



Words of Wisdom

From the Saints & Teachers

8:13 The Servant Healed

As You Believed. St Irenaeus: There is no coercion with God. He has a good will toward us continually. He gives reliable counsel to humans and angels (who also are rational beings), to whom he has given the power of choice. Those who yield obedience therefore possess what is good freely and justly. It is given by God but preserved by themselves.... The human spirit is possessed of free will from the beginning, and God is possessed of free will, in whose likeness humanity was created. Humanity is advised to hold fast to the good and thereby be responsive to God. This refers not only to works but faith as well. God preserved the human will free and under his own self-control ... as is shown in Jesus' word to the centurion: "Go. Be it done for you as you have believed." Against Heresies 3.37.1, 4-5.

Simonetti, M. (Ed.). (2001). [Matthew 1-13](#) (p. 163). Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

6:17 Obedient to the Standard of Teaching

The Benefits of Freedom from Sin. St John Chrysostom: After shaming them by mentioning their slavery and alarming them by talking about its rewards, Paul puts the balance right by recalling the benefits which they have received. For by mentioning them he shows that they were set free from very great evils indeed and that this had happened without any labor on their part.... For no human power could have set us free from such great evils, but "thanks be to God," who was willing and able to do such great things. And well he says that they were "obedient from the heart," because they were neither forced nor pressed but came of their own accord, with a willing mind.... This shows that they exercised their free will. Homilies on Romans 11.

Bray, G. (Ed.). (1998). [Romans \(Revised\)](#) (pp. 163-164). Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.



From The Ambvon

ST MICHAEL ORTHODOX CHURCH,
OLD FORGE, PA

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**Sun, July 10th - 4th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 3. Ven.
Anthony of the Kiev Caves, Founder of Monasticism in Russia**

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays: Sandra Pregman (7/1); Sharissa Voroziiichak (7/9); Mia Keklak (7/14); David Barsigian (7/16);

Nameday:

Anniversary:

Baptism:

Travelers: For all who are traveling this week

Prospora Schedule: 27 June - 2 July - Fr Michael

11-17 July - Robert Kane & Amaya Jackson

Early Bird: 3-9 July - Marie Pasternak

11-17 July - Blaise Shepherd

Visitors: Thank you for joining us and please introduce yourself to Fr Michael

Do you have a birthday or anniversary this/next week? Please add it to our list on the shelf in the Vestibule/Narthex.

DEAR GUESTS AND FRIENDS: *A most sincere and heartfelt welcome to you from our community. According to the ancient traditions of the Orthodox Church, the Sacrament of Holy Communion is to be administered only to Orthodox Christians who have prepared to receive themselves by fasting and a recent (monthly) confession..If you have questions please ask Fr Michael!*



Service Schedule
THIS WEEK 11-17July22

WED, July 13th @ 11:00 PM Akathist to St Alexis for revitalization
 WED, July 13th @ 4:00 PM Panikhida Gene Wasko
 WED, July 13th @ 5:00 PM Daily Vespers
 SAT, July 16th @ 3:45 PM Catechism
 SAT, July 16th @ 5:00 PM Great Vespers / Confession After
 Proskomede Class: 17July @ 8:00 AM
 SUN, Hours @ 9:10 AM, Divine Liturgy @ 9:30 AM

NEXT WEEKEND

SAT, July 23rd: @ 3:30 PM Steering Committee Meeting
 SAT, July 23rd: @ 5:00 PM Great Vespers / Confession After
 SUN, July 24th: Hours @ 9:10 AM, Divine Liturgy @ 9:30 AM

UP COMING

Baptismal Liturgy & Chrismation for Michael and Mia Keklak: Aug 7th



Announcements
& Upcoming Parish & Diocesan Events

Parish Prospora Baking Class: July 12th at 10 a.m.
Financial Meeting: July 13th, @ 10 a.m.
All American Council: July 18-22
Church Work Day: July 23 All Day. Many items to be cleaned - COME HELP!
Parish Steering Meeting: July 23, @ 3:30 p.m. prior to Great Vespers
Bazaar/Food fest: July 29/30 Holy Trinity - Wilkesbarre

Daniel 12:1 - "And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book."

