

Thursday, February 16, 2017

*St. Basil Church members exist to BE Disciples,
MAKE Disciples, and GROW Disciples of Jesus Christ.*

Becoming Human

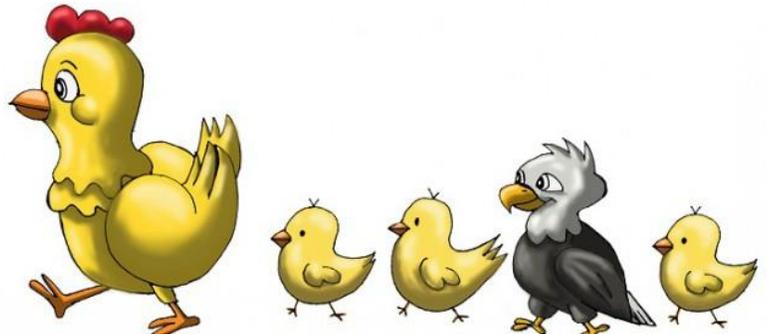
by Fr Allan Boyd

One day a teenage boy, exploring the hills near his home found an eagle's nest with an egg in it. He quickly snatched it up and put it safely away in his rucksack. When he got home he put it under a hen alongside her other eggs. When the eaglet chick hatched, of course it thought it was a chicken. It learned how to act just like a chicken scratching around in the chicken yard with its adopted brothers and sisters. What else could it do? Sometimes this eaglet felt strange stirrings within itself but he didn't know what to do with them, so he ignored or suppressed

them. After all, since he was a chicken he should certainly act like a chicken. One day, a majestic, mature eagle flew over the chicken yard and the eaglet looked up and saw him. In that moment, he realized he wanted to be just like that eagle...to fly high, to go to the mountain peaks he saw in the

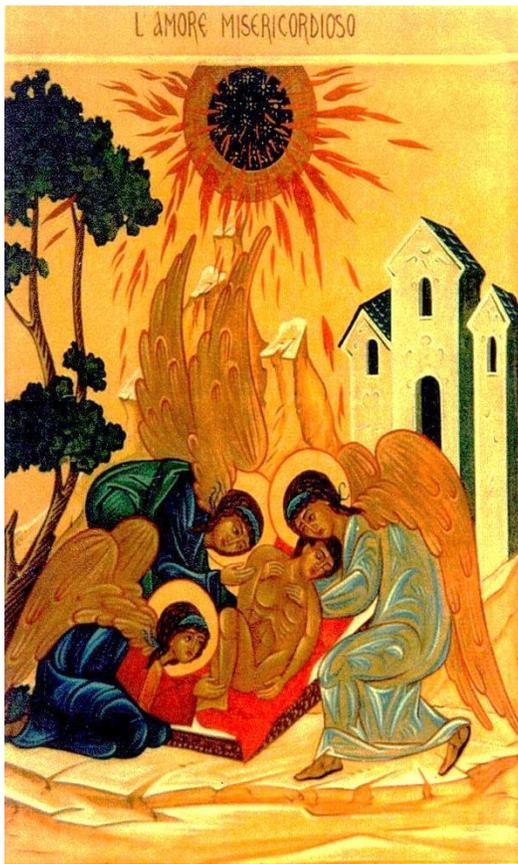


distance. Little-by-little, as he spread his wings, he suddenly understood that he could be just like that eagle he'd seen. Though he'd never flown before...because he saw that majestic eagle flying overhead...he eventually discovered that he possessed the instinct and capabilities for flying. At first, he flew unsteadily, but then eventually with greater power and control. Finally, as he soared he knew he'd discovered his true self...the creature God made him to be.



As we prepare for Great Lent, we approach a Gospel Reading in the Triodion where Jesus tells us of a Great Judgment that will occur. Contrary to some people's opinions, it's not a judgement where we'll be judged on our theological knowledge or positions. Neither does Jesus, in His parable, make any mention of people being sorted out as Orthodox Christians and non-Orthodox. Rather, Jesus tells of a day when we will be sorted out between those whose life was spent offering love to the suffering in tangible ways...and those who didn't. You might say that he judges between those who, by looking at the majestic flight of the mature eagle overhead, realized that they were destined for something much bigger than merely being a chicken. Or rather, for us, it could better be said, that we will be judged on whether, after casting our gaze on the majestic, self-sacrificial love of the only true human, Jesus Christ, we realized that our destiny was for something much bigger than being merely inhuman in our own self-interests. The Church realizes that each of us are so often captivated by the world and are continually taught by it to act in its self-absorbed ways (scratching around in the yard with our heads down). Thus, during Lent, the Church teaches us to cast our gaze instead upon the Pantocrator (the ruler of all creation), Jesus Christ, and to align our will with His will of love...so that the more unified with Him we become, the more human we become...and the more we become that for which we are created.

