

THE LIGHT OF THE EAST



ST. ATHANASIUS THE GREAT **BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

1117 South Blaine Ave. Indianapolis, IN 46221

Website: www.saindy.com Email: sabcc@indy.rr.com

Served by:

Pastor: Very Rev. Protopresbyter Bryan R. Eyman. D. Min. D. Phil.

Cantors: Marcus Loidolt, John Danovich

Business Manager: John Danovich

Phones: Rectory: 317-632-4157; Pastor's Cell Phone: 216-780-2555

FAX: 317-632-2988

WEEKEND DIVINE SERVICES

Sat: 5 PM [Vespers with Liturgy]

Sun: 9:45 AM [Third Hour] 10 AM [Divine Liturgy]

**Mystery of Holy Repentance [Confessions]: AFTER Saturday
Evening Prayer or ANYTIME by appointment**

SERVICES FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 9, 2014

SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE.

**LEAVE-TAKING OF THE FEAST OF THE ENCOUNTER OF
OUR LORD WITH SIMEON AND ANNA.**

The Holy Martyr Nicephor.

**PLEASE COME FORWARD AFTER THE DIVINE LITURGY;
KISS THE HOLY ICONS, KISS THE HAND CROSS [OR RECEIVE
THE HOLY ANOINTING], & PARTAKE OF THE ANTIDORAN
[BLESSED BREAD].**

- SAT. FEB. 8** **5 PM** + *William Enciso by Danny Enciso*
 6:15 PM **MYSTERY OF HOLY REPENTANCE**
- SUN. FEB. 9** **9:45 AM** **THE THIRD HOUR**
 10:00 AM *FOR THE PEOPLE*
 11:15 AM **PARISH SOCIAL**
 12 NOON *Liturgy and Life Presentation #9*
- MON. FEB. 10** **The Holy Martyr Charalampus.**
NO DIVINE SERVICES ~ FR. BRYAN'S DAY OFF
- TUE. FEB. 11** **The Holy Martyr Blaise, Bishop of Sebaste.**
 9 AM + *Josie Kiehl by Matthew Hawryliw*
- WED. FEB. 12** **Our Holy Father Meletius, Patriarch of Antioch.**
FATHER BRYAN IN MUNSTER
- THU. FEB. 13** **Our Ven. Fr. Martinian.**
FATHER BRYAN IN MUNSTER
- FRI. FEB. 14** **Our Ven. Fr. Auxentius. The Passing of our Ven. Fr.**
NO FAST OR **Constantine [monastic name Cyril], Apostle of the Slavs.**
ABSTINENCE **The Ven. Fr. Maron, Hermit and Wonder-worker.**
 9 AM *Health of Margaret & Culver Eyman*
- SAT. FEB. 15** **The Holy Apostle Onesimus.**
 5 PM + *Gasperina Enciso by Danny Enciso*
 6:15 PM **MYSTERY OF HOLY REPENTANCE**
- SUN. FEB. 16** **SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON. The Holy Martyrs,**
the Presbyter Pamphilius, Porphyrius and their
companions.
 9:45 AM **THE THIRD HOUR**
 10:00 AM *FOR THE PEOPLE*
 11:15 AM *PARISH SOCIAL*
 11:45AM *PRE-ASSEMBLY PRESENTATION #5*

**WE WELCOME ALL OF OUR VISITORS PLEASE JOIN US FOR
OUR PARISH SOCIAL IN OUR ST. MARY HALL.**



**PLEASE FOR THE CHANGEABLE
PARTS, HYMN NUMBERS, AND
PROPER S ON THE COLORED
INSERT.**

***GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST!
GLORY FOREVER!
SLAVA ISUSU CHRISTU!
SLAVA VO VIKI!
CHRIST IS AMONG US!
HEIS AND SHALL BE!***

YOUR GIFT TO THE LORD ~ THE MONTH OF FEB. 2014

<i>Date</i>	<i>Collection</i>	<i>Candles</i>	<i>Holy Day</i>	<i>Fundraising</i>	<i>Total Income</i>
<i>Feb. 2</i>	<i>\$1,014.49</i>	<i>\$129.00</i>	<i>\$ 00.00</i>	<i>\$147.00</i>	<i>\$1,290.59</i>
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>\$1,014.49</i>	<i>\$129.00</i>	<i>\$00.00</i>	<i>\$147.00</i>	<i>\$1,290.59</i>

