

Ambo

ST. THEODOSIUS ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL



MAY 10, 2020
SUNDAY OF
THE PARALYTIC

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See inside for Streaming
Schedule

AMBO: Articles for publica-
tion should be submitted to:

[ambo-theodosius](mailto:ambo-theodosius@googlegroups.com)

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by Wednesday of each week
before noon.



St. Epiphanius, Bishop of Cyprus

May 12

Saint Epiphanius, Bishop of Cyprus, “a last relic of ancient piety,” as Saint Jerome calls him, lived during the fourth century in Phoenicia. The Roman empress Honoria was his sister. He was of Jewish descent, and in his youth he received a fine education. He was converted to Christianity after seeing how a certain monk named Lucian gave away his clothing to a poor person. Struck by the monk’s compassion, Epiphanius asked to be instructed in Christianity.

He was baptized and became a disciple of Saint Hilarion the Great (October 21). Entering the monastery, he progressed in the monastic life under the guidance of the experienced Elder Hilarion, and he occupied himself with copying Greek books.

Because of his ascetic struggles and virtues, Saint Epiphanius was granted the gift of wonder-working. In order to avoid human glory, he left the monastery and went into the Spanidrion desert. Robbers caught him there and held him captive for three months. By speaking of repentance, the saint brought one of the robbers to faith in the true God. When they released the holy ascetic, the robber also went with him. Saint Epiphanius took him to his monastery and baptized him with the name John. From that time, he became a faithful disciple of Saint Epiphanius, and he carefully documented the life and miracles of his instructor.

Reports of the righteous life of Saint Epiphanius spread far beyond the monastery. The saint went a second time into the desert with his disciple John. Even in the wilderness disciples started to come to him, so he established a new monastery for them.

After a certain time, Saint Epiphanius made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem to venerate its holy shrines, and then returned to the Spanidrion monastery. The people of Lycia sent the monk

Polybios to Saint Epiphanius asking him to take the place of their dead archpastor. When he learned of this intention, the clairvoyant ascetic secretly went into the Pathysian desert to the great ascetic Saint Hilarion (October 21), under whose guidance he had learned asceticism in his youth.

The saints spent two months in prayer, and then Hilarion sent Saint Epiphanius to Salamis. Bishops were gathered there to choose a new archpastor to replace one who recently died. The Lord revealed to the eldest of them, Bishop Papius, that Saint Epiphanius should be chosen bishop. When Epiphanius arrived, Saint Papius led him into the church, where in obedience to the will of the participants of the Council, Epiphanius agreed to be their bishop. Saint Epiphanius was consecrated as Bishop of Salamis in 367.

Saint Epiphanius won renown because of his great zeal for the Faith, his love and charity toward the poor, and his simplicity of character. He suffered much from the slander and enmity of some of his clergy. Because of the purity of his life, Saint Epiphanius was permitted to see the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the Gifts at Divine Liturgy. Once, when the saint was celebrating the Mystery, he did not see this vision. He then became suspicious of one of the clergy and quietly said to him, “Depart, my son, for you are unworthy to participate in the celebration of the Mystery today.”

At this point, the writings of his disciple John break off, because he became sick and died. The further record of the life of Saint Epiphanius was continued by another of his disciples, Polybios (afterwards bishop of city of Rinocyreia).

Through the intrigues of the empress Eudoxia and the Patriarch Theophilos of Alexandria, towards the end of his life Saint Epiphanius was

summoned to Constantinople to participate in the Synod of the Oak, which was convened to judge the great saint, John Chrysostom (September 14 and November 13). Once he realized that he was being manipulated by Chrysostom's enemies, Saint Epiphanius left Constantinople, unwilling to take part in an unlawful council.

As he was sailing home on a ship, the saint sensed the approach of death, and he gave his disciples final instructions: to keep the commandments of God, and to preserve the mind from impure thoughts. He died two days later. The people of Salamis met the body of their archpastor with carriages, and on May 12, 403 they buried him in a new church which he himself had built.

The Seventh Ecumenical Council named Saint Epiphanius as a Father and Teacher of the

Church. In the writings of Saint Epiphanius, the PANARIUM and the ANCHORATUS are refutations of Arianism and other heresies. In his other works are found valuable church traditions, and directives for the Greek translation of the Bible.

In his zeal to preserve the purity of the Orthodox Faith, Saint Epiphanius could sometimes be rash and tactless. In spite of any impetuous mistakes he may have made, we must admire Saint Epiphanius for his dedication in defending Orthodoxy against false teachings. After all, one of the bishop's primary responsibilities is to protect his flock from those who might lead them astray.

