



## **ST. SIMEON ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

A Mission of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese  
of North America

Primate- His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH, Archbishop of  
New York and Metropolitan of all North America

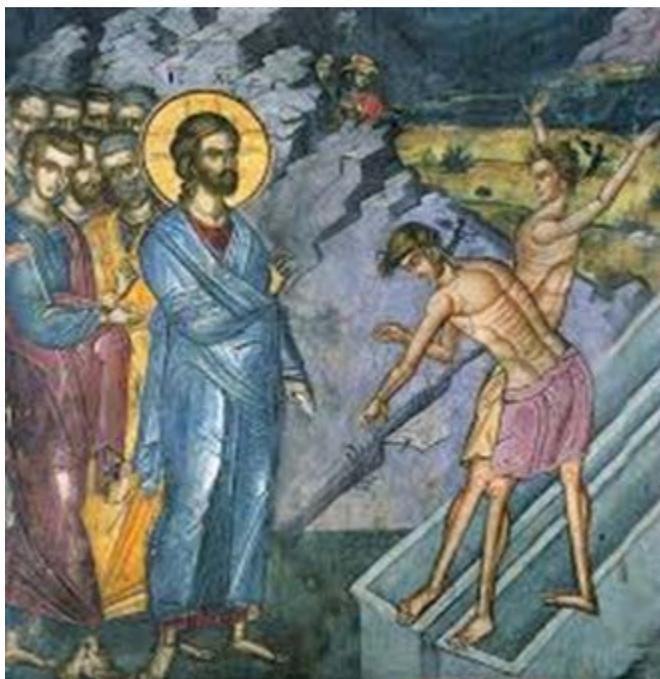
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**V. Rev. Fr. George Ajalat, Pastor (626) 664-8274 Gajalat@gmail.com**



**SUNDAY, JULY 12, 2020**

**TONE 4 / EOTHINON 5; FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
& FIFTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW**

HOLY MARTYRS PROCLUS AND HILARY OF ANCYRA; VERONICA, THE WOMAN WITH THE  
ISSUE OF BLOOD WHO WAS HEALED BY OUR LORD; VENERABLE FATHER PAISIOS THE NEW  
OF ATHOS

It is with great joy and thankfulness to God and to our Metropolitan that we announce that the faithful of St. Simeon may now attend Divine and Holy Services. Saturday Vespers at 5:30 p.m. and Sunday Orthros and Liturgy at 8:30 a.m. will be celebrated as usual and open to the first 75 people- so please come early. The Metropolitan wishes us to comply with all of the recommendations of our State and County Health departments, which we will do. We have a continuing pandemic, so with this in mind, I ask you to carefully comply with the following important rules;

1. Prepare yourself spiritually to come back to Church and receive the sacraments. Come with repentance, with humility, with joy, and with trust in our God.
2. I urge any elderly, infirm, or high risk individuals to stay home and attend Liturgy by live-stream for the next 21 days. Communion will be available after Liturgy for those who have scheduled this with me.
3. I ask each person that will attend Liturgy to take their temperature at home just before leaving their homes; Do not come to Church if you have a temperature of greater than 100.1degrees, or if you have any symptoms of coughing, fever, sore throat, sneezing, fatigue, or muscle aches.
4. Face-masks will be required for all parishioners except while taking communion.
5. Chanters will maintain 20 feet separation from nearest parishioner. No Choir will take place.
6. Social distancing within the Nave, where all chairs have been removed except for the perimeter. 6 foot tape markings have been placed to help keep this distance between different families and parishioners.
7. Hand Sanitizing gel provided at the entrance
8. No coffee hour
9. Congregants should exit the Church building immediately after the service is over. Any socializing should be done outside, keeping appropriate distances.
10. No kissing or touching of any objects, people or priest within the Church Building.
11. Liturgy will be performed with one priest, 1 Deacon, 1 server, and two chanters.
12. Communion will be given with mouth wide open and not touching the spoon in any way, in a completely safe fashion.
13. The entire church, including door handles, bathrooms, icons, liturgical utensils and objects will be disinfected before and after every service.