***We need a weekly income of \$3000.00 to properly operate YOUR Parish.
WE NEED YOUR HELP WITH TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURE!
MANY THANKS TO THOSE WHO FAITHFUL CONTRIBUTE TO
ST.ATHANASIUS THE GREAT PARISH!***

LIFE OF THE VIRGIN ~ SEMINAR The earliest known biography of the Theotokos, *The Life of the Virgin: by St. Maximus the Confessor*, will be the focus of a weekly book study led by Fr. Christiaan Kappes beginning at 7 p.m. continues on Wednesday, in the first-floor classroom of Holy Rosary Church 520 Stevens St. Indianapolis. Men, women, and teens are invited to attend. A Prayer Service will begin at about 6:15 p.m., and refreshments will follow until the study begins. RSVP to marie2002@juno.com or call (765) 755-3329 for more information.

<u>Candles Available</u>	<u>Monthly Donation</u>	<u>Intention</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>
Eternal Lamp	\$40.00	AVAILABLE	
Icon Screen (6)	\$40.00	AVAILABLE	
Tetrapod (2)	\$30.00	Special Intention	Al Macek
Nativity Icon	\$25.00	Jesus, Mary ,Joseph	Richard Medwig
Theotokos of Vladimir Icon	\$25.00	Special Intention	Glen Grabow
Resurrection Icon	\$25.00	AVAILABLE	
Annuciation Tryptych	\$25.00	AVAILABLE	
Holy Table	\$40.00	AVAILABLE	

Give a spiritual Gift to someone in need. We have candle Gift Cards you can send or give to a loved one, friend or someone in need of prayers. A single 6-day candle is \$5. For an entire month the cost is \$25. When giving your donation use the candle envelope in the back of the Church. Paired with it, take the candle card to give as a gift. In addition to the name on the candle, please specify a start date if you would like the Church to light the candle[s] in front of the Icons of our Lord or the Theotokos for you on a future date.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: our parishioners, family members, friends and others who are ill or infirm: **AMY CHIAPPE, ETHAN EYMAN, CULVER “RED” EYMAN, BOBBI SPAK, JULIE COLLINS, BJ NOVAK, DONALD STEIN, ELAINE WILSON, CORY ROMERO, KEVIN ZAHN, DR. CHARLOTTE NEUMANN, SONIA DOUGLAS-STANTON, RON ZELLER, NICHOLE RICHARDS, JUDY ERNST, BR. JAMES BROWN S.M., WILLIS WILLIAMS, BELINDA DORNEY, DAVID BLEVINS, FIREFIGHTER ROBERT KRAMER, KEITH SCOTT, DANNY ENCISO.**

Upcoming celebrations of the Paraclis to the Theotokos and Mystery of Holy Anointing “Ancient Healing Service” at 7 PM.

Wednesday February 26

Wednesday March 26 Pre-Sanctified Liturgy and Holy Anointing

Wednesday April 16 Pre-Sanctified Liturgy and Holy Anointing [Holy Week]

Wednesday May 28 Festal Evening Prayer of the Ascension with Holy Anointing

Wednesday June 25 Paraclis and Mystery of Holy Anointing

PLEASE INVITE YOUR NEIGHBORS & FRIENDS!

UPCOMING HOLY DAYS & SPECIAL SERVICES

AT ST. ATHANASIUS THE GREAT CHURCH

<u>SAT. FEB. 15</u>	5 PM VESPERS WITH DIVINE LITURGY 6:15 PM MYSTERY OF HOLY REPENTANCE
<u>SUN. FEB. 16</u>	<u>SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON.</u> 9:45 AM THIRD HOUR 10 AM DIVINE LITURGY 11:15 AM PARISH SOCIAL & EPARCHIAL PRE-ASSEMBLY PRESENTATION #5 "LITURGY" ARCHPRIEST MICHAEL HAYDUK
<u>FRI. FEB. 21</u>	7 PM VESPERS OF THE DEPARTED WITH THE CHANTING OF THE LIST OF THE DEPARTED
<u>SAT. FEB. 22</u>	<u>FIRST ALL SOULS SATURDAY</u> 5 PM VESPERS WITH DIVINE LITURGY 6:15 PM MYSTERY OF HOLY REPENTANCE
<u>SUN. FEB. 23</u>	<u>SUNDAY OF MEATFARE.</u> 9:45 AM THIRD HOUR 10 AM DIVINE LITURGY 11:15 AM PARISH SOCIAL 12NOON <i>FINAL WISHES SEMINAR</i>
<u>WED. FEB 26</u>	<i>PARACLIS & MYSTERY OF HOLY ANOINTING</i>
<u>SAT. MAR. 1</u>	5 PM VESPERS WITH DIVINE LITURGY 6:15 PM MYSTERY OF HOLY REPENTANCE
<u>SUN. MAR. 2</u>	<u>CHEESEFARE SUNDAY.</u> REGULAR LITURGY & SOCIAL TIMES

