

Saintly Notes

Unmercenaries Cyrus and John (January 31)

These charitable and glorious saints were not blood brothers but were brothers in the spirit. At first, Cyrus lived in Alexandria, and as a physician he healed people by the power of Christ and by his knowledge of medicine.

Learning that sickness mostly befalls man because of sin, Cyrus always directed the sick to purify their souls from sin through repentance and prayer and, thereby restore health to the body. When Diocletion's persecution against Christians began, Cyrus withdrew to Arabia where he received the monastic tonsure. He became as famous in Arabia as he was in Alexandria, so that people there also resorted to him for assistance.

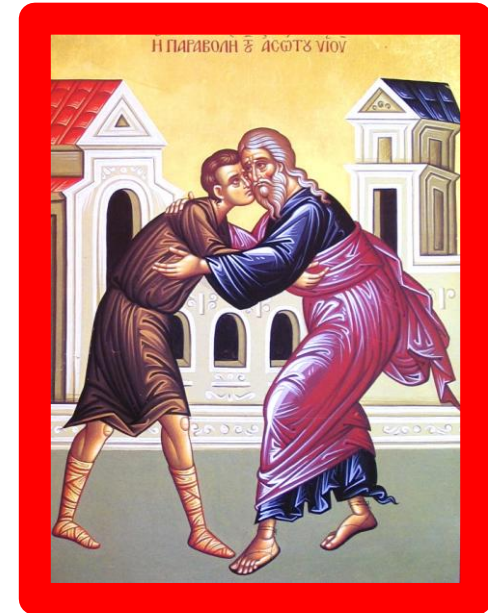
Hearing about Cyrus, John, then a Roman officer in Edessa, came to Arabia to see him. Upon meeting, they loved one another as a brother loves a brother and remained together to live a life of asceticism. At that time, a certain Christian woman named Anastasia, together with her three daughters, was tortured by the persecutors in the town of Canopus. Hearing of this, Cyrus and John came to Canopus to encourage the mother and her daughters not to abandon the Faith. And truly, thanks to the counsel of these saints, Anastasia endured all tortures and, with her daughters, was martyred for Christ. The daughters of Anastasia were named: St. Theoctista, age 15; St. Theodota, age 13; and St. Eudocia, age 11. The tormentors then captured Cyrus and John, who, after imprisonment and torture were beheaded in the year 311 A.D.

Numerous miracles were wrought by these martyrs, both during their lives and after their deaths. Their relics were translated to Rome during the reign of Emperor Arcadius. These saints are invoked for assistance during the Blessing of Water, in the Sacrament of Holy Unction and especially by those suffering from insomnia.

(The Prologue from Ochrid, Birmingham, 1985, Lazarica Press)

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

January 31, 2010



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All Saints Orthodox Church, Raleigh NC
(www.allsaintsnc.org)
919-859-1332

The V. Rev. Nicholas R. A. Sorensen, Archpriest
The Rev. Philip Pelikan, Priest
The Rev. David Keim, Deacon

January 31, 2010

The Saints Whom We Remember

Unmercenaries Cyrus and John;

Martyrs Athanasia of Egypt and her daughters Theodota, Theoktiste and Eudoxia;
Martyr Papias of Corinth; New-martyr Elias; Nikita of the Kiev Caves

This Week's Schedule

Today: 8:00a Orthros; 9:00a Church School; 10:00a Divine Liturgy
Monday: **Church Office Closed;** 6:30p Eve. Div. Liturgy for the
Presentation of Christ; 8:00p Potluck Supper
Wednesday: 9:15a Third Hour Prayers; 6:30p Vespers
Sunday: 8:00a Orthros; 9:00a Church School; 10:00a Divine Liturgy;
11:45p Meatfare Potluck

Third Antiphon

Resurrectional Troparion—Tone 1

While the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. For which cause the heavenly powers cried aloud unto Thee, O giver of life. Glory to Thy Resurrection O Christ, glory to Thy kingdom, glory to Thy providence, O Thou Who alone art the lover of mankind.

Little Entrance

† **Entrance Hymn:** “Come, let us worship . . . Alleluia.”

† **Troparion for the Resurrection (Tone 1):** See above.

† **Troparion for All Saints (Tone 4):**
As with fine porphyry and royal

purple Thy Church has been adorned with Thy *martyr's* blood shed throughout all the world. She cries to Thee, O Christ God, send down Thy bounties on Thy people, grant peace to Thy habitation and great mercy to our souls.

