

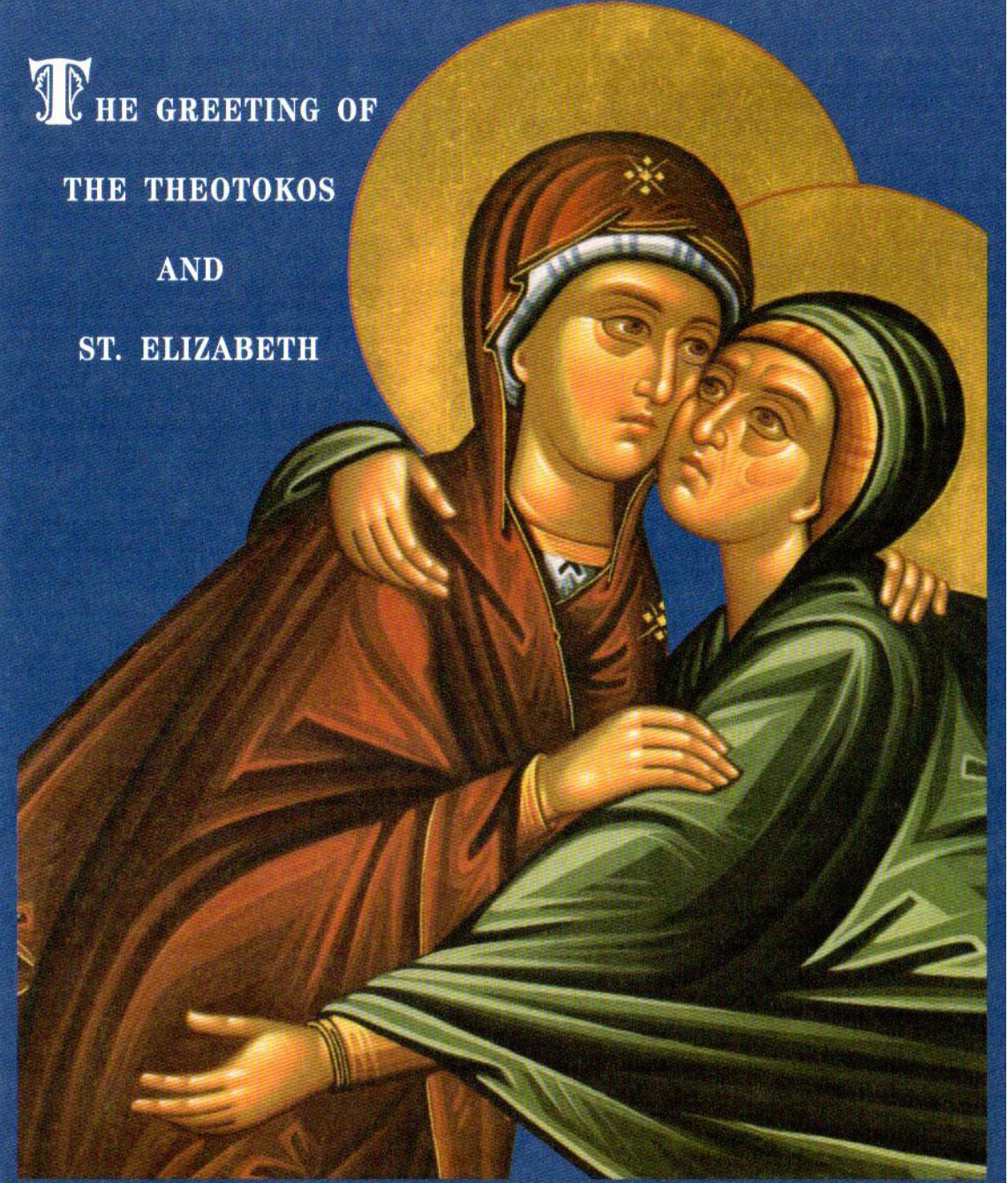
THE HOLY VIRGIN AND ST. ELIZABETH

Saint Luke opens the door for us to an intimate visit of the Holy Virgin to her cousin Elizabeth. It is a rare and personal incident that is recorded by the Evangelist. Shortly after the Angel Gabriel announced to the Holy Virgin that she was to become the Mother of the Lord, Mary journeyed a considerable distance to visit Elizabeth, who was also with child, and her husband the Priest Zacharias. They lived in the hills of Judea.

The icon of that visitation captures the moment of salutation, as Mary and Elizabeth embrace in greeting one another. Elizabeth is *“filled with the Holy Spirit,”* and speaks of her kinswoman as *“blessed among women,”* calling her *“the Mother of my Lord.”* The Holy Virgin responds with the well-known hymn of praise which begins *“My soul does magnify the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour. For He has regarded the low estate of His handmaiden. For behold, henceforth all generations shall call me blessed . . .”*

The Holy Bible provides the basis for the Church’s giving the Holy Virgin a special place among the saints of God and the creatures of earth. This special veneration and esteem is given precisely because of her relationship to the Person of Jesus Christ: she is Mother and Birthgiver. The Church always approaches her with this relationship in mind; the Church honors the mother because of the Son.

THE GREETING OF
THE THEOTOKOS
AND
ST. ELIZABETH



2nd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN

July 3, 2016.

