

Why Go To Church When I Can Pray At Home?

by **St. John Chrysostom**

They say:

'We can pray at home.'

Thou art deceiving thyself, O man! Of course, one can pray at home. But it is impossible to pray there as in church, where such a multitude of hearts are uplifted to God, merging into one unanimous cry. Thou wilt not be so quickly heard while praying to the Master by thyself, as when praying together with thy brethren, for here in church there is something greater than thy room: Agreement, unanimity, the bond of love, and finally here are the prayers of the priests.

The priests stand before us, then, so that the prayers of the people, being weak, would be united to their more powerful prayers and together with them ascend to heaven. The Apostle Peter was freed from prison, thanks to the common prayers offered for him...If the Church's prayer was so beneficial for the Apostle Peter and delivered such a pillar of the faith from prison, why, tell me, dost thou disdain its power and what kind of justification canst thou have for this?

Hearken unto God Himself, Who says that the multitude of people who pray to him with fervor moves Him to have mercy. He says to the Prophet Jonah:

'Shall I not spare Nineveh, that great city, in which dwell more than 120 thousand people.'

He did not simply mention the multitude of people but that thou mightest know that prayer together has great power.

Source: *Mystagogy*

To Our Visitors:

We are pleased that you have chosen to worship with us. Just a reminder, however: the Sacrament of Holy Communion is a manifestation of the *unity of the Body of Christ*. As such, only those who are members in spiritual good standing of the Orthodox Church – and who have prepared themselves for the Sacrament – may partake of the Holy Chalice. However, *everyone* is welcome to come up with our people at the end of the service to receive blessed bread. *Please be sure to join us at Coffee Hour following Services.*

Ss Constantine & Helen

Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Pacific



September 23, 2018

1st Sunday of Luke

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September 23, 2018

1st Sunday of Luke

Commemoration of: Conception of John the Baptist; John the New Martyr of Epiros; Xanthippe & Polyxene the Righteous; Nicholas the New Martyr

Apolytikia - Entrance Hymns

Ex ipsus katilthes (Resurrection Hymn) Tone 8

Descending from on High, o merciful One, did You for three days burial endure, that we may be delivered from sufferings, You are our life and resurrection, Lord glory to You.

I proin u tiktusa (Conception of St. John) Tone 4

*Sing now, O barren one who did not bear before, * for you have indeed conceived the burning lamp of the Sun; * and he will illuminate * all the world afflicted * with spiritual blindness. * Dance, O Zacharias, and now openly cry out: * "The one who is to be born is a Prophet of the Most High God." (Translation from AgesInitiatives)*

Tu Stavru Su (Hymn of the Church) Tone 8

Having seen in the sky the form of Your Cross and, like Paul, having received his calling not from men, Your apostle among Kings, Lord, placed his reigning city in Your hand, which forever you guard in peace, by the intercessions of the Theotokos, for You alone are the lover of mankind.

Kontakion

Prostasia ton Hristianon Tone 2

O protection of Christians that can not be put to shame, mediation to the Creator immovable. Do not over look, the pleading voices of those in sin, but be in time as a kind one to our help, who in faith cry out to You: Hasten to intercede and be quick to beseech. You who always protect, Theotokos, those who honor You.

Epistle Reading Galatians 4:22-27

BRETHREN, Abraham had two sons, one by a slave and one by a free woman. But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, the son of the free woman through promise. Now this is an allegory: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. For it is written, "Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear; break forth and shout, you who are not in travail; for the children of the desolate one are many more than the children of her that is married."

Gospel Reading Luke 5:1-11

At that time, Jesus was standing by the lake of Gennesaret. And He saw two boats by the lake; but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their

nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, He asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when He had ceased speaking, He said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at Your word I will let down the nets." And when they had done this, they enclosed a great shoal of fish; and as their nets were breaking, they beckoned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." For he was astonished, and all who were with him, at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching men." And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed Him.

Activities & Announcements

Today

✘ SUN, 9/23– 1st Sunday of Luke

This Week

✘ TUE, 9/25– Bible Study on Gospel of St. Mark 5 to 6:30 p.m.

✘ THURS, 9/27—Volunteers needed to help make baklava 9:30 a.m. RSVP to Vicki Shiroma.

✘ SAT, 9/29– Great Vespers 5:30 p.m.; Volunteers needed to help make moussaka with Cleo Kritikos; time TBD; RSVP to Vicki Shiroma.

✘ SUN, 9/30– 2nd Sunday of Luke;

Budget Committee– Join the 2019 Budget Committee, or email pc@greekorthodoxhawaii.org with any suggestions. The proposed budget will be presented at the Parish Assembly on Nov. 4, 2018.

"At the times when you remember God, increase your prayers, so that when you forget Him, the Lord may remind you."

~St. Mark the Ascetic

"Remember that the Lord is in every Christian. When your neighbor comes to you, always have great respect for him, because the Lord is in him, and often expresses His will through him. 'It is God which works in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure' (Phil. 2:13). Therefore, do not grudge anything to your brother, but do unto him as unto the Lord; especially as you do not know in whom the Lord will come and visit you; be impartial to all, be kind to all, sincere and hospitable. Remember that sometimes God speaks even through unbelievers, or disposes their hearts towards us, as it happened in Egypt when the Lord gave Joseph favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. (Gen. 39:21)."

~St. John of Kronstadt