

WE MUST OBSERVE, ANALYZE AND THEN ACT

[taken from The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin by Vestal Publications]

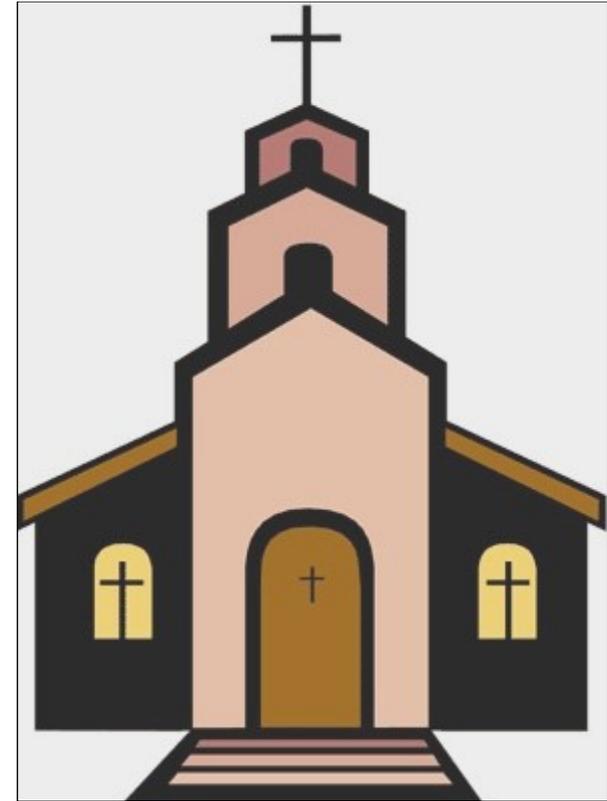
There was a saying in the Old West: “Shoot first, and ask questions later!” These words imply an impetuous and dangerous behavioral pattern that can easily get a person in trouble. In his early years, the Apostle Peter seemed to live in a manner governed by a similar philosophy. Remember his desire to walk on water like His Master? It wasn’t long before his foolish actions nearly cost him his life, for his faith was not nearly as great as his bravado! His boastful words to our Lord about how he would never deny Him—uttered without thinking first—would also painfully come back to him.

There is a “blueprint of behavior” which all Christians are called upon to follow. In all situations, we must take great care in how we act and react. We are called upon to heed the advice put forth by the Apostle James, who writes: “Let every man be swift to hear and slow to speak...” (James 1:19) Rash judgments on our part often lead to harmful action that cannot be corrected or taken back. Relationships can be irreparably damaged by reacting rashly rather than giving serious thought to what a proper course of action should be.

Our Lord Himself acted thoughtfully and deliberately in everything He did. He was a great listener, always giving those who approached Him on any matter an opportunity to fully present their questions or express their concerns before answering them. Often He would even pose question of his own so that He had a complete understanding of what was really going on. It would be worth our while to imitate His thought process and make ours as well.

Ss Constantine & Helen

Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Pacific



September 20, 2020

Sunday After the Elevation of the Holy Cross

930 Lunalilo Street, Honolulu, HI 96822

(808) 521-7220 www.greekorthodoxhawaii.org

Office: office@greekorthodoxhawaii.org

Fr. Alexander Leong: fralexanderleong@yahoo.com

September 20, 2020

Sunday After the Elevation of the Holy Cross

Commemoration of: Eustathios the Great Martyr; Bessarion of Larissa;
John the New Martyr of Crete

Apolytikia - Entrance Hymns

Soson Kirie (Hymn of the Holy Cross) Tone 1

Save, O Lord, Your people and bless Your inheritance, granting victory to the faithful over the enemy, and by Your Cross protecting Your commonwealth. (AgesInitiatives.com)

Angelike thinamis (Hymn of the Day) Tone 6

When the angelic powers appeared at Your tomb, and those who guarded it became still as dead, and standing by Your grave was Mary seeking Your most pure and sacred Body. For You did vanquish Hades and uncorrupted by its touch, You came unto the Virgin (woman), bestowing the gift of life. You who have risen from the dead, Lord glory to You.

Save, O Lord, Your people (Hymn of the Holy Cross) Tone 1

I martires su Kirie (Saints of the Day) Tone 4

*Your Martyrs, O Lord, were worthily awarded by You * the crowns of incorruption, in that they contested for You our immortal God. * Since they possessed Your power, they defeated the tyrants, * dashing the demons' powerless displays of defiance. * O Christ God, at their fervent entreaties, save our souls.*

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 (Holy Cross) Tone 4

O ipsothis en to Stavro (Holy Cross)

*You who were lifted on the cross voluntarily, * O Christ our God, bestow Your tender compassions * upon Your new community to which You gave Your name. * Cause our faithful emperors to be glad in Your power, * granting them the victories against their adversaries. * And for an ally, Lord, may they have You, * peace as their armor, the trophy invincible.* (AgesInitiatives.com)

Epistle Reading Galatians 2:16-20

BRETHREN, you know that a man is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ, and not by works of the law, because by works of the law shall no one

be justified. But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we ourselves were found to be sinners, is Christ then an agent of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again those things which I tore down, then I prove myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law, that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Gospel Reading Mark 8:34-38; 9:1

The Lord said: "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

Announcements

Today

✘ SUN, 9/20– Sunday after the Holy Cross– Services via Zoom

This Week

- ✘ TUE, 9/22–The Relationship Project for Parents/Guardians Zoom Meeting 4 p.m.
- ✘ THU, 9/24– Prayer Ministry 11 a.m.
- ✘ SAT, 9/26– Maui Services * Pending*
- ✘ SUN, 9/27– 1st Sunday of Luke; Adult Religious Education via Zoom: "The Fruit of the Spirit" on "Love" Session 1- 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Pearls of Wisdom from the Holy Fathers

"What does it mean to take up your cross? It means the willing acceptance, at the hand of Providence, of every means of healing, bitter though it may be, that is offered. Do great catastrophes fall on you? Be obedient to God's will, as Noah was. Is sacrifice demanded of you? Give yourself into God's hands with the same faith as Abraham had when he went to sacrifice his son. Is your property ruined? Do your children die suddenly? Suffer it all with patience, cleaving to God in your heart, as Job did. Do your friends forsake you, and you find yourself surrounded by enemies? Bear it all without grumbling, and with faith that God's help is at hand, as the apostles did."

~St. Nikolai Velimirovich



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