

ETERNITY

How long is eternity? Pondering such a concept can, indeed, give us a headache! A simple dictionary definition of the word describes it as “infinite time” or “time without a beginning or ending.” When we think of eternity in the framework of our faith, however, we focus in on 2 specific areas: eternal life in heaven or eternal damnation in hell. There is no question at all concerning where we WANT to spend eternity. The question is: How do we earn a spot in that wonderful place “where there is no longer sickness, nor sorrow, nor sighing, but life everlasting?”

Like everything else, the answer lies in the Scriptures. Christ frequently spoke of eternal life and He was quite specific as to how it can be attained. When a certain lawyer approached Him and questioned what he needed to do to inherit it, Christ told him that he must “...love the Lord with all your heart, soul, strength and mind, and love your neighbor as yourself.” (Luke 10:27) On another occasion when questioned in a similar manner, the Lord urged His interrogator to “keep the commandments” and to “sell what you own and give it to the poor.” Still another time, He reminded Nicodemus that “...God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but shall have everlasting life.” (John 3:15) To gain eternal life, Jesus also told His followers that they must “eat His Flesh” and “drink His Blood” - a clear reference to the reception of Holy Communion.

To sum all this up, we can confidently say that if we love God, if we follow His Divine Laws, if we care for the needs of others and live a sacramental life, we, too, will be numbered among the saints in God’s heavenly kingdom for all of eternity. Apostle Paul tells us “...eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered the heart of

Ss Constantine & Helen

Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Pacific



November 5, 2017

5th Sunday of Luke

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Parish Christmas Card

If you wish to be listed on our Parish Christmas Card, please print your name below and return to the church office by December 4th. Please consider including a donation to offset the cost of printing and postage for the card. *Maha lo!*

Please print. Your name will appear as written here.

November 5, 2017

5th Sunday of Luke

Commemoration of: Galaktion & his wife Episteme, the Martyrs of Emesa;
Patrobos, Gaios, Hermas, Linos & Philogos, Apostles of the 70

Apolytikia - Entrance Hymns

Ton sinanarhon Logon (Resurrection Hymn) Tone 5
Coeternal with the Father and the Spirit is the Word, who of a Virgin was begotten for our salvation, as the faithful we praise and worship Him, for in the flesh did He consent to ascend unto the Cross, and death did He endure and He raise to life the dead, through His glorious Resurrection. (Translation as sung by the Choir)

Tu Stavru Su (Hymn of the Church) Tone 8
Having seen in the sky the form of Your Cross and, like Paul, having received his calling not from men, Your apostle among Kings, Lord, placed his reigning city in Your hand, which forever you guard in peace, by the intercessions of the Theotokos, for You alone are the lover of mankind. (Translation as sung by the Choir)

Kontakion

Prostasia ton Hristianon Tone 2
O protection of Christians that can not be put to shame, mediation to the Creator immovable. Do not over look, the pleading voices of those in sin, but be in time as a kind one to our help, who in faith cry out to You: Hasten to intercede and be quick to beseech. You who always protect, Theotokos, those who honor You. (Translation as sung by the Choir)

Epistle Reading Galatians 6:11-18
BRETHREN, see with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh. But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. Peace and mercy be upon all who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God. Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

Gospel Reading Luke 16:19-31
The Lord said, "There was a rich man, who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, full of sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table; moreo-

ver the dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried; and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes, and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus in his bosom. And he called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy upon me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in anguish in this flame.' But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.' And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.' But Abraham said, 'They have Moses, and the prophets; let them hear them.' And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if some one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' He said to them, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced if some one should rise from the dead.'"

Activities & Announcements

Today

5th Sunday of Luke;

Adult Religious Education: "Hot Potatoes Issues— Orthodox Perspective on Universal Salvation" 12 p.m. to 12:50 p.m. in Conference Room;
Sunday School Meeting 12 p.m. in Partition Room of Social Hall;
Greek Class, Intermediate: 12 to 1 pm, Beginners: 2 to 3 pm;
Dance Practice: Nisiopeda 12 to 1 p.m., Nisiotes 1 to 3 p.m.

This Week

WED, 11/8— Synaxis of the Archangel Michael & the other Bodiless Powers: Orthros 8:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.

THU, 11/9— St. Nektarios the Wonderworker: Orthros 8:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.

SUN, 11/12— 8th Sunday of Luke;
Philoptochos Meeting 12 p.m.;
Adult Religious Education "Understanding the Divine Liturgy— Introduction to the Order of Services Leading Up to the Divine Liturgy" 12 to 12:50 (Frs.' Office or Church);

To Our Visitors:

We are pleased that you have chosen to worship with us. Just a reminder, however: the Sacrament of Holy Communion is a manifestation of the *unity of the Body of Christ*. As such, only those who are members in spiritual good standing of the Orthodox Church – and who have prepared themselves for the Sacrament – may partake of the Holy Chalice. However, *everyone* is welcome to come up with our people at the end of the service to receive blessed bread. *Please be sure to join us at Coffee Hour following Services.*