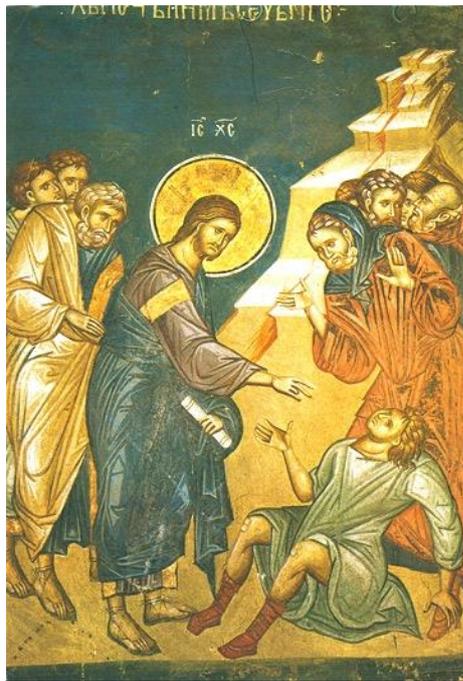




PARISH BULLETIN

HOLY ARCHANGHEL MICHAEL'S ROMANIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

No. 221/16 August 2020



**Tenth Sunday after
Pentecost**

Resurrectional Apolytikion. Mode 1.

When the stone was sealed by the Jews and the soldiers were guarding Thine immaculate body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Saviour, granting life unto the world. For which cause the powers of heaven cried out to Thee, O Life-giver: Glory to Thy resurrection, O Christ. Glory to Thy Kingdom. Glory to Thy dispensation, O only Friend of man.

Seasonal Kontakion. Grave Mode.

The grave and death could not hold the Theotokos, who is unsleeping in her intercessions and an unflinching hope in her mediations. For as the Mother of Life she was translated to life by Him Who dwelt in her ever-virgin womb.

Prokeimenon. Mode 1. Psalm 32.22,1

*Let your mercy, O Lord, be upon us.
Verse: Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.*

The reading is from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 4:9-16

Brethren, God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are ill-clad and buffeted and homeless, and we labor, working with our own hands.

When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become, and are now, as the refuse of the world, the off-scouring of all things. I do not write this to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. I urge you, then, be imitators of me.



The Gospel According to Matthew 17:14-23

At that time, a man came up to Jesus and kneeling before him said, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly; for often he falls into the fire, and often into the water. And I brought him to your disciples, and they could not heal him." And Jesus answered, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me." And Jesus rebuked him, and the demon came out of him, and the boy was cured instantly. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" He said to them, "Because of your

little faith. For truly I say to you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move hence to yonder place,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you. But this kind never comes out except by prayer and fasting." As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of man is to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him, and he will be raised on the third day."

Word of the week – Reflection Holy Brancoveni (August 16th)

Holy Prince Constantine Brancoveanu, the son of Prince Matthew Basarab, was born in 1654. When his parents died, he was raised and educated by his uncle, Constantine Cantacuzino. When another uncle, Prince Serban Cantacuzino died on October 19, 1688, Constantine was chosen to succeed him as Prince of the Romanian Land (Wallachia). Constantine and his wife Marica had seven daughters and four sons.

Saint Constantine was a wise and just ruler who was guided by Christian principles, and worked for the benefit of his people. He also built and restored many churches and monasteries. His philanthropy extended even into Transylvania and Moldavia, which were ruled by others. Under his reign, many Romanian, Greek, Bulgarian, Arabic, Turkish, and Georgian texts were printed after a printing press was

established in Bucharest - an institution overseen by Anthim the Iberian. In 1694, he founded the Royal Academy of Bucharest.

The prince took steps in negotiating anti-Ottoman alliances first with the Habsburg Monarchy, and then with Peter the Great's Russia: upon the 1710 Russian intervention in Moldavia, the prince contacted Tsar Peter and accepted gifts from the latter, while his rivalry with the Moldavian Prince Dimitrie Cantemir (the main regional ally of the Russians) prevented a more decisive political move. Instead, Constantine Brancoveanu gathered Wallachian troops in Urlați, near the Moldavian border, awaiting for Russian troops to storm into his country and offer his services to the tsar, while also readying to join the Ottoman counter-offensive in the event of a change in fortunes. When several of his boyars fled to the Russian camp, the prince saw himself forced to decide in favor of the Ottomans or risk becoming an enemy of his Ottoman suzerain, and swiftly returned the gifts he had received from the Russians.

Such policies were eventually denounced to the Porte. The prince was deposed from his throne by Sultan Ahmed III, and brought under arrest to Constantinople, where he was imprisoned in 1714 at the fortress of Yedikule (the Seven Towers). There he was tortured by the Ottomans, who hoped to locate the immense fortune he had supposedly amassed.

On 15 August 1714, the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos, when Constantine Brancoveanu was also celebrating his 60th birthday, he and his four sons and his advisor Ianache Vacarescu were brought before Sultan Ahmed III. Diplomatic representatives of Austria, Russia, France and England were also present. After all of his fortune had been seized, in exchange for the life of his family he was asked to renounce the Orthodox Christian faith. He reportedly said: "Behold, all my fortunes and all I had, I have lost! Let us not lose our souls. Be brave and manly, my beloved! Ignore death. Look at how much Christ, our Savior, has endured for us and with what shameful death he died. Firmly believe in this and do not be shaken, nor leave your faith for this life and this world." After this, his four sons, Constantine, Ștefan, Radu and Matei and advisor Ianache were beheaded in front of their father.

History also records that the smallest child, Matei (12 years old), was so frightened after seeing the bloodbath and the heads of his three brothers that he started crying and asking his father to let him renounce Christianity and convert to Islam as the Sultan Ahmed III had demanded. At that moment, Constantine Brancoveanu said: "Of our kind none have lost their faith. It is better to die a thousand times than to leave your ancient faith just to live few more years on earth." Matei listened and offered his head.



Liturgical Schedule for this week

Wednesday <i>August 19</i>	6:00 pm	Paraklesis
Saturday <i>August 22</i>	9:00 am 5:00 pm	Divine Liturgy & Memorial Vespers
Sunday <i>August 23</i>	8:30 am 9:30 am	Matins Divine Liturgy



Announcements:

- **Happy birthday** to Costa Penna (August 17th) and Yannis Penna (August 21st).
- **Happy name day** to Samuel Yanka – (August 19th - Holy Prophet Samuel).
- **Jesus Prayer** – we will continue the prayer with **Burning Bush prayer group** in our home every day at 9:00pm. In this turbulent time we need a lot of prayers.



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