



"If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. He who believes in me, as the scripture has said, 'Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water.'

"From Pentecost, John 7:37-52; 8:12

Prokeimenon. Mode 4.

Psalm 67.35,26

God is wonderful among his saints.

Verse: Bless God in the congregations.

The words of Christ in last Sunday's scripture are shown as being true today. The same words we heard on Pentecost are proven today in the life of the saints. From the hearts of the saints are flowing rivers of living water. We've seen that and we've tasted that. Jesus does not speak in Truth as a possibility, He speaks in Truth because the Truth is manifested within the creation not as a possibility conditioned by our freedom, but rather as a reality: God gives Himself into life. Man becomes free when pursuing the Giver of Life. Our freedom is rooted in the gift of God. And not the other way around.

There are people who were made free in Christ and the church is their gathering in which we are all invited to dwell. The Holy Spirit brings us into an open space where we have to relate with each other. We cannot find ourselves alone within the church or surrounded exclusively by family and friends. That would be the opposite of the kingdom and it would look more like hell.

How does it look though, the gathering of the saints, how would we recognize them, according to the scriptures?

Sunday of all saints Hebrews 11:33-40; 12:1-2

"Brethren, all the saints, through faith, conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. "

The saints are victorious in combat, as the Holy Apostle Paul tells us today. They become victorious by being tortured, by refusing to accept release, by suffering mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment, by being stoned and sawed in two, by accepting to be tempted and killed with the sword; "by going about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated..."

The saints are those who "won strength out of weakness". The ones who were foolish enough to believe in the gospel and not interpret it, and who "really lived according to Jesus' words" :

"Do not resist one who is evil. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the

other also; and if any one would sue you and take your coat, let him have your cloak as well;" Friday gospel - Matthew 5:33-41

I don't know how we were able to twist the words of the gospel so much in order to bring them upside down. In the history of the church and today we could see with our own eyes that Jesus is contradicted, as He always was, by the rulers and the mighty of this world, but also by the very hierarchs of the church who today justify wars and killing as an option in doing good. Some justify it through words, others through silence. What the gospel shows us this week, in order to understand the root of holiness in our life and more precisely in the life of the saints, is that this holiness is rooted in the peace given to the apostles by the risen Lord. The way they receive it and testify it to the world gives the measure of holiness in their life. Peace creates the conflict with the violence of men, where the martyrs become victorious and make known to us the kingdom of God.



Community life and the gospel

On Friday, we talked before lunch about not resisting evil and about how much we are able to turn the other cheek when we are beaten up. For real. I was really touched to see how seriously and honestly people talked about it. I think Laura's words summarized that well. She said she is struggling with that, like all of us. It is not easy. But that's why she wakes up in the morning and comes to the mission to serve people in need. To have a place where they can be safe and receive kindness. We all need that. "I come here because I need that too". At the end, she said that Jesus speaks here more about forgiveness; that we need to forgive those who harm us. She has been harmed and knows what she is talking about.

There were a few answers that reflected on the different levels of abuse. An elderly native, with white hair, who is always kind, said that he tried to live all his life like that. But it is very difficult. It depends on what they do to you. For some things you could turn the other cheek, for others, it is very difficult. Now, at his age, he learned to do that all the time, with one exception, when it comes to family. I knew that what he said was very personal to him. Some weeks ago he spoke to us about how he had to recognize his son at the morgue.

Hurting one's family was mentioned a few more times as a limit for forgiveness. Not so much as a limit but rather as a high bar to reach. It is truly and profoundly human and it hurts, as somebody was saying during the week, reflecting on losing someone you love. It hurts deeply. The wound can become unbearable. We cannot really become moral people overnight and say that this is something one must do because Jesus said so. However, in today's gospel, the family's love and care for each other is open towards Christ. It is fulfilled in Christ and not within itself. If it misses

this opening, the closure could be fatal. As father said, wars are most of the time fratricidal. Cain killed his brother because he was consumed by the latter's goodness and he did not behold the goodness of God that was for him to partake. That's what we see today with the war. Brothers fighting each other because the church within the land failed to create an open space where they could behold and partake of the goodness of God.

The gospel tells us today that the road to holiness starts for the saints with a loss and with this pain in their heart. The saints are those who see the door of forgiveness and pass through it.

