

Holy Fathers on “Loving our Neighbor”

St. Ignatius Brianchaninov: Speak will of those who speak evil of you. . . .

Speak well of those who speak evil of you.
Pay good for evil.

Pray for those who cause you various offenses, wrongs, temptations, persecutions.

Whatever you do, on no account condemn anyone; do not even try to judge whether a person is good or bad, but keep your eyes on that one evil person for whom you must give an account before God—yourself.

St. John of Kronstadt: Do not despise any man . . .

Do not despise any man, however poor he may be; but behave with full respect and kindness to every well-intentioned man, especially to the poor, as to our members worthy of compassion — or, rather, to members of Christ — otherwise you will cruelly wound your soul.

O, how easy it would appear to be to live in simplicity and love, and yet how difficult it is for our corrupt hearts to live in love!

At every step there is a pretext for enmity against our brother.

St. Nektarios: Christians, have we understood the great responsibility that we have taken . . .

“Christians, have we understood the great responsibility that we have taken on before God through baptism? Have we come to know that we must conduct ourselves as children of God, that we must align our will with the will of God, that we must remain free from sin, that we must love God with all our hearts and always patiently await union with Him? Have we thought about the fact that our heart should be so filled with love that it should overflow to our neighbor? Do we have the feeling that we must become holy and perfect, children of God and heirs of the Kingdom of Heaven? We must struggle for this, so that we may not be shown unworthy and rejected. Let none of us lose our boldness, nor neglect our duties, nor be afraid of the difficulties of spiritual struggle. For we have God as a helper, who strengthens us in the difficult path of virtue.”

Saints Constantine & Helen

Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Pacific



July 8, 2018

6th Sunday of Matthew

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July 8, 2018

6th Sunday of Matthew

Commemoration of: Prokopios the Great Martyr;
Theophilios the Myrrhbearer

Apolytikia - Entrance Hymns

Ton sinanarhon Logon (Hymn of the Day) 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)

O martis su Kirie (St. Prokopios) Tone 4

*Your Martyr, O Lord, was worthily awarded by You * the crown of incorruption, in that he contested for You our immortal God. * Since he possessed Your power, he defeated the tyrants, * dashing the demons' powerless displays of defiance. * O Christ God, at his fervent entreaties, save our souls.* (Translation by AgesInitiatives.com)

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 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 Tone 2

Prostasia ton Hristianon

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 Romans 12:6-14

BRETHREN, having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; he who teaches, in his teaching; he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who contributes, in liberality; he who gives aid, with zeal; he who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the

needs of the saints, practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

Gospel Reading Matthew 9:1-8

At that time, getting into a boat Jesus crossed over and came to his own city. And behold, they brought to him a paralytic, lying on his bed; and when Jesus saw their faith he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven." And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say 'Rise and walk?' But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins" he then said to the paralytic -- "Rise, take up your bed and go home." And he rose and went home. When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

Announcements

Today

✘ SUN, 7/8— 6th Sunday of Matthew

This Week.

✘ THU, 7/12— Parish Council Meeting 5:30 p.m.

✘ SUN, 7/15— Sunday of the Holy Fathers

Pearls of Wisdom from the Holy Fathers

“Be pleasing to Him for Whom you are soldiers, Him from Whom you will receive your reward. None of you must be a deserter. Let your baptism serve as a shield, faith as a helmet, love as a spear, endurance as full armor. Your works are your deposits so that you may receive the full sum due you. Therefore be patient with one another in gentleness, as God is with you.”

~ St. Ignatius of Antioch

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.