

Variations in the Divine Liturgy

Before/After the Little Entrance we sing:

The Resurrection from the Octoechos - Tone 6

When Mary stood at thy grave looking for thy sacred body, angelic powers shone above thy revered tomb, and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led hades captive and wast not tempted thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world. Thou who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Prophet Zachariah (Liturgical Guide, 198) Tone 4

In the Vesture of a priest, according to the law of God, thou didst offer unto Him well-pleasing whole-burnt offerings, as it befitted a priest, O wise Zacharia. Thou wast a shining light, a seer of mysteries, bearing in thyself clearly the signs of grace; and in God's temple, O wise Prophet of Christ God, thou wast slain with the sword. Hence, with the forerunner, make entreaty that our souls find salvation

Troparion of the Holy Forty Great Martyrs of Sebaste

Those noble soldiers of the Master of all let us honor, for they were united by their faith as they passed through fire and water, and being enlisted by Christ they entered to divine refreshment. Now those pious warriors stand and intercede with Christ God for those who cry out. Glory to Him that hath given you strength, Glory to him that hath crowned you, Glory to Him that made you wondrous, Holy Forty Martyrs.

Kontakion of the Nativity of the Theotokos (Nassar, 291) Tone 4

By thy holy birth-giving, O pure one, Joachim and Anne were delivered from the reproach of barrenness; and Adam and Eve were delivered from the corruption of death; thy people do celebrate it, having been saved from the stain of iniquity, crying unto thee, the barren doth give birth to the Theotokos, who nourisheth our life.

The Epistle

II Corinthians 4:6-15 (15th Sunday after Pentecost)

O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance.

Verse. To you, o Lord, have I cried, o my God.

BRETHREN, it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For while we live we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you.

Since we have the same spirit of faith as he had who wrote, "I believed, and so I spoke," we too believed, and so we speak, knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase

thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 22:35-46 (15th Sunday of Matthew)

At that time, there came to Jesus a lawyer, asking him a question, to test him. "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" And Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And the second is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets." Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question, saying, "What do you think of the Christ? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." Jesus said to them, "How is it then that David, in the Spirit, calls him Lord, saying, 'The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand, till I make thy enemies thy footstool'? If David thus calls him Lord, how is he his son?" And no one was able to answer him a word, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

Celebrated This Week

The Miracle at Colassai of Archangel Michael September 6th

The feast today in honour of the Archangel Michael commemorates the great miracle he wrought when he delivered from destruction a church and holy spring named for him. The pagans, moved by malice, sought to destroy the aforesaid church and holy spring by turning the course of two rivers against them. But the Archangel appeared and, by means of the Cross and a great earthquake that shook the entire area, diverted the waters into an underground course. Henceforth, the name of that place changed from Colossae to Chonae, which means "funnels" in Greek.

The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary September 8th

According to the ancient tradition of the Church, the Theotokos was born of barren and aged parents, Joachim and Anna, about the year 16 or 17 before the birth of Christ. Joachim was descended from the royal line of David, of the tribe of Judah. Anna was of the priestly tribe of Levi, a daughter of the priest Matthan and Mary, his wife.

The Holy & Righteous Ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna September 9th

The day following the Nativity of the most holy Theotokos, we celebrate the synaxis of Saints Joachim and Anna, honouring them as her parents.

Announcements

Mediterranean Night to benefit Saint Anthony the Great Mission: Saturday, 18th September. Please call Randa Nassif on 281 655 0070, Faten Ashrawi on 281 367 0932, or see Father Gabriel for details

Holy Bread: If you would like to donate Holy Bread for your family, or for remembrance of your loved ones, please sign-up on the sheet in the hall.

Arabic Lessons will be starting on September 11th. Please see father for details. More information and registration forms are also available on our web site.

Forty Martyrs 10th Anniversary Gala: A gala will be held to celebrate our 10th anniversary during November and it will be attended by His Grace Bishop Basil. Everyone is invited to help us prepare for this great event. If you would like to volunteer, please see Raed Salti as soon as possible.

Catechumen Classes: Classes continue after Liturgy today. If you would like to join, or know of anyone who may like to attend, please let father know soonest.

Choir Rehearsal and Liturgical Guidance: Tuesday evening at 7:00pm. All are invited to learn our Liturgical music and join the choir.

Arabic Liturgy: Arabic Liturgy will be held each Thursday evening at 7:00pm.

Office Hours: As Father may have to leave the office during normal hours, please call either the office (281-240-4845), or Father's cell phone (713-357-8871) to arrange an appointment.

Confessions: Father is available on Saturday, or at any time by prior appointment. Confessions will not be heard on Sundays.

Visitors and Guests: We welcome you to The Forty Holy Martyrs Mission; a growing pan-Orthodox community in Sugar Land. At the end of the Divine Liturgy you are invited to venerate the Holy Cross and to receive the andidoron (blessed bread). You are also invited to our coffee hour immediately following the Divine Liturgy in the Hall. Please remember that Orthodox Christians practice a closed communion, which means that only baptized or chrismated Orthodox faithful, who have properly prepared themselves, may approach the chalice to receive the Holy Eucharist.

THE FORTY HOLY MARTYRS OF SEBASTE ORTHODOX MISSION

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REGULAR SERVICES

Great Vespers: Saturday 5:00 p.m.

Matins/Orthros: Sunday 8:30 a.m.

Divine Liturgy: Sunday 10:00 a.m.

Arabic Liturgy: Thursday 7:00 p.m.

Please see our website for other services

5th September 2010

15th Sunday after Pentecost

Celebrated today:

Prophet Zachariah and Elizabeth, parents of the Forerunner; Obadiah, bishop of Persia; martyrdom of the Holy Passion-bearer Gleb

Fasting guidelines for this week:

Strict fast on Friday. Wednesday fish is allowed Fast free on all other days.

*A Mission of the
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America and
The Diocese of Wichita and Mid-America*