SAINT PROPHET ELIJAH SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

2200 Irwin St, Aliquippa, PA 15001

724.375.4074

V. Rev. Stavrophor Fr. Milan Krstic

cell: 724.302.9236

protamilan@yahoo.com; protamilan@gmail.com

stelijahaliquippa.com





TODAY'S READINGS

GOSPEL: Matthew 4, 18-23; **EPISTLE:** Rom. 2, 10-15;

TODAY WE COMMEMORATE:

THE HOLY MARTYR METHODIUS, BISHOP OF PATARA

From his youth, Methodius dedicated himself to asceticism and, as a city on a hill, was seen and summoned to the episcopacy in the city of Patara in Lycia. As a learned and eloquent hierarch, Methodius wrote against the heresy of Origen. His "God-inspired words shown throughout the entire world as lightning." The pagans rose up against him, tortured him and beheaded him in Chalcis in Syria in the year 311 A.D.

THE VENERABLE NAHUM OF OHRID

Nahum's principle feast is celebrated on December 23 and June 20 is his summer feast (Life of St. Nahum December 23). During the summer feast there is a great assembly of people at the monastery of St. Nahum. Many sick people come or are brought to beseech healing through faith and prayer over the relics of the saint. Not only Orthodox people but also those from other faiths come to seek favor from St. Nahum. In 1926, a Muslim from Resna brought and donated a bell to the monastery out of thanksgiving because St. Nahum healed his brother from his deathbed and restored him to life. The donor was Jemail Zizo and his brother, who was healed, was called Suleiman Zizo. Both were prominent citizens of Resna.

HOMILY

About how our salvation is in the hands of God

"The horse is prepared against the day of battle: but salvation is in the Lord"
(Proverbs 21:31).

We are obligated to prepare ourselves but our success depends on God. All of our preparation is only a proposal to God but the proposal does not decide, but God decides. That is why people wisely say according to their experience: man proposes and God disposes. O Soldier of Christ, prepare your mind as a good horse, arm your heart with virtues, temper your will with mortifications, but know - that "salvation is in the Lord." O Merchant of Christ, practice good trade every day, exchanging the material for the spiritual, the earthly for the heavenly and mortality for immortality, but know - that "salvation is in the Lord." O Plowman of Christ, plow and re-plow your soul, sow the good evangelical seed on it every day, weed out the field of your soul from weeds, watch over it, but know that "salvation is in the Lord." A horse did not help the pharaoh in the Red Sea. Neither did the riches of Babylon help in the day of reckoning with God. A person can prepare all but, nevertheless, in that decisive moment can lose everything. For salvation is not in preparation, but in the Lord. That is why the saints, even though most prepared for the Kingdom of God and, in their hour of death, sighed not knowing whether they will be received into the Kingdom. O how well they remember the words of the Lord: "When you have done everything that was commanded you, say: 'We are unprofitable servants!'" (St. Luke 17:10). Brethren, let us be prepared for the day of temptation, well girded and armed but let us not hope in our own preparation, but in the Lord.

O Lord our Savior, help us and save us.

To You be glory and thanks always. Amen

REFLECTION

Saint Cyprian writes about immortality: "Whenever a famous man promises you something, you would believe his promise and would not even dare to think that he who was always faithful to his word would deceive you. But behold, O treacherous one, God Himself speaks to you

GOD'S PURPOSE IS GREATER THAN YOUR PROBLEMS.

and you are wavering with doubt. God promised you immortality after your departure from this world and you impudently doubt that promise? This means: you do not recognize God at all: it means that by your unbelieving you insult Christ the Lord and Teacher." O how powerful is the faith of the saints of God! How obvious and understandable and well explained it is with simple and powerful examples! The unholy do not doubt because they are supposedly more rational but because they are unholy. The holier man is always more rational for in the clear mirror of his heart, he sees the truth.

Today, after Divine Liturgy, we will have PARASTOS for the souls of
LUCILE MUSLIN & BISA KOVACEVIC

On Thursday, July 7th, is the Feast of Birth of St. John the Baptist
DIVINE LITURGY WILL START AT 9:30AM.

A CELEBRATION IN HONOR OF HIS GRACE BISHOP DR. MITROPHAN
will be held on Saturday, August 13th, 2016 here in Aliquippa.
Please pick up the information letter next to the bulletin. Reservations must be made and paid for no later than August 1st.

- **Tea and Treasurer Baskets Fundraiser was held last Sunday. Thank you to all who donated, worked and attended it was a wonderful afternoon!**
- **100th Anniversary of SNF KENNYWOOD** please contact the home office by calling (412) 458-5227 to order your tickets. This year the park will celebrate a "Century of Serbdom" featuring on the main stage our SNF children dancing and playing songs of our glorious Serbian culture as well as a combined chorus directed by George Milosh which will entertain you as well. This is one year you do not want to miss!
- Our **102nd Church Slava Celebration** will be held on Saturday, July 30th and Sunday, July 31st. The Vesper Service will be served at 5:00 p.m. Saturday evening. On Sunday, Divine Liturgy will start at 10 a.m. with the Slava Procession around the church, blessing of the Kolac and Koljivo. Please plan to attend!

VISITS:

- June 29th - Villa St. Joseph** - Slavka Nikolic (Comm.& Conf.)
- June 30th - West Hills** - Joseph Mrkonja, Nick Bruich
- July 1st - Franciscan Manor** - Rudy Kosanovich
- July 1st - Cambridge Village** - Mary Ulinski
- July 2nd - Beaver Elder Care** - Elizabeth Belic

