THE SYNAXARION (Plain Reading)

On July 12 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the holy, glorious and right-victorious Martyrs Proclus and Hilary of Ancyra.

Verses

Proclus endured naked a thick rain of arrows,
Whereas Hilary’s head with a sword was severed.
On the twelfth, arrow slew Proclus and sword, Hilary.

These martyrs were born in Kallippi in Asia, Proclus being Hilary’s uncle. They suffered in the time of the Roman Emperor Trajan. The judge asked Proclus: ‘Of what race are you?’ Proclus replied: ‘I am of the race of Christ, and my hope is in my God.’ When the judge threatened him with torture, he said: ‘When you are afraid to transgress the Emperor’s commands and risk falling into temporal punishment, how much more do we Christians fear to transgress against God’s commands and fall into eternal torment!’ While Proclus was being tortured, Hilary came up to the judge and said: ‘I too am a Christian!’ After many tortures, the two men were condemned to death. They both entered into the joy of their Lord.

On this day, we also commemorate the righteous Veronica, the woman with the issue of blood healed by our Lord; and venerable Father Paisios the New of Athos.

By their intercessions, O Christ God, have mercy on us. Amen.

A tree is known by its fruit, a man by his deeds. A good deed is never lost; he who sows courtesy reaps friendship, and he who plants kindness gathers love.

St. Basil the Great

Sunday, July 12, 2020
Fifth Sunday After Pentecost &
Fifth Sunday of Matthew
THE EPISTLE

How great are Thy works, O Lord! In wisdom hast Thou made them all.
Bless the Lord, O my soul.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans. (10:1-10)

Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is that it may be saved. I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but it is not enlightened. For, being ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God’s righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law, that everyone who has faith may be justified. Moses writes that the man who practices the righteousness which is based on the law shall live by it. But the righteousness based on faith says: Do not say in your heart, “Who will ascend into Heaven?” (that is, to bring Christ down) or “Who will descend into the abyss?” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart (that is, the word of faith which we preach); because, if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For man believes with his heart and so is justified, and he confesses with his lips and so is saved.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (8:28-9:1)

At that time, when Jesus came to the country of the Gergesenes, two demoniacs met Him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one could pass that way. And behold, they cried out, “What have we to do to Thee, O Son of God? Art Thou come here to torment us before the time?” Now a herd of many swine was feeding at some distance from them. And the demons begged Him, “If Thou castest us out, send us away into the herd of swine.” And He said to them, “Go.” So they came out and went into the swine; and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and perished in the waters. The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, and what had happened to the demoniacs. And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw Him, they begged Him to leave their neighborhood. And getting into a boat He crossed over and came to His own city.

Orthodox Vocabulary

Fanaticism (Fanatic): this term is generally defined as a passionate, blind, intractable zeal or admiration toward someone, a party; a religion, a doctrine, etc. This definition makes it clear that it is something extremely dangerous. In fact, faith in the revealed truth never requires a blind faith, excess, or violence. This is self-evident, and it suffices to condemn any fanaticism, wherever the fanaticism comes from. It is useless to say more about it. Nevertheless, we must be on guard against certain forms of fanaticism which are sometimes concealed under the guise of patriotism, morality, or religion. It then becomes a veritable caricature of these real values. People sometimes allow themselves to be led by persons dominated by pride, the hunger for power, a foolish narrowness of spirit, or by gain. This leads to intolerance, violence, racism, and their attendant suffering, as well as to terrorism. Only love and the personal freedom of a person responsible to a personal God can alter one’s life, and not ideologies or totalitarianism, even if these hide behind words which fool the naive. Thus it is necessary to combat all fanaticism, whether it appears in the form of dubious sects, pseudo-gurus, dishonest politicians, or even sectarian believers, who may be sincere, but who, in their narrow and rigid views, forget about the dignity of the person standing free before God. The latter desire to impose by force what they consider to be the true faith. The pride that comes from having a clean conscience can even turn religion into a weapon with which to beat others. Fanaticism turns the object of faith into an idol.” It is idolatrous. It sets up evil as good. It leads to blasphemy against the Spirit.

Visitations

Please contact Fr. Elie with any names of parishioners that are in need of visitation either at home, in hospital or nursing homes.

ONLINE BULLETIN

The Bulletin is available online on our website at:
http://stmarypawtucket.org
It is with appreciation and gratitude that we announce the reception of a gift from the family of Janice Hallal fulfilling her wishes to participate in our Charitable Gift Program. Janice was a lifelong member of our Church and worked tirelessly with joy and compassion for all in our Church.

May Her Memory Be Eternal!

“With the spirits of the righteous made perfect, give rest to the soul of Thy servant Janice, O Savior; and preserve it in the life of blessedness which is with Thee, O thou who lovest mankind.”

Brothers and Sisters in Christ-

Christ is in our midst! He is and ever shall be!

Greetings to you and your families we hope that you are enjoying Summer Days with your Loved ones.

On Behalf of Father Elie, The Council Members and myself I want to extend many thanks and appreciation to those who have given so far towards our Leadership Appeal. Your generosity has made a great difference in these unprecedented and complicated times by supporting our church.

Under extraordinary circumstances, we held together and in many ways, we thrived despite the challenges unfolding around us. None of us could predict the future. Yet, we know that our parishioners, with faith, endurance and love supported our church. Please consider supporting our beloved church through the Leadership Appeal, at whatever level you can, with online, by mail, or phone.

Thank you and may God bless you and your loved ones.

In Christ,
Salwa Khoury, Parish Council Chairwoman

**Fifth Sunday After Pentecost**

**Tone: 4  Eothinon: 5**

**RESURRECTION APOLYTIKION: Tone 4**

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.

**TROPARION OF THE DORMITION: Tone 1**

In giving birth, Thou didst keep Thy virginity and in thy repose, Thou didst not forsake the world, O Theotokos, for Thou art the mother of life, and Thou didst pass over into life; and through thy intercession from death Thou dost redeem our souls.

**ORDINARY KONTAKION: Tone 2**

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.

**Arabic Liturgy**

Arabic Liturgy is being offered the first Saturday of each month at 6:00 P.M. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.
It is good to hold fast to the most central commandment, and not worry about particular things or pray for them in particular, but only “seek the kingdom,” as the Lord says (Mt. 6.33). If we are still concerned about each of our needs, however, we should pray about each of them. The person who plans or does anything without prayer will not accomplish anything in the end; this is what the Lord meant when he said, “you can do nothing without me.” (Jn. 15.5)

~St. Mark the Ascetic