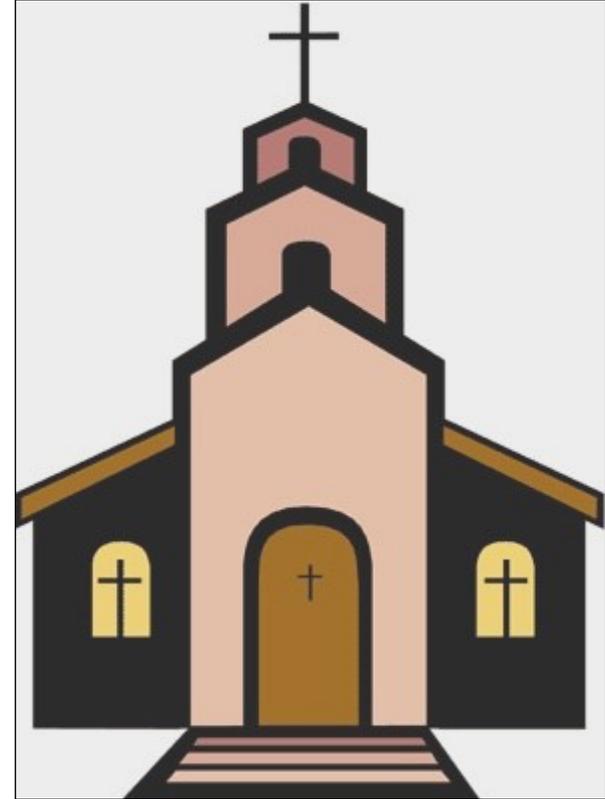




The Realities of the Spiritual World Sin and Evil

1. A lie is a delusion of the mind, while evil is a delusion of the will. The sign by which one is distinguished from the other is the judgment of God Himself ... that which he teaches a man: Truth is that which leads a man to will the good. But whatever contradicts this is entirely false, entirely evil. (St. Nicholas Cabasilas, Seven Sermons on the Life in Christ, 7)
2. Our world is guided by two principles and sources: God and the devil. All that is better in the world of men has its source in God, and all that is bad has the devil as its principle and source. In the final account, all good comes from God, and all evil from the devil. (St. Justin Popovich, Explanation of I John 3:11)
3. Food is not evil, but gluttony is. Childbearing is not evil, but fornication is. Money is not evil, but avarice is. Glory is not evil, but vain-glory is. Indeed, there is no evil in existing things, but only in their misuse. (St. Maximus the Confessor, Chapters on Love, 3.4)
4. God and the devil are found at opposite poles. No one can turn his face to God who has not first turned his back on sin. When a man turns his face to God, all of his paths lead to God. When a man turns his face away from God, all of his paths lead to perdition. When a man finally rejects God by word and in his heart, he is no longer fit to do anything that does not serve for his complete destruction, both of his soul and of his body. (St. Nicholas of Serbia, Thoughts on Good and Evil)

Ss Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Pacific



June 28, 2020
3rd Sunday of Matthew

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June 28, 2020

3rd Sunday of Matthew

Commemoration of: Finding of the Relics of Cyrus and John the Unmercenary; Pappias the Martyr; Paul the Physician of Corinth

Apolytikia - Entrance Hymns

Ote katilthes (Hymn of the Day) Tone 2
When You descended to death, O Life immortal, rendered to Hades a mortal blow by Your radiant Divinity, and when from the depths of darkness You raised the dead, all the power of Haven were crying out to You, O Giver of Life, Christ our God, glory to You.

Tu Stavru su ton tipon (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 Tone 2
Prostasia ton Hristianon
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 Romans 5:1-10

BRETHREN, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have obtained access by faith to this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in our hope of sharing the glory of God. More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us. While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Why, one will hardly die for a righteous man -- though perhaps for a good man one will dare even to die. But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we are now justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

Gospel Reading Matthew 6:22-33

The Lord said, "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is sound, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is not sound, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than

they? And which of you by being anxious can add one cubit to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O men of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek all these things; and your heavenly Father knows you need them all. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well."

Announcements

Today

✦ SUN, 6/28– 3rd Sunday of Matthew– Services via Facebook Live; 23 Year Memorial for Emanuel Peter StaVrue; Adult Religious Education via Zoom- "A Journey to Fullness: God With Us" 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

This Week.

- ✦ MON, 6/29– Feast Day of Sts. Peter & Paul via Zoom: Orthros 8:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.
- ✦ TUE, 6/30– Metropolis Special Clergy Zoom Meeting 1 to 3 p.m.; Metropolis Treasurers Zoom Meeting
- ✦ WED, 7/1– Metropolis Presidents Zoom Meeting; Young Adult Fellowship via Zoom on "Confession" 5 p.m.
- ✦ THU, 7/2– Parish Council Meeting via Zoom 5:30 p.m.
- ✦ FRI, 7/3– Metropolis Clergy Zoom Meeting 10 a.m.
- ✦ SAT, 7/4– No Great Vespers
- ✦ SUN, 7/5– 4th Sunday of Matthew– Services via Facebook Live; Adult Religious Education via Zoom- "A Journey to Fullness: Our Ultimate Purpose 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Pearls of Wisdom from the Holy Fathers

"Remember, never to fear the power of evil more than your trust in the power and love of God."

~Hermas, one of the Seventy

"Our wickedness shall not overpower the unspeakable goodness and mercy of God; our dullness shall not overpower God's wisdom, nor our infirmity God's omnipotence."

~St. John of Kronstadt

