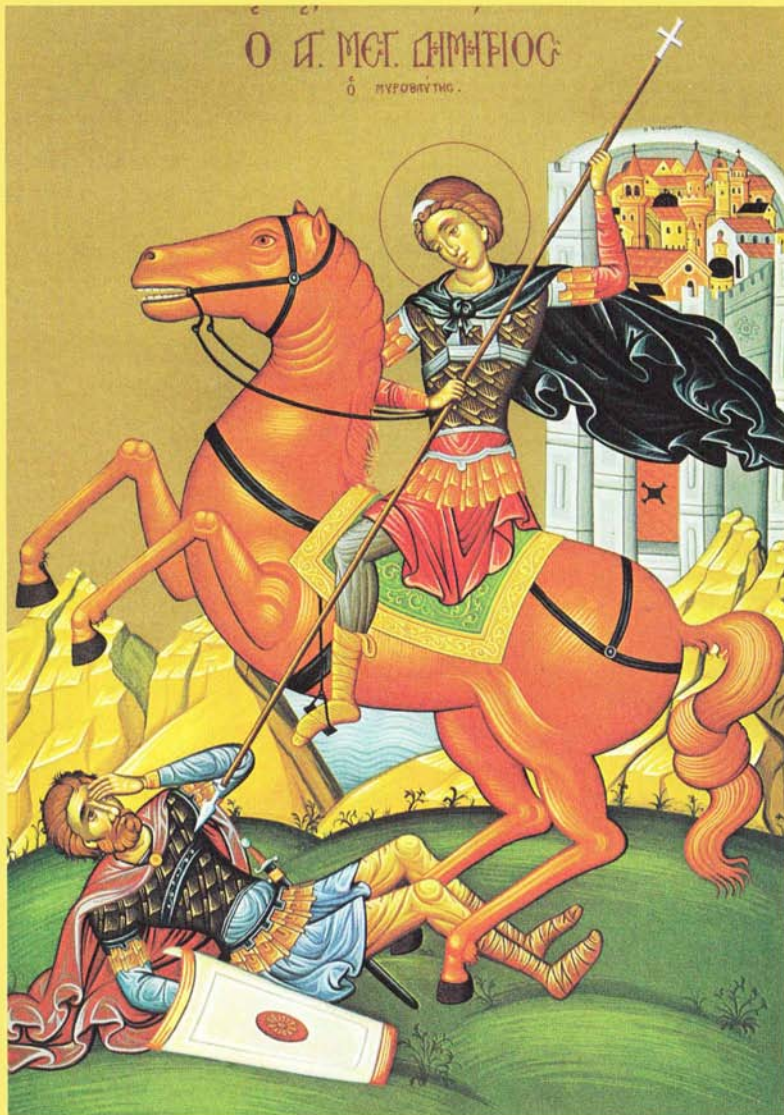


TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SIXTH SUNDAY OF LUKE



Icon of St. Demetrios -- October 26th

A Sunday school teacher asked her children, as they were on the way to church service, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church? A little girl replied, "Because people are sleeping."

Anniversary Retreat

A big **"Thank You"** to Bishop Nicholas for giving a series of wonderful talks to our parish and guests. His talks were thought provoking, educational and challenging. May God richly bless his work for Christ's church. *Eis polla eti despota!*

Ask Fr. James

Q: *I noticed that the Holy Doors were left open during Bishop Nicholas' talks. Why was that?*

A: The opening and closing of the Holy Doors (and curtain if there is one) during the Divine Liturgy is symbolic of the Gates of Heaven. They are closed for the first part of the Divine Liturgy up until the entrance with the Gospel Book – the Word of God. They are closed after the Homily and are then opened again for the Great entrance. Closed during the anaphora and once again opened for communion. This represents the entrance of Christ into the world, His hidden life, His public ministry, His death and Burial, and finally His giving of himself to the world at the Resurrection. When a Bishop is present, the Bishop is the High Priest – Christ's personal representative in a very real sense so the Holy Doors remain open in his presence.



PRAYER BEFORE STARTING ANY WORK

O Lord Jesus Christ, Only-Begotten Son of Your Eternal Father, You have said with Your most holy lips: "Without Me, you can do nothing." My Lord and my God, in faith I embrace Your words with my heart and soul, and bow down before Your goodness, help me, a sinner, to do in union with You this work which I am about to begin, in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMPLETING ANY WORK

You, O my Christ, are the sum and fullness of all that is good; fill my soul with joy and gladness, and save me, for You alone are all-merciful. Amen.

THE CHURCH AND MISSION

By Fr. Alexander Schmemmann

To recover the missionary dimension of the Church is today's greatest imperative. We have to recover a very basic truth: that the Church is essentially Mission, that the very roots of her life are in the commandment of Christ: "Go Ye therefore and teach all nations" (Matt. 28:19). A Christian community that would lose this missionary zeal and purpose, that would become selfish and self-centered, that would limit itself to "satisfying the spiritual needs of its members", that would identify itself completely with a nation, a society, a social or ethnic group – is on its way to spiritual decadence and death, because the essential spiritual need of a Christian is precisely that of sharing the life and the Truth with as many men as possible and ultimately with the whole world. Mission thus is the organic need and task of the Church in the world, the real meaning of Church's presence in history between the first and the second advents of her Lord, or, in other terms, the meaning of Christian history. Obviously not all members of the Church can go and preach in the literal sense of the word. But all can have a concern for the missionary function of the Church, feel responsible for it, help and support it. In this respect each diocese, each parish and each member of the Church are involved in the missionary ministry.



**Українська Греко-Католицька Церква
Святого Йоана Хрестителя
St. John the Baptizer
Ukrainian Greco-Catholic Church**

Святкуємо 50-років! Celebrating 50 Years!

4400 Palm Avenue
La Mesa, CA 91941
Parish Office: (619) 697-5085

Website: stjohnthebaptizer.org

Pastor: Fr. James Bankston

Парох: о. Яків Бенкстон
frjames@mac.com

Fr. James' cell phone: (619) 905-5278

Demetrios, Holy Martyr and Myrrbearer

This glorious and wonderworking saint was born in Thessalonica of noble and devout parents. As Demetrius was their only son, and he was raised and educated with great care. Demetrius's father was a Roman army commander in Thessalonica. When his father died, Emperor Maximian appointed Demetrius as commander in his place. As he appointed him, Maximian, a pagan and an opponent of Christ, particularly recommended that Demetrius persecute and exterminate the Christians in Thessalonica. Demetrius not only disobeyed the emperor but openly confessed and preached the Lord Jesus Christ in the city of Thessalonica. When the emperor heard of this he became furious with Demetrius. Then, when he was returning from battle against the Sarmatians, Maximian stopped at Thessalonica to investigate the matter. The emperor summoned Demetrius and questioned him about his faith. Demetrius openly acknowledged his Christian Faith to the emperor and also denounced the emperor's idolatry. Maximian cast Demetrius into prison. Knowing what was awaiting him, Demetrius gave all his goods to his faithful servant Lupus to distribute to the poor, and joyfully awaited his imminent suffering for Christ the Lord. An angel of God appeared to him in prison, saying: "Peace be to you, O sufferer of Christ; be brave and be strong!" After several days, the emperor sent soldiers to the prison to kill Demetrius. The soldiers found the saint of God at prayer and ran him through with lances, sometime in the middle of the 4th century. Christians secretly took his body and honorably buried it. Healing myrrh flowed from the body of the martyr of Christ, curing many of the sick. Soon, a small church was built over his relics and devotion to him spread.