Pre-Eparchial Assembly Presentations Continue~

It is imperative that EVERYONE of us commit ourselves to active participation in the Pre-Eparchial Assembly Presentations! Father Bryan can't be any clearer about the importance these presentations. Sadly, some have been all too easy to excusing themselves from the presentations. This gives the impression that they do not care about the future of our Church or St. Athanasius Parish.

Upcoming Presentations include:

Sun. Feb. 16 *"An Eastern Christian Understanding of the Liturgy by Fr. Archpriest Michael Hayduk, Protopresbyter of the St. John the Baptist Cathedral, Parma.*

Sun. Mar. 16 *"An Eastern Christian Understanding of Evangelization by Fr. Tom Loya, Syncellus Midwest Region.*

Adult Eastern Christian Formation Program Continues after Parish Social!

"Living the Liturgy" *[An introduction to the Liturgy of the Byzantine Churches] In this class Fr. Bryan will continue to present and discuss the various aspects of the Liturgical Life of the Byzantine Churches. It will include the development of the Byzantine Church's Liturgical Cycle, Evening Prayer, Morning Prayer, the Hours, and the Divine Liturgies. WE WILL NEXT MEET AFTER THE LITURGY TODAY. We will begin the classes at around 11:45 AM and end at around 1 PM. Please join in!*

Final Wishes Seminar at St. Athanasius Church

Do you ever wonder what you need to do when a loved one "falls asleep in the Lord"?

Will your loved know what to do if you "fall asleep in the Lord?"

Brian McCarron from Flanner & Buchanan Funeral Service will provide a "Final Wishes Seminar" on Sunday February 23 after the 10 AM Divine Liturgy

Mr McCarron will provide information on

"How to ask Loved ones about their final wishes?"

"How to insure that your loved ones are aware of your Final Wishes"

"Living Wills" "Durable Power of Attorney" "Pre-Need Funeral Planning"

This Seminar is open to the public, so please invite your family, neighbors and friends! This information will really help you and your family in planning.

All Souls Saturdays ~ Following the Holy Tradition originating in 2 Maccabees 12, the Byzantine Catholic Church has developed the custom of keeping 5 All Souls Saturdays during the year. This year we will celebrate the first All Souls Saturday on Saturday before Meatfare [February 22nd]. The successive All Souls Saturdays are the 2nd Saturday of the Great Fast [March 15], 3rd Saturday of the Great Fast [March 22], 4th Saturday of the Great Fast, the Saturday before Pentecost [June 7]. Typically the All Souls Saturdays are celebrated with Vespers for the Departed on Friday Evening, and/or a Divine Liturgy on the day itself. A special part of these services is the Chanting of the Parish Dyptychs [List of the Departed].

At St. Athanasius the Great we are begin by celebrating *Vespers of the Departed* with the Chanting of the Parish Dyptychs. But your participation is needed and most welcome. In your contribution envelope box you will find an envelope, for February 22, marked "All Souls Saturday." Please place in this envelope a list of your departed loved ones **FIRST NAME ONLY** [if you wish us to use the same list as last year please write on the envelope "same as last year." The usual and customary stipend is \$20. Please make out your check to "Very Rev. Bryan R. Eyman." Thank you!

BE STRONG...IN LOVE; IN ADVERSITY; IN WITNESS

ANNUAL MEN'S RETREAT

FRIDAY MARCH 28 THROUGH SUNDAY MARCH 30

LIAL RENEWAL CENTER NEAR TOLEDO, OHIO

SPECIAL GUEST PRESENTER: FR. G. SCOTT BOGHOSSIAN

OF THE PASSAIC EPARCHY

DISCOVER HOW TO BE THE AUTHENTIC MAN GOD CREATED YOU TO BE, AND ENCOUNTER THE STRENGTH GOD GIVES YOU TO LIVE YOUR VOCATION AS A MAN OF FAITH. FOR MORE INFORMATION,

VISIT WWW.BYZCATHCULTURALCENTER.ORG OR EMAIL

RETREAT@BYZCATHCULTURALCENTER.ORG OR CALL 216-357-2933

OR "LIKE" THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CULTURAL CENTER

FACEBOOK PAGE.

