

SOBORNOST

St. Thomas the Apostle Orthodox Church

(301) 638-5035 Church

4419 Leonardtown Road

Waldorf, MD 20601

Rev. Father Joseph Edgington, Pastor

(703) 532-8017

fredgington@gmail.com

www.apostlethomas.org

American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese

*ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE
OF CONSTANTINOPLE*

SERVICES

Wed: Moleben to the Theotokos 6:00 AM

Friday: Moleben to the Cross 6:00 AM

Saturday: Confession 5:00 PM,

Great Vespers 5:30 PM

Sunday: Matins (Orthros) 8:45 AM

Children's Sunday School 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM.

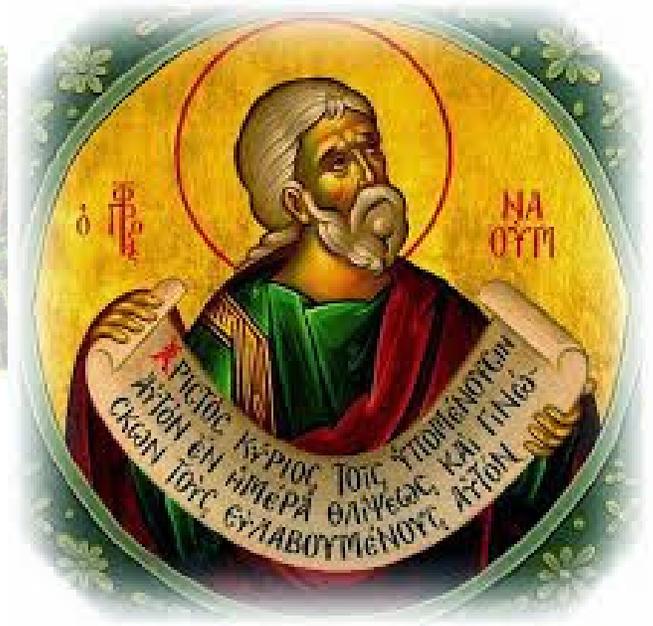
December 1, 2019 – 24th Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Prophet Nahum

The Prophet Nahum, as we are informed in the book that bears his name, was an Elkoshite and came from the village of Alqosh (Nah. 1:1), the location of which has not yet been established. The time of the activity of the Prophet Nahum was between 663- 612 B.C. Nineveh, whose destruction he foretells, is on the edge (Nah. 1:10-14), while Thebes is on the eve of its fall. Nineveh was destroyed in 612 B.C. and Thebes in 662 B.C.

The book that bears the name of the Prophet Nahum is ranked seventh among the Minor Prophets, and it consists of three chapters with the following content: a) inscription (Nah. 1:1), b) the wrath of God against Nineveh and the prophecy concerning the prosperity of Judah (Nah. 1:2-14), and c) prophecies concerning the destruction of Nineveh (Nah. 2:1-3:19).

Central to the prophetic preaching of the Prophet Nahum is the announcement of the impending fall of Nineveh. Before this Nahum represents God through a beautiful psalm that sings of his theophany (Nah. 1:2-9) to bring about the destruction of Nineveh after speaking up against it with passion and eloquence. The nationalist style, the vividness of the images and the naturalness of the



narrative suggest that Nahum is himself the author of this prophetic book and the writing time is accounted for in the last years of his activities (620-612 BC), just before the fall of Nineveh.

The preaching of Nahum is related to the prophecies against the nations that are proclaimed by the other venerated prophets against the enemies of Yahweh and Israel, and it can be accepted that the Prophet Nahum was a venerated prophet.

Nahum does not add any new ideas or concepts in Jewish theology, instead he follows the teachings of the prophets of the 8th B.C. The content of his preaching is that God punishes the enemies of the Israelite people. (*from johnsanidopoulos.com*)

Today's Epistle Lesson – St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 2:14-22

Brethren, He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, *that is*, the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man *from* the two, *thus* making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief *cornerstone*, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Today's Gospel Lesson – Saint Luke 18:18-27

At that time, a certain ruler asked Him, saying, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one *is* good but One, *that is*, God. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother.'" And he said, "All these things I have kept from my youth." So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich. And when Jesus saw that he became very sorrowful, He said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." And those who heard it said, "Who then can be saved?" But He said, "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God."



A Word From the Holy Fathers

On the Words: "Pay Heed To Yourself":

Pay heed to yourself - he who attends to himself will not meddle in the affairs of others in an untimely, shameless or curious way. Pay heed to yourself - a disorderly, lustful or evil eye sees not its own falls but those of others. It does not notice its own sins but beholds the faults of others in a way that is exceedingly clear; it does not even want to know of its own affairs but finds fault with those of others; it is cool toward its own guilt but flares up at the errors of others. In short, as the Lord has said, such an eye sees not the beam that is in itself, but sees the splinter in that of another (Mat. 7:3).