† **Kontakion for the Presentation of Christ (Tone 1):** Thou, O Christ God, Who by Thy Birth, didst sanctify the Virgin's *womb*, and, as is meet, didst bless Simeon's arms, and didst also come to save us; preserve Thy fold in wars, and confirm them whom Thou didst love, for Thou alone art the Lover of mankind.

The Trisagion

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us . . .

Scripture

for today and next Sunday

Today: (See insert)

Next Sunday:

Epistle: 1 Cor. 8:8—9:2

Gospel: Matt. 25:31—46

Megalynarion—Tone 8

It is truly meet and right . . .

Communion Hymn

Tone 8

Praise the Lord . . . Alleluia.

Post-Communion Hymn

We have seen the true light . . .

Parish Notes

Altar Servers Today

Matthew Wynne, Del Dillard, Noah Keim, Micah Keim, Roger Jones.

Special Attention

• **Building Project Update.** This past week we witness the placing of the sub-plumbing and the pouring of the footers. Fr. Nicholas stood at each of the four footers for the new temple and prayed, sprinkled holy water into the footers, and then placed one of the four gospels (in the original Greek and in English) in each of the footers. Our Temple is now literally built upon the four Gospels. This week Fr. Nicholas will place a chalice (that we no longer can use and was the first chalice used when All Saints started) in the cement foundation directly under the altar area of the new Temple. Pictures of these events will be available from Paul Hydock. Please keep praying for safety of the workers and for good weather and for continued and

increased building fund and general fund income.

- **Note that the Divine Liturgy for the Presentation of Christ Will Be Celebrated on Monday Evening Followed by a Potluck Supper.**
- **Haitian Relief Offering.** Our total offering over the two weeks for the Haitian Relief was \$2119.20. This was sent to the Archdiocese designated for Haitian Relief last week. May God bless all of you for your generosity.
- **Orthodoxy Sunday.** This year all Orthodox in our area have been invited by Fr. Andrew Koufopoulos to attend the Orthodoxy Sunday Vespers at St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Church in Durham. A light Lenten supper will be served following the service. The Vespers will begin at 5:30pm. St. Barbara church is located at 8306 NC Highway 751 in Durham. Please plan now to attend.
- **Directions to St. Barbara's:** Located less than a mile south of Interstate 40, exit 274 on NC Highway 751. Turn toward Jordan Lake, the church is located on the right hand side of the road.
- **Get Ready for Great Lent.** This year Great Lent begins February 15th. As usual, we will pray Forgiveness Vespers on the evening of February 14th at 5:30pm (make attendance a priority this year). During Great Lent there will be a weekly Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts on Wednesdays and the weekly Akathist Hymn to the Theotokos on Fridays. Other special services will be announced as well as a full liturgical schedule for Holy Week. Please plan now to attend as many of these Lenten services as you are able.
- **Holy Pascha is on April 4th this year (as is Western Easter).**

Today's Epistle and Gospel Readings

Prokeimenon:

Make vows to the Lord thy God, and perform them.

In Judah God is known; His Name is great in Israel.

†Epistle: 1 Cor. 6:12–20 (RSV)

Brethren, all things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be enslaved by anything. Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food; but God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by His power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who joins himself to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two shall become one flesh." But he who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with Him. Shun immorality. Every other sin which a man commits is outside the body; but the immoral man sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

†Gospel: Luke 15:11–32 (RSV)

The Lord spoke this parable: "There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that falls to me.' And he divided his living between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have fed on the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants."' And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on

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his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to make merry. Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.’ But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, ‘Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!’ And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”

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A Word from Our Mothers

“Many are the wiles of the devil. If he is not able to disturb the soul by means of poverty, he suggests riches as an attraction. If he has not won the victory by insults and disgrace, he suggests praise and glory. Overcome by health, he makes the body ill. Not having been able to seduce it through pleasures, he tries to overthrow it by involuntary sufferings. He joins to this, very severe illness, to disturb the faith-hearted in their love of God. . . . do not be discouraged here and now. Rejoice that God visit you and keep this blessed saying on your lips: “The Lord has chastened me sorely but He has not given me over unto death.” (Ps. 118:18). You were iron, but fire has burnt the rust off you. If you are righteous and fall ill, you will go from strength to strength. Are you gold? You will pass through fire purged.”

(Mother Syncretica; The Sayings of the Desert Fathers)

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