We also honor Saint Epiphanius for his deep spirituality, and for his almsgiving. No one surpassed him in his tenderness and charity to the poor, and he gave vast sums of money to those in need.

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF May 10

May 10

1 John 3:21-4:6
1 John 4:11-16
1 John 4:20-5:5
Luke 24:1-12
1 Cor 4:9-16
Matt 13:54-58
Acts 9:32-42
John 5:1-15

May 11

Composite 2—Proverbs 10, 3, 8
Prov 10:31-11:12
Wis 4:7-15
John 10:1-9
Heb 7:26-8:2
Matt 5:14-19
Acts 10:1-16
John 6:56-69

May 12

Acts 10:21-33
John 7:1-13

May 13

Composite 19—Micah 4:2-3, 5,
6:2-5, 8; 5:4,5
Composite 20—Isaiah 55:1;12:3-
4; 55:2-13
Prov 9:1-11
Acts 14:6-18
John 7:14-30
Heb 2:11-18
John 5:1-4

May 14

Acts 10:34-43
John 8:12-20

May 15

Acts 10:44-11:10
John 8:21-30

May 16

Acts 12:1-11
John 8:31-42

May 17

John 20:1-10
Acts 11:19-26. 29-30
John 4:5-42

Joy? In tribulation?

“Count it all joy, my brethren, when you meet various trials (tribulations), for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.” James 1:2-4

We are in the midst of a crisis unheard of in modern times! Having our movements restricted, in “lock down,” for the past several months, it's starting to wear rather thin. As the weather “warms” (at least a bit), more and more people are clamoring to get out.

The Holy Apostle James (the first bishop of Jerusalem) gives us a good insight into the crisis and pandemic we are now experiencing. Granted, in the time during which he wrote, the trials and tribulations were a bit different. Certainly, there were the usual difficulties and temptations we have in our modern daily life, but there was also a vehement persecution of Christians. Just being a Christian could invite immediate martyrdom! Living one's faith in Jesus Christ would summarily end one's earthly life.

Yet, St. James tells us to “count as all joy” even this. He echoes St. Paul's admonition to the Romans when he writes: We rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit Who has been given to us (Romans 5:2-4).

As modern Americans, we dislike anything which restricts us from doing, or having, the things we wish. Certainly we don't even want to consider enduring trials, tribulations, or temptations. Yet, during our lifetime we experience all the above to one degree or another. Our Lord Jesus Christ never promised us an “easy” earthly life. Rather, He told us about the price of discipleship. He gives us “peace” not as the world gives, but something much more precious. However, He does promise a better life in the world to come.

Becoming “perfect and complete” is only possible with our Lord, and is the fruit of the trials and tribulations we endure, not only for our Faith, but also physically as well. This spiritual maturity (perfectness) is gained only through struggle.

Inspired by a story from Dianne Neal Matthews, we can make the following analogy: A farmer gave some duck eggs to a friend with instructions how to hatch them. Following the instructions to the letter, the person was ecstatic when the little ducklings first began to emerge from the eggs. It is a long and arduous process for the little ducklings to break through the hard shell and live. The newly hatched ducklings began to dry becoming cute and fluffy. However, noticing a few ducklings having difficulty coming out of their shells, they tried

to “help” by chipping some of the shell for them. Those ducklings died.

When they went back to the farmer who gave them the eggs and described what they had done and what had happened, the farmer explained the ducklings needed that initial struggle to gain the strength in order to survive.

Our trials and tribulations are like the shells of those ducklings. In order for us to gain that perfection and maturity, we need to endure such difficulties.

All too often we blame God for the difficulties and temptations we endure, though most of these are of our own making. St. James says: “Blessed is the man who endures trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life which God has promised to those who love him. Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am tempted by God;' for God cannot be tempted with evil and He Himself tempts no one; but each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin; and sin when it is full-grown brings forth death” (James 1:12-15). Even in the Lord's Prayer, we beg God not to expose us (lead us) to temptation, but by His goodness and mercy to deliver us from evil.

Interestingly, the General Epistle of James is read during the Mystery of the Holy Prayer Oil. In it, St. James addresses our faith during difficult times and temptations, giving explicit instructions as to how we are to call upon the elders of the Church for healing during sickness. When subjected to sickness and illness, St. James gives these instructions: “Is any one among you suffering? Let him pray. Is any cheerful? Let him sing praise. Is any among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer of faith will save the sick man, and the Lord will raise him up; and if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven” (James 5:13-15)

Therefore, let us not only endure the present difficulties and temptations which present themselves during this pandemic, but rather let us look upon them with the joy we will have when we are able once again to praise our Lord Jesus Christ for our deliverance and salvation in His Holy Temple.



