



August 22, 2010

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST;

HOLY APOSTLE MATTHIAS; HOLY MARTYR ANTHONY

RESURRECTIONAL TROPARION - TONE FOUR:

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the joyous message of Your Resurrection; they cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the apostles: Death is overthrown! Christ God is Risen, granting the world great mercy.

TROPARION FOR THE TRANSFIGURATION - TONE SEVEN:

Thou wast transfigured on the mount, O Christ God, revealing Thy glory to Thy disciples as far as they could bear it. Let Thine everlasting light shine upon us sinners. Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Giver of Light, glory to Thee!

RESURRECTIONAL KONTAKION - TONE FOUR:

My Savior and my Redeemer as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earthborn from their chains. And He has shattered the gates of hell, and as Master, He has risen on the third day!

KONTAKION FOR THE TRANSFIGURATION - TONE SEVEN:

On the mountain wast Thou transfigured, O Christ God, and Thy disciples beheld Thy glory as far as they could see it; so that when they would behold Thee crucified, they would understand that Thy suffering was voluntary, and would proclaim to the world that Thou art truly the radiance of the Father!

INSTEAD OF "ITS IS TRULY MEET...":

Magnify. O my soul, the Lord who was transfigured on Mount Tabor! Your birthgiving was incorruptible! God came from your body and appeared on earth in flesh, dwelling among men. Therefore, we magnify you, O Theotokos!

EPISTLE & COMMENTARY

THE PROKIMENON IN THE 4TH TONE:

O Lord, how manifold are Thy works! In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

I CORINTHIANS 16: 13-24

Brethren, watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. Let all that you do be done with love. I urge you, brethren - you know the household of Stephanas, that it is the first fruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to the ministry of the saints - that you also submit to such, and to everyone who works and labors with us. I am glad about the coming of Stephanas, Fortunatus and Achaicus, for what was lacking on your part they supplied. For they refreshed my spirit and yours. Therefore acknowledge such men. The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house. All the brethren greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. The salutation with my own hand - Paul's. If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. O Lord, come! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

ALLELUIA VERSES

Go forth and prosper and reign, because of truth and meekness and righteousness. You love righteousness and hate iniquity.

COMMENTARY on I Corinthians 16: 13-24

These men apparently were the carriers of a letter of which Paul answered earlier. Paul's displeasure with Corinth does not affect his joy for certain Corinthians. Aquila and Priscilla were Jews who had been among those expelled from Rome by Claudius in AD 49-50, had resided in Corinth for a while and then moved to Ephesus. Paul often dictated his letters to a secretary. The proof that he composed this letter is his closing signature.



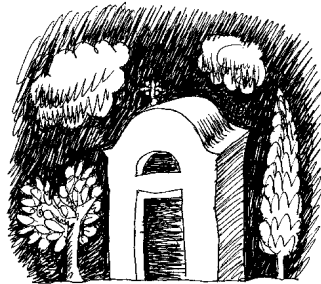
GOSPEL & COMMENTARY

MATTHEW 21: 33-42

At that time, Jesus said this parable: “There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit. And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them. Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.’ So they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him. Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers?” The chief priests and the elders said to Him, “He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons.” Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: ‘The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This was the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?’”

COMMENTARY on Matthew 19: 16-26

God the Father is the landowner who planted a vineyard. The tenant vinedressers are the religious leaders entrusted with the care of God’s people. The landowner’s servants are the prophets, sent by God to proclaim His word. For instead of tending the vineyard, the vinedressers had devoured it. Although they were obstinate toward His servants, God sent His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, whom they might honor. But in their greed and impiety they murdered the Son as well. The nation bearing the fruits of the Kingdom is the Church, the new people of God.



SPIRITUAL ARTICLES

From The Prologue for Aug. 9/Aug. 22 by St. Nikolai Velimirovic:

1. The Holy Apostle Matthias

Matthias was born of the tribe of Judah, in Bethlehem. He studied with St. Simeon the God-receiver in Jerusalem. When the Lord went out to preach about the Kingdom of God, Matthias joined the others who loved the Lord—for he himself loved Him with all his heart, and heard His words and witnessed His works with delight. Initially Matthias was numbered among the seventy lesser disciples of Christ. However, following the Resurrection of the Lord, the place of Judas being empty, the apostles drew lots and thus chose Matthias as one of the Twelve Great Apostles (Acts 1:23–26). Receiving the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, Matthias set out to preach the Gospel—first in Judea, and then in Ethiopia, where he endured great tortures for the sake of Christ. It is held that he preached throughout Macedonia, where they wanted to blind him; but he became invisible to his torturers, and thus escaped danger. The Lord appeared to him in prison, encouraged him, and freed him. Finally, he returned again to his work in Judea. There he was accused and brought to court before the high priest Ananias, before whom he fearlessly witnessed Christ. Ananias (the same who had slain the Apostle James) condemned Matthias to death. They led Matthias out, stoned him, and then decapitated him with an axe. (This was the Roman manner of killing a person who was sentenced to death, and the hypocritical Jews applied this method to Matthias, to show the Romans that he had been an enemy of Rome.) Thus this great apostle of Christ reposed, and took up his habitation in the eternal joy of his Lord.

2. The Holy Martyr Anthony

Anthony was a citizen of Alexandria. Brought before the pagan prince, he freely confessed his faith. He was tortured, flogged and scraped with sharp blades, but he would not deny Christ. He was then thrown into a fire, yet he spoke to the people from amidst the flames: “My beloved brethren, do not be a slave to the body—rather, concern yourself more about the soul, which is given to you by God and is kindred to God and to the heavenly hosts.” And so, instructing his people and burning in the fire, Anthony gave up his holy soul to God.

3. The Holy Martyrs Julian and Marcian and others with them
In the defense of icons, they all suffered at the hands of the wicked Emperor Leo the Isaurian in the year 716, and were crowned with unfading glory.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Saint Matthias the Apostle

Matthias the Apostle spoke of Christ
And witnessed openly to the Jews:
“He is that Messiah of Whom the Scripture writes;
He is the Son of God, Who came down from on High;
He is the Word of God, Divine Hypostasis.
About Him the prophets clearly spoke!
Moses prophesied: ‘God will raise up a Prophet
Like unto me from amidst your people;
And His radiance will shine among you.’
King David said: ‘All the generations of the earth
Will be glorified and blessed by Him.’
Courageous Isaiah flew up to heaven in spirit,
And saw and said, ‘A virgin shall conceive
And bear a Son, and shall name Him
Emmanuel,’ meaning *God is with us*.
Jonah was a figure of His burial—
As he prefigured the burial, so too the resurrection:
As Jonah lay in the belly of the whale for three days,
And was again vouchsafed life by God.
The prophecies have been fulfilled, the shadows have passed away,
The promised words have been realized in the flesh!”
But in vain does an awakened man speak to one who sleeps:
He who sleeps through the day, does not believe in the day.

REFLECTION

One form of martyrdom—and a sign of one’s overwhelming love for one’s fellow man—is to take another’s sin upon one’s self. As death is the consequence of sin, to take another’s sin on one’s self means: to add to your own death still another death. *And sin, when it is finished, brings forth death* (James 1:15). However, God rewards with resurrection those who, out of love, take another’s death upon themselves. There are many examples of the saints taking upon themselves the sins of their fellow men. Thus, it is said of St. Ammon: A brother came to Ammon and confessed that he had fallen into sin, and because of the sin he committed, he felt he had to leave the monastery and return to the world. Ammon

told that brother that he would take the brother's sin upon himself, and counseled him to remain in the monastery. The brother remained in the monastery, and Ammon was steadfast in offering repentance and prayers to God. After a short time, Elder Ammon received a revelation from God—that the sin was forgiven because of Ammon's love for the brother. When St. Macarius, St. Simeon the Fool-for-Christ, St. Theodora and others were accused of fornication, they did not defend themselves, but, taking upon themselves the sin of others, received the weighty [and unjust] punishment for sin, and patiently endured everything, until God revealed their innocence to men.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

DIOCESAN DAYS GATHERING

His Grace, Bishop Maxim cordially invites you to our
14th ANNUAL DIOCESAN DAYS GATHERING
Saint Sava Mission
Jackson, California
September 3-5, 2010

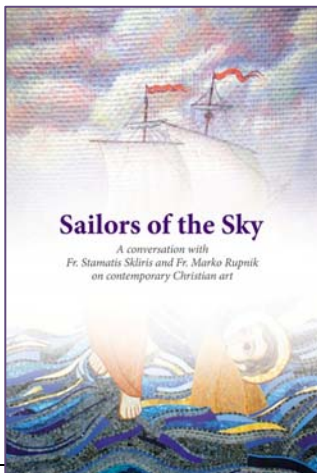
More information is now available on our Diocesan Website!
Please visit www.westsrbdio.org.

FROM SEBASTIAN PRESS:

OUR NEWEST PUBLICATION

Sailors of the Sky

*A conversation with Fr. Stamatis Skliris
and Fr. Marko Rupnik on contemporary Christian art*



In these timely conversations led by Fr. Radovan Bigovic, many issues are introduced that enable the contemporary reader to deepen and expand his or her understanding of the role of art in the life of the Church. Here we find answers to questions on the crisis of contemporary ecclesiastical art in

West and East; the impact of Impressionism, Expressionism, Cubism, Surrealism, and Abstract painting on contemporary ecclesiastical painting; and a consideration of the main distinction between iconography and secular painting.

This book is adorned with striking full-color icons by Fr. Stamatis Skliris and Fr. Marko Rupnik, renowned as iconographers and as writers and lecturers on Byzantine iconography. Highly recommended! 94 pages – Retail Price - \$15.00



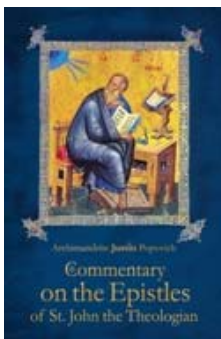
Sebastian Press Special - *Spend \$50 or more on our Sebastian Press Titles and receive a FREE Wall Calendar!*

2010 Wall Calendar adorned with icons by Fr. Stamatis Skliris

The Serbian Orthodox Diocese of Western America is pleased to announce the publication of a beautiful, full-color, trilingual (English, Serbian and Greek) Wall Calendar, which has been compiled and designed by Bishop Maxim and Interklima (Vrnjci), and printed in Serbia. This high quality, trilingual (English, Serbian and Greek) Calendar is adorned with striking full-color icons by Fr. Stamatis Skliris, a parish priest in Athens who is renowned as an iconographer and as a writer and lecturer on Byzantine iconography. Highly recommended! 27 pages

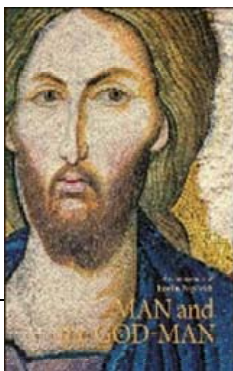
For a complete list of Sebastian Press Titles, please visit:

http://www.westsrbdio.org/SEBASTIAN_PRESS/Sebastian_Press.html



Commentary on the Epistles of St. John the Theologian

By Archimandrite Justin Popovic - This Commentary on the Epistles of St. John the Theologian - published now, three years after the blessed repose of Venerable Fr. Justin (on the Feast of the Annunciation, 1979) - was written by the tireless Messenger of Christ forty years ago, in circumstances similar to those in which Christ's Holy Evangelist John wrote his sacred Epistles. The text of this 93-page soft-bound book has been translated from the Serbian by Radomir M. Plavsic. Published by Sebastian Press, Western American Diocese of the Serbian Orthodox Church, Contemporary Christian Thought - *Retail price: \$10.*

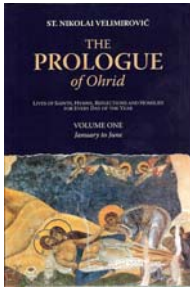


MAN AND THE GOD-MAN by Archimandrite Justin Popovic

This newest publication of our Sebastian Press Publishing House is now available for purchase online at:

http://www.westsrbdio.org/ads/man_and_the_godman.html

Retail Price: \$15.00



THE PROLOGUE OF OHRID - St Nikolai of Zica (Velimirovic) (1880-1956) has been called the "Serbian Chrysostom" for his theological depth and golden-tongued eloquence. Now for the first time, a complete and unabridged English translation of St. Nikolai's Prologue of Ohrid has been made available. St. Nikolai's Prologue has become a much-loved spiritual classic for Orthodox Christians worldwide. An inspirational source-book of the Orthodox Faith, it contains within its pages a summation of the Church's wisdom and Her experience of sanctity through the Grace of Jesus Christ. Lives of Saints, Hymns, Reflections and Homilies are presented for

every day of the year. St. Nikolai's beautiful Hymns have never before appeared in English. –
Retail \$120 per set