What does it mean to be human? We're told at the beginning, in Genesis creation account, that when humanity was created, we were created in the image of God. So, what is this image that describes our humanity? Our God is trinity—three entirely unique persons who are also entirely unified in love. Each person of the trinity is constantly offering forth love for the sake of the other. With this much love overflowing from God, one day,



before there were days, they offered each other a wonderful gift—CREATION. Creation was brought into being, not because God needed anything from it...but rather because God spilled forth with so much love that creation should become the recipient of it. And God continues to pour forth His mercy upon all of creation. This is the image in which humanity was created. This is what it means to be human...that each of us, entirely unique, was created to live out God's love in tangible ways, pouring it forth upon the people around us...ministering to them in acts of mercy in the midst of their suffering.

Jesus' parable on the Last Judgement tells us that we're not going to be judged according to the world's standards of behavior and decency...but rather on standards which are far and above our world's standards. We're going to be judged on God's measure of love, a measure of love unlike most anything the world can imagine. This love isn't a feeling. It isn't given because we get something for it. It's not an emotional love...but rather love that's lived and accomplished in self-sacrificial acts of mercy on behalf of others for the sake of Christ. The fact that we're going to be judged, and that we are always being judged by God's standards of love, in spite of all our inadequacies, should reveal to us our potential greatness when we're unified with Christ's will...in His humanity. Lent is about coming to grips with our human vocation in Christ...to tangibly offer love to others.

And so, this coming week, let's prepare ourselves for that final stage of our journey by asking ourselves in the face of this Last Judgement on Love, "*Am I human? Deep down, from my heart, am I really human in ways that are born forth in my actions... not merely my general attitude...but rather in the acts being poured forth from my life...are those really human? Is my life an expression of a thoughtful, perceptive, creative, and at times, generous and a self-sacrificial love?*"

Have our hearts become so joined to Christ's heart of love that our activities bear it out? Have we cast our eyes upon His majestic love in every encounter with others...and recognizing our vocation—what we were created for...have we even begun to stretch our wings to soar?

Sunday's Reading

Click on the link below to read this Sunday's Epistle & Gospel: **Sunday of the Prodigal Son.**

Epistle Reading:

http://www.goarch.org/chapel/lectionary_view?type=E&code=119&event=1016&date=2/19/2017

Gospel Reading:

http://www.goarch.org/chapel/lectionary_view?type=G&code=285&event=1016&date=2/19/2017

For Mediation

Every minute God forgives us, we should forgive one another. This is the greatest virtue, if you say: My God forgive my brother for whatever he did to me.

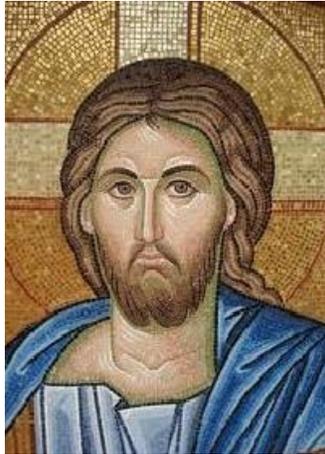
~ *St. Anthimos of Chios*

There is no joy in the world without God.

~ *St. Justin Popovich of Chelije*

Saturday of Soul / Soul Saturday

It is traditional to pray for the departed on Saturday as Christ lay dead in the Tomb on Saturday. As Lent begins, the church dedicates the Saturday, **February 18, 25 and March 4** as Saturday of the Soul. On these days, everyone is invited to attend Divine Liturgy starting at 8:30 am and is encouraged to bring a small bowl of koliva and a list of names of their departed to prayed for during the memorial service by father and everyone present. Afterwards, all present go into the hall to share and eat the blessed koliva on behalf of the departed memory.



Flower Donations



Sunday Service Teams

- **WELCOME MINISTRY**
February 19: Elsie Saba and Luke Stamos
Next Sunday: Mark Judge & Evangelos Spyropoulos
- **READER**
February 19: Mike Skarpelos
Next Sunday: Brian Davenport

- **COFFEE HOUR**

February 19: P + H + T + N
Next Sunday: J + K + W

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Join us!



- **NOTE:**

- *Coffee Hour teams...*
- *please bring a bottle of Half & Half on Sundays.*
- *please set up & break down tables & chairs.*

- **PROSFORA OFFERING**

February 18: Presvytera Danita
February 19 & 25: Georgia Froumis
February 26, March 1 & 3: Nitsa Sialaris

- **FLOWER MINISTRY**

February 19: Corina Stancu
Next Sunday: Elsie Saba

- **SUNDAY SCHOOL SNACKS**

February 19: The Johnson Family
Next Sunday: The Jost Family

Services & Events

- **MEMORIAL**

A 40-day Memorial Service will be held this Sunday, February 19 for George Stratigos. Friends of Father and Presvytera Boyd. *May his memory be eternal!*

- **THE WHYS OF ORTHODOX CHRISTIANITY CLASS**

On Wednesday, February 22 at 7:00 pm.

NOTE: We will be taking a break during Lent to attend Pre-Sanctified Liturgy.

