

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Icon of Saints Cosmas and Damian -- November 1st

St. Nicholas of Myra Byzantine Catholic Parish

Liturgical Schedule:

Sat	Oct	25	Marcian Martyr
Sun	Oct	26	20TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 10:00 am Hierarchical Divine Liturgy
Mon	Oct	27	Nestor Martyr
Tue	Oct	28	Paraskeva Venerable 6:30 pm Divine Liturgy
Wed	Oct	29	Anastasia Venerable
Thu	Oct	30	Zenobius Martyr 6:30 pm Divine Liturgy
Fri	Oct	31	Theodore Romzha Martyr
Sat	Nov	1	Cosmas and Damian Unmercenaries 3:40 pm Rosary 4:00 pm Divine Liturgy
Sun	Nov	2	21ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 10:10 am Moleben to the Theotokos 10:30 am Divine Liturgy

Weekly Collections 10/19/2025
"My return to the Lord for all His goodness to me"

Offertory	\$ 2,545.00	E-donations	\$ 381.81
Candles	\$ 27.00	Others	\$ 150.00
Holy Days	\$ 00.00		

Total: \$ 3,103.81

We thank You for Your big generosity!

Propers of the Sunday: Tone 3 – page 135.

20TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

The Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus (Lk: 16:19-31)

"There was a rich man who used to dress in purple garments and the finest linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who would have been grateful to be fed with the scraps that fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs would come and lick his sores.

"Now the poor man died, and he was carried away by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. In the netherworld, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham, far off, and Lazarus by his side. And he called out, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me. Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames.'

"But Abraham replied, 'My child, remember that during your lifetime you received many good things, while Lazarus suffered greatly. Now he is being comforted while you are in agony. Moreover, between us and you a great chasm has been established, so that no one who wishes to do so can pass from our side to yours, nor can anyone pass from your side to ours.'

" 'Then I beg you, father,' he said, 'to send him to my father's house, to warn my five brothers, lest they too end up in this place of torment.' But Abraham responded, 'They have Moses and the Prophets. Let them listen to them.'

"He said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' Abraham answered, 'If they will not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be persuaded even if someone should rise from the dead.' "

- First of all, Jesus teaches here that heaven and hell are both real, literal places. Sadly, many preachers shy away from uncomfortable topics such as hell. The Bible is clear that every person who has ever lived will spend eternity in either heaven or hell.
- Once we cross the eternal horizon, that's it. There are no more chances. The transition to our eternal state takes place the moment we die.
- The rich man wrongly saw his material riches as evidence of God's love and blessing. Likewise, he believed the poor and destitute, like Lazarus, were cursed by God.
- True followers of Christ will not be indifferent to the plight of the poor like the rich man in this story was. God loves the poor and is offended when His children neglect them. In fact, those who show mercy to the poor are in effect ministering to Christ personally.
- When death comes knocking on our door there is only one thing that matters: our relationship with Jesus Christ and with others.

No Medical Fees!

Saints Cosmas and Damian are the principal and best known of those saints venerated in the East as the “moneyless ones,” or “unmercenary ones,” because they practiced their profession as physicians without fees from their patients.

According to tradition, Cosmas and Damian were twin brothers, born in Arabia of a saintly mother Theodota. The brothers studied the sciences in Syria and became eminent for their skill in medicine. Being charitable Christians, they practiced medicine with great application and success, but never took any payment for their services. They observed the Lord’s command, “Without cost you have received, without cost you are to give” (Mt. 10:8).

At Aegeae in Cilicia, where they lived, they enjoyed the highest esteem of the people. When the persecution under Diocletian broke out, their very prominence rendered them marked objects of persecution. Being apprehended by order of Lysias, governor of Cilicia, they underwent various torments and were beheaded about the year 283. The three brothers of Cosmas and Damian, Anthimus, Leontius and Euprepiu, are said to have suffered with them.

Among the distinguished people who attributed recovery from serious illness to Saints Cosmas and Damian was the Emperor Justinian I who built two churches in Constantinople in honor of the martyrs. Their basilica in Rome with its lovely mosaics was dedicated in the year 530.