Chrysostom on the Good Samaritan

St John Chrysostom (feast: Today, November 13) was able to help us see through today's Gospel, God's constant and all-embracing love for us. This parable becomes a word-picture of the entire mystery of salvation: A man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho – Adam, by trusting in himself instead of God, descended from Paradise into this world. Jericho, at 825 feet below sea level is the lowest city on earth, as far down as you can get.

He fell among robbers – Mankind apart from God is beset by the band of demonic powers led by the ruler of this age.

They stripped him of his raiment – the robe of immortality.

They departed, leaving him half dead – he was reduced to the half-life of this earth, subject to sin and death.

It happened that a priest …and a Levite came that way, but passed by on the other side – The people of Israel kept to themselves and did not aid mankind.

But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, and went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine – Christ, not from this world, who was accused of being a Samaritan (John 8:48), is that compassionate stranger. He doctors mankind by His teachings (the bandages), His anointing with the Holy Spirit (the oil), and the Eucharist (the wine) by which He begins our healing.

He set him on his own beast, brought him to an inn and took care of him - Christ joined mankind to His own human nature, brought him to the hospital of His Church and continued to minister to him as the divine physician.

When he left on the next day he gave the innkeeper two dinars and said, 'Take care of him' – After His ascension Christ entrusted mankind to the Apostolic Synod personified by its great apostle to the Gentiles, St Paul, and "through Paul to the high priests and teachers and ministers of each church," saying: "Take care of the Gentiles whom I have given to you in the Church. Since men are sick, wounded by sin, heal them, putting on them a stone plaster, that is, the prophetic sayings and the gospel teachings, making them whole through the admonitions and exhortations of the Old and New Testaments." So according to St. John Chrysostom, Paul is the one who upholds the churches of God "and heals all men through spiritual admonitions, distributing the bread of offering to each one..."

'And when I come again I will repay you' – At my second coming I will reward you.

In his important work, Orthodox Psychotherapy, the contemporary Greek Metropolitan Hierotheos Vlachos expresses the life of the Church in terms of this imagery. "So in the Church we are divided into the sick, those undergoing treatment, and those – the saints – who have already been healed. … The Fathers do not categorize people as moral and immoral or good and bad on the basis of moral laws. This division is superficial. At depth humanity is differentiated into the sick in soul, those being healed, and those healed. All who are not in a state of illumination are sick in soul... It is not only good will, good resolve, moral practice and devotion to the Orthodox Tradition which make an Orthodox, but also purification, illumination and deification." These stages of healing are the purpose of the Orthodox way of life."

Rev. Fred Saato Pamphlets - Modified

Do not forget the hungry! (Collection Basket at the door)

NOVEMBER 13, 2011

8TH SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS - ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

LK 10:25-37 **HEB 7:26-8:2** **TONE 5**

St. John of the Desert Calendar

Sunday, November 20	*9:00 AM*	*Children Religious Education*	Thanksgiving Divine Liturgy on November 24 at 9:00 am.
	10:20 AM	*Doxology*	
	10:30 AM	*Divine Liturgy Followed by the Social Hour*	

(+) Dunya Lynne Aziza, (+) Nellie O'Connor, (+) Gabriel Khordoc

Today's Intentions:

- For the Health and Salvation of John Caven
- For the Health and Salvation of Nadia Demian by Kh. Simone
- For the Repose of the Soul of Khalil Newiser & Ghazaleh El Fares by George and Vicky Ishak and Family
- For the Repose of the Soul of Nellie O'Connor by Paul & Shirley Davis
- For the Repose of the Soul of Marie Maroun Elya Hayek by Kh. Simone

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Fr. Stephen Washko, Eric Rimmer, Mary Kostisak, Andre and Osama Eid, Lynn Hume, Linda Herro, Kafa Dababneh, Camille Holt, Refga Sayegh, Bo Bolinaga, Pauline Hamra and Nadia Demian.

Some of the advertisers in our Sunday Bulletin are not renewing their ads as we are not patronizing their businesses. However, if you do patronize their businesses, please be sure to let them know that you saw their ad in our bulletin, so when the time to renew comes, they will continue to advertise with us. By the same token, please try to get new ads from any of the people you patronize: hairdressers, lawyers, etc. A business card size is $100 for a whole year and $200 for double the size. These ads help us pay for the Sunday Bulletin.

Come, plunge and swim in the Deep Water of the Liturgy

On Sunday, November **Today**, 20, and 27 at **1:00 pm**

Each session (about two hours with a ten minutes break) will include a presentation, a group discussion and Q/A sessions. (What is the Divine Liturgy? Why we do what we do at the Divine Liturgy? How one participates in the Divine Liturgy?)

PLEASE SIGN THE LIST IF YOU ARE COMING

Traditionally **Thanksgiving day** is a day spent in thanksgiving and celebration with the Family and Friends. As we noticed last year, many of our Parishioners are spending Thanksgiving day by themselves because they have no family or friends in Phoenix. This year again we ask all those who are alone to please join your Parish Family for the celebration. Please talk to Kh. Simone if you are planning to join us.

THE BISHOP'S APPEAL: The annual Bishop's Appeal is an important way in which our parish fulfills its duty to our larger Melkite family throughout the U.S. Our Father and Shepherd, Bishop Nicholas asks every Melkite household in the U.S. to give at least $100-$200 each year to support our Eparchy in America. By contributing to the Appeal, each of us responds to Christ's call to support our Church and helps fund its vital works, such as: publishing SOPHIA magazine; supporting our seminarians for the Priesthood and Diaconate; providing for our elderly priests; and educating our children and young adults. It is the holy obligation of every member of our parish to respond to his call. Please send your gift today.

Baby-sitting will be provided