

## The Saints, children of God

The Church, presenting and honoring all her Saints on the Sunday after Pentecost, shows that the path of the promises of God is the fruit of life “in the Holy Spirit”, that is of partaking in the life of the faith in Christ and of the ecclesiastical path. And the Saints do not abandon all of us who, more or less, remain attached to the path of interest, of need, of expectations. On the path that makes faith religion, the fulfillment of needs, the seeking of recompense or also of deliverance from fears. The Saints become and remain children of God. This is lacking as a priority of the secularized and anthropocentric culture, which was not able to discern what is essential, probably because we also failed to live them, or we perverted them through a logic of authority, of comfort, of weakness, to discuss with humility, respect and unsparing love. The Saints showed and show the path of sacrifice, of love, of resurrection. And they mediate for each one of us. Let us follow them with joy, with the hope that we also partake in their cloud, surpassing what is temporal, which sometimes becomes so oppressive, as in our age, when its vanity is discerned by the many.

Fr. T. M

### SUNDAY, JUNE 27, 2021 THE SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS,

*Samson the Hospitable, Joanna the Myrrhbearer, Anektos the Martyr, Tychon the Wonderworker, 40 Martyrs of Rome, Mark the Just of Apollonia*

**TONE OF THE WEEK** : Plagal Fourth

**EOTHINON** : First

**EPISTLE READING** : St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 11:33-40; 12:1-2

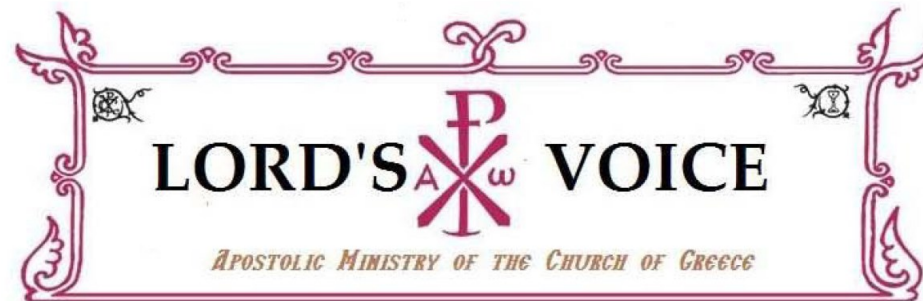
**Gospel Reading** : Matthew 10:32-33; 37-38; 19:27-30

### SUNDAY, JULY 4, 2021 2ND SUNDAY OF MATTHEW,

*Andrew of Crete Author of the Great Canon, Martha, mother of St. Symeon Stylites the Younger, Asclepias the Wonderworker, Michael Choniates, Metropolitan of Athens*

**EPISTLE READING** : St. Paul's Letter to the Romans 2:10-16

**Gospel Reading** : Matthew 4:18-23



69<sup>TH</sup> YEAR JUNE 27 2021 PAMPHLET # 26 (3552)

## THE SAINTS AND THE PROMISES OF GOD

Usually most people in order to follow a person, an idea or an attitude of life, even also a group, whether political, whether social, or religious, or athletic, are drawn by some promises. They concern, sometimes the interest, at other times the needs and at other times the ideas and the expectations of all who are called to follow.

### The criteria of the world

The interest is directly realizable. We follow those who promise us that they will fulfill our desires, those who will help us pass our life better, show off, become successful. Equally realizable is also the fulfillment of our needs. We people have need of food and survival, but also of validation and acceptance and love, sometimes also, of power. Finally, there's also the fulfillment of expectations. These usually spring also from the ideas. We follow persons who promise that they will fulfill ideas and mindsets for wider reforms in a level of society and life, that will help people and consequently us also, to live differently, based on criteria and values. For this reason also, we people are not always firm in whomever we follow. We test them as regards trustworthiness and diligence, in all that they proclaim, and in all that they do. We easily change preferences,

## **THE SUNDAY EPISTLE (HEBREWS 11:33-40; 12:1-2)**

Brethren, all the saints through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated - of whom the world was not worthy - wandering over deserts and mountains and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect. Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

because we ascertain that they are not fulfilling, either because they don't want to, or because they are not able to fulfill our interests, needs and expectations.

### **The meaning of eternity**

In the life of faith, we also have promises there as well. Just that, it is not the people giving them, but God. They who are following God, because they trust His promises, become the Saints. And the Saints, "succeeded in fulfilling the promises of God" (Heb. 11:33), because they know which they are, they accepted them, and struggled for them

The promises of God don't have to do with daily life, interests, needs, expectations, for today. They are promises that bring the meaning of eternity. Instead of satisfying the temporal interest, God promises the narrow and grievous gate, the path of sacrifice, of ascesis, of temperance, of being satisfied with a little, even the path of deprivation. Whoever believes, knows that his life will not proceed as human desire seeks, for a wide path of enjoyment and desire, but he will be ready for sacrifice, which will be validated by the joy of faith. Joy brings sadness within it, as well, because the interests are not fulfilled. However, he who hears and accepts the promises of God, knows that his interest is trusting God, even also within the pain of sacrifice.

At the same time, God does not promise the satisfaction of our needs, but their surpassing. And this happens through love, both towards Him as also towards the neighbor. The relationship with God shows us that only one need really exists. That of love. And whoever loves, is able also to give himself. In order to taste, through the joy-sadness of patience, of obedience, of the cross, of giving, even without any recompense, not even moral, that the duty before God and his fellow man fills his being with strength, so that he is able to discern what is essential from what lasts.

Finally, the promise of God has to do with the promise of the Resurrection. In other words, of eternal life, with which the present one cannot be compared. So, for this reason also, it is "the cloud of so many surrounding martyrs" (Heb. 12:1), because the relationship with God puts us in another perspective. That of knowledge and of living the meaning of true life, which is the Godly one. The rest, the human ones, the Saint, without abandoning them, since he dwells in the world, he considers them in their real value, in other words, as a preparation for the better things.