



**January 24, 2010**  
**SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY;**  
**SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE:**  
**POST-FEAST OF THE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST**

**RESURRECTIONAL TROPARION - TONE EIGHT:**

You did descend from on high, O Merciful One! You did accept the three day burial to free us from our sufferings! O Lord, our Life and Resurrection: Glory to You!

**THEOPHANY TROPARION - TONE ONE:**

When You, O Lord, were baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest, for the voice of the Father bore witness to You, and called You His beloved Son, and the Spirit in the form of a dove, confirmed the truthfulness of His words. O Christ, our God, You have revealed Yourself, and have enlightened the world, glory to You!

**RESURRECTIONAL KONTAKION - TONE EIGHT:**

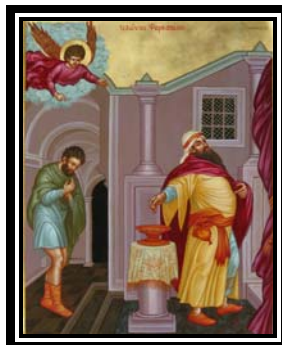
By rising from the tomb You did raise the dead and resurrect Adam. Eve exults in Your Resurrection, and the world celebrates Your Rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

**PUBLICAN & PHARISEE KONTAKION – TONE FOUR:**

Let us flee from the pride of the Pharisee! And learn humility from the Publican's tears! Let us cry to our Savior: Have mercy on us, O only merciful One!

**HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS, instead of "It is truly meet..." TONE TWO:**

Magnify, O my soul, her who is greater in honor than the hosts on high. Every tongue is at a loss to praise you as is due: even a spirit from the world above is filled with dizziness, when it seeks to sing your praises, O Theotokos. But since you are good, accept our faith: You know well our love inspired by God, for you are the Protectress of Christians and we magnify you!



## **EPISTLE & COMMENTARY**

### **THE PROKIMENON IN THE 8<sup>TH</sup> TONE: [PSALM 76:11]**

*Pray and make your vows before the Lord our God!*

### **EPHESIANS 4: 7-13 (SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY)**

Brethren, to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men." Now this, "He ascended" - what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things. And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

### **II TIMOTHY 3: 10-15 (PUBLICAN AND PHARISEE)**

My son Timothy, you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra - what persecutions I endured. And out of them all, the Lord delivered me. Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

### **ALLELUIA VERSES**

*I will sing of Thy mercies, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Thy truth from generation to generation.*

*Thou hast said: Mercy will be established forever, and My truth will be prepared in the heavens.*

### **COMMENTARY on EPHESIANS 4: 7-13**

The Church is truly one in essence, but it is diverse in both function and gifts. Unity does not mean uniformity. Each member is unique before God, with gifts and roles granted by Him. Why is there a diversity of persons and gifts in the Church? For unity of service, for the preservation of truth, and for the operation of sacrificial love (agape), the primary quality of Christian growth. The Church, in which Christian life develops, is not primarily an organization, but an organism whose parts or members receive their edifying power from Christ to grow up in Christ. St. Paul does not look at the Christian as an isolated individual walking toward perfection, but as a member of the body, striving to reach the perfect faith and full knowledge of the Son of God. Thus, unity of faith cannot be separated from knowledge of the Son of God. May Christ grant us the love and the patience to recognize and celebrate the unique and glorious gifts of the Holy Spirit present in all of the members of the Church.

