



**Sunday, October 9, 2011**

**17<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**REPOSE OF THE HOLY APOSTLE & EVANGELIST JOHN THE THEOLOGIAN**

**RESURRECTIONAL TROPARION - TONE EIGHT:**

You did descend from on high, O Merciful One! You did accept the three day burial to free us from our sufferings! O Lord, our Life and Resurrection: Glory to You!

**TROPARION TO ST. JOHN THE THEOLOGION - TONE TWO:**

Beloved apostle of Christ our God, hasten to deliver a defenseless people. He who allowed you to recline on His breast, receives you as you bow before Him. Implore Him, O John the Theologian, to disperse the persistent threat from the heathens, entreating for us peace and great mercy.

**RESURRECTIONAL KONTAKION - TONE EIGHT:**

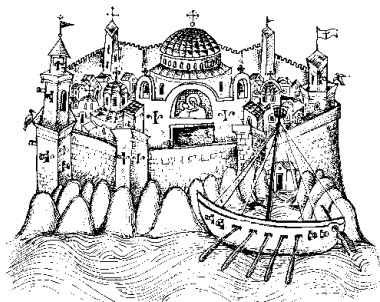
By rising from the tomb You did raise the dead and resurrect Adam. Eve exults in Your Resurrection, and the world celebrates Your Rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

**KONTAKION TO ST. JOHN THE THEOLOGION - TONE TWO:**

Who shall declare your greatness, O virgin disciple, for you pour forth wonders and are a source of healings, and pray for our souls as Theologian and friend of Christ.

**HYMN TO THE MOTHER OF GOD - TONE SIX:**

Steadfast Protectress of Christians and constant advocate before the Creator, do not despise the cry of us sinners; but in your goodness come speedily to help us who call on you in faith. Hasten to hear our petition and to intercede for us, O Theotokos, for you always protect those who honor you!



## **EPISTLE & COMMENTARY**

### **THE PROKIMENON IN THE 8<sup>TH</sup> TONE:**

Pray and make your vows before the Lord our God.

### **17<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, SECOND CORINTHIANS 6: 16 - 7: 1**

Brethren, what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: “I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people.” Therefore: “Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean and I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.” Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

### **FOR ST. JOHN THE THEOLOGION – 1 JOHN 4: 12-19**

Brethren, no one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. We love Him because He first loved us.

### **THE ALLELUIA VERSES:**

Come let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior! Let us come before His face with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with psalms!

### **COMMENTARY ON THE EPISTLE READING FROM SECOND CORINTHIANS**

This is one of several places where St. Paul reverently refers to our earthly bodies as a ‘temple of God’ because as God said through His prophet Ezekiel: “I will dwell in them...My people” (Ezekiel 37: 26, 27). Cleansing ourselves from filthiness and perfecting holiness cannot be done on our own: we need to despise, confess and repent of our sins through the Church; ask forgiveness of others; prepare to receive the Eucharist regularly; pray for empowerment through the Holy Spirit.





*The Apostle John and the Ever-virgin Mother of God at the Crucifixion*

**GOSPEL & COMMENTARY**

**17<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, MATTHEW 15: 21-28**

At that time, Jesus departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, “Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed.” But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, “Send her away, for she cries out after us.” But He answered and said, “I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, “Lord help me!” But He answered and said, “It is not good to take the children’s bread and throw it to the little dogs.” And she said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters’ table.” Then Jesus answered and said to her, “O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire.” And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

**FOR ST. JOHN THE THEOLOGION – JOHN 19: 25-27; 21: 24, 25**

At that time, there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, “Woman, behold your son!” Then He said to the disciple, “Behold your mother!” And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home. This is the disciple who testifies of these things, and wrote these things; and we know that his testimony is true. And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen.

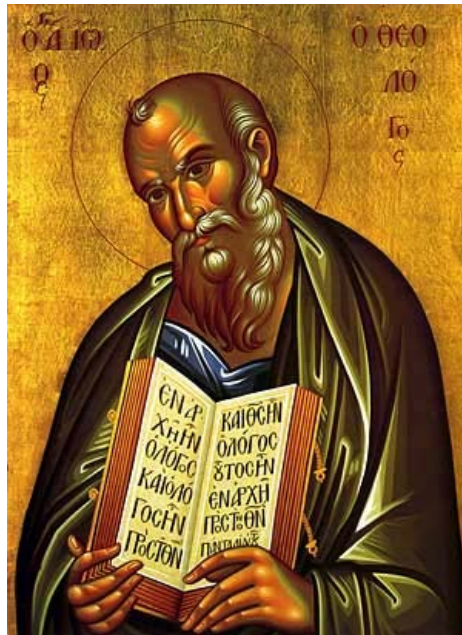
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### COMMENTARY ON THE GOSPEL READING FROM ST. MATTHEW

Jesus' answer should not be understood as an insult, but as a way to reveal the treasure of the woman's faith. In her can be seen the future Gentile Church, the true Israel, coming to Christ. This is the Gospel reading for the commemoration of female martyrs, who showed the same persistence and faith as this Canaanite woman.

### SPIRITUAL ARTICLES

From The Prologue for September 26/October 9 by St. Nikolai Velimirovic:



### *Saint John the Theologian, Apostle and Evangelist*

John was the son of Zebedee the fisherman and Salome the daughter of Joseph, the betrothed of the Holy Theotokos. Called by the Lord Jesus, John immediately left his father and his fishermen's nets and, with his brother James, followed Christ. From then on, he was not separated from his Lord until the end. With Peter and James, he was present at the raising of Jairus's daughter and the Transfiguration of the Lord. At the Last Supper, he inclined his head on Jesus' breast. When all the other apostles had abandoned the crucified Lord, John and the Holy Mother of God remained beneath the Cross. In obedience to the Lord, he was as a son to the Holy Virgin Mary, and carefully served and watched over her until her Dormition. After her Dormition, John took his disciple Prochorus to preach the Gospel in Asia Minor. He lived and labored mostly in Ephesus. By his inspired preaching and miracles he converted many to Christianity and shook paganism to its foundation. The embittered pagans bound him and sent him to Rome, to face Emperor Dometian. Dometian had him tortured and flogged, but neither the bitterest poison he was given to drink, nor the boiling oil into which he was thrown, did him any harm. This terrified the emperor and, thinking him immortal, Dometian sent him into exile to the island of Patmos. There St. John converted many to Christianity by words and

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miracles, and confirmed well the Church of God. He also wrote his Gospel and Revelation on Patmos. In the time of Emperor Nero, who granted freedom to all prisoners, John returned to Ephesus, where he lived for some time, confirming the work he had begun earlier. He was over one hundred years old when he went to the Lord. When his disciples later opened his grave, they did not find his body. On May 8 of every year, a fine dust, fragrant and healing, rose from his grave. After a long, laborious and fruitful life on earth, this beloved disciple of Christ, a true pillar of the Church, took up his habitation in the joy of His Lord.

### **The Venerable Nilus of Calabria**

Nilus was a great ascetic among the Greeks of Calabria. The founder of several monasteries, he was a miracle-worker and a defender of the purity of the Orthodox Faith. He undertook a long journey to save a man from grave punishment. He had an ardent love for his neighbor, and entered into rest in the year 1005. Nilus left many worthy disciples, among whom was the distinguished St. Bartholomew, the writer of several canons, who reposed in 1044.

### **HYMN OF PRAISE: Saint John the Theologian, Apostle and Evangelist**

St. John the Evangelist,  
Son of Zebedee the fisherman,  
Was young when the love  
Of Jesus greatly warmed him.

The most faithful friend of the Lord,  
With a pure, virginal soul,  
With a soul pure and loving,  
Visionary and heroic.

He proclaimed wondrous mysteries  
And removed the seal from eternity.  
He saw the destiny of the world,  
from the beginning to the end.

He preached love,  
And in love he walked;  
To the throne of the Most-high God  
He was raised up in love.

And with love he was exalted  
Like a snow-capped mountain:  
The Son of Thunder, an awesome prophet,  
But meek and tender in heart.

O John, seer of wonders,  
O thundering saint—  
Bear our small petitions

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To your Friend, the Savior!

Bring us close to Him,  
The powerful God, the sweet God;  
And though we are not worthy of His bosom,  
At least bring us close—to His feet!

### **REFLECTION**

Thus writes the Apostle James: *Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins* (James 5:20). The apostles of Christ did not simply speak thus, but confirmed it by their work. St. Clement of Alexandria relates that, somewhere in Asia Minor, St. John the Apostle had baptized a pagan youth and entrusted him to the care of the local bishop, while he went on further to preach the Gospel. In John's absence, this young man became corrupt, and began to drink and steal, and finally joined a band of thieves in the forest, who attacked men and robbed them. After a while John returned, and heard from the bishop what had happened to this young man. Then Apostle John, not wasting a moment, found a horse and a guide and rushed to the forest where the robbers were to be found. Searching through the forest the saint found them, and confronted their leader. When the young man recognized John, he began to flee. Though aged, John chased him and, despite his old age, caught him. The young man fell at the feet of the apostle and, in shame, could not look him in the eye. John embraced and kissed him, as a shepherd does upon finding his lost sheep. The saint brought him back to town and confirmed him anew in the Faith and in virtuous life. Thereafter pleasing God, this young man entered into rest in due time.

### **CONTEMPLATION**

Contemplate the divided heart of King Amaziah toward God, and God's punishment (II Chronicles 25):

1. How Amaziah at first did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, and God granted him victory over the Edomites;
2. How Amaziah brought the Edomite idols (which had not helped the Edomites) to Jerusalem, and worshiped them;
3. How God permitted the Israelites to defeat him, and a rebellion was raised against him and killed him.

### **HOMILY**

#### **on prayer inspired by love**

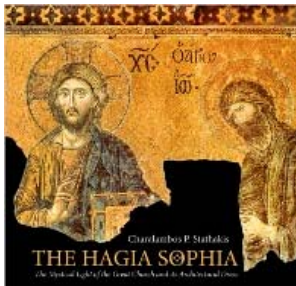
*Sanctify them by Thy truth. Thy word is truth* (John 17:17).

When a mother is led to death, she worries more about the children whom she leaves behind than about herself. Such is the bond of great love. The Lord Jesus Christ had an even greater love for His disciples than that of a mother for her children. Going to His death, the Lord prayed to His heavenly Father for His disciples. He prayed, not because He lacked power to help them, but prayed to the Father to show the unity of His being with, and love for, His Father. But why did He then ascribe Truth to the Father, when before that He referred to *the Spirit of Truth* (John 14:17), saying to the disciples: *The*

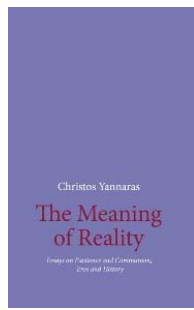
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*Spirit of Truth ... will guide you into all truth* (John 16:13)? To demonstrate the equality of the Father and the Holy Spirit. Did He not first say of Himself: *I am the Truth* (John 14:6)? And, afterward, did He not call the Holy Spirit the Comforter, *the Spirit of Truth*? And He now ascribes truth to the Father as well: *Sanctify them by Thy truth!* He who would see any contradiction in this does not comprehend God as Unity and Trinity—Unity of Essence and Trinity of Persons. In that He ascribes truth as something essential to each Person of the Divine Trinity, the Lord demonstrates the equality of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. For if one Person of the Divine Trinity would possess less truth, He would be lesser, in Essence, than the other two Persons. With a lessening of truth, there is also a lessening of power, love and wisdom. Therefore, the Lord referred to Himself, the Father, and the Holy Spirit as Truth, so that men would know and believe in Their complete, essential unity. Therefore let none of the faithful be deluded by any lie asserting an inequality of the Persons of the Holy Trinity. Everyone should endeavor to wipe his heart clean of sin, as one cleans a mirror: only then can we truly perceive the great truth of the equality of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. O Triune and Divine Truth, enlighten us with Thyself, and save us. To Thee be glory and praise forever. Amen.

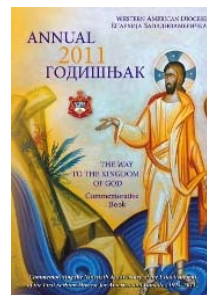
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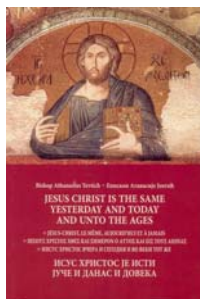
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## 2011 Dates to Remember

**October 7<sup>th</sup>**

Cathedral Slava

Saint Steven's Serbian Orthodox Cathedral, Alhambra

Matins 9:30 a.m.

Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Los Angeles Deanery Clergy

Lunch Meeting 12:00 Noon

### **SAINT STEVEN'S DAY OBSERVANCE**

**Sunday, October 9, 2011**

Matins 9:00 a.m.

Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

**Banquet & Program 12:30 p.m.**

[View Flyer](#)

**Serbian Western American Diocese**

**and Christ the Savior Parish**

**Welcome New Parish Priest**

**Fr. Stevan Kovacevic**

**Sunday, November 6, 2011**

**Hierarchical Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.**

**Welcome Banquet & Program 12:30 p.m.**

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**December 4, 2011**

Diocesan KSS Slava - Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos

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