



San Antonio Byzantine Catholic Community

Meeting at St. Alphonsus Catholic Church
 1202 S. Zarzamora St., San Antonio, TX
 November 26, 2017
 25th Sunday After Pentecost

Welcome guests. Please sign the guest book in the back of the church. If you would like to be added to our mailing list leave your email address. Please stay and visit after Liturgy. Visit www.stanastasiasa.org. Also please leave your email in the guest book so you can be added to the mailing list.

Please join us for hospitality in the church after Divine Liturgy. Always good conversation and a variety of treats.

Tyler Miazga has served at the altar for much of the last year. This week he left for Virginia to begin his seminary studies to prepare to be a military chaplain and priest of the Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter. We thank him for his service with us. Please keep him in your prayers as he begins this journey.

Several times we have held up Mark and Susan Northrop's nephew in our prayers as he fought against and aggressive cancer. Stephen lost his battle this last week and we trust he will be with the Lord. Please hold Stephen and his family in your prayers.

The Blog of the Dormition, <http://holydormition.blogspot.com/> has an excellent reflection on the St. Phillip's Fast and the preparation for the Nativity of Our Lord from an Eastern Christian perspective.

Here is the schedule for the Liturgical Feasts through January 1, 2018 that we agreed to last Sunday. Please make a note of these dates and times.

Divine Liturgy for St. Nicholas — Wednesday, December 6, 7:00 p.m.
 Vigil for St. Anastasia — Thursday, December 21, 7:00 p.m.
 Divine Liturgy for Synaxis of the Theotokos — Tuesday, December 26, 7:00 p.m.
 Liturgical Hours (lead by laity) for Feast of Circumcision — Monday, January 1, 9:00 a.m.

We always need help. If you are interested in being a reader or altar server or singing in the choir please see Fr. Ramon.

Please put the books on the table by the entrance door. Drop your donation in the basket on the counter.

Nov 5

Attendance 37
 Collection \$172

11-26-17	Dominican Priory	Fr. Ramon 11-5,12,19,20,26	\$500
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Readings for the 28th Week After Pentecost

11/27 1 Timothy 1:1-7 Luke 19:37-44
 11/28 1 Timothy 1:8-14 Luke 19:45-48
 11/29 1 Timothy 1:18-20, 2:8-15 Luke 20:1-8
 11/30 1 Timothy 3:1-13 Luke 20:9-18
 12/1 1 Timothy 4:4-8, 16 Luke 20:19-26
 12/2 Galatians 3:8-12 Luke 12:32-40

February 20-Mar.3, 2018, Fr. Elias will lead a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Petra to visit the sites of our Lord's life, death and resurrection. If you are interested contact Fr. Elias at St. John Chrysostom.

Please keep Nancy Sandrock in your prayers as she continues her medical treatments. Also keep the entire Sandrock family in your prayers.

Habakkuk Asks the Universal Question



The Old Testament prophet Habakkuk is remembered on December 2nd. His brief book poses deep questions about human life and suggests equally deep answers from God.

The opening verses express the prophet's suffering: "O Lord, how long shall I cry for help, and Thou wilt not hear? Or cry to thee, 'Violence!' and Thou wilt not save? Why dost Thou make me see wrongs and look upon trouble?" He goes on to complain that God's unwillingness to hear means that the law becomes slack and ineffective, and justice never prevails.

God gives an answer that, at first glance, seems anything but merciful. He tells Habakkuk He is doing a work "that you would not believe if told." He says that He is using the Chaldeans, a dread and terrible people, as instruments of chastisement upon His still-beloved Israel.

But God's answer does not end with the terrifying Chaldeans. He instructs the prophet to "write the vision, make it plain upon tablets...For still the vision awaits its time; it hastens to the end, it will not lie. If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay" (2: 2-3). Then God promises that the righteous shall live by their faith; those who trust God will see the fulfillment of the vision, the saving plan

He has for humankind. The prophet is satisfied by this promise, and at the end of his book he writes, "Though the fig tree does not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines...yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation" (2: 17-18). Saint Paul quotes Habakkuk in Romans 1:17, writing about the importance of keeping faith even in suffering and worldly oppression.

The fourth Ode of the Canon we sing at Pascha describes "the inspired prophet Habakkuk" who "stands with us in holy vigil" and "cries with a piercing voice: 'Today salvation has come to the world, for Christ is risen as all-powerful.'" This Ode tells us that the "vision" promised to Habakkuk has been fulfilled by Christ. Like the prophet, we can be sure that the even if the fulfillment "seems slow" we are right to "wait for it" because it does "surely come."

Saint Gregory of Nazianzus, the fourth-century Church Father, picks up on Habakkuk's declaration that he will "take my stand to watch, and station myself on the tower, and look forth to see what [God] will say to me" (2:1). In his Oration XLV Gregory writes, "Well, I have taken my stand and looked forth; and I behold a man riding on the clouds...His countenance is as the countenance of an angel, and his clothing as the brightness of piercing lightning; and he lifts his hand toward the East and cries with a loud voice...'Today is salvation come to the world.' "

For Habakkuk, for Saint Paul, and for Saint Gregory, the answer to the universal question is the same: it is the Risen Christ and His salvation.