

## A FAMILY UNITED BY THE LORD

We have all heard heartwarming stories of family members that have been separated for long periods of time, only to be reunited later in life under circumstances that could only be described as miraculous. Such is the story of Xenophon and his family. Xenophon lived in Constantinople in the sixth century. He and his wife Maria were the parents of two sons -- John and Arcadios. They were determined to give them the best Christian upbringing, so when the boys became young adults, Xenophon and Maria sent them to Beirut to further their education in one of the finest institutions of higher learning at the time.

Disaster struck for John and Arcadios as they crossed the sea on their journey. Encountering a terrible storm, their ship capsized. Both young men survived and made their way to shore. Unfortunately, they were separated and each thought the other had perished! In their grief, they each entered a monastery, with John settling in a community near the city of Tyre and Arcadios becoming a part of the St. Sabbas Monastery near Jerusalem.

Two years later, a monk visiting Constantinople happened to meet Xenophon and Maria. When he told them of a young monk he had met in Jerusalem who had survived a ship wreck, the couple immediately set out for the Holy City. At the same time, John decided to make a pilgrimage to the sacred places in the Holy Land. Through divine providence, all four were reunited at the tomb of Christ in Jerusalem.

In gratitude to God for restoring their family, Xenophon and Maria also embraced the monastic way of life, giving themselves entirely to the service of His Holy Church.

## WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN

February 7, 2016.

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36<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**TODAY'S READINGS: Epistle: 1.Tim. 1, 15-17; Gospel: Lk. 18, 35-43;**

**TODAY WE CELEBRATE:**

**ST GREGORY THE THEOLOGIAN, ARCHBISHOP OF CONSTANTINOPLE**

Gregory was born in Nazianzus of a Greek father [who later became a Christian and a bishop] and a Christian mother. Before his baptism, he studied in Athens with Basil the Great and Julian the Apostate. Gregory often prophesied that Julian would become an apostate and a persecutor of the Church, and this actually happened. Gregory's good mother, Nonna, had an especially great influence on him. When he had completed his studies Gregory was baptized. St. Basil consecrated him as Bishop of Sasima, and Emperor Theodosius the Great summoned him to fill the vacant archepiscopal throne of Constantinople. He wrote numerous works, the most famous of which are those on theology, for which he is called The Theologian. Especially known, because of its depth, is his work Homilies on The Holy Trinity. Gregory wrote against the heretic Macedonius, who erroneously taught that the Holy Spirit is a creation of God. He also wrote against Apollinarius, who erroneously taught that Christ did not have a human soul, but that His divinity was in lieu of His soul. Additionally Gregory wrote against Emperor Julian the Apostate, his one-time fellow student. In 381 A.D., when a debate began regarding his election as archbishop, he withdrew on his own and issued a statement: "Those who deprive us of our archepiscopal throne cannot deprive us of God." Afterward he left Constantinople and went to Nazianzus, and there he lived a life of solitude and prayer, writing beneficial books. Although he was in poor health throughout his entire life, Gregory nevertheless lived to be eighty years old. His relics were later transferred to Rome. A reliquary containing his head reposes in the Cathedral of the Dormition in Moscow. He was, and remains, a great and wonderful light of the Orthodox Church, as much by his meekness and purity of character as by the unsurpassable depth of his mind. He reposed in the Lord in the year 390 A.D.

**THE VENERABLE PUBLIUS**

At first Publius was a senator. Recognizing the light of Christ, he left his worldly honors, distributed his possessions to the poor, and devoted himself to a life of asceticism in the proximity of his town, Zeguma, on the Euphrates River. He established two monastic communities and reposed in the year 380 A.D.

**THE VENERABLE MARES**

Mares was distinguished by physical beauty and a sweet-sounding voice. He withdrew from the world and lived in a hut for thirty-seven years, in fasting and cleansing the heart of impure thoughts. Mares reposed in the Lord at the age of ninety, in the year 430 A.D.

**HOMILY**

on Who Christ is

*"Who do men say that I am?" (Mark 8:27).*

Brethren, it is almost two-thousand years from that day when our Lord Jesus posed this question to His disciples. From then until today, this question has been put to every generation of men, to every bright day and every dark night. And every generation of men--and every bright day and every dark night--has had to give an answer to this question. This question is the question of life or death, and the answer to it is life-bearing or death-bearing. Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God (Matthew 16:16), the Apostle Peter responded. And that reply was approved and praised by the Lord Jesus.

"Who is Christ?" men ask today. Some say, along with the Jews, that He is a destroyer of the Law and a self-styled Messiah. Others say, along with Pilate, that on the whole they cannot arrive at the truth about this man. The third say, along with the apostles, that He is

**Most things wrong in your life started by forgetting the things that were right.**

the Christ, the Son of the Living God, the Savior, the Redeemer of the human race from sin and death, the Resurrected and the Resurrector; the Living One and the Giver of Life. And all of us, who are baptized in the name of the Holy Trinity, agree with the apostles and the Holy Apostolic Church, which with her universal voice thus confesses Christ the Lord. O Lord, Only-begotten Son of God, help us, that we may all the days of our life believe in Thee in our hearts and confess Thee with our lips, as our God and our Savior, as the power of God and the wisdom of God (1 Corinthians 1:24). To Thee be glory and praise forever. Amen.

Today, after Divine Liturgy, we will have PARASTOS for GEORGE and FRANCIS KOZLINA and JOHN KORDOWSKI

On Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, is the Feast of Synaxis of the Three Holy Hierarchs  
DIVINE LITURGY WILL START AT 9:30AM.

The KCC Fund raising lunch will be held downstairs in the church hall after church TODAY. Please plan to attend!

Lunch(from scratch) will be prepared by protinica Sava and donated by Protina and protinica Krstic.

Menu: Chicken vegetable soup, salad, home made dinner roll and Roast Beef in mushroom Gravy with potatos.

Adults: \$ 12.00; Students: \$ 5.00



**St. Elijah Choir's 14th Annual Bowling "Ball"**

Saturday, February 20, 2016 Baden Bowl 346 Ohio River Blvd. Baden, PA 15005

\$25.00 per person\* Fee includes: bowling, dinner, dance and PRIZES!  
Bowling: 2:00 PM Dinner: Immediately following bowling Dance:5 PM-9 PM  
Entertainment by: Dan, Doki, and Pristi



Not a bowler?? You can still join us at 5:00 p.m. for dinner and dancing at the: St. Elijah Serbian Center -\$15  
Registration forms are located next to the bulletin



**VISITS**

February 3<sup>rd</sup> - Sewickley Medical Center - Nick Belich

February 4<sup>th</sup> - West Hills - Joseph Mrkonja

February 5<sup>th</sup> - Beaver Valley Rehab. Center - Sandy Giordano

February 5<sup>th</sup> - Franciscan Manor - Nell Semick, Rudy Kosanovich, Millie (Rebich) Winlow

February 5<sup>th</sup> - Cambridge Village - Mary Ulinski

