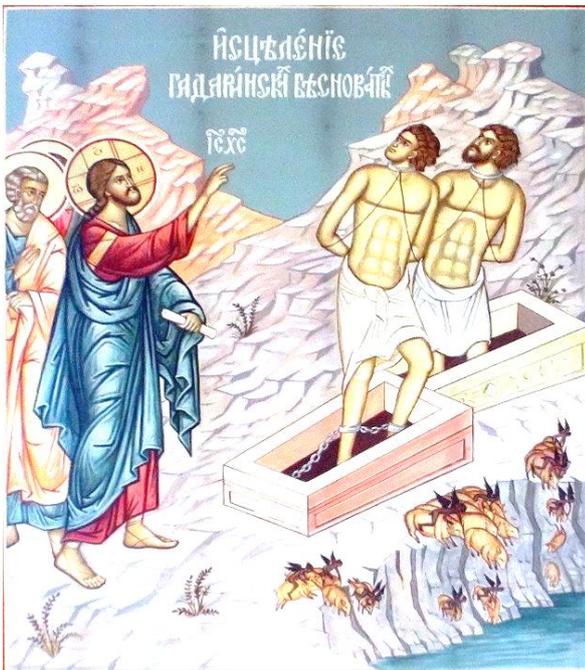




PARISH BULLETIN

HOLY ARCHANGHEL MICHAEL'S ROMANIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

No. 170/21 July 2019



Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Resurrectional Apolytikion. Mode 4.

Having learned the joyful proclamation of the Resurrection from the angel, and having cast off the ancestral condemnation, the women disciples spake to the Apostles triumphantly: Death is despoiled and Christ God is risen, granting great mercy unto the world.

Seasonal Kontakion. Mode 2.

O Protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the Creator most constant: O despise not the supplicant voices of those who have sinned; but be thou quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession, and speed thou to make supplication, thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.

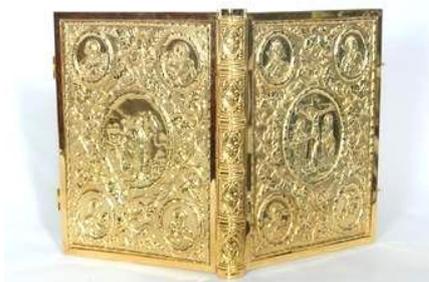
Prokeimenon. Mode 4. Psalm 103.

O Lord, Your works shall be magnified greatly; You made all things in wisdom.
Verse: Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my God, You are magnified exceedingly.

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans 10:1-10

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but it is not enlightened. For, being ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law, that

every one who has faith may be justified. Moses writes that the man who practices the righteousness which is based on the law shall live by it. But the righteousness based on faith says, Do not say in your heart, "Who will ascend into heaven?" (that is, to bring Christ down) or "Who will descend into the abyss?" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart (that is, the word of faith which we preach); because, if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For man believes with his heart and so is justified, and he confesses with his lips and so is saved.



The Gospel According to Matthew 8:28-34; 9:1

At that time, when Jesus came to the country of the Gergesenes, two demoniacs met him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one would pass that way. And behold, they cried out, "What have you to do with us, O Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?" Now a herd of many swine was feeding at some distance from them. And the demons begged him, "If you cast us out, send us away into the herd of swine." And he

said to them, "Go." So they came out and went into the swine; and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and perished in the waters. The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, and what had happened to the demoniacs. And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw him, they begged him to leave their neighborhood. And getting into a boat he crossed over and came to his own city.



Word of the week – Reflection Dormition of St. Anna (July 25th)

Eustratios Mamalougkos, a resident of Aigio, narrates the following:

In our village, Skoupia Proikonisou, I was then 19 years old, the following miracle of Saint Anna happened. My first cousin, Kyriaki Kapantai, then aged 20, was seriously ill. For two years she was confined to bed. She could not sit on a chair, and they fed her with a spoon. An old woman who lived on the edge of the village, heard some women discussing the matter.

"That girl," they said, "the daughter of Argyros, it is said she will not become well."

For this reason, the old woman was prompted to visit the sick girl at her home. Seeing her, her heart was pained, and she told her family:

"Take her to the grace of Saint Anna. Now that her feast is approaching, take her and she will become well."

"How do we take her? She is unable to get up."

"A way will be found. Put her on a donkey with two pillows and two people will hold her on the right and on the left."

In this way we decided to go to Saint Anna, on the day of her feast (July 25).

Her turn came to be sanctified with holy water. They put the icon on her lap, while she was sitting down and they were holding her head, because she could not be stabilized.

Then the miracle happened. The sick girl who was unable to walk stood up and walked to the sea together with the icon. She walked for some time at the beach until the distance of a big stone, then she returned again to the church. She left the festival completely well and returned home walking on her feet. She lives until today (1983) as a faithful Christian with children and grandchildren in Aigio.

- *Translated by John Sanidopoulos*

Because Christ is the Savior of humanity, and brought about the greatest benefaction to the world, this is why the Panagia, the Mother of Christ, is the joy of all creation. She gave her flesh to Christ, she kept Him nine months in the womb, and she with her love and affection nursed Him and raised Him.

But while honoring the Panagia at the same time we must honor the mother of the Panagia, Saint Anna. For centuries the Church has shown gratitude and honor to those persons who contributed to the glory of God. So, today, we celebrate Saint Anna, the mother of our Panagia, who gave up her soul on this day...

Saint Anna was a devout woman, as the Fathers of the Church teach,

especially Saint John of Damascus. The name *Anna* means "Grace", and indeed Grace abided within her. With prayer, fasting and obedience to God she conceived the Panagia. She carried her, she breastfed her with much love, giving her not only her milk, but her life, her prayers. When the Panagia became three years old she was dedicated to the Temple, denying herself her presence, because she knew she was a gift from God. Saint Anna spent all her life with fastings, prayers and almsgiving.

All that we saw previously has a reality, that when we rejoice over a fruit we must recognize that this fruit is the result of much effort and much labor. What takes place at the physical level, also takes place at the spiritual level. We honor a saint, but we must honor also those who helped them become a saint as well as the atmosphere that contributed to this objective. In the instance we are studying today, that of Saint Anna, we see an entire spiritual family, as well as an entire spiritual atmosphere that contributed to the creation of holy personalities and the appearance of our Panagia.

Truly much importance should be given to the atmosphere a family creates! Usually we are ready to blame the children, young people, ignoring the fact that many times we are to blame for not creating the right conditions for them to be raised properly.

However, as long as we consider the Panagia to be our spiritual mother, we should consider Saint Anna to be our spiritual grandmother. And we should ask her to show us her affection, like all grandmothers give. We need her.

- Metropolitan Hierotheos Vlachos;
translated by John Sanidopoulos



Liturgical Schedule for this week

Wednesday <i>July 24</i>	6:00 pm	Paraklesis
Friday <i>July 26</i>	6:00 pm	Vespers & Litia – St. Panteleimon
Saturday <i>July 27</i>	9:00 am 5:00 pm	Divine Liturgy (St. Panteleimon) & Memorial Vespers
Sunday <i>July 28</i>	8:30 am 9:30 am	Matins Divine Liturgy



Announcements:

- **Happy name day** to Anna Tanka (St. Anna – July 25th).
- **Happy birthday** to Harris Pitsillides (July 21st).
- **Church festival** – July 28th, 12pm to 6pm.



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