



St. Michael the Archangel Eastern Orthodox Mission Newsletter

September 2009

Divine Liturgy 10:00 A.M.

So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter. Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.

- 2 Thessalonians 2:15-16

Important Upcoming Church Dates:

Sunday, Sept 6th – Parable of the Vineyard (Matt 21:33-42)

Friday, Sept 11th – The Beheading of the Prophet, Forerunner of the Lord, John the Baptist – day of fasting. (*no services*)

Saturday, Sept. 12th – Class studying the Service of Vespers, 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, Sept 13th – **GENERAL PARISH ASSEMBLY. Potluck lunch.** Church school for children at 9:20 a.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 16 – Adult Class on the faith begins again, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Sunday, Sept 20th – Forefeast of the Nativity of the Theotokos.

Sunday, Sept. 20th – Vespers for the Nativity of the Theotokos, 5:00 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 21 – **NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS** (*no services that day*)

Saturday, Sept 26th – Vespers for the Exaltation of the Cross, 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, Sept 27th – **EXALTATION OF THE PRECIOUS & LIFE-GIVING CROSS.**
Fasting Potluck after Liturgy.

Coffee Hour:

Sept 6th – Zarzaur

Sept 13th – *potluck*

Sept 20th – Bergantz

Sept 27th – *Fasting potluck*

Oct 4th – Branham

Oct 11th – Buksa

Oct 18th – Ellis

Oct 25th – Stein

September Birthdays:

God Grant Them Many Years!

3rd – Ashley Zarzaur

7th – Bob Zarzaur

11th – Jim Cesari

17th – Brian Jokich

20th – Ted Gulas

21st – Markela Hatzakis

25th – Edward Patterson

30th – Mike Samotowka

September Anniversaries:

10th – Mike & Michele Jokich

15th – Elaine & Elias Katsaros

Church Cleaning:

Sept – Ellis

Oct – Jokich

NOTE: When cleaning the Church, Fr. Benedict asks that families clean only the main part of the Church, not behind the icon screen. Father will be responsible for cleaning the Altar area each month. In general, in our Church's tradition the Altar area is entered only with necessity and with the priest's blessing.

Prayer Requests: Please remember in your prayers: Jean Pepp – bone cancer (sister of Elizabeth Wharry); Ray, Marilyn – friends of Steve Demora; Child Jovana (2 years old – leukemia); Antonia with child; Katarzyna Bazylewicz; Tatiana Kukhtareva; Mariam & Tom Calache; 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; Vangie Pamfilis; Pat Darzy; Mary Zarzaur; and Natalie (niece of Rick Kaiser).

✘ **Departed:** Newly Departed Archpriest Joseph Hirsch, of Denver, Colorado.

Quotable:

With hurricanes, tornados, fires out of control, mud slides, flooding, severe thunderstorms tearing up the country from one end to another, and with the threat of swine flu and terrorist attacks, are we sure this is a good time to take God out of the Pledge of Allegiance? - Jay Leno

Know Your Saints . . .

St. Mamas of Caesarea

Whom the Church remembers September 15

The Holy Great Martyr Mamas was born in Paphlagonia, Asia Minor in the third century of pious and illustrious parents, the Christians Theodotus and Rufina. The parents of the saint were arrested by the pagans for their open confession of their faith and locked up in prison in Caesarea in Cappadocia.

Knowing his own bodily weakness, Theodotus prayed that the Lord would take him before he

was tortured. The Lord heard his prayer and he died in prison. St Rufina died also after him, after giving birth to a premature son. She entrusted him to God, beseeching Him to be the Protector and Defender of the orphaned infant.

God heard the dying prayer of St Rufina: a rich Christian widow named Ammia reverently buried the bodies of Sts Theodotus and



Rufina, and she took the boy into her own home and raised him as her own son. St Mamas grew up in the Christian Faith. His foster mother concerned herself with the developing of his natural abilities, and early on she sent him off to study his grammar.

The boy learned easily and willingly. He was not of an age of mature judgment but distinguished himself by maturity of mind and of heart. By means of prudent conversations and personal example young Mamas converted many of his own peers to Christianity.

The governor, Democritus, was informed of this, and the fifteen-year-old Mamas was arrested and brought to trial. In deference to his illustrious parentage, Democritus decided not to subject him to torture, but instead sent him off to the emperor Aurelian (270-275). The emperor tried at first kindly, but then with threats to turn St Mamas back to the pagan faith, but all in vain. The saint bravely confessed himself a Christian and pointed out the madness of the pagans in their worship of lifeless idols.

Infuriated, the emperor subjected the youth to cruel tortures. They tried to drown the saint, but an angel of the Lord saved St Mamas and bade him live on a high mountain in the wilderness, not far from Caesarea. Bowing to the will of God, the saint built a small church there and began to lead a life of strict temperance, in exploits of fasting and prayer.

Soon he received a remarkable power over the forces of nature: wild beasts inhabiting the surrounding wil-

derness gathered at his abode and listened to the reading of the Holy Gospel. St Mamas nourished himself on the milk of wild goats and deer.

The saint did not ignore the needs of his neighbors. Preparing cheese from this milk, he gave it away freely to the poor. Soon the fame of St Mamas's life spread throughout all of Caesarea.

The governor sent a detachment of soldiers to arrest him. When they encountered St Mamas on the mountain, the soldiers did not recognize him, and mistook him for a simple shepherd. The saint then invited them to his dwelling, gave them a drink of milk and then told them his name, knowing that death for Christ awaited him. The servant of God told the servant of the Emperor to go on ahead of him into Caesarea, promising that he would soon follow. The soldiers waited for him at the gates of the city, and St Mamas, accompanied by a lion, met them there.

Surrendering himself into the hands of the torturers, St Mamas was brought to trial under a deputy governor named Alexander, who subjected him to intense and prolonged tortures. They did not break the saint's will, however. He was strengthened by the words addressed to him from above: "Be strong and take courage, Mamas."

When they threw St Mamas to the wild beasts, these creatures would not touch him. Finally, one of the pagan priests struck him with a trident. Mortally wounded, St Mamas went out beyond the city limits. There, in a small stone cave, he gave up his spirit to God,

Who in the hearing of all summoned the holy Martyr Mamas into His heavenly habitation. He was buried by believers at the place of his death.

Christians soon began to receive help from him in their afflictions and sorrows. St Basil the Great speaks thus about the holy Martyr Mamas in a sermon to the people: "Remember the holy martyr, you who live here and have him

as a helper. You who call on his name have been helped by him. Those in error he has guided into life. Those whom he has healed of infirmity, those whose children were dead he has restored to life, those whose life he has prolonged: let us all come together as one, and praise the martyr! "

A Morning Prayer to the Holy Trinity

By St. Basil the Great

Arising from sleep I thank Thee, O Holy Trinity, that, for the sake of Thy great kindness and long-suffering, Thou hast not had indignation against me, for I am slothful and sinful, neither hast Thou destroyed me in my transgressions: but Thou hast shown Thy customary love towards man, and hast raised me up as I lay in heedlessness, that I might sing my morning hymn and glorify Thy sovereignty.

Do Thou now enlighten the eyes of my understanding, open my ears to receive Thy words and teach me Thy commandments. Help me to do Thy will, to hymn Thee, to confess Thee from my heart, and to extol Thine All-holy Name, of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and for ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Abba Zeno said, "If a man wants God to hear his prayer quickly, then before he prays for anything else, even his own soul, when he stands and stretches out his hands towards God, he must pray with all his heart for his enemies. Through this action God will hear everything that he asks."