FATHER'S LITURGICAL CORNER



Father, when we have Roman Catholic friends attend the Sunday Divine Liturgy, they ask us why we Byzantine Catholics do not kneel before, during or after the Liturgy. How can we explain it to them?

Unlike the Roman Church, in the Byzantine Catholic Church kneeling is NOT a sign of adoration or respect for the Eucharist, or for the most important parts of the Liturgy. In the Byzantine Church, kneeling is a sign of repentance. That is why it is considered highly inappropriate to kneel at the Divine Liturgy, on any Sunday or for the 50 days from Pascha [Easter] through Pentecost inclusive. The Church considered so important an issue that it was discussed and decided at the First Ecumenical Council [Nicea I in 325 AD]. The Council Canon XX clearly and specifically forbade any kneeling for public or private worship on any Sunday or for the Paschal season. The one exception is during the calling down of the Holy Spirit, either at the Eucharistic Epiclesis [in the Russian usage] or during the calling down of the Holy Spirit during ordinations.

Times when kneeling or prostrating are considered most appropriate include:

- 1) During the Great Fast at the Transfer of the Holy Gifts from the Artophorion [Tabernacle] to the Table of Preparation [Prothesis] at the Great Entrance of the Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts and after the distribution of the Holy Eucharist during the Pre-Sanctified..
- 2) During the Prayer of St. Ephrem at all of the various Services during the Great Fast, and other Fasting Seasons.
- 3) During the Kneeling Prayers from the Vesper Service on Pentecost Sunday Evening.
- 4) When a penitent is kneeling before the icon of Christ during the Mystery of Holy Repentance, but never on Sunday or Paschaltide.

Thanks for the question!

ADULT GREAT FAST REFLECTION [MIDWEST REGION]

SUNDAY APRIL 6TH FROM 1 TO 6 PM

ANNUNCIATION BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

14610 WILL-COOK RD. HOMER GLEN, IL

*THE DESERT: THE SPIRITUAL HOME OF THE MODERN DAY
DISCIPLE*

PRESENTED BY: FATHER DEACON MICHAEL LEE, STL, OCDS

“IN THE MORNING, WHILE IT WAS STILL DARK, JESUS GOT UP AND WENT OUT TO A DESERTED PLACE, AND THERE HE PRAYED.”

[MARK 1:35]

YOU ARE INVITED TO COME AWAY FROM THE WORLD TO A SOLITARY PLACE -A DESERT- TO LEARN, TO PRAY, TO LISTEN, AND TO ENTER DEEPLY INTO THE TIME OF THE GREAT FAST. IN LIGHT OF OUR MODERN, HECTIC LIVES, WE WILL REFLECT ON OUR NEED FOR THE DESERT TODAY, WHAT THE DESERT IS, HOW DO WE ENTER IT, AND HOW TO THRIVE IN THIS DESERTED PLACE. THE GREAT SAINTS AND SPIRITUAL MASTERS WILL LEAD US ON THE INWARD JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF OUR HEART WHERE GOD DWELLS.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: VISIT

WWW.BYZCATHCULTURALCENTER.ORG, E-MAIL

INFO@BYZCATHCULTURALCENTER.ORG, CALL FATHER DEACON MICHAEL LEE AT (208) 861-3817, OR “LIKE” THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CULTURAL CENTER FACEBOOK PAGE.

BYZANTEEN LENTEN REFLECTION

"WHATEVER"

"BELIEVE WHATEVER YOU WANT. DO WHATEVER WORKS FOR YOU." THAT'S THE MESSAGE WE GET EVERY DAY. SO HOW DOES A GOD WHO IS "EVER-EXISTING, YET EVER THE SAME," A GOD WHO SAYS "I AM THE TRUTH," FIT INTO OUR WORLD, WHERE EVERYTHING SEEMS TO BE A MATTER OF PERSONAL OPINION? FIND OUT HOW YOUNG ADULTS LIKE ISHANI PETEYA, ROB FETSKO, TOMMY MARTIN AND THERESA PLISHKA DEVELOPED A RELATIONSHIP WITH ETERNAL GOD IN THEIR FAST PACED, EVER CHANGING LIVES, AND DISCOVER THE REAL CONCRETE DIFFERENCE HE HAS MADE.

