

December 6, 2020: The 27th Sunday after Pentecost (The woman with a spirit of infirmity)

Epistle: Ephesians 6:10-17:

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

Gospel: Luke 13:10-17:



Now He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up. But when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, “Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity.” And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God. But the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath; and he said to the crowd, “There are six days on which men ought to work; therefore come and be healed on them, and not on the Sabbath day.” The Lord then answered him and said, “Hypocrite! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or donkey from the stall, and lead it away to water it? So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound—think of it—for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?” And when He said these things, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the multitude rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him.

Every miracle done by our Lord Jesus Christ caused an increase in the level of anger on part of the spiritual leaders of the Jewish people. The healing of the woman with a spirit of infirmity aggravated even more the ruler of the synagogue: *"But the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath."* The fact that the woman was healed on a Sabbath was invoked by the ruler of the synagogue as the only reason for his "indignation." However, the real reason for his indignation was the fact that **Jesus healed the woman** and that **He healed her in his synagogue.**

I think that anyone would agree that a miracle worker has no problem being acclaimed and loved by the people and generating a great following. This is why the gospels often mention that Jesus was surrounded by a great multitude. The more people followed and believed in Jesus Christ, the less control the spiritual leaders of the Jewish people had over them. St John the evangelist is telling us that after Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead (after being in the tomb for four days), *"the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered a council and said, "What shall we do? For this Man works many signs. If we let Him alone like this, everyone will believe in Him..."* (11:47-48). In fact, in the next chapter of the fourth gospel we read that *"the chief priests plotted to put Lazarus to death also, because on account of him many of the Jews went away and believed in Jesus"* (12:10-11). The bent over woman, who had been tormented by Satan for eighteen years represents the whole of mankind (just as the man who had fallen among robbers and was helped by the Good Samaritan) who, at "the fullness of time," had lost its verticality and was unable to shake off the heavy burden of sins.

The fact that the man who had been left to die by the roadside and received the first aid from the Good Samaritan (Christ) was then taken and entrusted him to an inn (the foreshadow of the Church) with the specific instruction to care for him ("take care of him") as well as the fact that the woman with a spirit of infirmity was healed in a synagogue (also the foreshadow of the Church), constitute a good indication that man(kind)'s healing and restoration takes place in the Church.

Let us be attentive!

Fr. George Bazgan

Sunday Service Attendance

Due to the continuing State of Emergency, which limits the number of people attending Church services, we are asking our members to make sure that, for time being, only 1 (one) person from each family attend our Sunday Divine Liturgy.

We apologize for this inconvenience and hope that the restrictions will continue to be relaxed in the near future.

Those who attend, are kindly asked to observe the recommendations of the experts, such as: wearing a mask, washing hands, social distancing, etc.

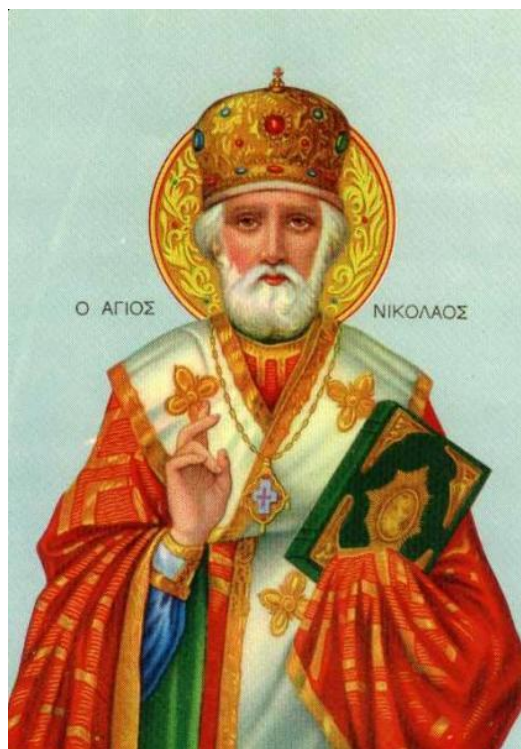
Thank you all and may God keep us safe!

Hymn to Saint Nicholas

O who serves Nicholas the saintly,
Him will Nicholas receive
And give help in time of need:
Holy Father Nicholas!

He who dwells in God's holy mansions,
Is our help on the land and oceans,
He will guard us from all ills,
Keep us pure and free from sins
Holy Father Nicholas!

Holy Saint, hearken to our prayer,
Let not life drive us to despair,
All our efforts shall not wane
Singing praises to your name:
Holy Father Nicholas!



Troparion of St. Nicholas

"You have appeared before your flock as a rule of faith, and example of humility and teacher of self-denial; because of your lowliness, heaven was opened to you, because of your poverty, riches were granted to you; O, holy Bishop Nicholas, pray to Christ our God to save our souls!"

We are live streaming the Liturgy

As we continue to operate under these restrictions, we are live streaming the Divine Liturgy on You Tube. To access the Sunday Services, [click here](#).

Special Services during Advent

During the Christmas Fast, we'll have
Vespers, every Saturday at 5:00 PM.

Following the Vespers Service, Confession
will be heard for those who want to
prepare for Holy Communion.

MEMBERSHIP / PLEDGE

The Board of Directors extends a warm appeal to all supporters of
our parish, asking them **to pay their membership as soon as possible.**

This way we can ensure that we have the necessary funds to fulfill our
financial obligations for the rest of the year.

We also encourage you to **renew your financial pledge** and
be as generous as you can.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

Prayer at the time of pandemic

O Lord, our God, who are rich in mercy and, with Your wise care, guard our lives, listen to our prayer, receive our repentance for our sins, stop this pandemic, as You have ceased the punishment of the people in the days of King David. You who are the Physician of our souls and our bodies, give healing to those contaminated with this disease, hastily raising them from their bed of suffering, to glorify You, the Most Merciful Savior, and protect those who are healthy from any disease.

Bless, strengthen and shield, O Lord, with Your grace, all those who, with love of people and sacrifice, care for the sick at their homes or in hospitals. Remove all disease and suffering from the people and teach us to value life and health as gifts coming from You.

Grant us, O God, Your peace, and fill our hearts with unwavering faith in Your protection, with hope in Your help, and with love towards You and our neighbor.

For Yours is to show mercy and to save us, O our God, and to You we give glorify: Father and Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen!