

DISCOVERING TREASURES THRU TROUBLES

As Orthodox Christians, we are different. Once we were lost, but now we are found. Once we were bound for hell, but now we are bound for heaven. We are believers in God, merely travelling thru this world towards our ultimate destination . . . PARADISE. But what makes us react differently? We have discovered answers and found a new reason for living.

We recognize that our TREASURES are ETERNAL. God has a plan for us and nothing is a surprise to Him. We have been set apart by the Holy Spirit. We found peace, having been cleansed by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. We have been provided with a living hope. We know our eternal inheritance awaits us in heaven.

We realize that our TROUBLES are TEMPORARY. We have cause to rejoice. Our sins have been forgiven. Although we are not immune to trouble, we are confident that it will not last. Discouragement is short-term; joy in Christ is permanent. Know that God will wipe away all the tears from your eyes.

Our TRIALS are filled with PURPOSE. Life is full of troubles which test our will power. Remain strong in your faith and these passing problems will ultimately seem small when we dwell with Christ.

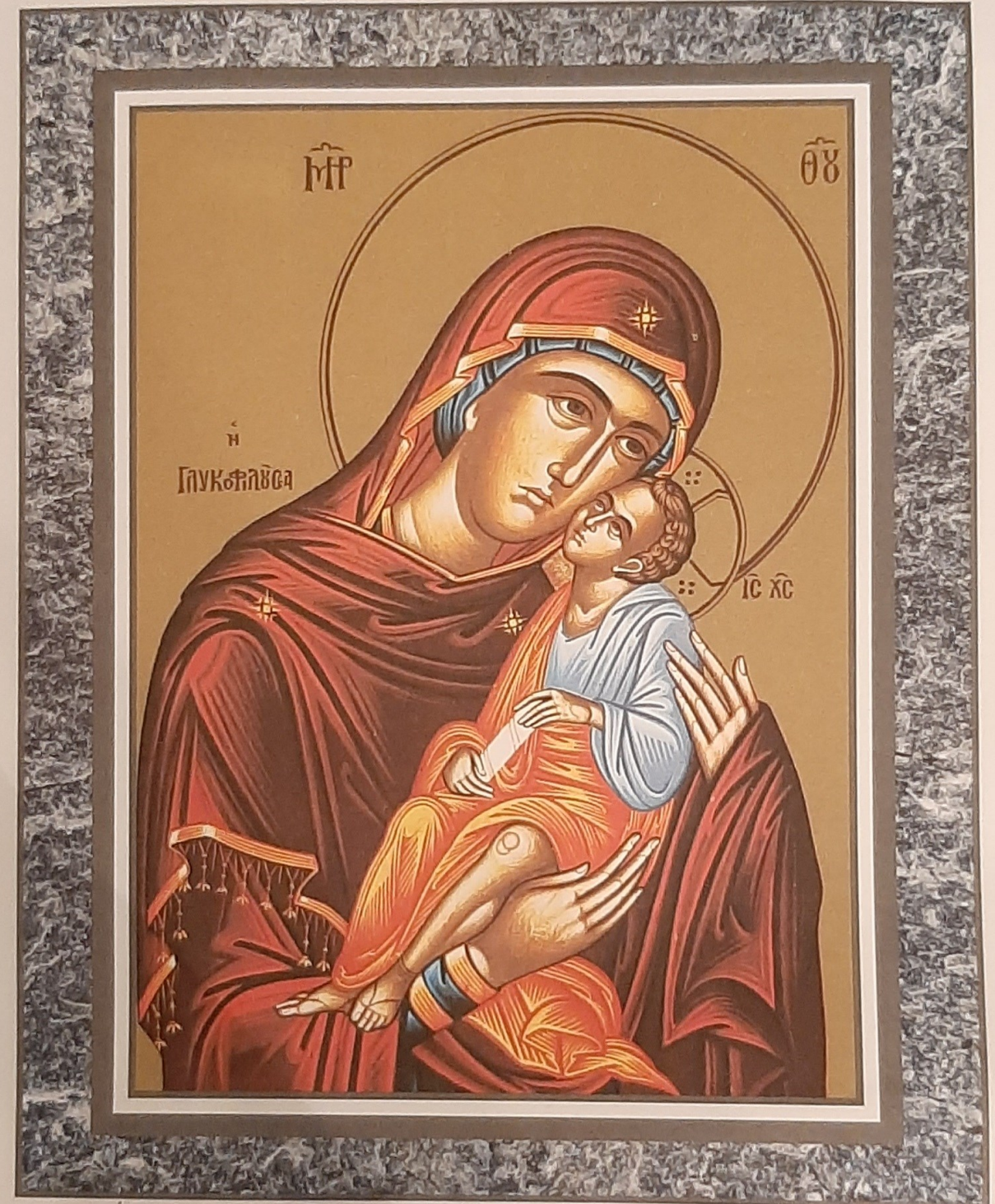
The News is good! We repentant sinners can come to Christ and receive comfort and eternal life. This is the promise of our loving God.

The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin Vestal, Cliffwood, New Jersey Litho in U.S.A.

ABOUT COMMUNION

We are happy that you have joined us today. Indeed, we pray for the "unity of the Faith" for the day when all of Christianity are united as ONE and can share a common Chalice. However, this is not the case as yet. Please note that Holy Communion, the actual Body & Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, is only for Members of the Orthodox Church who have prepared themselves through prayer, fasting, and confession, & arrived before the Gospel reading. However, everyone is welcome to partake of the blessed bread and receive a blessing from the pastor at the dismissal. If you are interested, you may inquire with the pastor how you can become a member.

If you are a guest or otherwise not a regular communicant, please give your baptismal name when receiving.





St. Anthony The Great Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church

4031 Aurora Rd.; Melbourne, Florida Mailing address : P.O.Box 267, Melbourne, FL 32902
Very Rev. Fr. Elia Shalhoub, Pastor & Dean of South Florida Deanery
Phone: (305) 812-4940 , E-Mail: elia_shalhoub@yahoo.com
<http://www.stanthonyvorthodoxchurch.com>

WELCOME TO ST. ANTHONY'S

Where people from around the world come together to serve God and our community.

We are glad you are worshipping with us today! This Church is one community of many in the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. The Church of Antioch belongs to two thousand years of evangelization, teaching, history, and tradition which expresses the continued commitment of its members to the Orthodox Christian faith in the Lord Jesus Christ!

St. Anthony Church is a Pan-Orthodox community, under the omophorion of His Beatitude Patriarch JOHN X within the Self-ruled Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America. If you are a first time visitor, please fill out the guest form located on the literature table. We want you to feel at home in prayer and worship. Please submit your names to the ushers and introduce yourself to Fr. Elia at the end of the service so he may welcome you personally. Following services, please join us for sharing of fellowship, coffee, and food.

DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2024 TONE 4 / EOTHINON 4; SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTE- COST & SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW

LEO THE GREAT, POPE OF ROME;

AGAPITOS THE CONFESSOR, BISHOP OF SYNNAIDA IN PHRYGIA, AND HIS COMPANIONS

~ During the Little Entrance, chant the Resurrectional Apolytikion. The Eisodikon (Entrance Hymn) is "O come, let us worship... save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead..." After the Little Entrance, chant these hymns in the following order:

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE FOUR

Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation. And proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying: Death hath been spoiled; Christ God is risen, granting the world Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. ANTHONY THE GREAT

Thou didst become like the zealous Elijah in his condition, and followed John the Baptist in his upright ways. Becoming a dweller in the wilderness, and an establisher of the universe by thy prayer O Father Anthony. Wherefore intercede thou with Christ our God to save our souls.

ORDINARY KONTAKION IN TONE TWO

O protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the Creator most constant, O despise not the suppliant voices of those who have sinned; but be thou quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession, and speed thou to make supplication, thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.

Please support our sponsors




PERI KIROS
321-432-1993
perikiros@gmail.com
WWW.MYGREEKAGENT.COM



Address: 144 Fifth Ave Indialantic FL 32903
Phone #: 321-727-8944
Website: Skewersgrille.com




Mario J. Mandese D.C.
Address
1300 Pine Tree Dr #7
IHB, FL 32937
Phone: (321) 257-7593
Fax: (321) 420-1762

JPN Handyman
Cell: 954-547-4433
Pressure washing
Lawn Mowing
Minor Landscaping
Electronics Repair
3D printing Repair
Ask for other services




FERGUSON PEST MANAGEMENT
321-258-8311
140 Tomahawk Dr. #M57
Indian Harbour Beach, FL 32937
Georges Ferguson
Certified Operator



FLAMES
Modern Mediterranean Grill
Live Entertainment Tuesday thru Saturday
Flames kitchen reignites the Mediterranean flare in today's culinary world of inventions. We honor our traditional recipes with a new take on old favorites. Our scratch kitchen adds culmination to our passion for good food.
1270 N Wickham Rd - Ste 40 - Melbourne, FL 32935
(321) 777-6677 ♦ www.flamesgrille.com



3RD GENERATION JEWELERS SINCE 1928
321-777-0093
1270 Highway A1A
Satellite Beach, FL 32937
f t i p e
FlorentineJewelry.com




OLYMPIA
Cafe
1512 SOUTH HARBOR CITY BLVD.
MELBOURNE, FLORIDA 32901
P: 321-676-8910 · F: 321-676-8911
WWW.OLYMPIACAFEMELBOURNE.COM
ADRIANE & TED

ST. ANTHONY THE GREAT ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

4031 Aurora Rd., Melbourne, FL. 32934

www.StAnthonyOrthodoxchurch.com

Very Rev. Fr. Elia Shalhoub

Cell: [\(305\) 812-4940](tel:3058124940)

Elia_shalhoub@yahoo.com

Follow us on "FACEBOOK" <https://www.facebook.com/st.anthoniorthodox>

2024 HOUSE BLESSING FORM



IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE YOUR HOUSE BLESSED,
PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING FORM ASAP.

CHOOSE THREE ALTERNATE DATES AND TIMES, AND GIVE DIRECTIONS TO YOUR HOME AS WELL.

When the priest comes to bless your home please make sure to have an Icon; a candle ready and your list of the names (Living & Deceased) to be prayed for.

Thank you, V. Rev. Fr. Elia Shalhoub, Pastor

NAME: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

(HOME)

(OFFICE)

(CELL)

DATES/TIMES REQUESTED (Please list three date/time options):

(Please let me know if you are available or not during the day on Saturday & Sunday only from 12:00 Noon to 5:00 p.m. or if you prefer an Evening Visit.)

Option #1: _____

Option #2: _____

Option #3: _____

DIRECTIONS & EXACT ADDRESS

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO FATHER ELIA

THE EPISTLE

(For the Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost)

O Lord, how magnified are Thy works. In wisdom hast Thou made them all. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (6:16-7:1)

Brethren, you are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will live in them and move among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. Therefore, come out from them, and be separate from them," says the Lord, "and touch nothing unclean; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters," says the Lord Almighty. Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, and make holiness perfect in the fear of God.

THE GOSPEL

(For the Seventeenth Sunday of Matthew)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (15:21-28)

At that time, Jesus went to the district of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and cried, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely possessed by a demon." But He did not answer her one word. And His disciples came and begged Him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before Him, saying, "Lord, help me." And He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table." Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly.

~ The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom continues as usual.

ABOUT THE DIVINE LITURGY

The Divine Liturgy expresses the entire Christian faith in a continuous song of praise and prayer addressed to God. It is focused on God, not on us. There is nothing just for amusement or entertainment.

Since much of the service is the same every week, worshippers know it and can participate personally, either by singing along or just by prayerful attention. Worshippers are surrounded by icons (pictures of Christ and the saints), which remind us that we are participating, while on earth, in the worship of all the angels and saints in heaven. The entire service (except for the sermon) is sung. The words are all from Scripture or ancient Christian texts. Please follow the service in the books available in the pews. Weekly changes will appear below and marked with a corresponding letter in the service book.

COME BACK

We hope to see you next week. Each Sunday we celebrate the Resurrection of Christ with our morning Matins service at 8:45am followed by the main Sunday service, Divine Liturgy at 10am. Sunday School for the Children Follows Communion. Fr. Elia would love to speak with you and answer any questions you may have. Please fill out our Guest Form (CONNECTION CARD). There's also a place where you can let us know any specific needs or concerns and we will lift them up in prayer. We welcome everyone who would like to learn more about the Orthodox Christian Faith. Please contact Fr. Elia either by E-Mail (elia_shalhoub@yahoo.com) or on his cell phone (305) 812-4940

Announcements



February 18th
February 25th

Epistle Readers
Jeff Dick
Sam Jacobs



Our February Birthdays

February 15th Susan Perers; February 17th Lilly Munoz

February 24th Clay (Richard) Gardenhire

May God grant you many years!



Our February Anniversaries

February 23rd Mike and Janet Gorczyński (50th)

May God grant you many more Happy and Healthy years together!

TODAY'S COFFEE HOUR IS SPONSORED BY AMEN



2024 Parish Calendars

They are here with beautiful iconography inside.

Special thanks to this year's sponsors:

Skewers and Flames Mediterranean Grills, who helped to cover the cost. You can leave a Donation to Sunday School, when you get yours. Give one to the friend or family so they know about our Church. Your support is greatly appreciated.



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH 2024

17TH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW

(SUNDAY OF THE CANAANITE WOMAN)

Make Some Time for Prayer



There are so many times throughout my day that people ask me to pray for people. Whether an email, phone call or in person—it is a daily occurrence. I have always felt that this is such an important part of my ministry. But the truth of the matter is that prayer is something not just for the priest.

Praying for others is a central part of our daily lives as Orthodox Christians. We need to pray daily. You may be so busy throughout your day that you feel that you don't have time to pray.

I remember listening to a sermon of a bishop who said, "I have so much to do today, I must spend at least an hour a day in prayer." You see, Prayer gives us strength, Prayer gives us peace, Prayer gives us patience, Prayer gives us humility, Prayer allows us to put

EPIPHANY 2024 – BLESSING OF HOMES

The central sign of our acceptance of God's sanctification of the creation is the blessing of the homes of faithful Orthodox Christians.

We bless homes:

- To reveal the home as what God created it to be, a way to heaven.
- To rid the home of every evil.
- To know that the family is a small church unit in Christ, to consecrate the home and all activity in it to God.
- To have the home and all who live in it with the fullness of God.

Only the Church reveals what life is, and she alone is the Kingdom of God on earth. The Church lives within Christ, revealing Him to us. As the Church, we sprinkle blessed water throughout the home, as we chant, **"When you, O Lord, were baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest. For the Fathers voice bore witness to you and called you His Beloved Son, while the Holy Spirit, in the form of a dove, confirmed these words. O Christ our God, who has appeared to us and has enlightened the world, Glory to you."**

The priest consecrates the home to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in this act, the Church blesses, reveals and sanctifies.

When the priest comes for the house blessing, please adhere to these guidelines:

- Have as many family members there as possible.
- Setup a place for prayer, in the dining room or kitchen, with an icon and a candle.
- Print the first names of those for whom specific prayers are to be offered, including all family members on a sheet of paper, making a clear distinction between living and departed.
- Take this time to get to know Father Elia better, asking any questions you may have.
- If a child needs some time to talk to Father, respect his/her privacy and make the opportunity.
- Make Father Elia aware of any special needs you may have.
- Tell Father Elia about any family members who are in nursing homes or in need of a visit

Please remember that Father Elia will be making many visitations. A lengthy social visit may not be possible at this time. If you would prefer a visit outside the Epiphany season, please let Father know.

archdiocese (Bosra, Houran and Jabal Al-Arab, Syria). I could not see beyond the material beauty to reach the sight of the “Beloved Son,” Who transcends all beauty.

He shook our hands, one by one, after the Liturgy. Our presence brought him indescribable joy. He made us feel that we were his consolation, and some of us believed it!

We were later startled by something we learned about him. He stayed up at night writing letters to his spiritual children after his pastoral status as a bishop no longer permitted him to meet them in person as before. We learned that his bed was in a car, not in a bedroom. He spent most of his time sleeping being driven in a car from one region to another in his vast archdiocese (102 parishes) which extended across Lebanon and Syria.

Metropolitan Boulos planted in the Church a seed, without which the Church could not grow spiritually and physically. He gave great care to institutions, such as the Akkar Diocesan School, which he established and expanded. It is now one of the most successful schools in North Lebanon. But his focus on human beings was the most important. Everything he had was for his fellow man. For him, there was nothing—no institution, no money, no endowment—unless it was for the sake of the neighbor, a service to the neighbor, and a way for the salvation of the neighbor.

The love he implanted, the kindness he distributed, the tenderness he gave—all are images of the compassionate face of Jesus, the Good Shepherd. The God whom Metropolitan Boulos (Bandali) worshiped is the God of love, to Whom all should bow in reverence and veneration. May God help us through his intercessions.



Offering Holy Bread

It is the tradition of the Orthodox Church to offer Holy Bread for a Divine Liturgy for the health of a loved one; in memory of one who has fallen asleep in the Lord; a feast day, anniversary, birthday or other special occasion.

The customary donation is \$25.00 per offering. Please fill out the form at the information table, and hand it to Yuliya.

focus in our lives.

Saint John of Kronstadt, a wonderful 20th century saint of our Church writes, “When you pray, endeavor to pray more for others than for yourself alone. When you pray for others it purifies the heart, strengthens faith and hope in God, and arouses love for God and our neighbor. If you make a habit of praying for the salvation of others, God will give you an abundance of spiritual gifts, the gifts of the Holy Spirit. But be careful, for there is a great difference between repeating names apathetically and remembering them heartily. Pray for them with the same order and zeal as you would pray for yourself.”

Make time today to commune with the one who created you! Make time today to pray for others! Make time today to pray for the forgiveness of your sins! Make time today to pray. I guarantee...if will be worth every minute!

1 Thessalonians 5:17-18 “Pray without ceasing, give thanks, for this is the will of God.”

Have a blessed Day!

In Christ,

Fr. Elia Shalhoub

Very Rev. Fr. Elia Shalhoub, Pastor



Please pray for the healing of Adriana Theodoropoulos, Lori Sorensen, Ethan Packey, Michealle and Tyrone Carey, Beverly Delida, Alix Hall, Nina and Diogo Penas, Beth Manzini, John Archambeau, Alex & Soula.

Preparing for Great Lent

By Fr. Alexander Schmemman

Little by little since the Sunday of Zaccheus we have been preparing ourselves for Great Lent, which in turn is the movement towards the Feast of Feasts, the Pascha, Easter. The first Sunday of this preparatory period, the Sunday of the Pharisee and the Publican, has as its theme: Christianity as humility. The second Sunday, the Sunday of the Prodigal Son, has the theme: Christianity as return or conversion. The third Sunday has the theme: Christianity as judgment. The fourth Sunday has the theme: Christianity as forgiveness. These four themes are essential in our preparation for Great Lent.

Let us approach Lent with a proper understanding of this period. Let us not reduce this Lent to giving up something for Lent: for this idea fills man with such pride that he loses all the benefit he was supposed to achieve and even more. Let us not reduce Lent to our personal problem.

Lent is a time for slowing-down, for taking ourselves to account, in order that we may be spiritually prepared for the feast to come. Lent is the time when the Church withdraws from the New Testament into the Old Testament. Lent is the time when we become nostalgic for communion.

In a larger sense, Lent is a permanent dimension of Christianity. It is not a spiritual bath.

Lent expresses the church as pilgrimage, as movement, as exodus. Lent opens our eyes to the things that we do not see. Let us remember the idea of Church as fast and feast, as expectation and fulfillment, as humility and glory.

The history of our salvation began when God told Abraham to go from Ur in Chaldaea to the land of Canaan. Later on the Exodus from Egypt was the first great Passover or Pascha. This Exodus is the first image of the Church as the Sons of Israel, the People of God. This Exodus has given us the symbol for the 40 days fast. The idea of the 40 is that the goal of those who went into the desert was the promised land. And so for us Christians the first spiritual dimension of Lent is 40 days. The Christian goal is the new promised land, the Kingdom of Heaven. Yet in the very desire for the Kingdom of Heaven, we somehow already possess it.

Lent means not only externals as fasting and doing without, but a change in our lives, and a renewal of our baptismal vows, and a new dedication to serve God, a decision for Christ. Above all, let us not misunderstand Lent.