## GOSPEL & COMMENTARY

### **MATTHEW 4: 12-17 (Sunday after Theophany)**

At that time when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee. And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, by the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles: The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death Light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

### **LUKE 18: 10-14 (Publican & Pharisee)**

Jesus said this parable: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men: extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

### **COMMENTARY on LUKE 18: 10-14**

Commonly, when we hear the parable of the Publican and the Pharisee, we think that there is nothing worthy to admire in the Pharisee. And yet Christ tells us, we must do all that the Pharisee does, *as well as* maintain a humble heart. The practices of the Pharisee are worthy examples: fasting and giving tithes are the primary weapons against the passions of lust and greed. However, without a humble and repentant heart, these outward practices are worthless--especially when they lead to pride and the judgment of others. We can never forget that there is only one human being to which we ought to compare ourselves: Jesus Christ. If we do so, we shall always be found wanting. When we compare ourselves with Christ, who is perfect, how can we even lift our eyes toward heaven? May God grant us the humility of the Publican, as we prepare for the upcoming spiritual exercise of the Great Fast!

## SPIRITUAL ARTICLES

**From *The Prologue* for Jan. 11/Jan. 24 by St. Nikolai Velimirovic:**

### **The Venerable Theodosius the Great [the Cenobiarch]**

Theodosius was the first founder and organizer of the cenobitic way of monastic life. He was born in the province of Cappadocia in the village of Mogarisses, of devout parents. As a child, he visited St. Simeon the Stylite, who blessed him and

prophesied great spiritual glory for him. Carrying a censer in which he placed unlit charcoal and incense, Theodosius sought out a place where he could settle and establish his monastery, and he stopped when the charcoal began to burn on its own. There he settled and began to live the ascetic life. He soon gathered around him many monks of various nationalities. He built a church for each nationality, so that services and hymns were offered to God in Greek, Armenian, Georgian, and other tongues at the same time. But on the day of Holy Communion all the brotherhood gathered in the great church, in which the Greek language was used. There was a common table for all, common property, common penance, common labor, common endurance and, not rarely, common hunger. Theodosius was an exalted model of life to all the monks—an example in labor, prayer, fasting, watchfulness and all Christian virtues. God granted him the gift of working miracles, by which he was able to heal the sick, appear to people in distant places and help them, tame wild beasts, discern the future, and cause bread and wheat to multiply. Prayer was on his lips day and night. He reposed peacefully in the Lord in the year 529, the 105th year after his birth.

### **Blessed Michael the Fool-for-Christ**

Blessed Michael was a Russian of a princely family. He made himself appear foolish so as to conceal his virtues from the world and to avoid the praise of men. Thus he prepared himself for praise before God. He reposed in the year 1453 in the Klops Monastery near Novgorod, where his relics still lie.

### **HYMN OF PRAISE Saint Theodosius**

Those who, with fear, stand before God,  
Those who fear the Living God alone,  
They, only they can witness  
That the righteous one receives that for which he prays to God.  
When people truly pray, God acts on their behalf.  
The dawn shines on the one who turns to the dawn.  
Saint Theodosius, by his prayers,  
Helped many and also helps us.  
For he lives even now, as he once did,  
And works miracles now, even as he once did.  
The Lord gave him power, because of his faith  
And his love for God—love without measure.  
Wondrous Theodosius, zealot for truth,  
Marvelous director of the monastic life:  
Let us praise him who is glorified by God,  
Now a glorious citizen of the Kingdom of Christ.

## REFLECTION

To be bribable means to not be a Christian. The Orthodox Fathers of the Church were not given to bribery or intimidation. Bribery in matters of the Faith is equal to Judas's betrayal of Christ for money. Such bribery was characteristic only of certain heretics. When Emperor Anastasius succumbed to the heresy of Eutychius, he rose up against the decisions of the Fourth Ecumenical Council [Chalcedon, 451] and wanted to outlaw those decisions. In order to win over the most distinguished representatives of the Church for himself, the emperor began to send them various gifts. St. Theodosius was the most renowned man in all of Palestine. The emperor sent him thirty liters of gold as a gift, supposedly for the needs of the monastery. By this, Theodosius immediately understood that the emperor wanted to bribe him. How wisely this saint of God acted! He did not want to keep the money for the monastery, even though it was in great need; neither did he want to return it to the emperor, lest the emperor become more embittered against Orthodoxy; thus he immediately distributed all the gold to the poor in the emperor's name. This charity strengthened his prayer to God for the emperor's correction and his return to the true path.

