



# ALL-MERCIFUL SAVIOR MISSION NEWSLETTER

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## 22ND SUNDAY OF PENTECOST, NOV. 20, 2005

civil date / church date



## THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Nov. 20 / Nov. 7	<b>SUNDAY</b>	22 of Pentecost. Tone 5. Sts. Hieron, Hesychius, Nicander, & other Martyrs. <b>Service 10 a.m.</b>
Nov. 21 / Nov. 8	Monday	The Holy Fleshless Archangels, Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, & the Rest.
Nov. 22 / Nov. 9	Tuesday	Icon of the Mother of God, "She Who is Quick to Hear."
Nov. 23 / Nov. 10	Wednesday <i>Fast</i>	New-MM. Abps. Augustine & Procopius, archim. Joannicius, & al. in Russia
Nov. 24 / Nov. 11	Thursday—Thanksgiving	Martyrs Sts. Mennas of Egypt, Victor of Syria, & Vincent of Spain.
Nov. 25 / Nov. 12	Friday <i>Fast, OW*</i>	St. John the Merciful, patriarch of Alexandria.
Nov. 26 / Nov. 13	Saturday	St. John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople. <b>Vigil 6:30 p.m.</b>

\* *Fast, OW* means that oil and wine are allowed that day. \**Fast, FOW* means fish is also allowed that day.

## TEACHINGS OF ST. JOHN CASSIAN ON THE 8 PASSIONS--PART 7

... **Pride** (continued). These are the signs of carnal pride: during conversation — being vociferous, in silence — being miserable, during times of joy — loud laughter, in sorrow — excessive gloom, in giving a reply — causticity, in a serious conversation — flippancy, when words are uttered haphazardly without the heart's participation. Carnal pride is not acquainted with patience, is alien to love, brazen in inflicting insults but weak in enduring them, slow in obedience if it goes against its personal will and wishes, inflexible toward admonishments, not capable of renouncing personal whims, extremely stubborn in being subordinate to others, always striving to insist on its own decisions, does not agree to make concessions to others. In this way, by becoming incapable of accepting redeeming advice, carnal pride believes more in its own opinion than those of experienced elders ("starets").

It is impossible to overcome any passion without deep and sincere humility — and you cannot attain perfection and purity except through genuine humility. -- St. John Cassian was a monastic Father of the 5th century. He founded monastic life in Gaul (France).

## SAINTS OF NOVEMBER 7

**Holy Martyr Hieron and his companions:** Hieron was born in Tyana in Cappadocia of a good and devout mother, Stratonika, who was blind. Hieron was a very zealous Christian and served his blind mother with great filial love. For two reasons he did not wish to join the army, and he resisted and drove off those who had been sent to take him. Hieron was loath to leave his helpless mother, and it was grievous for him even to consider that, as a soldier, he would be compelled to offer sacrifices to idols. Finally, Hieron was arrested along with other Christians, and they were all taken before the eparch of the town of Melitene. While they were still on the road, a man clad in a brilliant white garment appeared to Hieron one night and said: "Behold, Hieron, I proclaim salvation to you: you shall not wage war for an earthly king, but for the Heavenly King you will complete your struggle, and you shall soon come to Him to receive honor and glory." At this, Hieron's heart was filled with inexpressible joy. In Melitene they were all thrown into prison and Hieron, with great zeal, strengthened all the prisoners in the Faith, urging that not even one of them fall away, but that all willingly offer their bodies to torture and death for Christ. All but one confessed their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. The exception was Hieron's kinsman Victor, who fell away from the Faith. The tormentors cut one of Hieron's hands off, then flogged and tortured him in various ways until they beheaded him and the others. Going to the place of execution, these thirty-three martyrs chanted the Psalm: Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the Lord (Psalms 118:1). Here we will name the honorable martyrs whose names are written with his in the Book of Life: Hesychius, Nicander,

Athanasius, Mamas, Barachius, Callinicus, Theogenes, Nikon, Longinus, Theodore, Valerius, Xanthius, Theodulus, Callimachus, Eugenius, Theodochus, Ostrichius, Epiphanius, Maximian, Ducitius, Claudian, Theophilus, Gigantius, Dorotheus, Theodotus, Castrichius, Anicletus, Themilius, Euty chius, Hilarion, Diodotus and Amonitus. A man named Chrysanthus purchased Hieron's severed head and honorably buried it, later building a church over it in the saint's name. The martyr's severed hand was brought to his blind mother. St. Hieron, with his companions, suffered in the year 298 and entered the glory of Christ.

