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Priest Silviu Bunta

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Week of October 8, 2023

Sunday, October 8

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Ven. Pelagía the Penitent (457). Tone 1.

9:00am Reader's Matins

10:00 The Typika

11:00 Sunday school

11:00 Fellowship

This Sunday's Hymns & Readings

Tone 1. Troparion of the resurrection

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Your most pure body, You rose on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to You, O Giver of Life: "Glory to Your Resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Your Kingdom! Glory to Your dispensation, O Lover of mankind!"

Tone 1. Kontakion of the resurrection

As God, You rose from the tomb in glory, raising the world with Yourself. Human nature praises You as God, for death has vanished. Adam exults, O Master! Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage and cries to You: "You are the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!"

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 9:6-11

Gospel: Luke 7:11-16

This week's schedule

Monday, October 9. Holy Apostle Jacob, Son of Alphæus (1st c.).

1:00-3:00pm Fr. Silviu office hours canceled

Tuesday, October 10. Martyrs Eulampius and Eulampia, at Nicomedia, and 200 Martyrs with them (303-311).

Wednesday, October 11. Venerable Philotheos, Patriarch of Constantinople (1379).

3:00-5:00pm Fr. Silviu office hours

6:00-7:00pm: Ninth Hour and Daily Vespers

Thursday, October 12. Martyrs Probus, Tarachus, and Andronicus, at Tarsus in Cilicia (304).

Friday, October 13. Martyrs Carpus, Papyrus, Agathadorus, and Agathonica, at Pergamum (251).

Saturday, October 14. Martyrs Gervasius, Nazarius, Protasius, and Celsus of Milan (1st c.). Venerable Paraschiva of Iași (11th c.).

5:00-5:50pm Adult education class with Fr. Kyril

6:00-7:00pm Reader's Ninth Hour and Great Vespers

7:00-7:30pm Choir practice

Announcements

Help to pay off our mortgage

As you may know, mortgage rates are at a historic high. We still have a mortgage balance for the hall and this balance (at \$19,000) is at a variable rate. This rate has increased to just below 10%, an increase which costs us a lot every month! We need to pay off this mortgage in order to save thousands of dollars a year and also to be able to launch our next projects.

For this purpose, until October 31 we are having a donation drive for the purpose of paying off this mortgage balance of \$19,000. This goal is so low only because, through the generosity of four donors (Ana Mihail, Dan Eggers, Ovidiu and Corina Dulgheru, and Presv. Maria), we now have \$5,500 in a

matching fund. *Help us pay off this remaining mortgage balance of \$19,000!* Also, due to the matching fund the first \$5,500 donated will be doubled to \$11,000! *Donate early so that your donation is doubled by the matching fund!* There is no amount which is too small!

Please write “mortgage” in the memo of your check or in your online donation. Any extra funds will be used for the next building projects and—God knows—there are many needs there: new roof over church (with repairs to the structure), repair of church walls (inside and outside) and repaint of the inside, new Holy Table, new floor in the church, repair and repaint of kitchen walls and ceilings, resurfacing of parking lot, and the replacement of the playground.

The mortgage campaign will close on October 31. Yet, it is never too early to donate. Follow its progression on the large poster in the hall and also on Facebook. *And do keep in mind: if we do not use the matching fund, we will lose it!*

Help with our international festival!

Our international festival is taking place again, on Saturday, December 9, between 10:00am-4:00pm. Announcements and calls for help will go out often, in different ways—email, parish website, Whatsapp, Facebook, etc. You can also follow the festival on its Facebook page and on our website. The parish website has a page dedicated to the festival, which will also take you to the Facebook page. Please help as much as you can, in whichever way you can.

Fr. Silviu on vacation between Sep 30-Oct 8.

Fr. Silviu will be gone between Sep 30 and Oct 8. Yet, church services will happen at their appointed times, just in a Reader’s form. Also, on Sundays we will have the Typika instead of the Divine Liturgy, at the usual time, 10:00 am. Sunday school and the fellowship will follow the Typika. Fr. Silviu will also be off the grip for a few days, so for any emergencies please contact Rdr. Mike Mezmar, our warden, or Melissa Renner, our parish administrator.

Quote of the Week

If zeal were useful for the correction of fellow human beings why did God the Word put on the body in order to turn the world towards his Father by means of kindness and in humble ways; why was he stretched out on the cross on behalf of sinners, handing over to suffering that holy body on behalf of the world? What I say is that God did this for no other reason apart from making known to the world the love he has, his purpose being so that

through our greater love as a result of being aware of this, we might be captivated by his love. For the great power of the kingdom of heaven – which consists in love – will, through the death of his Son, provide the reason for the incarnation. It was not at all the case that it was to deliver us from sins, nor was the death of our Lord for any other reason, apart alone for letting the world perceive the love that God has towards created beings.

If this entire amazing matter had only been for the forgiveness of sins, it would have sufficed to save the world by another means. Who would have objected if he had effected what he did effect by an ordinary death? But he did not effect his death at all in an ordinary way, in order that you might understand the magnitude of this mystery; instead, he tasted it through the cruel suffering of the cross. What need was there for the insults and spitting – mere death would have been enough; his death of its own without these other things would have sufficed for our salvation.

What wisdom filled with Life on God's part! Now you understand and perceive why the coming of our Lord took place, and all that followed on from it, up to the time when his holy mouth clearly stated the reason: "For thus God loved the world, so as to give his Only-begotten Son" – that is, for the purposes of divine dispensation on behalf of the world's renewal.

Are we not perhaps hesitant in taking this understanding concerning the mysteries of the dispensation of our Lord, because we diminish the death of Christ and his coming into the world to such an extent, by positing it as the cause of our salvation from sin? Was the power of sin so much stronger than God's power? Wanting to get rid of sin, was he not able to get rid of it except by the death of Christ? Is that the mystery of the dispensation of Christ, to save us from servitude to sin? In that case, if we had not sinned, the coming of Christ would not have taken place; nor would Christ have died, in that it would have not been the possibility for God the Word to put on our body, which he did supposedly because of the sins of the world! That is, if we only look at the outer sense of Scripture. And if death had not had authority over us because of the tyranny of sin, as it appears, this mystery of his revelation in the flesh would have remained behind, and both human beings and angels would have been deprived of such great illumination and knowledge.

(St. Isaac of Syria, *Headings on Spiritual Knowledge (The Second Part, Chapters 1 -3)* [translated by Sebastian Brock, SVS Press], pp 211-214)