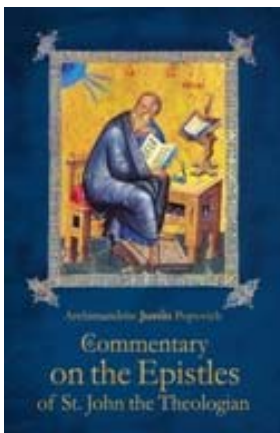
## **IMPORTANT REMINDERS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **ANNUAL DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY - January 28-29, 2010**

Saint Simeon Serbian Orthodox Church, Las Vegas, Nevada will host the Annual Diocesan Assembly on January 28-29, 2010.

For more information please Visit: <http://westsrbdio.org/assembly/>

## **FROM SEBASTIAN PRESS:**

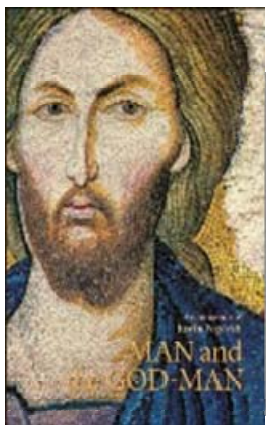


### **Commentary on the Epistles of St. John the Theologian** By Archimandrite Justin Popovic

*Retail price: \$7.*

This Commentary on the Epistles of St. John the Theologian - published now, three years after the blessed repose of Venerable Fr. Justin (on the Feast of the Annunciation, 1979) - was written by the tireless Messenger of Christ forty years ago, in circumstances similar to those in which Christ's Holy Evangelist John wrote his sacred Epistles.

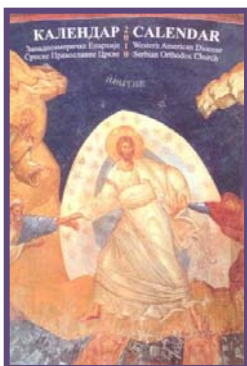
The text of this 93-page soft-bound book has been translated from the Serbian by Radomir M. Plavsic. Published by Sebastian Press, Western American Diocese of the Serbian Orthodox Church, Contemporary Christian Thought Series, number 5, First Edition



### **MAN AND THE GOD-MAN by Archimandrite Justin Popovic**

One of our newest publications of Sebastian Press Publishing House is available for purchase online at: [http://www.westsrbdio.org/ads/man\\_and\\_the\\_godman.html](http://www.westsrbdio.org/ads/man_and_the_godman.html)

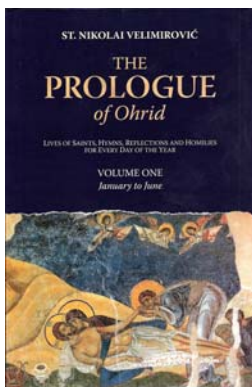
*Retail Price: \$15.00*



### **2010 POCKET DIOCESAN CALENDARS NOW AVAILABLE**

Be sure to watch for your order in the mail. If you have not already received them, you will shortly! Contact the Diocesan office if you have any questions.

*Retail Price: \$5.00*



### **THE PROLOGUE OF OHRID**

St Nikolai of Zica (Velimirovic) (1880-1956) has been called the "Serbian Chrysostom" for his theological depth and golden-tongued eloquence. Now for the first time, a complete and unabridged English translation of St. Nikolai's Prologue of Ohrid has been made available. St. Nikolai's Prologue has become a much-loved spiritual classic for Orthodox Christians worldwide. An inspirational source-book of the Orthodox Faith, it contains within its pages a summation of the Church's wisdom and Her experience of sanctity through the Grace of Jesus Christ. Lives of Saints, Hymns, Reflections and Homilies are presented for

every day of the year. St. Nikolai's beautiful Hymns have never before appeared in English. – *Retail \$120 per set*