

Saintly Notes

Amphilokios, bishop of Iconium (November 23)

Amphilokios was a fellow countryman, companion and friend of St. Basil the Great and other great saints of the fourth century. Amphilokios left the uproar of the world early in life and withdrew to a cave where, as a hermit, he lived in asceticism for forty years.

It then happened that the episcopal throne in Iconium was vacated, and Amphilokios, in a wondrous manner, was chosen and consecrated Bishop of Iconium. He was a splendid shepherd and a great defender of the purity of the Orthodox Faith. He took part in the Second Ecumenical Council in 381. He fought zealously against the impious Macedonius, the Arians and the Eunomians. He personally begged Theodosius the Great to expel all the Arians from every city in the empire, but the emperor did not heed him.

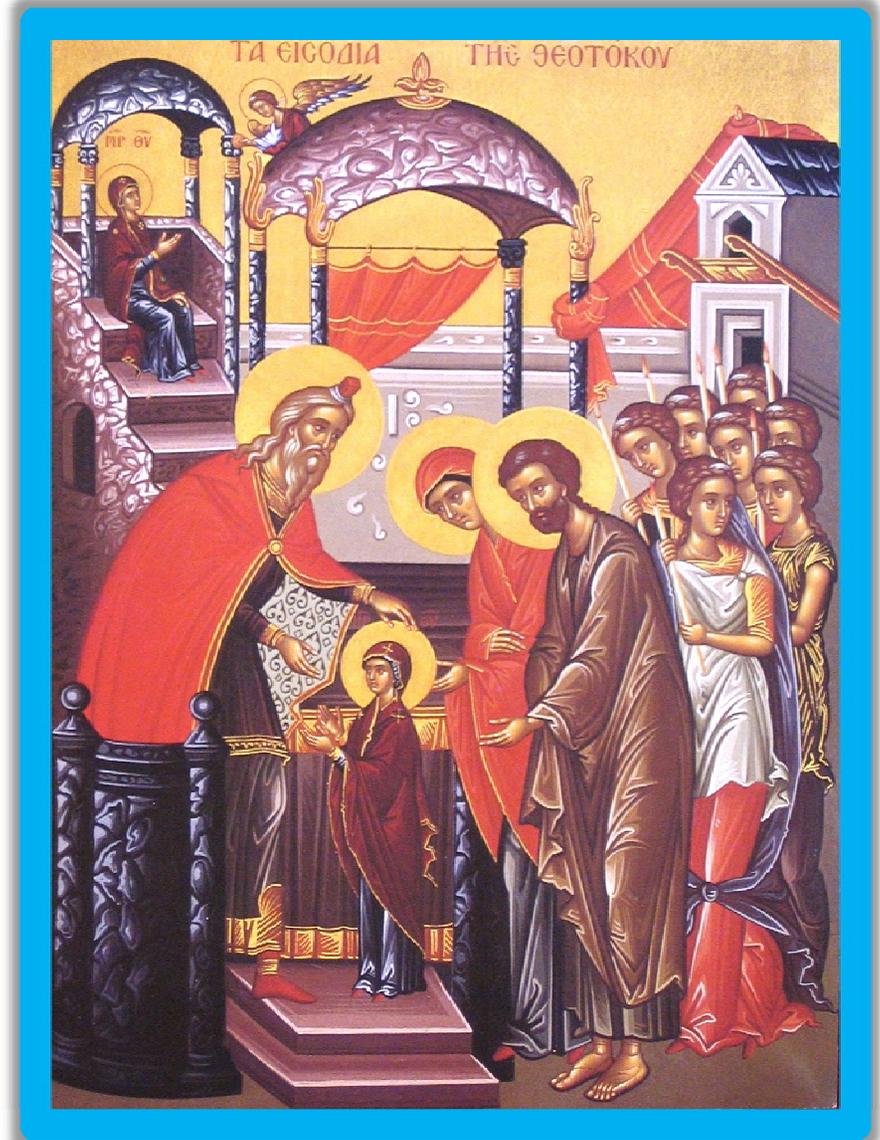
A few days later, Amphilokios came before the emperor again. When the bishop was led into the reception chamber, the emperor was sitting on his throne, and on his right sat his son Arcadius, whom Theodosius had taken as his co-emperor. Entering the chamber, St. Amphilokios bowed to Emperor Theodosius but paid no attention to Arcadius, the emperor's son, as if he were not there. Greatly enraged at this, Emperor Theodosius ordered that Amphilokios be immediately expelled from the court. The saint then said to the emperor: "Do you see, O Emperor, how you do not tolerate disrespect to your son? So too, God the Father does not tolerate disrespect to His Son, and is disgusted with the corruptness of those who blaspheme Him and is angered at all those adherents of that cursed (Arian) heresy." Hearing this, the emperor then understood why Amphilokios had not given honor to his son, and was amazed at his wisdom and daring.

Among many other works, St. Amphilokios wrote several books on the Faith. He entered into rest in great old age in the year 395 and took up his habitation in eternal life.