I think, in the church, we'll do us some good if we really reflect on how the gospel challenges us. And how we fail to live it so we don't give up on the struggle and good fight for it. Most of the time, the gathering of religious people today presents itself as experts teaching others about their beliefs. But we wonder if our belief is in the gospel or rather in something else. When we have no doubts and nothing to learn, these are not good signs. We believe but our belief might as well be foreigner of the knowledge of God.

Otherwise, those who really know Him, know how to do His will: "It is easy to turn your cheek. I just do it, like that", said Linda on Friday. She turned her head and showed us how she does it.

"And every one who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life."

(Today's gospel)

Br Luke asked on Thursday before lunch if we ever had to give something up. Different answers arose in the room. One mature volunteer started to cry, speaking about leaving her home country. She has been living for a few months in Canada. In Peru she had a career and a community. Now she feels like she lost everything, especially the community, and it is painful. She was crying. It was a surprise for me as I had spoken to her the week before and she was full of energy and optimism. It was touching for all of us to see that. She really could not control her tears. They were spontaneous. The shy reply was that, most of the time, something good and new comes out of it. She was happy with the little hope she received, saying thank you.

We see many times at the mission people carrying this sense of loss, related either to health, country or the loved ones, or simply to a life free of addictions. Most of the time, we integrate that loss in what we live and we try to make sense of it. The gospel doesn't do that but rather acts through that loss, opening something new to us. However, we rarely come across situations when somebody we know, including ourselves, is completely knocked down. When everything that you cling to is falling apart. This week I happened to see two people with that look on their faces. One was on the stairs at the mission; the other, a beggar, was sitting by the crossing lights and he had given up on asking, sitting down on a chair in the intersection, looking in an empty space. This is a look that one rarely sees and it cannot be mistaken for something else.

That reality of the soul, reflected on the human face, is the beginning of complete distress or the beginning of new life. It is the moment when Jacob lost the fight with the angel. It is the moment when the prodigal son remembered the love of the Father. You understand, when you see that, why Christ died on the cross for us. How His love is beyond our sin. It is a moment when we freely contemplate life and death. It is the moment when He takes death unto Himself so that we can

see life.

But Laura`s words are true: if there is no safe place for them to live, why would they remember the Father?

It is like our friend, Manuel, who really liked the icons in church and he comes every now and then to chat with us, even contemplating becoming Orthodox. He recognized the icons in the churches when the war started overseas. He was intrigued and wanted to know more. He was more intrigued about becoming part of the church and maybe going overseas and starting fighting for a good cause, he said. He got tired of the fight in Toronto. He had energy and all kinds of thoughts. But what side is the church on? Both. So which one is the good side then? It doesn't really matter, if you die for the right cause in the end? Any death should be good. Eventually Manuel gave up on becoming Orthodox and going overseas to fight. He decided to stay here in Toronto and to fight a war he knows better, on the streets, with people taken over by overdose and violence and indifference.

He made his choice but we are left with the reality of the human soul who is taken down by life finding itself at the footstool of Christ's feet. How else can we embrace that, beside through prayer?

1st Tuesday after Pentecost

I am eager to preach the gospel to you also ... For I am not ashamed of the gospel: it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, (Romans 1:1-7, 13-17)

... God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance (Thursday - Romans 1:28-32; 2:1-9)

Community Life:

- Claudio from Sant Egidio could not come this week to Toronto. He did not receive a tourist visa from the Canadian embassy in Rome. He will come in the first week of August, just as we return from the refuge. Prepare to meet him then.
- Br Luke is organizing a talent show on Saturday (June 18). Mary has been speaking about it all week. She was not the only one. It created a lot of energy and excitement around the community.
- We are preparing for summer at the refuge, as well as for renovating work at the mission, back in Toronto. Please talk to fr Nicolaie if you know families interested to visit at the refuge or people willing to work back in Toronto, doing repairs or painting.
- Diane, from the bakery, broke her hand and was taken to hospital last week. She asked us to pray for her so she does not require surgery so that she may continue to do her work in the bakery.

Prayer list for the sick and those who have recovered:

Dianne; Joy; Susie; Alex; Maurice; Lynn; Molly; Thomas; Varghese; Delia; Leela; Mary

Tanya; Basma; Aditi; Larry; Darius; Lori; Lisa; Cindy; Césare; Fatima; Debbie Donald; Hermina; Raúl; EK Thomas; Nebu; Evangelia; Sarah; Shelley; Bill Ruth, Kristian and Frank; Maria; Binja ; Mike; Luke; Anusia; Lavalin's son; Sana; Father George Patrick, and Father Michael Miklos/Pani Karen Miklos; Dominique and her daughter; Mike; Luke; Arjuna; Joy; Susie; Alex; Lynn; Molly'; Thomas; Alex; Fathima; Frank; Chris; Evlokia; Mikayla and Luca; Karunawathi, Gloria, Vijekumari, Ronda, and Regina; Delia; Valerie; Tom; Traian; Peter; Marco; Kim; Tihomir; Kate; Payton Clark; Sana, and her family in Egypt; Isaiah; Mary; Sydney; Peter; Christine; Stephanie; Iulia; Jason; Sophia; Alexander; Charles; Tom; Paul; Phillip and his wife Juliet; Cristeena; Ann brown's daughter; Silvia; Jincy; Shiron Crisreen; Allain; Seena and her husband; Waheeda and children; Faizah; Shirin and her family; Cristina; Daniela, Jerry; Delia ; Ragaie; Victoria; Mike; Farida; Roselyne and family ; Ana; Cornelia; Leon; Jerry; Ocean; Gloria; Anne; Marina; Marie; Edemene; Joanna and family; Rejoice; Romana, Coline, Michael, Peter, Henry, George, Kelly; Tom; Marina; Kumari; Susan; child James; Aaron; Sylvia; Fr Jonathan; Tharshini and her two children; Ann Tyron and her family; Sandra Gomaz's children; Sameen; Sophia; Amy; Swetha and children; Charitha; Jitesh's parents; Demene; Carol; Gloria; Hawa Bibi; Vimaladevi; Fr. John and Pani Marie; Lynn; Michelle; Emanuel(Mani); Stefanie; Geoff; Joey; Evangelia; Sophia; Melanie; Tanya; Piper; Darius; Zamalk; Nelly; Nahla; Mira; Sandral; Brenda; Vol; Gomaz; ; Helen; Paul; Wafaa.

Please pray for the deceased: Fred, Shrin, Andre; Andree; Akhir; Arjuna; Dillon; Elena; Pani Mary; Rejoice`s mother; Edmund; Pani Eleanor; Fr John; Alexandru; Constantin; Robert; Fr Aurel; Georgi; Rada; Petre; Stela; William; Samuel; Debbie; John; Amy, Willie; Dave`s wife; Ana; Shirin`s cousin in Jordan; Father Lawrence; Dave; Anne Tyran`s father; Edith, Sr. Mary Magdalene, Joice, BettyAnn, James, Pauanasuy Kamthasang, Maria, Andrei, Agostina, Carminda, Vimaladevi's sister; Sri's mother, Carol's Mother and 23 year old nephew , Demene`s mother, Dalalzaki.

Holy Saints, Pray for us!



The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian young people. Copyright 2022 Alexandra Houck. Email is orthodoxchildrensword (at) gmail.com. Find it each week at myocn.net.

The Children's Word

"Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them, for to such is the Kingdom of Heaven." Mark 10:14

Sunday, June 19, 2022

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A Ministry of the
Orthodox Christian Network



The only one?

Do you have friends who are Christians? Sometimes you might feel kind of alone as an Orthodox Christian. At school, you might not be allowed to talk about your church or about God. You might be the only one to make the sign of the Cross at lunchtime, or maybe the only one to miss school on Holy Friday. Or maybe sometimes, you might be the only one standing up for something you know is right.

But do you know—you always have thousands and thousands of Christians on your side? They are ready to help you be strong. They are ready to help you keep you close to Jesus Christ. Who are these people? The saints! They are on God's side too, and when we pray to them, they listen to us and help us with what we need.

In the Gospel reading today, we hear about how God wants us to remember Christ in front of other people. The Lord said, "Everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven; but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny him before my Father who is in heaven." That means we have to be strong Christians, even when we feel like we're the only ones! And when we do that, God promises that He will also remember us before His Father. He will keep us close to Him. What could be better than that?



