

St. Michael the Archangel Eastern Orthodox Mission

Newsletter November 2009

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

Divine Liturgy 10:00 A.M.

May the Lord hear thee in the day of affliction; may the name of the God of Jacob defend thee. Let Him send forth unto thee help from His sanctuary, and out of Zion let Him help thee. The Lord grant thee according to thy heart, and fulfil all thy purposes.

from Psalm 20

Important Upcoming Church Dates:

Sunday, Nov. 1st – St. John of Kronstadt

Wednesday, Nov. 4th – Parish Council Meeting,
6:00 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 8th – Great Martyr Demetrius

Sunday, Nov. 15th – Martyr Acindynus

**Sunday, Nov. 22nd – St. Michael's Parish
Feastday** – potluck lunch (speak with or e-mail Sandy Ellis to coordinate)

Saturday, Nov. 28th – beginning of Christmas fast

Sunday, Nov. 29th – St. Matthew

**Friday, Dec. 4th – Entry of the Most Holy Mother
of God into the Temple**

Coffee Hour:

Nov. 1 - Gulas

Nov 8th – Harouff

Nov 15th – Jokich

Nov 22nd – **Feast Day**

Nov 29th – Kaiser

Dec. 6th - Pastrick

Dec. 13th - Patterson

Dec. 20th - Platt

Dec. 27th - Zarzaur

If you will be unable to serve coffee hour on your Sunday, please make arrangements to switch with another family. Thanks!

November Birthdays:

God Grant Them Many Years!

Nov. 15 – Cindi Branham

Nov. 17 – Elizabeth Crawford

Nov. 27 – Rick Kaiser

Nov. 27 – Tim Waskerwitz

Nov. 29 – Zach Jokich

News Items? Please send church news items to the Newsletter editor Rick Kaiser at rkmk2001@bellsouth.net.

Prayer Requests: Please remember in your prayers: Ray Montgomery (friend of Steve Demora); Child Jovana (2 years old – leukemia); Katarzyna Bazylewicz; Tatiana Kukhtareva; Mariam & Tom Calache; Mary Kochoff; Glenn Dengler (friend of Jokich family) and daughters Haley (7) and Nicole (3); Dessie Jokich (mother of Mike Jokich); Sandy & Roger Ellis; Daniel Ellis (brother of Roger); Ted Gulas; Edythe Hales; Markela Hatzakis; Brian Jokich; Dessie Jokich; Elena Meagher; Daniel & Anne Kobasa (parents of H. Bergantz); Rhonda Lovette; Tim & Ron Waskerwitz; Evangeline Pamfilis; Pat Darzy; Mary Zarzaur; Natalie (niece of Rick Kaiser); and Jean Pepp (sister of Elizabeth Wharry).

Saints Cyprian & Justina (+304)

Whom the Church remembers on October 18

St. Cyprian was a pagan and a native of Antioch. From his early childhood his misguided parents dedicated him to the service of the pagan gods. From age seven until thirty, Cyprian studied at the most outstanding centers of paganism: on Mount Olympus, in the cities of Argos and Tauropolis, in the Egyptian city of Memphis, and at Babylon. Once he attained eminent wisdom in pagan philosophy and the sorcerer's craft, he was consecrated into the pagan priesthood on Mount Olympus. Having discovered great power by summoning unclean spirits, he beheld the Prince of Darkness himself, and spoke with him and received from him a host of demons in attendance.

After returning to Antioch, Cyprian was revered by the pagans as an eminent pagan priest, amazing people by his ability to cast spells, to summon pestilence and plagues, and to conjure up the dead. The mighty pagan priest brought many people to ruin, teaching them magic spells and service to demons.

The holy virgin Justina lived in Antioch. After turning her own father and mother away from pagan error and leading them to the true faith in Christ, she dedicated herself to the Heavenly Bridegroom and spent her time in fasting and prayer. When the youth Aglaïdes proposed marriage to her, the saint

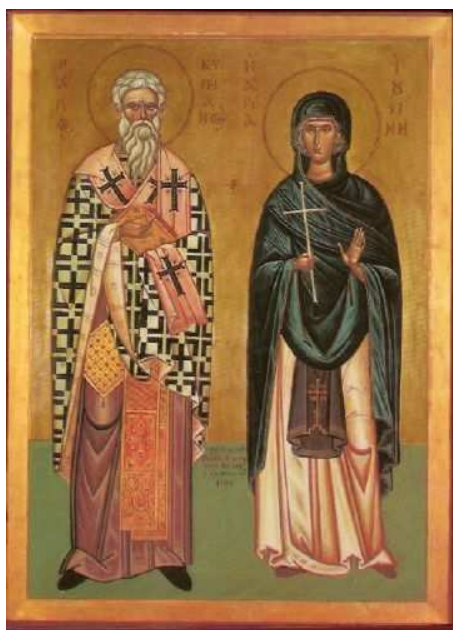
refused, for she wished to remain a virgin. Aglaïdes sought Cyprian's help and asked for a magic spell to charm Justina into marriage. But no matter what Cyprian tried, he could accomplish nothing, since the saint overcame all the wiles of the devil by her prayers and fasting.

Cyprian sent demons to attack the holy virgin, trying to arouse fleshly passions in her, but she dispelled them by the power of the Sign of the Cross and by fervent prayer to the Lord.

Even though one of the demonic princes and Cyprian himself, assumed various guises by the power of sorcery, they were not able to sway St. Justina, who was guarded by her firm faith in Christ. All the spells dissipated, and the demons fled at the mere mention of the saint's name. Enraged, Cyprian sent down pestilence and plague upon Justina's family and upon all the city, but this was thwarted by her prayer.

At last Cyprian began to realize how powerless the demons were against Christ, and he decided to confront the demon with whom he had been cooperating.

"If you take fright at even the mere shadow of the Cross and the Name of Christ makes you tremble," said Cyprian to Satan,



“then what will you do when Christ Himself stands before you?” The devil then flung himself upon the pagan priest who had begun to repudiate him, and attempted to beat and strangle him.

St. Cyprian then first tested for himself the power of the Sign of the Cross and the Name of Christ, guarding himself from the fury of the enemy. Afterwards, with deep repentance he went to the local bishop Anthimus and threw all of his pagan books of magic into the flames. The very next day, he went into the church, and did not want to emerge from it, though he had not yet been baptized.

By his efforts to follow a righteous manner of life, St. Cyprian discerned the great power of fervent faith in Christ, and made up for more than thirty years of service to Satan. Seven days after Baptism he was ordained reader, on the twelfth day, subdeacon, on the thirtieth, deacon. After a year, he was ordained priest. In a short time St. Cyprian was elevated to the rank of bishop.

Bishop Cyprian converted so many pagans to Christ that in his diocese there was no one

left to offer sacrifice to idols, and the pagan temples fell into disuse. St. Justina withdrew to a monastery and there was chosen Abbess.

During the persecution against Christians under the emperor Diocletian, however, Bishop Cyprian and Abbess Justina were arrested and brought to Nicomedia, where after fierce tortures they were beheaded with the sword. St. Cyprian, fearful that the holy virgin’s courage might falter if she saw him put to death, asked for time to pray. St. Justina joyfully inclined her neck and was beheaded first.

The soldier Theoctistus, seeing the guiltless sufferings of St. Justina, fell at Cyprian’s feet and declared himself a Christian, and was beheaded with them.

Thus by the power of Christ, and by the sign of the precious Cross of the Lord, Sts. Cyprian and Justina overcame the enemy of our souls. Through their holy prayers, may our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us as well. Amen.



Opportunity may
knock just
once, but
temptation bangs on the
front door forever.