



# WEEKLY BULLETIN

BULLETIN BUILDER

## Assumption Greek Orthodox Church

**November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020:** 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke

**SAINTS:** **Thomas**, Archbishop of Constantinople, **Kyndion** Bhp of Selefkia, **Justin & Theodora** the Royals;  
**Paisios Velitchkofsky**, **Gregory** Bhp of Assos (relics)

**MARTYRS:** **Guria, Shamuna & Habib**, of Edessa; **Elpidios, Markellos & Efstohios**; **Demetrios**

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**November Food Fest!:** Order & Pay Online by **Nov 20<sup>st</sup>** at: [www.foodfest.assumptionnh.org](http://www.foodfest.assumptionnh.org) or **603-623-2641**

**George Tzimopoulos Memorial (GTM) Raffle:** Sunday **December 13<sup>th</sup>**, 1:00 PM. See drawing **on Zoom**.

Reserve Your Tickets with Georgia Tzimopoulos at: **603-391-5815** or our Church Office at: **603-623-2045**

**Christmas Card Fundraiser:** Write, your name on our Christmas Card for **\$15**.

**Advent Lent Begins:** Today, **November 15<sup>th</sup>** (Fish is allowed until December 10<sup>th</sup>, except Wednesdays & Fridays).

**Greek School:** **Wednesdays 4:00 - 5:30 PM** (classes 5 & 6) & **Thursdays 4:00 - 7:15 PM** (classes 1, 2, 3 & 4).

## Gospel and Epistle Readings

### Matins Gospel Reading - *First Orthros Gospel, Matthew 28:16-20*

At that time, the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age. AMEN."

### Epistle Reading - *St. Paul's Second Letter to the Ephesians 2:4-10*

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. AMEN

### Gospel Reading - *8th Sunday of Luke, Luke 10:25-37*

At that time, a lawyer stood up to put Jesus to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? How do you read?" And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have answered right; do this, and you will live."

But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was; and when he saw him, he had compassion, and went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; then he set him on his own beast and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' Which of these three, do you think, proved

neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed mercy on him." And Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

## Be God's Neighbor



The Pharisees set multiple traps to make our Lord preach contrary to the Law of Moses. Yet Christ, beautifully navigates around today's trap while both reaffirming the Law and eloquently leading the lawyer to accept His own expansion of it. On a two-step approach (the first reaffirming the Law, the second expanding it through the parable), our Lord employs the traditional Rabbinic approach of counter-questions to lead His challenger (and all of us) to the core of His teaching. The lawyer comes to "test" Jesus, but Jesus turns the tables and tests him instead – both on Scripture and its application! By accepting the second question: "**Who is my neighbor?**" the Lord affirms that knowledge of the Scripture alone is not enough for salvation. The tension between faith [**"Love God"** (Deuteronomy 6:5)] and ethics [**"Love one's neighbor"** (Leviticus 19:18)] is leading us to St James' conclusion, "**Faith without works is an empty shell.**" To love God does not prohibit loving one's neighbor - on the contrary, the second is prerequisite of the first. Each of the two steps ends with a call to action from the Lord: "**Do this and you will live**" on the first round, and "**Go and do likewise**" on the second round. The lawyer challenges our Lord, and eternal life is the prize. "**Love God and Love your neighbor**" the lawyer says -- "**Do this and have eternal life,**" the Lord responds. Had the lawyer chosen to end the challenge here, the Lord graciously would have let him go. But he insists in order to trap the Lord. So, Christ takes his challenge and then raises the stakes: To become God's neighbor in eternal life, you must first become your fellow man's neighbor in this life. "**How do I become a neighbor? How do I love my fellow man?**" the lawyer asks -- "**By imitating God. By showing mercy to your fellow man, like God shows to you,**" the Lord responds. Even though both commandments - loving God and loving neighbor - are needed for eternal life, the Lord only deals with loving neighbor. Why is that? It is because by loving your neighbor you have also loved God. If you want to be a neighbor to the wealthy, you buy a house in an exclusive neighborhood. **If you want to be a neighbor of God, show mercy to your fellow man. AMEN**

## Wisdom of the Fathers

But you cannot be a neighbor unless you have compassion on him; for no one can be called a neighbor unless he has healed, not killed another. But if you wish to be called a neighbor, Christ says to you: "Go and do likewise."

*St. Ambrose of Milan - Concerning Repentance, Chapter 11, 4th century*

The sign that you love God is this, that you love your neighbor; and if you hate your neighbor, your hatred is towards God. For it is blasphemy if you pray before God while you are angry. For your heart also convicts you, and in vain you utter your words: your conscience rightly judges that in your prayers you profit not.

*St. Ephraim the Syrian - On Admonition and Repentance.*

When a man reveres God with all his heart and with faith, he receives through God's providence the power to control anger and desire; for it is desire and anger which are the cause of all evils.

*St. Antony the Great - On the Character of Men no. 12, Philokalia*

## Lives of Saints



### Guria, Shamuna and Habib, of Edessa in Syria

Of these most illustrious Martyrs of the city of Edessa in Syria, Guria and Shamuna contested during the reign of Diocletian, in 288; after many tortures, they were cast into prison, then beheaded. Habib, a deacon, contested almost thirty years later, in the days of Licinius, in the year 316, and was burned alive. Nevertheless, he was buried with Saints Guria and Shamuna. The three have one common feast, and it is always together that they are portrayed in icons and invoked by the faithful. On account of a renowned miracle they worked, they are invoked for help in marital difficulties.