



# ALL-MERCIFUL SAVIOR MISSION NEWSLETTER

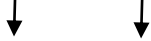
meeting at: 4315 S. 1st Street, Suite F, Austin, Texas 78745 phone: 731-5920

mailing address: 1509 Cullen Avenue, Austin, Texas 78757

website: <http://www.allmercifulsavior.com>

## 21<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF PENTECOST, NOV. 13, 2005

civil date / church date



## THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

<b>Nov. 13 / Oct. 31</b>	<b>SUNDAY</b>	21 of Pentecost. Tone 4. St. John Kochurov of Chicago, priest, new-martyr. <b>Service 10 a.m.</b>
Nov. 14 / Nov. 1	Monday	Sts. Cosmas and Damian, unmercenary healers, martyrs.
Nov. 15 / Nov. 2	Tuesday	Sts. Acindynus, Pegasius, Aphthonius, Elpidophorus, Anempodistus, martyrs.
Nov. 16 / Nov. 3	Wednesday <i>Fast</i>	Sts. Acepsimas, bishop; Joseph, priest; & Aithalas, deacon, all martyrs.
Nov. 17 / Nov. 4	Thursday	St. Joannicius the Great of Bithynia, monastic father.
Nov. 18 / Nov. 5	Friday <i>Fast</i>	Sts. Galacteon & his wife Episteme, martyrs.
Nov. 19 / Nov. 6	Saturday	St. Paul the Confessor, archbishop of Constantinople. <b>Vigil 6:30 p.m.</b>

## TEACHINGS OF ST. JOHN CASSIAN ON THE 8 PASSIONS--PART 6

... **Pride.** The eighth and last struggle that confronts us is that with the spirit of pride. While this passion is last in the order of this rendition, in terms of its beginning and time, it is foremost. Pride is the most ferocious and untamable animal, especially attacking and devouring those striving for perfection after they have almost achieved the highest level of virtue.

There are two types of pride: the first is one that vanquishes those that are of a high spiritual standing, while the second defeats the novices and the carnal. Although both types of pride produce a destructive arrogance before God and people, the first relates directly to God while the second concerns people.

There is no other passion like pride that can eradicate all virtues and deprive a person of righteousness. Like some disease, this passion strikes the whole being with a deadly affliction and attempts to plunge to their destruction even those that have achieved the pinnacle of virtues. The other passions have their limitations, arising against only one selected virtue. Thus, for example, gluttony violates the demands of temperance, lust defiles chastity, anger drives away patience. As a result, being conquered by any one of the passions doesn't make the person devoid of other virtues. But when this particular passion captures the soul, it denies that person the protection of humility, utterly destroying his spiritual framework. Having leveled the high wall of piety and mixed it with the mud of iniquity, it deprives the soul of any traces of freedom — and the stronger it seizes the rich soul, the more it subjects it to the heavy yoke of slavery, stripping it of all its finery of virtues with the cruelest plunder.

Consequently, we must strive toward perfection with the needed fervor toward fasting, vigilance, prayer, a penitent heart and body, and other self-denying efforts, so that our labors are not ineffectual. It must be remembered that through just our efforts and self-sacrifice alone, we will not only be unable to achieve perfection, but without God's grace, we would not be able to perform the actual work of self-sacrifice and other spiritual labors. *next week: What are the signs of pride?*

## SAINTS OF OCTOBER 31

**Holy Apostles Stachys, Amplias, Urban, Narcissus, Apelles and Aristobulus:** They were all of the Seventy. Stachys was an assistant to St. Andrew the First-called. St. Andrew appointed him Bishop of Byzantium. He established the church in Argyropolis and governed his flock faithfully and zealously. After sixteen years as bishop, he entered peacefully into rest in the Lord. Amplias and Urban worked likewise with St. Andrew, and were ordained bishops by him-Amplias in Lydda of Odysopolis in Judea, and Urban in Macedonia. Both died as martyrs for Christ the Lord. Narcissus was

appointed Bishop of Athens by the Apostle Philip. St. Apelles was Bishop of Heraclea in Trachis. Aristobulus, brother of the Apostle Barnabas, preached the Christian Faith in Britain and reposed peacefully there.

