

THE TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Icon of the Holy Archangel Michael and All Angelic Powers -- November 8th

25TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
NOVEMBER 2, 2008
Tone 8

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 3 – NOVEMBER 9, 2008

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3	5:00 PM LITURGY	† GEORGE NAWROCKY (40TH DAY); REQ: XENIA MOORE
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5	6:30 PM SMALL VESPERS	
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7	8:30 AM LITURGY	SPECIAL INTENTION
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8	<u>NO SERVICES DUE TO EVENTS IN LOS ANGELES</u>	
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9	10:00 AM LITURGY	FOR ALL PARISHIONERS



Holodomor Commemorations

Los Angeles: On Saturday November 8 and Sunday November 9, there will be various events to commemorate the *Holodomor*. Please see the separate flyer for more information.

San Diego: Saturday, November 22 there will be a Panakhyda Service at Holy Cross cemetery to commemorate the *Holodomor*. Please see the separate flyer or the Parish homepage for more information.

Rehearsal for the Holodomor Commemoration in Los Angeles.

A reminder for those who are participating: This coming Friday, November 7th, there will be a final rehearsal for the Holodomor Commemoration in Los Angeles. It will take place at 7:00 PM at Saint Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Church, 1456 Sutherland Street, Los Angeles, California 90026.

Christmas Cards

Starting this Sunday, Ukrainian Christmas Cards will be for sale in the Church Hall. Please see Mary Kitt to purchase.

Books for sale:

Millennium of Christianity in Ukrainian: A Symposium, published in 1987 by St. Paul University in Ottawa, Canada. It is available for \$5.00.

The Divine Liturgy: Anthology for Worship. Published in 2004 by the Metropolitan Sheptytsky Institute of Eastern Christian Studies in Ottawa, Canada. It is available for \$40.00. Please see Fr. James if you wish to purchase one of these books.

Sunday Collection: October 26, 2008:

\$443.00

Social Committee Pot-Luck

At 6:00 p.m. on Monday, November 3rd, the Social Committee will have a pot-luck and a meeting to plan the upcoming events for December and January.

A COMMUNION OF PERSONS

Alexander Kalomiros – *Nostalgia for Paradise*

The Church is the Kingdom of God which appeared in force at the Transfiguration of Jesus Christ on Mount Thabor. The Kingdom of God is the communion of persons, the participation of personal creatures in the Divinity of the Persons of the Holy Trinity. God offers this participation absolutely free. And it is so unimpeded and complete that it extends the life of God to all who taste of it according to their own receptiveness. It extends the uncreated light, the power, and the love of the Three Persons to all. This is called *theosis* (divinization, glorification) in the language of Orthodox theology: the complete participation in body and soul, by grace, in the life of the Divine Persons.

Theosis, therefore, is not an individual or private matter but a communal one. On the one hand, it is the communion of each creaturely person with the Persons of the Holy Trinity, and on the other, it is our communion with the persons who are our brothers and sisters. There is Love and Light in this communion (*koinonia*). This is true Life.

The Kingdom of God is the congregation of persons who gather together in one mind and one heart. There is one common ground on which the creaturely persons, people, gather together with the Uncreated Persons, the Holy Trinity. And that ground is the Person of Jesus Christ, Who alone shares perfectly and completely in the uncreated nature of God as well as in the created nature of mankind and, by extension, of the angels. He is the Love and Great Will of God, who wishes to have other persons share in His Life. Christ gives purpose to the Creation because the outpouring of the love of God was realized in Him and in His union with personal creatures and, through them, with the whole of Creation.

The Church, therefore, is the gathering (*synaxis*) of persons whom Christ binds together and sustains. Christ is never alone; He is ever united with the Father and the Holy Spirit, for God is not an individual but a union of Persons. So, if we wish to be united with Him, we cannot attain it as individuals but as a communion of persons. Unity with the Communion of Divine Persons is possible only for a communion of persons. Even if we are as few as two or three united in the bond of Christ's love, with our guardian angels and patron saints, we actualize the Church, the local as well as the universal Church, and the fulfillment of the communal Life of God and Creation.

Christ told this to us and revealed it on Mount Thabor. "Where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them." The entire mystery of the Church and its very essence are hidden in these words. This is the secret of the catholicity of the local Church and of the unity of all the local Churches. The secret and mystery are the *theandric* (God-manly) Person of Christ. He is the point where the vertical and horizontal members of the Cross, Divinity and Creation, meet and are united. For, it is through Him that the Light and Life of God are imparted to Creation.

(Continued next week...)

Українська Католицька Парафія Матері Божої Неустаючої Помочі

Церква Святого Пророка й Предтечи Йоана Хрестителя
Святиня Святого Миколая, Архієпископа Мір Лікійського, Чудотворця

Ukrainian Catholic Parish of Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Church of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner and Baptizer John
Shrine of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycea

4400 Palm Avenue
La Mesa, CA 91941
Parish Office: (619) 697-5085

Website: stjohnthebaptizer.org

Папox: о. Яків Бенькстон
Pastor: Fr. James Bankston
frjames@mac.com
Fr. James' cell phone: (619) 905-5278

“For to His Angels He Has Given Command About You”

In the very first chapter of the Letter to the Hebrews we read: “Let all the angels of God worship him ... He makes his angels winds and ministers a fiery flame ... Are they not all ministering spirits sent to serve, for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?” God has established angels as protectors and guides of every nation and people. He charged them to guard those who hope in Him so that nothing harms them and no evil comes near their dwelling. In heaven, they continually see the face of God, sing the Thrice-holy Hymn, intercede for us, and rejoice over a single sinner who is converted. In a word, in serving God, the angels have rendered us so many services that the pages of Holy Scripture are filled with them.

This is why the Church, honoring these divine ministers, our intercessors and guardians, celebrates a synaxis (a coming together to celebrate a feast) to remember and honor them. The Church recalls in particular the names of Saints Michael and Gabriel because they are related to us by Holy Scripture. The name “Michael” signifies “Who is like God”, and the name “Gabriel,” “God is powerful.” According to Holy Scripture, the number of angels is infinite, as Daniel saw “thousands upon thousands serve God, and myriads upon myriads stand before Him” (Daniel 7:10). We know on the authority of Holy Scripture that there are nine orders, or choirs, of angels: Angels, Archangels, Virtues, Powers, Principalities, Dominations, Thrones, Cherubim and Seraphim.