Beloved, please forgive all of the rules but I am absolutely confident that this will provide the maximum possible protection for our parishioners-probably more than we observe anywhere else-as we get back to our living our lives. I look forward to seeing everyone and will rejoice with you as we begin our common work and prayer together again.

With all of my love in Christ Jesus,  
Fr. George

Submit bulletin information to: [stsimeonbulletin@gmail.com](mailto:stsimeonbulletin@gmail.com) by 9pm on Wednesday

## **RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE FOUR**

Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation. And proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying: Death hath been spoiled; Christ God is risen, granting the world Great Mercy.

## **TROPARION FOR ST. SIMEON IN TONE ONE**

Rejoice, thou who art full of grace, O Virgin Theotokos, for from thee hath risen the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, enlightening those in darkness. Rejoice, thou also, O righteous Elder, as thou receivest in thine arms the Redeemer of our souls, Who also granteth unto us the Resurrection.

## **KONTAKION FOR ORDINARY SUNDAYS IN TONE TWO**

O protectress of Christians that cannot be put to shame, and their constant intercessor before the Creator; despise not the petitions of us sinners who are imploring you; in your goodness come to our help, who in faith cry unto you: Hasten O Theotokos to intercede for us, and hurry to pray for us! For you have always protected those who honor You.

## **THE EPISTLE**

(For the Fifth Sunday after Pentecost)

*How great are Thy works, O Lord! In wisdom hast Thou made them all.*

*Bless the Lord, O my soul.*

### **The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans. (10:1-10)**

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that it may be saved. I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but it is not enlightened. For, being ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law, that everyone who has faith may be justified. Moses writes that the man who practices the righteousness which is based on the law shall live by it. But the righteousness based on faith says: Do not say in your heart, "Who will ascend into Heaven?" (that is, to bring Christ down) or "Who will descend into the abyss?" (that is, to

bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart (that is, the word of faith which we preach); because, if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For man believes with his heart and so is justified, and he confesses with his lips and so is saved.

### **THE GOSPEL**

(For the Fifth Sunday of Matthew)

#### **The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (8:28-9:1)**

At that time, when Jesus came to the country of the Gergesenes, two demoniacs met Him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one could pass that way. And behold, they cried out, “What have we to do to Thee, O Son of God? Art Thou come here to torment us before the time?” Now a herd of many swine was feeding at some distance from them. And the demons begged Him, “If Thou castest us out, send us away into the herd of swine.” And He said to them, “Go.” So they came out and went into the swine; and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and perished in the waters. The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, and what had happened to the demoniacs. And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw Him, they begged Him to leave their neighborhood. And getting into a boat He crossed over and came to His own city.

### **THE DISMISSAL**

Priest: May He Who rose from the dead, Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother; by the might of the Precious and Life-giving Cross; by the protection of the honorable Bodiless Powers of Heaven; at the supplication of the honorable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious and all-laudable apostles; of our father among the saints, John Chrysostom, archbishop of Constantinople, whose Divine Liturgy we have now celebrated; of the holy, glorious and right-victorious Martyrs; of our

venerable and God-bearing Fathers; *of Saint N., the patron and protector of this holy community*; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of the holy, glorious and right-victorious Martyrs Proclus and Hilary of Ancyra; righteous Veronica, the woman with the issue of blood healed by our Lord; and venerable Father Paisios the New of Athos, whose memory we celebrate today, and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us, forasmuch as He is good and loveth mankind.

Priest: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us.

Choir: Amen.

### **HOLY OBLATIONS**

For Lila Coudsy - Praying for Gods hand of healing on our precious cousin. Offered with love by Johnny and Bobbie Fitzgerald.

