

June 30, 2024: 1ST SUNDAY OF MATTHEW

"All Saints". Synaxis of the holy glorious 12 apostles.

Tone: pl. 4' – Eothinon: 1' – Epistle: Heb. 11:33 – 12:2 – Gospel:

Matth. 9:36, 10:1-8.

NEXT SUNDAY: July 7, Second Sunday of Matthew.

Epistle: Gal. 3:23 – 4:5 – Gospel: Matt. 4:18-23.

From the publications of the Apostolic Ministry (in Greek)

METROPOLITAN OF PISIDIA SOTIRIOS TRAMBA (†)

### SEARCHING FOR THE TRUTH

(First edition, size 17x24 cm, p. 496)

The present book aims to answer questions and spiritual concerns that the believer faces in his daily life. To respond to the spiritual quests of modern man, who is looking for the deeper meaning and purpose of his life.

EMERITUS PROFESSOR CHRISTOS SP. BULGARIS

### THE TWELVE DISCIPLES AND APOSTLES OF JESUS CHRIST

† F. A.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 30, 2024 SYNAXIS OF THE TWELVE**

**HOLY APOSTLES** Michael the New Martyr of Athens

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

**GOSPEL READING :** Matthew 9:36, 10:1-8 E

**EOTHINON 1**

**TONE OF THE WEEK PLAGAL 4**

**SUNDAY, JULY 7, 2024 2ND SUNDAY OF MATTHEW ,**

Thomas the Righteous of Malea, Kyriake the Great Martyr , Akakios of Sinai , Willibald, Bishop of Eichstatt .

**EPISTLE READING :** St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 3:23-29;

**GOSPEL READING :** Matthew 4:18-23



72<sup>ST</sup> YEAR JUNE 30 2024 PAMPHLET # 26 (3709)

## THE TWELVE-TORCHED LANTERN OF THE APOSTLES

The organic and inseparable relationship between the mystery of Christ and the mystery of the Church determined the content of the apostolic tradition both for the Christ-centered ontology of the Church as also for the spiritual-centered fulfillment of its mission in the history of salvation. In this spirit, Jesus Christ chose the Apostles and "privately explained to them everything", that was necessary for them to fulfill the mission entrusted to them of preaching the Gospel to all the nations: "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you." This command was combined with the assurance, on the one hand, that He Himself will remain with them "all the days until the close of the age", on the other hand, that they will receive "power, when the Holy Spirit comes" upon them and they will become "witnesses...unto the ends of the earth".

## **THE SUNDAY GOSPEL (Matthew 36:1-8)**

At that time, the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw Him they worshiped Him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age. Amen."

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The outpouring of the Holy Spirit transformed the Apostles and strengthened them in the work and teaching of the Gospel. With the power of the Comforter, the Apostles became the authentic preachers of Christ's Resurrection, while the preaching had Christ as the center and especially His Resurrection, of which they themselves were witnesses who had heard Him and eyewitnesses.

### **The planter Lord**

The sacred Chrysostom asks very beautifully about the Holy Apostles: "In what did they take courage?" In what could they rely, to have the strength and bravery for their work? "In the skill of the words? But they were more ignorant than everyone. In the wealth of money? But they did not even have shoes. In the pride of the race? But they were paltry and out of paltriness." the Paraclete, the All-Holy Spirit, which constitutes the sacred institution of the Church gave

them strength, illumination, grace, charisma, spiritual courage, faith, and enthusiasm. For this reason, Saint Chrysostom rightly mentions "everything that the Apostles have, they have from the Son". The Son of God not only first loved the Apostles, but as a God-man, He is simultaneously also their planter.

### **The apostolic succession**

The Holy Apostles on the blessed day of Pentecost did not simply receive the grace of the Spirit, but they were filled with grace. The Holy Spirit remained in them permanently and firmly. Thus, the work of the Holy Apostles continued and continues with their successors. This unbroken succession continues to this day and is characterized as an uninterrupted succession of persons and faith and that is why our Church is called Apostolic. The apostolic words, the apostolic laws, the apostolic orders, the apostolic teaching, the apostolic character, the apostolic train of thought, the apostolic achievements, the apostolic succession, remain in the Church and constitute its characteristics, not only in the sense of its first historical period, but of the Church as the Body of Christ, as it is manifested and revealed in the eucharistic assembly. That is also why the mouths of the Holy Apostles, which are "royal treasuries... storing a treasure of healings", exhort us and ask us to become their imitators, as they also were of Christ.