

## WHAT IS A SAINT?

Today we celebrate the SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS. It brings to an end a cycle of the Church's liturgical year which lasts some 120 days. It began on the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee, which marked the start of the Pre-Lenten season. It continued through Lent, Holy Week, Pascha and its ensuing Sundays and Pentecost. The Church remembers all saints at the end of this cycle—everyone who has lived a Christ-like life—to remind us that the lessons presented to us during this cycle have been meant to help us focus on our ultimate goal: *to be numbered among God's saints.*

What is a saint, and how can we become one? In our minds, saints are distinguished by tremendous spiritual feats. We view them as "*bigger than life*" and certainly as much more than mere human beings. But they were mere human beings! What distinguishes and makes them different from us is that they *perfected* the virtues that we only practice some of the time. The saints knew what the Church expected of them. We, on the other hand, try to make the Church fit into our own perception of what it is to be—totally disregarding the true tradition of the Church as expressed by the Holy Fathers, the Apostles and by Christ Himself. When we say we want to one day enter God's eternal kingdom, what we are really saying is: we want to be saints! There is nothing prideful or arrogant in saying this, for the real mission of the Church is to produce saints! It is unlikely that future generations will ever find our name listed on a Church Calendar, but it is within the realm of possibility that one day when others speak about the saints known only to God, they will be speaking about us.

### Words of Wisdom from the Holy Fathers

*"Some labor and struggle hard to earn forgiveness, but better than these is the man who forgets the wrongs done to him. Forgive quickly and you will be abundantly forgiven. To forget wrongs is to prove oneself truly repentant, but to brood on them and at the same time to imagine one is practicing repentance is to act like the man who is convinced he is running when, in fact, he is fast asleep."*

~St. John of the Ladder

*"Examine yourself and strive to adorn yourself with love, humility, compassion and hope. Seek the regeneration of your soul, enlightened by the voice of the Gospel and helped by God. With fear and love for the Heavenly Father, proceed to sow the seeds of God's word on good soil. Cultivate the talent given by Christ for the salvation of your soul."*

~ St. Raphael of Lesbos

## Ss Constantine & Helen

Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Pacific



June 26, 2016

9th Sunday of Pascha: Sunday of All Saints

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June 26, 2016

9th Sunday of Pascha– All Saints Sunday

Commemoration of: David the Righteous of Thessalonika,  
New Martyr of the Turkish Yoke

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Apolytikia - Entrance Hymns

*Ex ipsus katilthes* (Hymn of the Day) Tone 8

*You descended from on high, O compassionate One, and condescended to be buried for three days, so that from the passions You might set us free. Our life and resurrection, O Lord, glory be to You.*

*Ton en olo to kosmo* (All Saints) Tone 4

*Your Church is arrayed in the holy blood of Your Martyrs who witnessed throughout the world, as though in purple and fine linen. Through them she cries to You, Christ our God, "Send down to Your people Your tender love, grant peace from above to Your commonwealth, and to our souls Your great mercy."*

*Tu Stavru su ton tipon* (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 you guard in peace forever, by the intercessions of the Theotokos, for You alone love mankind.*

Kontakion Tone 8

*Os aparhas tis fiseos*  
*O Planter of creation, Lord, to You does the entire world bring as an offering the God-bearing martyr Saints, as being nature's first fruits. At their earnest entreaties, keep Your Church in a state of profoundest peace, through the Theotokos, O Lord abundantly merciful.*

Epistle Reading 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. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated - of whom the world was not worthy - wandering over deserts and mountains and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect. Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfection of our faith .

Gospel Reading Matthew 10:32-33; 37-38; 19:27-30  
The Lord said to his disciples, "Every one 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. He who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he who loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and he who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me." Then Peter said in reply, "Lo, we have left everything and followed you. What then shall we have?" Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of man shall sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. 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. But many that are first will be last, and the last first.

**Announcements**

Today

✦ SUN, 6/26– 9th Sunday of Pascha: All Saints Sunday;

This Week.

- ✦ MON & TUE, 6/27 to 6/28– Holy Apostles Fast: fish allowed
- ✦ WED, 6/29– Holy Apostles Peter & Paul: Orthros 8:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.
- ✦ THU– Synaxis of the Twelve Holy Apostles: Services pending availability of chanter(s)
- ✦ BENEFIT GUITAR CONCERT FOR ALOHA YOUTH CHOIR & DANCE GROUP BY TASO COMANESCU (Dina/John's grandson)  
SUN., JULY 10 AT 2 PM CHIRGOTIS HALL  
TICKETS \$15 AND CHILDREN 5-12 YRS \$5  
SEE DIANNA GRAVES

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**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.*