Holy Archangel Michael Pray unto God for us!

St John Cassian: On the Eight Vices
(4) "On Anger"

If you desire to attain perfection and rightly pursue the spiritual way, you should make yourself a stranger to all sinful anger and wrath (83). Anger blinds the soul's eyes. Anger obstructs our spiritual vision. Expel malicious thoughts with anger. Our passions grow fiercer when left idle through lack of contact with other people (85). We must cut off the roots of our sins and not merely the fruits.

If then we wish to receive the Lord's blessing we should restrain not only the outward expression of anger, but also angry thoughts. More beneficial than controlling our tongue in a moment of anger and refraining from angry words is purifying our heart from rancor and not harboring malicious thoughts against our brethren. The Gospel teaches us to cut off the roots of our sins and not merely their fruits. When we have dug the root of anger out of our heart, we will no longer act with hatred or envy. 'Whoever hates his brother is a murderer' (I John 3:15), for he kills him with the hatred in his mind. The blood of a man who has been slain by the sword can be seen by men, but blood shed by the hatred in the mind is seen by God, who rewards each man with punishment or a crown not only for his acts but for his thoughts and intentions as well. As God Himself says through the Prophet: 'Behold, I am coming to reward them according to their actions and their thoughts' (cf Eccles. 35:19); and the Apostle says: 'And their thoughts accuse or else excuse them in the day when God shall judge the secrets of men' (Rom. 2:15-16).

The Lord Himself teaches us to put aside all anger when He says: 'Whoever is angry with his brother shall be in danger of judgment' (Matt. 5:22). This is the text of the best manuscripts; for it is clear from the purpose of Scripture in this context that the words 'without a cause' were added later. The Lord's intention is that we should remove the root of anger, its spark, so to speak, in whatever way we can, and not keep even a single pretext for anger in our hearts. Otherwise we will be stirred to anger initially for what appears to be a good reason and then find that our incensive power is totally out of control.

God always abides in love. As God the Father loves God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, so God the Son loves God the Father and God the Holy Spirit, and so God the Holy Spirit loves God the Father and God the Son. God is love (I John 4:8). Living in love is a great joy, the highest blessing, and God wished that all other living beings should receive this joy. For this, He created the world. God first created the angels and then our earthly world.

To us men, God gave intellect and an immortal soul and gave us a special purpose: to know God and to become ever better and more virtuous, that is, to be perfected in love for God and for one another and to receive from this ever greater joy in life.

But people violated the will of God — they sinned. By their sin they darkened their mind and will, and introduced sickness and death into the body. They began to suffer and die. By their own efforts people were not able to conquer sin and its result in themselves, to set aright their mind, will, and heart, and to destroy death. Only Almighty God could do this. The all-knowing Lord knew all things before the creation of the world. When the first people sinned, He said to them that He would come into the world as Saviour — the Son of God, Jesus Christ, Who would conquer sin, save people from eternal death, and return them to love, to eternal life — to blessedness.

The period from the creation of the world to the coming of the Saviour to earth is called the Old Testament, that is, the covenant or agreement of God with men, according to which God prepared men for the reception of the promised Saviour. Men were to remember the promise of God, to believe, and await the coming of Christ. The fulfillment of this promise, the coming to earth of the Saviour, the Only-begotten Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, is called the New Testament, since Jesus Christ, having appeared on earth and vanquished sin and death, made a new covenant with men. According to this agreement, everyone may again receive the blessedness that was lost: eternal life with God, through the Holy Church which He founded on earth.

Creation of Heaven, the Invisible World.

In the beginning, before the creation of any of the visible world and of man, God created Heaven, that is, the spiritual, invisible world of the angels, out of nothing.

Angels are bodiless and immortal spirits, gifted with a mind, will and strength. God created an innumerable multitude of them. They differ among themselves according to degrees of perfection and types of service and are divided into a number of orders. The highest of these are called the seraphim, cherubim, and archangels.