PRAYER REQUESTS



Departed:

Anastasia Pogorily

David Sacco (friend of Frank)

Special Intentions:

Deacon Paul Mitchell (*Tom Mitchell's father*)

Subdeacon Theodore Lentz

Reader Paul Pangrace

Child Mary Kate Zweidunger

Child Vivian Sherer

Melissa (*cousin of Mary Ann Kovach*)

Lyndsey (*friend of Melissa McCutcheon*)

Elizabeth (Betty) Balasz

Marie Borland

Sandra Brello

Elsie Conrad

Horia Dascalescu

Debra Ellis

Gregory Galan

Aleksei Green

Virginia Haupt (*Lisa Theodore's mother*)

Don Hinkl

Matthew Hunly (*Phyllis Gindlesperger's brother-in-law*)

Diane Kearsey (*Janice Tkacz's sister*)

Lacey Udell (*wife of Michael Udell*)

Mara Kilbane (*Melissa McCutcheon's granddaughter*)

Annamarie Luvison (*Daughter of*

Kaite Ellis-Luvison)

Chris Magee (*Erin Zawolowycz's brother*)

Melissa McCutcheon

Christopher McCutcheon (*son of Michael & Melissa*)

Michael McCutcheon

Marguerite Mihal (*Paul Mihal's mother*)

Paul Mihal

Natalya Miller (*Arlene Neale's great-niece*)

Andrew Mytrohovich

Annie Mytrohovich

Debra Parhamovich (*Karen Felon's sister*)

Grace Parhamovich (*Karen Felon's mother*)

Jim Paulitzky (*Jerry Czajkowski's son-in-law*)

James Peter Petkac

Susan Reese (*friend of Jerry & Arlene Czajkowski and Betty Balasz*)

Elena Rich (*Jerry Czajkowski's daughter*)

Joseph Rusynyk

Andrew Sykaluk

Elaine Sudnick (*Joy Pfeiffer's mother*)

Tony Sykaluk (*friend of Lydia Mytrohovich*)

Janice Tkacz

Joanne Theodore (*Lisa Theodore's*

mother-in law)

Gayle Vidovitch

Eleanor Wachovec (*friend of Karen Felon*)

Robert Walsh (*friend of the Felons*)

Colleen Walsh (*friend of the Felons*)

Erin Zawolowycz

Susan Yurik

Kristin Robinson

Janet Budko (*sister-in-law of Arlene Neale*)

Laurie Budko (*niece of Arlene Neale*)

Alex Ponomarenko

Mary Kay Weber

Mirta Szweczyk (*friend of Tatiana*)

Mickey O'Brien (*friend of Arlene*)

Elisa Seddon (*wife of Eric*)

Dominic & Megan Theodore and unborn child

Nicholas & Erin Reidy and newborn daughter Nina

David & Jessie Jacobson and unborn child

Jeremy & Yvonne Pozderac and unborn child.

Michael & Lacey Udell and unborn child

Important Voting Issue

Keep an eye on your email and/or mailbox for an important ballot. An urgent, crucial issue has come up and the Council has decided this issue needs to be decided by the entire parish. Details included therein.

CONFESSION/COUNSELING

Just a reminder, Fr. John Adamcio is available for the Mystery of Confession, or counseling, by telephone (773.939.0549).

Please leave your name and call back number if the message goes to voicemail.

Three exciting opportunities to work with us! ZOE Women's Center is looking for a part-time Executive Director, and a radiologist to read scans. We are also seeking someone to help with grant writing. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact Cindy George at: cindygeorge127@gmail.com



ZOE
Women's Center™



In accordance with the Bishop's message, we will be streaming services. A link will be sent out a short time prior to the beginning of the service (to include the reading of the Hours when appropriate). The link will be sent via the Ambo Mailing List, and can be forwarded to anyone. Schedule details below:

Sunday, May 10

4th Sunday of Pascha

Apostle Simeon the Zealot

Streaming of Hours Begins at ~ 9:40 AM

Liturgy Begins 10:00 AM

Monday, May 11

Holy Equals-to-the-Apostles Cyril
And Methodius, First Teachers of the
Slavs

Tuesday, May 12

St. Epiphanius, Bishop of Cyprus

Wednesday, May 13

Midfeast of Pentecost

Thursday, May 14

Martyr Isidore of Chios

Friday, May 15

Ven. Pachomius the Great,
Founder of Cœnobitic Monasticism

Saturday, May 16

Ven. Theodore the Sanctified, disciple of
Ven. Pachomius the Great

Sunday, May 17

5th Sunday of Pascha
The Samaritan Woman
Streaming of Hours Begins at ~ 9:40 AM
Liturgy Begins 10:00 AM

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

2020