on the wonderful deliverance of Paul and Silas from prison (Acts 16):

1. How these holy apostles had been thrown into the deepest dungeon, and their feet put in the stocks.
2. How, at midnight, they were at prayer, praising God.
3. How there was an earthquake, their chains fell from them and the doors of the prison were opened.

### HOMILY

— on Christ as the Head of all the saints.

*'That ... He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are in earth'*

(Eph. 1:10).

Sin causes panic; sin confuses. A man sunk in sin and vice is like a decapitated chicken that, dying, struggles convulsively and rushes to and fro. The whole pagan world before Christ the Lord presents a confused mass, dying in convulsions. Christ conjoined the severed head with the trunk, and brought the body of the human race to life. He is the head of the heavenly army, and has never ceased so to be. As the creative Word of God, He was from the beginning the head of the whole visible, created world, and especially of the human race. But by sin, as by a sword, the sinful Adam's head was severed

from his body. Taking flesh on earth, the Lord reconciled heaven and earth, drawing heaven down to earth and raising earth to heaven, and placed all things under His mind, His head. Through Christ, we are reconciled with the Holy Trinity and with the angels of God, with each other and with the natural world around us. The lost head is found and all is brought into harmony beneath it. 'We have the mind of Christ' says the Apostle (I Cor. 2:16). As the head is to the natural man, so is the mind to the spiritual, inner man. If we belong to Christ, then we must think and judge by Christ as our head — think and judge in all things by Him and through Him alone. Thinking and judging by Him, we shall know ourselves to be organs of one body, one with other men and with the angels, one whose head is Christ. Thence our love for God is stirred into flame and thence our hope is illumined. A sleeping body does not feel any link with its head. Let us awaken, my brethren, let us awaken in time!

O Lord Jesus Christ, our most wise Head, unite us with Thyself. To Thee be glory and praise for ever. Amen.