(The Prologue from Ochrid, Lazarica Press, 1985)

23rd Sunday After Pentecost & The After-Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos

November 23, 2008



23rd Sunday After Pentecost & After - Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos

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

November 23, 2008

The Saints Whom We Remember

Gregory, bishop of Agrigentum; Amphilokios, bishop of Iconium;
Ischyron, bishop in Egypt and hermit of Sketis;
Venerable Sisinius the Confessor of Kyzikos;
Dionysios, patriarch of Constantinople;
Repose of Alexander Nevsky, prince of Novgorod;
Metrophanes first bishop of Voronezh

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 St. Catherine
Wednesday: 9:15a Third Hour Prayers; 6:30p Daily Vespers.
Thursday: Church Office Closed: **Thanksgiving Day**
Friday: Church Office Closed: 6:30p Advent Paraklasis
Saturday: 5:30p Great Vespers
Sunday: 9:00a Orthros; 10:00a Divine Liturgy

Third Antiphon

for the Entrance—Tone 4

Even the rich among the people shall entreat thy favor. The King's daughter is all glorious within: her clothing is of wrought gold. Virgins shall be brought to the King after her: her companions shall be brought unto Thee.

Troparion of the Entrance: Today the Virgin is the foreshadowing of the pleasure of God, and the beginning of the preaching of the salvation of mankind. Thou hast appeared in the Temple of God openly and hast gone before, preaching Christ to all. Let us shout with one thrilling voice, saying, Rejoice, O thou who art the fulfillment of the Creator's dispensation.

Entrance Hymn

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ. Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

Troparion

of the Resurrection—Tone 6

When Mary stood at Thy grave, looking for Thy sacred body, angelic powers shone above Thy revered tomb; and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led Hades captive and wast not tempted thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world, O Thou, Who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Troparion

for the Entrance—Tone 4

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 Entrance of Theotokos—Tone 2

The all-pure temple of the Savior, the most precious bridal chamber and Virgin, the treasure-house of the glory of God, today enters the Temple of the Lord, bringing with her the grace which is in the divine Spirit: whom also the angels of God do celebrate in song; for she is the heavenly tabernacle.

The Trisagion

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal . . .

Epistle and Gospel

Today and Next Sunday

Today: (See insert)

Next Sunday:

Epistle: 1 Cor. 4:9–16

Gospel: John 1:35–51

Alegalynarion

Tone 8

It is truly meet and right to bless thee . . .

Communion Hymn

Tone 8

Praise ye the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the highest. Alleluia.

After Communion

We have seen the true light . . .

Parish Notes

Altar Servers Today

Nicholas Christopoulos, Christian Christopoulos, William Christopoulos, Christopher Wingenbach, Ilya Moundous, Gabriel Pope.

Special Attention

- **Advent Has Begun.** The Advent Fast has begun as of Saturday, November 15th. You may want to use the Advent Family Activity books that are available in the bookstore. If you are unable to get a copy please talk to Fr. Nicholas.
- **Offering for Orthodox Monastery of the Transfiguration.** Today we will be taking an offering for Sister Mary's (Nancy French) monastery. This is in response to the Monastery's Annual Appeal. Please give generously.
- **The Annual Voters' Meeting Report.** Last Sunday with a quorum present the parish unanimously approved the 2009 budget and elected Bechara Boury and Rdr. Nathan Johnson to the Parish Council for 3 year terms. We also heard more about our new building project and the date was set for voting on that project (December 14th after the Divine Liturgy). Ray Azrak also presented the new fund drive to raise the money necessary to complete the new building if the project is approved. Extra copies of the annual report and the approved budget for 2009 are available from Fr. Nicholas.
- **Please Note: No Church School Next Sunday**

Epistle and Gospel Readings

Prokeimenion:

O Lord, save Thy people and
bless Thine inheritance.

*To Thee, O Lord, have I cried, O
my God.*

†**Epistle: Eph. 2:4–10 (RSV)**

Brethren, God, Who is rich in
mercy, out of the great love with
which He loved us, even when we
were dead through our trespasses,
made us alive together with Christ
(by grace you have been saved),
and raised us up with Him, and
made us sit with Him in the
heavenly places in Christ Jesus,
that in the coming ages He might
show the immeasurable riches of
His grace in kindness toward us in
Christ Jesus. For by grace you
have been saved through faith; and
this is not your own doing, it is the
gift of God—not because of
works, lest any man should boast.
For we are His workmanship,
created in Christ Jesus for good
works, which God prepared
beforehand, that we should walk in
them.

†**Gospel: Luke 12:16–21 (RSV)**

The Lord spoke this parable:
“The land of a rich man brought
forth plentifully; and he thought
to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I
have nowhere to store my
crops?’ And he said, ‘I will do
this: I will pull down my barns,

and build larger ones; and there I
will store all my grain and my
goods. And I will say to my
soul, Soul, you have ample goods
laid up for many years; take your
ease, eat, drink, be merry.’ But
God said to him, ‘Fool! This
night your soul is required of
you; and the things you have
prepared, whose will they be?’
So is he who lays up treasure for
himself, and is not rich toward
God.” As He said this, Jesus
called out, “He who has ears to
hear, let him hear.”

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A Word from Our Fathers

“One must remember the words of the Lord Himself in the Gospel: ‘I will have mercy and not sacrifice (Matt. 9:13).’ That is, in order to please the Lord one must most of all take care not to condemn others and in general have an indulgent disposition toward his neighbors.”

(St. Ambrose of Optina)

“By the purity of our thoughts we can see everyone as holy and good. When we see them as fools, this comes from our frame of mind.”

(St. Marcarius of Optina)

“You must firmly remember this spiritual law of life: if you condemn someone for something or are disturbed by something in another person, you will experience the very same thing. You will do that which you condemned someone else for doing, or you will suffer from the same infirmity.”

(St. Nikon of Optina)

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