God's blessings to Fr. George & Kh. Janine on their 37th wedding anniversary (July 10)! May God always bless your beautiful marriage. With love and admiration from your children & grandchildren.

Prayers are offered for the newly departed Subdeacon George Ghata, may his memory be eternal! With love by the Nassief family.

For Karina Thompson as she starts her new life in Tennessee. May God grant her His grace and His protection and all good things. Karina, we will miss you dearly but are so happy for you as you start this next phase of life. Offered by the Faithful of St. Simeon.

For John and Bobbi Fitzgerald as they celebrate their wedding anniversary- May our Lord grant you many more beautiful years of health and happiness. Offered by the faithful of St. Simeon.

7/12/2020

**"THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK"**

***“if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”***

Beloved in our Lord, St. Paul’s statement in Romans 10, if understood with the mind of the Church, is fundamental to our faith as Christians. There are those both outside and inside of the Church who have erred in interpreting this verse. They, indeed, have a “zeal without knowledge.” What are these errors.

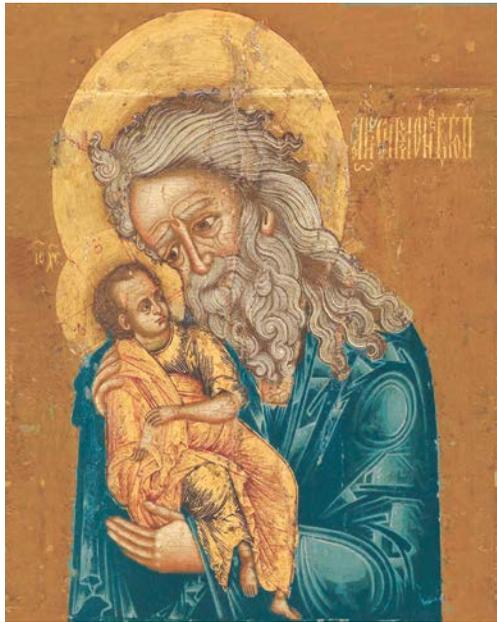
If we only understand this from a human and verbal standpoint it seems that our salvation is very simple, easy, and rather instant. For some outside of the church this verse means that all we must do is confess or say that Jesus is Lord and state our belief that He rose from the dead, and we will be saved. Our mental believing of these things are all that are needed for we are saved by “faith alone.” Faith then becomes a mental concept that we accept and salvation is totally dependent on our “faith.” It is completely divorced from the actual (not imputed) state of our heart.

Alternatively, there are some inside of the church who understand that to truly believe and confess rightly, they must do things. That is they must fast, they must keep their prayer rule, they must do good deeds and strive for virtue. Even then, they are uncertain of their salvation, because they understand salvation to be from God alone. Of course all of these things are correct, however, by themselves, they are missing an essential unifying and crucial element which will indeed bring salvation to us- Love.

It is the love of God which saves us- not our own “personal faith” and neither our own “works.” Our Lord’s compassion and forgiveness have no limits. His love for us defies all rational boundaries. Even when we reject Him, He makes excuses for us (“they know not what they do.”) He will do anything and everything to save us. All we must do is soften our hearts and open them in purity to receive this love. In our prayers we must soften our hearts by trembling in awe before such love. In our actions, we must soften

our hearts by humbling ourselves and forgiving others. There is nothing that softens the heart more than humility and forgiveness. When we do these things for the sake of the One who loves us, divine and healing grace flows into our souls and we are lifted up to heaven. We must soften our hearts by avoiding and fleeing from any thought or deed which would disappoint His love. When we take the holy communion we have no confidence in ourselves or our own worthiness, but we have absolute confidence in the One who loves us. We must soften our hearts by striving for purity both in our words, thoughts, and deeds. As we purify our hearts, they begin to beat with love once again. The heart will be healed and we will see God and know Him. We will begin to love again- and in this manner our “confession” and our faith will save us. Amen.

**Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace,  
according to Thy word,**



**For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation.**