

## Why Go To Church When I Can Pray At Home?

by St. John Chrysostom

They say:

*'We can pray at home.'*

Thou art deceiving thyself, O man! Of course, one can pray at home. But it is impossible to pray there as in church, where such a multitude of hearts are uplifted to God, merging into one unanimous cry. Thou wilt not be so quickly heard while praying to the Master by thyself, as when praying together with thy brethren, for here in church there is something greater than thy room: Agreement, unanimity, the bond of love, and finally here are the prayers of the priests.

The priests stand before us, then, so that the prayers of the people, being weak, would be united to their more powerful prayers and together with them ascend to heaven. The Apostle Peter was freed from prison, thanks to the common prayers offered for him...If the Church's prayer was so beneficial for the Apostle Peter and delivered such a pillar of the faith from prison, why, tell me, dost thou disdain its power and what kind of justification canst thou have for this?

Hearken unto God Himself, Who says that the multitude of people who pray to him with fervor moves Him to have mercy. He says to the Prophet Jonah:

*'Shall I not spare Nineveh, that great city, in which dwell more than 120 thousand people.'*

He did not simply mention the multitude of people but that thou mightest know that prayer together has great power.

**Source: *Mystagogy***

SS CONSTANTINE & HELEN

GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL OF THE PACIFIC



SEPTEMBER 25, 2016

1ST SUNDAY OF LUKE

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SEPTEMBER 25, 2016

1ST SUNDAY OF LUKE

COMMEMORATION OF: Ephrosyne of Alexandria; Paphnoutios and 546  
Companions in Egypt

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APOLYTIKIA - ENTRANCE HYMNS

*Ton sinanarhon Logon* (Resurrection Hymn) Tone 5

*En si miter akrivos* (Devout Ephrosyne) Tone 8

*In you, O Mother, is preserved undistorted what was made in the image of God; for taking up the cross, you followed Christ and by example taught, that we should overlook the flesh, since it passes away, and instead look after the soul, since it is immortal. And therefore, O devout Ephrosyne your spirit rejoices with the angels.*

*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 love mankind.*

KONTAKION

*Prostasia ton Hristianon* Tone 2

*O Protection of Christians unshamable, mediation with the Creator immovable, we sinners beg you, do not despise the voices of our prayers, but anticipate, since you are good, and swiftly come unto our aid as we cry out to you with faith: Hurry to intercession, and hasten to supplication, O Theotokos who defend now and ever those who honor you.*

EPISTLE READING

2nd Corinthians 1:21-24; 2:1-4

BRETHREN, it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has commissioned us; he has put his seal upon us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

But I call God to witness against me - it was to spare you that I refrained from coming to Corinth. Not that we lord it over your faith; we work with you for your joy, for you stand firm in your faith. For I made up my mind not to make you another painful visit. For if I cause you pain, who is there to make me glad but the one whom I have pained? And I wrote as I did, so that when I came I might not suffer pain from those who should have made me rejoice, for I felt sure of all of you, that my joy would be the joy of you all. For I wrote you out of much affliction and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to cause you pain but to let you know the abundant love that I have for you.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 5:1-11

At that time, Jesus was standing by the lake of Gennesaret. And He saw two boats by the lake; but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, He asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when He had ceased speaking, He said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at Your word I will let down the nets." And when they had done this, they enclosed a great shoal of fish; and as their nets were breaking, they beckoned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." For he was astonished, and all who were with him, at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching men." And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed Him.

ACTIVITIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY

- ✘ SUN, 9/25– 1st Sunday of Luke; Leeward Community College students visiting.
- ✘ We are in need of a volunteer to manage our new church Wordpress site. Please contact [pc@greekorthodoxhawaii.org](mailto:pc@greekorthodoxhawaii.org).
- ✘ If you are a registered steward with budgeting experience and would like to join our Budgeting Committee, email [budget@greekorthodoxhawaii.org](mailto:budget@greekorthodoxhawaii.org). Feel free to email suggestions regarding next year's budget as well.

THIS WEEK

SUN, 10/2– 2ND SUNDAY OF LUKE; ST. ROMANOS THE MELODIST– CHOIR SUNDAY; MEMORIAL FOR ALL CHOIR MEMBERS WHO HAVE "FALLEN ASLEEP IN THE HOPE OF THE RESURRECTION;" BENJAMIN NICHOLAS LOZYNSKY BAPTISM 1:30 P.M.

*"At the times when you remember God, increase your prayers, so that when you forget Him, the Lord may remind you."*

~St. Mark the Ascetic

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.*