



SAINT MARY'S
ORTHODOX CHURCH
Goshen, IN

monthly NEWSLETTER

Lord, Have Mercy by Nate Miller

I was asked recently, “Dad, why do we say, ‘Lord, have mercy’ so often?” I suggested because we need it and the Lord has a lot of it. Not a bad reply. But not very good reply either. I’m still thinking about this observant question. An upgraded answer would include three observations.

One reason is that the Church is our mother. St. Cyprian of Carthage pointed out centuries ago already that we can’t have God as Father unless we have the Church as Mother. The Church gives us nurturing words and actions that are part of our spiritual healing. We don’t wait to do it until we understand. We do in order to understand. Some, if not many, of the actions the Church prescribes are difficult to understand. Rest assured though, the Church and her practices are for our healing.

Not only is the phrase therapeutic, the phrase is also biblical. Psalm 50 begins with a cry for mercy and colors the entire chapter. Mercy is central to this psalm and this psalm is central to our Liturgy. Fr. Pat Reardon points out in *Christ in the Psalms* that this penitential psalm is the “only psalm prescribed to be recited in its entirety during every celebration of...the Liturgy of St. Basil or St. John Chrysostom.” Indeed the concluding verses of this central psalm are often said after the Great Entrance, when the gifts have been placed on the holy table. That the Church interweaves this psalm so close to the Eucharist is instructive. The liturgical use of Psalm 50 in this context could suggest that “mercy and truth are met together” in the Eucharist. Could it also suggest that the Eucharist itself is bound up in human cries for mercy and is itself a divine response?

A final point in an improved answer would dwell on the Canaanite woman in Mt 15 and the dad in Mt 17. Our refrain “Lord, have mercy” appears on both of their lips and in both cases the Lord responded. The chilling thing is that they had to ask. God knew their situation. God cared about their situation. Why did they need to ask God for mercy about their situation? Does this suggest that when we don’t pray, God doesn’t do things He otherwise would have? We do see, however, that only after they asked the Lord for mercy did He act.

I’m still working at improving my answer to my daughter’s question. We do say “Lord, have mercy” a lot as Orthodox Christians. We can be confident this refrain seeks to bring healing to us and the whole world. Further, the theme of the Lord’s mercy is central to Psalm 50 and thus brings us to the heart of the Divine Liturgy and the Eucharist itself. Startling indeed is the idea that in a number of cases God only acts after we ask for mercy. For reasons like these, with my daughter, all of us will continue to pray “Lord, have mercy” a lot.

ST. MARY'S ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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His Eminence the Most Reverend Metropolitan Joseph, Archbishop of NY and Metropolitan of all North America
His Grace the Right Reverend Anthony, Bishop of Toledo and the Diocese of the Midwest

The Reverend Father Matthew Wade, Priest of St. Mary's Orthodox Church; Deacon Kenneth Timothy Hull;
Deacon Gerasimos Brandow; Subdeacons Matthew Cochran, John Bickel, Justin Shoopman;
Readers Matthew Whirlledge (Choir Director), Adrian Sharp;

Missions/Evangelism Ambassadors: Kh. Kelly Marina Wade, Dn. Kenneth Timothy Hull, Dn. Gerasimos Brandow

Parish Council and General Appointment Members: Connie Bickel (chair), Shirley Coblentz (vice-chair), Nicole Schwalm (Treasurer), Rachel Shoopman (Bookkeeper), Myrna Hull (Education Coordinator), Joe Currie (Head of Buildings and Grounds), Christopher Beachy (Secretary; Communications Coordinator), Richard Worsham, Bruce Batson

THE LIFE OF EUSTATHIUS THE GREAT
MARTYR, HIS WIFE
AND TWO CHILDREN

Commemorated September 20th
From goarch.org

The holy Martyr Eustathius before his baptism was an illustrious Roman general named Placidus in the days of the Emperor Trajan.

While hunting in the country one day, he was converted to the Faith of Christ through the apparition of an uncommonly majestic stag, between whose antlers he saw the Cross of Christ, and through which the Lord spoke to him with a human voice.

Upon returning home, he learned that his wife Tatiana had also had a vision in which she was instructed to become a Christian. They sought out the Bishop of the Christians and were baptized, Placidus receiving the name Eustathius, and Tatiana the name Theopiste; their two sons were baptized Agapius and Theopistus.

The family was then subjected to such trials as Job endured. Their servants died, all their goods were stolen, and on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem they were scattered abroad, each not even knowing if the others were still alive. By the providence of God, they were united again after many years, and returned to Rome in glory. Nevertheless, when they refused to sacrifice to the idols—a public sacrifice from which no Roman general could be absent—the Emperor Hadrian, who had succeeded Trajan, had them put into a large bronze device in the shape of a bull, which was heated with fire until they died. When their holy bodies were removed, they were found to be without harm. They suffered martyrdom about the year 126.

JULY AND AUGUST ATTENDANCE & GIVING

August average: 75
July average: 65

August loss: -\$4,166
July loss: -\$413
General Fund YTD: \$74,972

Funds raised at pancake breakfast (Sept 1): \$882

SATURDAY MORNING PATRISTICS
READING GROUP

The Saturday morning Patristics reading group will be reading part of St. Maximus the Confessor's Ambiguum 7

(pgs 45-61 of *On the Cosmic Mystery of Jesus Christ*.)

Join them at The Electric Brew in downtown Goshen every Saturday at 7:30 AM.

See Nate Miller for more information.

PROSPHORA SCHEDULE

Extra Prospophora is always needed. See Gloria to take your turn in making this special bread.

Sept 15	Myrna	Sept 22	Ron Dove
Sept 29	Deb Wilson	Oct 6	Natalie B.
Oct 13	Myrna	Oct 20	Ron Dove

UPCOMING NEWSLETTER ARTICLE CONTRIBUTORS

Please see Christopher for more information.

October	Rdr. Matthew Whirlledge
November	Dcn. Kenneth Timothy

USHERS SCHEDULE

More volunteers needed for Sundays. Please see Shirley Coblenz for more information.

Sept 15	Claudia	Sept 22	Shirley
Sept 29	Batsons		

UPCOMING READING GROUPS

2nd Corinthians or Galatians

South — Sept. 29, 4 PM at Nicole's
Waterford — Sept. 15, 5 PM at the Wades'
Sturgis — Sept. 22, 5 PM at the Brandows'
Downtown Goshen — TBA

UPCOMING SUNDAY READINGS

	Epistle	Gospel
Sept 15	<i>Galatians 2:16-20</i>	<i>Mark 8:34-38;9:1</i>
Sept 22	<i>2nd Corinthians 1:21-24;2:1-4</i>	<i>Luke 5:1-11</i>
Sept 29	<i>2nd Corinthians 4:6-15</i>	<i>Luke 6:31-36</i>
Oct 6	<i>2nd Corinthians 6:1-10</i>	<i>Luke 7:11-16</i>