GET TO KNOW WHY WE BELIEVE WHAT WE BELIEVE ABOUT OUR GOD, AND KNOW THE JOY YOU'LL HAVE IF YOU "DO WHATEVER HE TELLS YOU."

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT

WWW.BYZCATHCULTURALCENTER.ORG, OR E-MAIL INFO@BYZCATHCULTURALCENTER.ORG, CALL 216-357-2933, OR "LIKE" THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CULTURAL CENTER FACEBOOK PAGE.



Saint Charalampos was either the Bishop of Magnesia or a priest who served there, and spread the Gospel in that region for many years. However, when news of his preaching reached the authorities of the area, the proconsul Lucian and military commander Lucius, the saint was arrested and brought to trial, where he confessed his faith in Christ and refused to offer sacrifice to idols.

Despite his advanced age, he was tortured mercilessly. They lacerated his body with iron hooks, and scraped all the skin from his body. The saint had only one thing to say to his tormentors: "Thank you, my brethren, for scraping off the old body and renewing my soul for new and eternal life."

According to the saint's hagiography, upon witnessing Charalampos' endurance of these tortures, two soldiers named Porphyrius and Baptus openly confessed their faith in Christ, for which they were immediately beheaded with a sword. Three women who were watching the sufferings of Charalampos also began to glorify Christ, and were quickly martyred as well.

The legend continues to say that Lucius, enraged, seized the instruments of torture and began to torture Charalampos himself, but suddenly his forearms were cut off as if by a sword. The governor Lucian then spat in the face of the saint, and immediately Lucian's head was turned around so that he faced backwards. Apparently, Lucian and Lucius both prayed for mercy, and were healed by the saint, and became Christians.

More tortures, the legend says, were wrought upon the saint after he was brought to Septimius Severus himself. Condemned to death and led to the place of execution, Charalampos raised his arms to heaven and prayed for all men: "Lord, You know that men are flesh and blood; forgive them their sins and pour out Your blessing on all." After praying this, the saint gave up his soul to God even before the executioner had laid his sword to his neck. Tradition says that Severus' daughter Gallina was so moved by his death, that she was converted and buried Charalampos herself.

Charalampos was martyred on February 10, 202AD. He was 113 years old.

Our Holy Father Meletius, Patriarch of Antioch was a member of one of the noblest families of Lesser Armenia and was born in the city of Melitene. Renowned for his piety and meek demeanor, he was elected to the see of Sebastea in the year 357, but met with such violent opposition that he departed his diocese and made his abode in the desert, later retiring to the town of Beria in Syria.

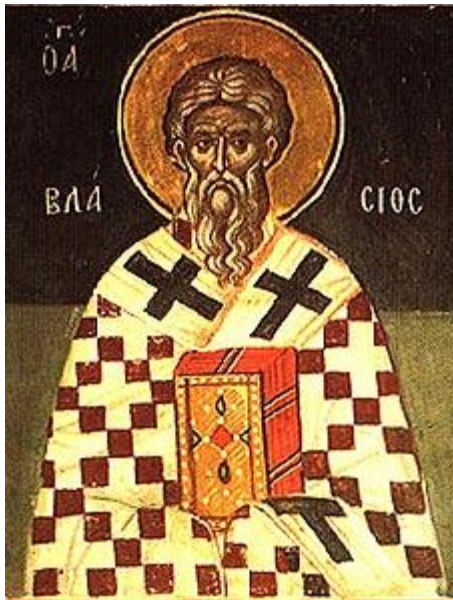
St. Meletius was elevated to the Patriarchal throne of Antioch, for he was a man worthy thereof, most wise and full of sanctity. Having been installed in the see of Antioch, the holy Meletius began zealously to instruct the people in virtuous living and upright morals, making ready the way to true and right belief within their hearts, for the holy one believed that he could sow the seeds of Orthodoxy in the souls of his flock with great success if he first amended the evil morals of the people, uprooting the thorns and thistles from the field of their hearts.

The Arian heretics drove the holy one from the church and began to revile him whenever they could, maintaining that he was a heretic, an adherent of the doctrine of Sabellius. Eudoxus at Constantinople and others of his partisans who surrounded the Emperor Constantius persuaded the emperor to banish the holy Meletius to Lesser Armenia.

At night the saint was arrested and sent back to his native land, and in his place was elected a certain Euzoius.

On returning, the holy one began zealously to strive to unite the divided flock of Christ. The archbishop, meek and humble of heart, did not reject the episcopacy of Paulinus, but recognized it; and he himself shepherded the new flock of those who returned from Arianism to Orthodoxy, whom the Paulinians would not receive into communion.