**Holy Martyr Epimachus:** He was born in Egypt and labored there in asceticism, ending his earthly life as a martyr. Imitating St. John the Baptist, he withdrew to the wilderness while still a youth. Because of his great love for God, the Spirit of God led him to every truth and, with no other teacher, taught him how to live a life of asceticism. Then, Epimachus learned that the unbelievers were torturing and killing Christians in Alexandria for the sake of Christ. All aflame with zeal for the Faith, he went to the city and smashed the idols. When the pagans tortured him for this, he cried out: "Smite me, spit on me, put a crown of thorns on my head, put a reed in my hand, give me gall to drink, crucify me on a cross, and pierce me with a spear! This is what my Lord endured, and I too want to endure it." In the crowd of people who witnessed the torturing of St. Epimachus, there was a woman who was blind in one eye. She wept bitterly, watching the heartless torture of this God-pleaser. When the tormentors scraped the body of the holy martyr of Christ, blood spurted from him, and one drop of blood touched the blind eye of that woman. Suddenly, her blind eye regained vision, and was as whole as the other. Then she cried out: "Great is the God in whom this sufferer believes!" After this they beheaded St. Epimachus and his soul took up habitation in eternal joy, in about the year 250.

**Holy Martyr Nicholas of Chios:** Nicholas was a pious youth and a great zealot for the Christian Faith. On the island of Chios he was tortured and beheaded by the Turks in the year 1754, and gave his righteous soul to God.

**Venerable Spyridon and Nicodemus:** They were monks and prosphora-bakers in the Kiev Caves Lavra. Spyridon was illiterate but knew the whole Psalter by heart. He worked many miracles and entered into rest in the year 1148.

#### HOMILY

**"I shall not die, but live, and I shall tell of the works of the Lord."** Psalm 117:17

Who can say: I shall not die? He who cleaves to the Living Lord. Who can confirm with confidence: but [I shall] live? He who sees the Living Lord before him. Enoch and Elias did not die, but were taken into eternal life. The Lord took them in His mercy, and as proof to mankind of immortal life. Jesus Christ the Lord died and resurrected in accordance with His power, and as proof to mankind of the resurrection from the dead. The apostles and saints were slain, but many of them appeared from the other world in their love for mankind, and as proof to mankind of eternal life. Thus, those who were taken up to heaven in the flesh and those whose bodies reposed, live with the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ in the Immortal Kingdom. I shall not die, but live, said King David with great certainty, even though he lived on earth before the Resurrection of the Lord, and before the announcement of the General Resurrection of the righteous. With still more certainty, each of us Christians must speak this too: I shall not die, but live, for the resurrected Lord is the foundation of our Faith, and our eyes have seen and our ears have heard more-much more-than the eyes and ears of King David. After the Cross of Christ, the devil became as smoke; and after His Resurrection, death became like a mere fog through which one passes to the sunlit field of immortality. Blessed is he, brethren, who becomes worthy to live, and declare the works of the Lord. O Living Lord, enliven us and save us. To Thee be glory and praise forever. Amen.

—From the Prologue From Ochrid by St. Nikolai Velimirovitch (+1956, Illinois)

## NEWS

- Invite your friends to come and quietly worship with you at All-Merciful Savior.
- The **Western Saints Icon Project** on our church website (<http://www.allmercifulsavior.com/Saints.htm>) has been expanded to include 345 Western Saints. This is up from 213 when Fr. Aidan restored the Project using All-Merciful Savior's site.

## SCRIPTURES THIS WEEK

Today: Galatians 2:16-20, Luke 8:26-39

Mon. 1 Thessalonians 2:20-3:8; Luke 11:29-33

Tue. 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 11:34-41

Wed. 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12; Luke 11:42-46

Thu. 1 Thessalonians 5:1-8; Luke 11:47-12:1

Fri. 1 Thessalonians 5:9-13, 24-28; Luke 12:2-12

Sat. 2 Corinthians 5:1-10; Luke 7:1-10

---

**Troparion, tone 8.** O All-Merciful Saviour, Thou Luminary like the sun: | Through the light of Thy radiance grant us eloquence, | that with pure conscience we may sing praises on Thy feast all-divine, | glorifying Thee the only-begotten Son, and the consubstantial Spirit; | for Thou givest us peace and great mercy.

**Kontakion, t. 4.** I committed every abomination, O All-Merciful Saviour, | and fell into the pit of despair. | Yet I groan from the depths of my heart | and cry to Thee, O Word: | Hasten, O Merciful One, | and quickly help us, | for merciful art Thou!

---

**Troparion, tone 8.** O All-Merciful Saviour, Thou Luminary like the sun: | Through the light of Thy radiance grant us eloquence, | that with pure conscience we may sing praises on Thy feast all-divine, | glorifying Thee the only-begotten Son, and the consubstantial Spirit; | for Thou givest us peace and great mercy. **Kontakion, tone 4.** I committed every abomination, O All- Merciful Saviour, | and fell into the pit of despair. | Yet I groan from the depths of my heart | and cry to Thee, O Word: | Hasten, O Merciful One, | and quickly hep us, | for merciful art Thou!