Our hymns clearly indicate the true purpose of Lent:

Let us begin the Fast with joy! Let us prepare ourselves for spiritual efforts!

Let us purify and cleanse our flesh! Let us abstain from passion, as we abstain from food!

Let us rejoice in the Spirit and persevere with love! and another hymn:

Brethren, while fasting physically, Let us also fast spiritually!

Let us loosen every bond of injustice! Let us destroy the strong fetters of violence!

Let us tear up every unjust writing! Let us give bread to the hungry, and

Let us welcome the homeless poor to our homes.

That from Christ God we may receive great mercy!

* * *

In one week we open the Triodion to begin our journey to Pascha and read Christ's parable for the Publican and the Pharisee (Luke 18:10-14). In his introduction to his homily on this gospel passage, St. Nicholai of Zicha (Homilies, vol. I, page 97) questions us as to how we apply this to ourselves:

"Ponder, then, on all this; listen to Christ's parable and decide for yourself how apt it is. If you say in amazement: "This parable does not apply to me", then this means that you are sickening for the illness known as unrighteousness. If you protest: "I am righteous; this applies to the sinners around me", then this means that your illness has reached its peak. If, though, you beat your breast in repentance and reply: "It's true; I'm sick and need a doctor", then this means that you are on your way to healing. Don't be afraid, then; you'll get well."

- St. Nicholai of Zicha

May God bless us all with repentance and peace during the upcoming holy season!

Metropolitan Boulos (Bandali):

A Fruitful Seed in Antioch By Metropolitan Saba (Isper)

Metropolitan Boulos (1929-2008) served as metropolitan of the Archdiocese of Akkar and Dependencies across Lebanon and Syria. If you love your neighbor less than you love yourself, then it would be difficult for you to write about a person like Metropolitan Boulos (Bandali), who lived Christ's second great commandment, "Love your neighbor as yourself," in its absolute evangelical sense,

which is rarely duplicated throughout history.

He embodied the phrase of the Bible that says, "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13).

What is remarkable about Metropolitan Boulos is his complete and constant self forgetfulness for the sake of his fellow man. Requests made to this merciful metropolitan did not stop for a single moment throughout his life on earth. This means that he never once cared for himself because he was constantly preoccupied with the souls of others. Those who lived closely with him described his home, his room, his clothes, his food, and his poverty in a way that reminds us of the stories of unmercenary saints.

For those who claim that this kind of love is impossible in our self-centered age, Metropolitan Boulos, with his holy life, stands as living proof of the error of their claim, and as a witness to the extent of the work of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of God's pure ones.

I was a high school freshman when I first heard of "Father" Boulos Bandali. Young people from Koura, North Lebanon, who were displaced with their families due to the war in Lebanon (1975-77), told us about a priest in Bishmizine, where people rush from their villages to participate in his liturgy. They described him as the angels are described. My friends and I thought that they were exaggerating. But when we met him for the first time in Latakia, Syria, while he was on a spiritual visit to encourage us to practice confession, we were amazed at what we saw. How does a person live with all this meekness? From where does he get all this tenderness? How does he possess this amount of kindness and a constant smile? In our young minds, we could only imagine him coming from the icons of our glorious Church.

We learned from him the art of listening, and when we grew up, we understood how much humility and self-denial listening requires. He would listen with sensitivity to the confessions of the youth and would try with all delicacy to direct us to the point that we sometimes felt like he was the one confessing, not us. I remember that, through his gentleness, he once made me ashamed of my sin and cause me to despise it very much, without reprimanding me with a single harsh word, although I deserved more than one harsh word at the time.

These encounters came within the framework of the Orthodox Youth Movement and its activities. I remember the way we used to rush to him when he arrived to receive his blessing! On the day we heard that he became Metropolitan of Akkar, we, the youth of Latakia, decided to go and congratulate him after his enthronement. At that time, most of us had experienced confession at least once with him. We met him in a very small village in Wadi al-Nasara, called Bhazina. He had been in the archdiocese for less than a month. He came to celebrate the Divine Liturgy in that village. We were shocked by how small and poor the church was, from the liturgical items to the chanting. We found him celebrating the Liturgy as if he were in heaven, not aware of the poverty around him. It took me years and great toil to learn how to serve in such poverty in my former