St. Meletius continued his ministry of reconciliation throughout the rest of his life. Sadly the Paulinian schism continued for more than 50 years.



Holy Martyr Blaise of Caesarea, in Cappadocia

Commemorated on February 11th

Saint Blaise of Caesarea lived in the third century. He was from Caesarea in Cappadocia (Asia Minor) and was a shepherd.

When a persecution against Christians began, St Blaise surrendered himself into the hands of the torturers. They subjected him to torture, and beat him with leather thongs, but the Lord healed his wounds. They then threw Blaise into a cauldron of boiling water, but he remained there unharmed. The pagan soldiers, seeing this miracle, came to believe in Christ.

The governor, wishing to show that the martyr remained unharmed because the water had cooled, jumped into the cauldron and died.

Having brought many to faith in Christ, St Blaise peacefully surrendered his soul to God. They thrust the saint's shepherd's staff into the ground, and it grew up into a large tree, which covered with its branches a church built over his relics.

Based upon a mediaeval legend, the Latin Church, which keeps the Feast of St. Blaise on February 3rd, began the custom of the blessing of throats. In this custom candles, blessed the day before on Candlemas Day [February 2nd], are put in the form of a cross and used to bless the throats of the faithful. It is not the custom of the Byzantine Churches.

Your holy martyr Blaise, O Lord, / through his suffering has received an incorruptible crown from You, our God. / For having Your strength, he laid low his adversaries, / and shattered the powerless boldness of demons. / Through his intercessions, save our souls!

St. Maron, Hermit and Wonder-worker~ was a 5th-century Syriac Christian monk whose followers, after his death, founded a religious Christian movement that became known as the Maronites. The religious community which grew from this movement is the Maronite Church.

Saint Maron was known for his missionary work, miraculous healing and teachings of Christian monotheism. He was a priest that later became a hermit. After his death in 410 AD, his life of sanctity and miracles attracted many followers and drew attention throughout the Mediterranean empire. In religious imagery, Saint Maron is often portrayed in a black habit garment with a hanging stole, accompanied by a long crosier staffed by a globe surmounted with a cross.



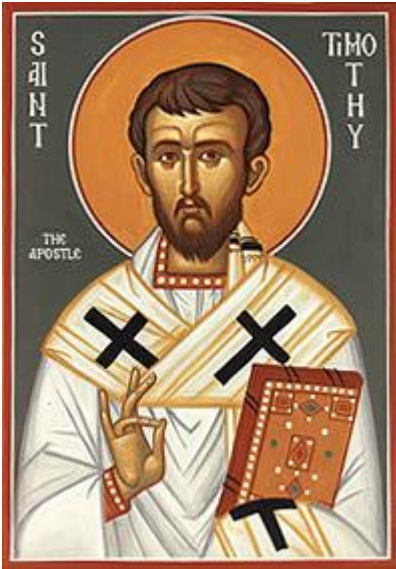
Maron is considered the Father of the spiritual and monastic movement now called the Maronite Church. This movement had a profound influence in Lebanon, and a lesser degree in modern-day Syria, Jordan and Palestine. Saint Maron spent all of his life on a mountain in Syria. It is believed that the place was called "*Kefar-Nabo*" on the mountain of *Ol-Yambos*, making it the cradle of the Maronite movement .

The Maronite movement reached Lebanon when Saint Maron's first disciple Abraham of Cyrrhus who was called the Apostle of Lebanon, realized that there were many non-Christians in Lebanon, so he set out to convert them to Christianity by introducing them to the way of Saint Maron. The followers of Saint Maron, both monks and laity, always remained faithful to the teachings of the Catholic Church. Saint Maron's feast day is celebrated on February 14th in the Byzantine Catholic and Orthodox Churches.

His burial place is a debated issue. Some Lebanese sources, such as Giuseppe Simone Assemani and Maronite bishop Yusef al-Dibs believe he was buried Arethusa or modern-day al-Rastan along the Orontes River in Syria, while others like Jesuit priest Henri Lammens claim he is buried in Brad village to the north of Aleppo.

Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee

Being Strong in Christ



THE GREATEST JOY OF EVERY PRIEST or other mentor may be seeing a pupil follow in his footsteps. St Paul was no exception. He traveled with several disciples at one time or another: Barnabas, John Mark, Silas (all of whom we honor as saints). His favorite, the one he called his “true son in the faith” (1 Tm 1:2), was Timothy.