A brother, when he offends another brother, is as if in delirium. When he sins against his neighbor he has taken leave of his senses; he knows not himself and is a stranger to the love of mankind. If someone will not co-suffer with his brother or come to his aid, if he will not treat him with patience, nor heal him by means of forgiveness, he is himself not healthy; he is ailing and infirm. Such a one does not have compassion.

Let a man think of himself as a sinner and hate vengeance. You will sin tomorrow against him who has sinned against you now. He will be your judge who previously was guilty before you, and he will grant you forgiveness, if you have granted it to him. But if you did not forgive him, then he will either not grant you forgiveness or, if he does grant it, he will regard his forgiveness to be more valuable than it really is. Absolve the sinner and forgive the one who repents, so that when you sin, your compassion will be recompensed to you and not in vain. He who forgives others has been freed from torments, has anticipated the tribunal, has escaped the judgment, has prepared for himself forgiveness in advance before he sins.

Let us submit to Christ and with all the power of love bear the vilification, beatings and the burdens of brothers who are malicious toward us, that we may deliver them from torment and may receive for ourselves the eternal reward for patience. Neither let the servant refuse to receive from his fellow-servants that which our Lord was pleased to receive from His servants (the Jews) for the sake of His servants (all those whom He redeemed). He turned not His face away from mockery, He ordered us to give to one who would take away our garment our cloak as well, to emulate willingly and voluntarily even until death the labors and suffering (for the race of mankind) which He took upon Himself out of His love.

Therefore, brethren, if our Lord considered it a worthwhile undertaking to endure, how can it not be considered fitting for His servants to endure as well?

Why is it that we are sometimes not bored to stand for an entire day before men, but have we no desire to stand for a few minutes before God?

The Holiness of Nativity:

The feast of the Nativity of Christ is being celebrated but, I think that rare is he who understands the full spiritual significance of this celebration. Every feast of God must be viewed from its spiritual side. What majesty there is in the Birth of Christ - unapproachable and unfathomable to our understanding! The Lord took upon Himself our human nature and nothing other than love for fallen mankind inclined His loving-kindness to take upon Himself corruptible flesh. Being clothed in flesh, He bore upon Himself all the infirmities of mankind (except sin), so that mankind would not be able to excuse himself because of the difficulty of fulfilling the Lord's commandments and would not say, "You, O Lord, have placed upon us that which we cannot bear." Thus Christ took upon Himself our flesh and made Himself an example of how we must live, so that we may not excuse ourselves by claiming that it is impossible to do. The Lord opened the doors of Paradise to us, which had been closed by the sin of our forefather Adam. Behold with what spiritual understanding we must celebrate and thank God's goodness for all His compassions toward us! But sinful people, in place of a spiritual celebration, invent an idolatrous celebration for themselves, turning their love toward the world and its passions: riches, luxury and gluttony. The poor lovers of the world cannot see their own perdition in this.

– St. Theodore of Sanaxar



Social Team for December 8

Team 3 is up next week – Edgington, P. V Allandingham, Barzykin, Moore. Thank you!

Follow Our Diocese On-Line

Diocesan Website: <http://www.acrod.org>

Camp Nazareth: <http://www.campnazareth.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/acroddiocese>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/acrodnews>

You Tube: <https://youtube.com/acroddiocese>

In Your Prayers – Please Remember... His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch BARTHOLOMEW, His Eminence Metropolitan GREGORY, Fr. Joseph & Family, Greek Orthodox Archbishop Paul Yazigi of Aleppo, Syriac Orthodox Archbishop Yohanna Ibrahim of Aleppo, His Grace Bishop Neofitos of Nyeri and Mt. Kenya, Fr. John & Pani Betty Jean Baranik, Presbytera Katie Baker and family, Dn. Steve Hall, Santiago Alzugaray, Jeffrey Carey, Tatyana and Slava Chumak & family, Xenia Chilkowich, Jon Church, Ramius Connour, Curtis Cooper, Luke Cooper, Tina Crull, Mary Diane David, Ron Dominiecki, Linda A. Georgiev, Heather Himler, John Homick, Cameron Houk, Helen Janowiak, John M. Janowiak, Tucker Karl and family, Robert & Pam Karpin, Andrew Kinn, Kopan family, Brian, Helen, and Luke Mahony, Valentina Makowelski, Susan Matula, Anna Meinhold, Dn. Henry Middleton, David & Kathryn Newman, Bobby Nutter & Family, Henry & Lisa Osborne, Westin Perry & Parents, John Reece, Mary Reed, Chris & Kaitlin Rixey, Jerry Von Ronne, Anne Rosario, James, Theodore and Christina Ristas, Samson Family, Sharon Sheptak, Alexander Shostko, Bernie Takabayashi & family, Dawn & Faith Ulmschneider, Lydia Vita, Christine, Marshall, Nathaniel, Dcn. Nectarios and Ia, the Syrian Christians displaced by war, Mother Virginia Marie and the Carmelite Nuns of Port Tobacco, and all those in need of our prayers. (Please advise Fr. Joseph of changes.)