- **SOUL SATURDAY'S**

On Saturday February 18, 25 and March 4 at 8:30 am. Please bring a small bowl of koliva and a list of names of the departed loved ones to be commemorated.

- **EDUCATION MEETING**

On Tuesday, February 21 at 6:30 pm.

- **TEEN YOUTH GROUP**

On Friday, February 24 at 7:00 pm.

- **FORGIVENESS VESPERS**

See Bay Area Events, below.

- **LENT BEGINS**

On Clean Monday February 27.

- **COMPLINE**

On **Monday, February 27 at 7:00 pm.**

- **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

On **Tuesday, February 28 at 7:00 pm.**

- **2017 ST. BASIL GALA**

The 2017 St. Basil Gala will be on **Saturday, September 9 at 5:30 pm** at The Villages.

Stewardship 2017

Please prayerfully fill out a 2017 Stewardship Pledge Card, to support Saint Basil ministries. As our Lord has blessed each of us so generously...so also be generous toward Him. Together, "as coworkers with Him," our beloved parish will thrive, growing in Christ. Glorify Him!

Prayer Request

Are you sick or will be having surgery? If so, please let the office know and we can include your name on the prayer request list. Your name will be on the list for 40 days before it is deleted. If you would like to have your name on the list for more than 40 days, please contact the office after the 40 days has lapsed.

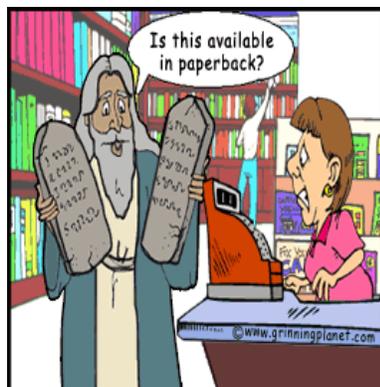
Please keep in your prayers:

Fr. Jim Foresio
Samira Bahous
Philip Gosvener

Athena Lofaro
Giovanni Nitis
Lena Xydes

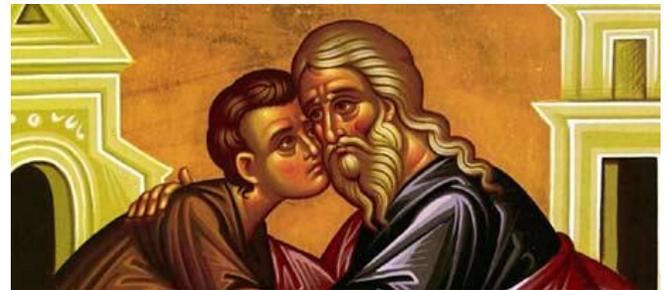
Bookstore

The St. Basil Bookstore is here for your needs. It is stocked with icons and books which will enhance your spiritual growth along with your families and friends. Besides books, we also carry many other Orthodox items such as sensors, vigil lamps, prayer books, prayer ropes to name just a few for both personal or gift-giving purposes. You are encouraged to browse the bookstore after each service or during the secretary's workdays (Tuesday



- Thursday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm). Feel free to ask questions. Let us know if you can't find something; maybe we can order it for you.

Bay Area Events



- **BAY AREA FORGIVENESS VESPERS**

With the blessings of His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco, all are invited to begin Great Lent by participating with other Bay Area communities in the Forgiveness Vespers Service on **Sunday, February 26 at 6:00 pm** at **Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, SF**. His Grace Bishop Apostolos of Medeia, Chancellor of the Metropolis of San Francisco, will preside. The homily will be offered by Rev. Father Aris Metrakos. A makaronada reception will follow the service.

- **SUMMER CAMP**



Saint Nicholas Ranch, Summer Camp registrations usually fill up by the end of January. So, don't delay, get your kids registered ASAP. You can easily register your kids online by going to the following link:
<http://www.youth.sanfran.goarch.org/editor/summer-camp/>

Let Maria Know...



Let Maria know...

- 1) if you no longer wish to receive the eBulletin.
- 2) if you would like to be added to our weekly eBulletin distribution list. Please provide me with your first & last name and email address.
- 3) if we have your current contact information: name, address, phone number(s) and email address.

You can send an email to Maria at: stbasilschurch@sbcglobal.net or call 408-268-3214 on Tuesday – Thursday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Thank you!

Now Enrolling



Safari Kid has over 30 locations in USA, Canada, Hong Kong, Malaysia and India for Preschool and Pre-K Programs. They have an ability-based learning program committed to helping all students become lifelong learners:

Creative Arts & Literacy
Imaginative Explorations
Phonics & Math
Stem Program
Social/Emotional
Development
Music & Movement
Customized Curriculum

Call 408-600-6031 or visit www.safarikidUSA.com or www.facebook.com/safarikidalmaden to enroll your child today!

Bulletin Deadline

All announcements and articles must be written as you would like them to appear in the bulletin(s). Changes and edits might be made. They must be emailed to: stbasilschurch@sbcglobal.net **BY**

WEDNESDAY MORNING, 10:00 AM. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.