According to Acts 16:1-9, Timothy was a believer, the son of a pagan father and a Jewish mother in the Anatolian town of Lystra. St Paul had first visited Lystra with Barnabas in c. AD 48 and preached the Gospel in the surrounding area. Possibly Timothy’s mother, Eunice, and his grandmother, Lois, became believers at that time (see 2 Tm 1:5).

When Paul returned to Lystra three years later he proposed taking Timothy along on his travels. Although Eunice was Jewish, her husband was not and Timothy had not been circumcised. Paul arranged for that to be done (see Acts 16:1-5) and the two set off together.

For several years Timothy accompanied Paul on his travels in Europe and Asia Minor. Timothy worked with Paul as he evangelized Galatia, Philippi, Thessalonika, Corinth and Macedonia, sometimes visiting churches on his own as Paul’s emissary. In witness to their relationship, Timothy is listed along with Paul as the author of several New Testament epistles: 2 Corinthians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, and Philemon. “He served with me in the gospel,” Paul would write, “as a son with his father” (Phil 2:22).

Being Strong in Christ [Page 2]

Timothy in Ephesus

In the early 60s Paul sent Timothy to Ephesus to personally oversee that community where doctrinal speculation was rife. St Paul's two Epistles to Timothy offered his former companion guidance in shepherding the Ephesian Christians.

According to the fourth-fifth century Acts of Timothy, this disciple remained in Ephesus even after Paul's death. Timothy himself was slain by a mob during a pagan festival in AD 97.

Based on his own experience Paul warned Timothy that, "all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution" (2 Tm 3:12). Paul himself was one of the first to persecute Christians when he was an observant Jew. This persecution began as soon as the Apostles started proclaiming Jesus as the risen Messiah.

The Romans, who cared nothing about Jewish messiahs, feared the Christians, who preferred the Kingdom of God to the Roman Empire. They refused to honor the Roman gods – considered a civil duty – or to venerate the emperor as a god himself. They appeared to be a divisive force and they continued to grow.

All the Apostles except for John died at the hands of either Jews or Romans intent on eradicating this new sect. Paul himself would suffer death for his faith, beheaded in Rome in c AD 68. Sometimes Christians suffered in sporadic attacks of random mobs. In the second and third centuries it was the state itself which was responsible for many deaths. It is thought that, before the Roman persecutions ended in the early fourth century, upwards of 100,000 believers had lost their lives or been deprived of their possessions.

In the face of persecution St Paul proposes what may at first seem an inadequate, if not strange, response: a two-pronged fidelity to the teachings that Timothy has learned and from whom he learned them. The

Being Strong in Christ [Page 3] Word of God and the living witness of the believers who mentored them, Paul affirms, should be the most compelling supports for committed Christians under threat of persecution.

What Scriptures Does Paul Recommend?

“...from childhood,” St Paul reminds Timothy, “you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Tim 3:15-17).

Just which Scriptures could Timothy have known from his childhood? When St Paul first met Timothy’s family in c. AD 48, and for decades afterwards, not all of the New Testament books had yet been written. In the next 50 years the Gospels and most of the epistles were being circulated but it took

some time for all the local Churches to become aware of them or to accept them as inspired. For most of this time – and certainly while Paul was writing to Timothy – when Christians spoke of “the Scriptures,” they meant the Old Testament. St. Paul is encouraging Christians under persecution to resort to Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms. As St Clement of Alexandria wrote in his Exhortation to the Heathens, “These books are truly holy as they sanctify and deify.”

In this Paul echoes the witness of Abraham in the parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus (Lk 16:19-31). When asked to send an emissary from paradise to the rich man’s brothers, Abraham replies, “They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them” (v. 29). When the rich man protests, Abraham answers, “If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead” (v. 31). Spectacular wonders amaze us but don’t necessarily lead us to faith; the Scriptures

Being Strong in Christ [Page 4] speak to truly believing hearts and strengthen the gift of faith within them. This is why St John Chrysostom would comment, “One single word from the divine Scriptures is more effective than fire! It softens the cruelty of the soul and prepares her for every good work” (Ninth Homily on 2 Tim).