All the angels were created good, so that they would love God and one another and might have from this life of love continual and great joy. God did not will to make them love Him by force, and, therefore He allowed the angels to decide for themselves whether or not they wished to love Him and live in God.

One, the highest and mightiest angel whose name was Lucifer, became proud of his might and power and did not wish to love God and fulfill the will of God, but desired to become like God. He began to whisper against God, to oppose Him, and he became a dark, evil spirit — the Devil, Satan. The word "Devil" means "slanderer," and the word "Satan" means the "opposer" of God and all that is good. This evil spirit tempted and took with him many other angels who also became evil spirits and are called demons.

Then one of the highest archangels, Archangel Michael, came forth against Satan and said: "Who is equal to God? There is none like God!" There was a war in Heaven: Michael and his angels made war against Satan, and Satan and his demons made war against them.

However, evil power could not endure the angels of God, and Satan, together with his demons, fell like lightning down into the nether regions, Hades. "Hades," and "the nether regions," are names for the place of separation far from God, where the evil spirits now dwell. There they are tormented in their malice, beholding their powerlessness against God. All of them, because of their refusal to repent, have become so confirmed in evil that they can no longer be good. They strive by deceit and cunning to tempt every man, whispering false ideas and evil desires in order to bring him to damnation.

In this way evil appeared in God's creation. By evil we mean all that is done contrary to the will of God, all that violates the will of God.

All the angels that remained faithful to God, dwelling from that time in unceasing love and joy, live with God, fulfilling the will of God.

They have been so confirmed in good and love of God that they can no longer in any way wish to do evil. Therefore are called holy angels. The word "angel" means "messenger." God sends them to make His will known to men; for this, the angels take on a visible human form.

God grants to every Christian a Guardian Angel at Baptism, an angel that invisibly guards a person during his entire earthly life and does not leave his soul even after death.

Note: This brief account of the creation of the heavenly-angelic world is based on the accounts in Sacred Scripture and the teachings of the Holy Fathers and Teachers of the Orthodox Church.

A detailed account of the life of the angelic world was set forth by St. Dionysius the Areopagite, a disciple of St. Paul and first bishop of Athens, in his book, *The Heavenly Hierarchy*, which was written on the basis of all the places in the Holy Scriptures that speak of the angels.

TODAY - Knoebels Amusement Park Picnic Dinner on Sunday July 10th CANCELLED. Due to circumstances beyond their control the annual FOCA Knoebels Picnic has been canceled. However, Fr Michael and his family are still going to Knoebels for an afternoon of fun. Maybe we will see you there! See Fr Michael if you have any questions.

Readings Today

Epistle: Romans 5:1-10 (*Epistle*) Gospel: Matthew 6:22-33 (*Gospel*)

Service Attendance:
Last weekend Divine Liturgy: 34

Parish Prayer List

Living: Fr John Nightingale, Fr Theodore Orzolek, Matushka Paula Soucek, Mike Jadick, Bernie Elko, Rose Krenitsky, Margaret Pregmon, David Lezinsky, Stella Krenitsky, Marie Buranich, Helen Wytovich, Tammy Wytovich, Rosemary Kuzmich, Sandra Pritchuk, Marie Pasternak, Sandy Batton, Paula Stavisky, Al Pritchuk, Eli Stavisky, Evelyn Bunevitch, Nadia Macheska, John Pritchuk, Paulette Ezbiansky, Andrew Lutzick, Daniel Jones

Newly Departed: Irene Pritchuk (6/5); **Departed:** John Sokol (7/7); William William Keslosky (7/15); Michael Peregrin Sr. (7/18); Justin Ludwig (7/19); Steve Serniak (7/20); Genevieve Barile (7/31);

Catechumen: Michael Keklak (6/12), Amaya Jackson (6/19), Robert Kane (6/19)

- **Reminder: Names will be rotated off on occasion - request again to have a loved one put back on again.**
- **Please sign up for early bird and prosthora making on the shelf in the Vestibule/Narthex**
- **Reminder to sign the statement of intent**