**Holy Martyr Thessalonica with Auctus and Taurion:** This maiden was the daughter of a pagan priest, Cleon, a rich and arrogant man. Because of her faith in Christ, her father drove her from the house and city. Two honorable citizens, Auctus and Taurion, reproached Cleon for his inhuman treatment of his daughter, and he in turn denounced them as Christians. They were bitterly tortured and beheaded for Christ. Thessalonica was then tortured and slain as well. They suffered in the Macedonian city of Amphipolis near present day Kavala. Thus, these martyrs were made worthy of the Immortal Kingdom by their honorable suffering.

**Venerable Lazarus of Galesius:** A pillar of light appeared above the house where he was born. Lazarus left his village of Magnesia and went to Jerusalem on a pilgrimage to the holy places. There, he was tonsured a monk in the Monastery of St. Sava the Sanctified. After ten years, he settled on Mount Galesius and lived a life of asceticism on a pillar as a stylite. Lazarus was a miracle-worker both during his life and after death. Emperor Constantine Monomachus had great respect for him. Attaining old age, St. Lazarus entered into eternity toward the end of the eleventh century.

#### REFLECTION

There are decisive moments in life upon which a man's eternal life or eternal death depend. We do not know when this decisive moment will come for us—perhaps today—and because of this we must be unceasingly vigilant. Victor, a kinsman of St. Hieron, was arrested with him. On the day before their torture, Victor, in terror of the impending tortures, went to the prison warden and begged him to take his name off the list of the condemned and release him, promising to give him his land. The warden removed his name and released him. However, upon returning home, Victor died of natural causes in the same moment that St. Hieron and his companions died in torments for Christ. Thus Victor vainly missed the decisive moment: he lost his land, his friends and both his earthly and heavenly life. In that same decisive moment, Hieron gained all. No one vied for Victor's body, while many vied for Hieron's body. When Christians sought the head of Hieron from the eparch, he asked as much gold for it as it weighed. Chrysanthus, a wealthy and devout man, paid that much gold for the martyr's honorable head.

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

## NEWS

- Invite your family and friends to come and worship with you at All-Merciful Savior.
- Please note that you can order delicious, high-quality coffee from Haiti for only \$15 a pound, and support the Haitian Orthodox Mission headed by Fr. Gregory Williams. The coffee is grown organically, purchased directly from a peasant-owned collective, and the roasted whole beans are vacuum-bagged. Just send your order (\$15 per pound, for shipping and handling \$5 for 1 or 2 packages; call 615/536-5239 for shipping cost of larger quantities) to: Haitian Orthodox Mission, attn: Mission Bleu Coffees, 1180 Orthodox Way, Liberty, TN 37095. You can give someone a gift, and support Orthodox mission in an impoverished nation, at the same time!
- The **Western Saints Icon Project** on our church website (<http://www.allmercifulsavior.com/Saints.htm>) has been expanded and now represents 355 Western Saints.

## SCRIPTURES THIS WEEK

Today: Galatians 6:11-18, Luke 8:41-56

Mon. 2 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Luke 12:13-15, 22-31

Tue. 2 Thessalonians 1:10-2:2; Luke 12:42-48

Wed. 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12; Luke 12:48-59

Thu. 2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:5; Luke 13:1-9

Fri. 2 Thessalonians 3:6-18, 24-28; Luke 13:31-35

Sat. 2 Corinthians 8:1-5; Luke 8:16-21

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**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!

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