Only God can count how many saints there are!

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

- Acknowledge
- All Saints
- Creator
- Faith
- Inna
- Pinna
- Rimma
- Solstice
- Strong
- Wisdom
- Worship

N E L G R Z M K P S F S K D U
 V B H E M C J I Z R T D J I N
 M K P B H B H Z T T V R N V Z
 E U O R A S E U P E X N O R A
 C J J L R M O N S T A E F N B
 I D U O Z Z M T B U Y Q G V G
 T L W S W X N I C R E A T O R
 S N A N N I P S R G G G A I O
 L W P R A U S P H G Z X G V E
 O B S S I Z E D D H H H M O A
 S K L L P M C C O I O W I F I
 F L R L Z R T G C M G K T A Z
 A F R H B Q B J B T H C M I M
 A C K N O W L E D G E B O T J
 T U G T Q A D M U V S Z G H T

WHAT'S IN AN ICON?

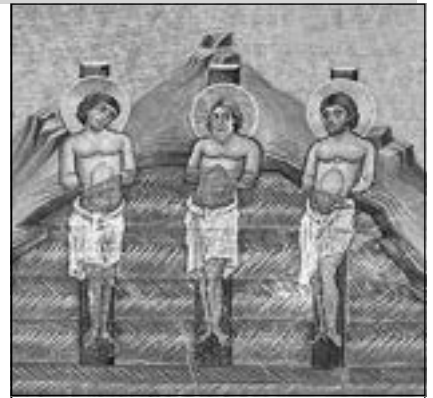
Can you take a few minutes to look at the icon for today? Maybe it is in the narthex of your church.

Can you see the hundreds of saints surrounding our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ? But in real life it is thousands and thousands and thousands!



SAINTS INNA, PINNA, AND RIMMA WORSHIPING THE SON OF GOD

This Tuesday is the summer solstice. Do you know what that means? If you live in the northern half of the world, it's the longest day of the year. The sun shines longer that day than any other day of the year.



The three saints: Inna, Pinna, and Rimma

Long ago, many people were pagans. They worshiped many false gods. Sometimes, they even worshiped the sun, or a "sun god."

This day, the summer solstice, was a big party for them because it's the day you see the sun the most! (Did you know that some people still do worship the sun?)

Saints Inna, Pinna, and Rimma were three saints who lived when most people were pagans. These three saints learned about Christ from the apostle Andrew, and St. Andrew baptized them. Then, they taught lots of pagan people about Christ too, and they baptized them and made them Christians! Sadly, the pagan prince captured the three men. He made them stay in an icy river until they died. But these saints wanted to worship the true Son—the Son of God, Jesus Christ—not the sun we see in the sky. They knew that what they said mattered. They kept their faith because they loved the Lord, and they wanted to be with the Son forever!

We celebrate these three saints tomorrow, June 20th (OC: July 3rd).

June 20-26 – Apostles Fast

Tuesday	8:30 am 7:30pm	Morning Prayer Psalms Study – via Zoom	Wednesday	8:30 am 12:30 pm 4:00 pm 6:30 pm	Morning Prayer Noon Hours Vespers/Dinner Bridges/Great Compline 7:30pm
Thursday	8:30 am 12:30 pm 2:00 pm	Morning Prayer Noon Hours Jesus Prayer	Friday	7:00 am 12:30 pm 2:00 pm	Divine Liturgy Noon Hours Jesus Prayer
Saturday	9:00 am 12:00pm	Morning Prayer Noon Hours	Sunday	6:00 am 8:00 am 8:30 am	Jesus Prayer Orthros Divine Liturgy

St Silouan Chapel at St John's Mission

155 Broadview Ave. Toronto, ON M4M 2E9

T: 416-466-1357 E: info@stjohnsmmission.org W: stjohnsmmission.org

St Zoticos Orthodox Church at Good Neighbours Mission

193 Markham Rd Scarborough, ON M1J 3C3

T: 647-358-4105

We are an apostolate of the ecumenical patriarchate "Mother Church of Christ's poor"
under the Omophorion of Metropolitan Gregory of Nyssa



St. Silouan Chapel, June 19, 2022

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