Witness of the Saints

Besides the Scriptures, St Paul commends to Timothy “the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them” (v.14). Timothy had worked with Paul for several years and knew his teaching, which, earlier in the chapter, he called “my gospel” (2 Tim 2:8), the saving mystery of Christ which would later be put in writing in the four Gospels. He also knew how Paul lived out his faith in daily life and how he behaved under trials and persecution. The living witness of Timothy’s mentor would be a source of strength for him when he too suffered for his faith in Christ. Over the centuries until today, the encouragement of believing parents and spouses as well as teachers and fellow Christians would provide the support from which martyrs drew the strength to face the suffering they endured for Christ.

Called before time by God and becoming a disciple of holy Paul, you were an initiate in the divine mysteries. Outstanding in your life, keeping the Faith intact until death, you became a faithful hierarch of God, O holy apostle Timothy. After denouncing the worship of idols as foolishness, you were stoned and beaten, receiving the crown of martyrdom. O blessed one, intercede for us who celebrate your sacred memory with faith.

Come, O people, let us sing to Timothy, the apostle distinguished as a herald of the Gospel. Let us say, “Hail, venerable offshoot of the Faith, who were like a son to holy Paul! Hail, venerable model of virtue, thrice-wise mouth of the divine Word! Hail, divine flute announcing God to the whole world! Hail, pillar of Faith, on which the Church finds support!”

Vespers Stichera, Feast of St. Timothy (Jan 22)

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS OUR MEN AND WOMEN IN THE MILITARY ESPECIALLY THOSE SERVING IN AFGHANISTAN AND IRAQ.

MAJOR CRAIG M. EYMAN DO~ is Fr. Bryan's 2nd youngest brother. He has reentered the Army Reserve and is currently serving with the 848th FST [Forward Surgical Team] stationed in Twinsburg, OH. He has returned to his family in Solon, OH.

CAPTAIN BRIAN HEWKO~ has been a friend of Fr. Bryan. Brian is from St. Anne Byzantine Catholic Church in Austinburg, OH. He is a 2008 graduate of West Point. Brian became a Captain in the U. S. Army on July 1, 2011, and has been deployed to Afghanistan during 2011 and 2012. Brian is currently serving our Republic at an Army base in Arizona, where he is training for Army Intelligence. He thanks you for your prayerful support.

CAPTAIN CHRISTINA MOMONIER~ is a friend of Fr. Bryan. Christina is from Baltimore, MD and was received into the Byzantine Catholic Church at St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Fairport Harbor, Ohio. She is currently serving at Ft. Drum, NY.

CAPTAIN [FATHER] JOSEPH BRANKATELLI USA ~ is a friend of Fr. Bryan and a priest of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Cleveland and the Archdiocese for the Military Services USA. Fr. Joseph has returned to the United States and continues to serve the Military Archdiocese at Fort Bragg, NC.

SPECIALIST 3 KATIE WELLER USAF and AIRMEN FIRST CLASS

JOHANN WELLER USAF ~ are friends of Fr. Bryan and members of St. Ann Byzantine Catholic Church in Harrisburg, PA. Before entering the Armed Forces they were active with the BYZANTEEN Youth Rallies.

PRIVATE CODY ROMERO USA, STAFF SERGEANT NIKO ROMERO, and STAFF SERGEANT RORY ROMERO Sons of Sonia Stanton. Cody recently received the Military Blessing at our Church and is serving at Fort Benning, GA. His brother Rory has been deployed to Afghanistan.

PRIVATE JACKSON RUANE USA~ Jackson is formerly from St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Parish in Ashtabula, OH. He has completed Basic Training and was deployed to Korea on September 9, 2013.

PRIVATE ABIGAIL BROWN USA~ is the Grand Niece of parishioner Belinda Dorney. She recently graduated from Army Basic Training, and is training in Army Intelligence at a base in Arizona.

Please inform Fr. Bryan of any changes.

May God, in His infinite Love and Mercy, guide and protect all of those serving our Republic in the Armed Forces.

Welcome to St. Athanasius Byzantine Catholic Church of Indianapolis, IN. We are a Byzantine Catholic Community that, as part of the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy [Diocese] of Parma, is in Communion with Pope Francis I and the other Catholic Churches. If you remain until the end of the Divine Liturgy; you will fulfill your Sunday Obligation. [If you leave early you do not fulfill your Sunday obligation.] We welcome to Holy Communion all Orthodox and Catholic Christians, who are able to receive Holy Communion in their own parish Church. At the conclusion of the Liturgy, all should come forward to kiss the Holy Cross, or be anointed with blessed oil, and share in the Blessed Bread. Then join us in our St. Mary Hall for our Coffee Social. THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!