

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 28, 2014

1st Sunday of Luke

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Commemoration of: Chariton the Confessor; Baruch the Prophet; Neophytos & Auxentios the Martyrs of Cyprus; Wenceslaus the Martyr, Prince Czechs

Apolytikia - Entrance Hymns

Katelisas to Stavro (Resurrection Hymn) Tone 7

Tes ton dakrion su roes (Chariton the Confessor) Tone 8
*With the rivers of your tears you made the barren desert bloom; and with your sighs from deep within, you made your labors bear their fruits a hundredfold; and you became a star, illuminating the world by your miracles, * O Chariton our devout father. Intercede with Christ our God, for the salvation of our souls.*

Tou Stavrou Sou (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 6:1-10

BRETHREN, working together with him, then, we entreat you not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, "At the acceptable time I have listened to you, and helped you on the day of salvation." Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We put no obstacle in any one's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, tumults, labors, watching, hunger; by purity, knowledge, forbearance, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as

sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

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

- ✘ **Gyro Benefit Luncheon Sponsored by Philoptochos**– Today, following services, our Philoptochos, in a nationwide effort, is sponsoring coffee hour to benefit our brothers and sisters in Greece and Cyprus who are suffering through a harsh economic crisis. We are offering Gyros at \$5 each. Thank you for your generosity!
- ✘ **Assistance to Register to Vote**- Ms. Mimi Elliott is offering her services to help those who need assistance to register as voters. Please see her if you need her assistance.

This Week

THU, 10/2– Parish Council Meeting 5:30 p.m.

SAT, 10/4– Byzantine Chant 4 to 5 p.m.; Bible Study 5 to 6 p.m.; Great Vespers 6:30 p.m.

SUN, 10/5– 2nd Sunday of Luke; St. Romanos the Melodist– Choir Sunday; Memorial for All Choir Members who have "fallen asleep in the hope of the Resurrec-

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.*