

## 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*

### 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.*

## Ss Constantine & Helen

Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Pacific



September 24, 2017

1st Sunday of Luke

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Commemoration of: Thekla the Equal-to-the Apostles; Silouan of Athos

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## Apolytikia - Entrance Hymns

*Katelisas to Stavro* (Resurrection Hymn) Tone 7

*O Lord by your Cross You abolished death and opened to the thief Paradise. The lamentation of the myrrh-bearers You turned to joy, and You commanded Your Apostles to proclaim that You had risen from the dead, O Christ our God, bestowing upon the world the great mercy.* (Translation as sung by the Choir)

*Lai nin krotisomen* (Theotokos) Tone 4

*O come, all you people, and let us in faith clap our hands \* and sing sacred songs to her who is the Mother of God, \* and longingly cry aloud: \* "Rejoice, O protection of all those who entreat you; \* rejoice, the salvation of those who honor you with longing; \* rejoice, O Lady who restored \* the paralyzed man to health."* (Translation from AgesInitiatives.com)

*Thiu kirikos* (St. Thekla) Tone 3

*All aflame with love for your Creator, \* from the teachings of the sacred preacher, \* you disregarded as fleeting all things mundane. \* And being bold in the face of the penalties, \* you gave yourself as a beautiful gift to God. \* Thecla, glorious companion of the Apostle Paul, \* we pray you entreat your Bridegroom, Christ, \* and ask Him to grant us His great mercy.* (Translation from AgesInitiatives.com)

*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 2nd Timothy 3:10-15

Timothy, my son, you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, my sufferings, what befell me at Antioch, at Iconion, and at Lystra, what persecutions I endured; yet from

them all the Lord rescued me. Indeed all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

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, 9/24– *1st Sunday of Luke; Adult Religious Education- "Hot Potatoes Issues: Defending the Truthfulness of Scripture"*
- ✘ **Budget Committee**– If you are interested in being on the 2018 Budget Committee or have suggestions, please email the Parish Council at: [pc@greekorthodoxhawaii.org](mailto:pc@greekorthodoxhawaii.org). A copy of the budget is posted upstairs.

This Week

- ✘ SUN, 10/1– *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;"*

*"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