

A LESSON FROM AN UNLIKELY SOURCE

A profound Christian message is found in the following statement: **"THE WEAK CAN NEVER FORGIVE. FORGIVENESS IS THE ATTRIBUTE OF THE STRONG."** Do you know to whom this quote is attributed? Are they Christ's words? Were they uttered by one of our Church Fathers? It may surprise you to know that they are the words of Mahatma Gandhi, the great Hindu leader of India in the 20th century! Nonetheless, they teach us a lesson that is especially important to us during our Great Fast.

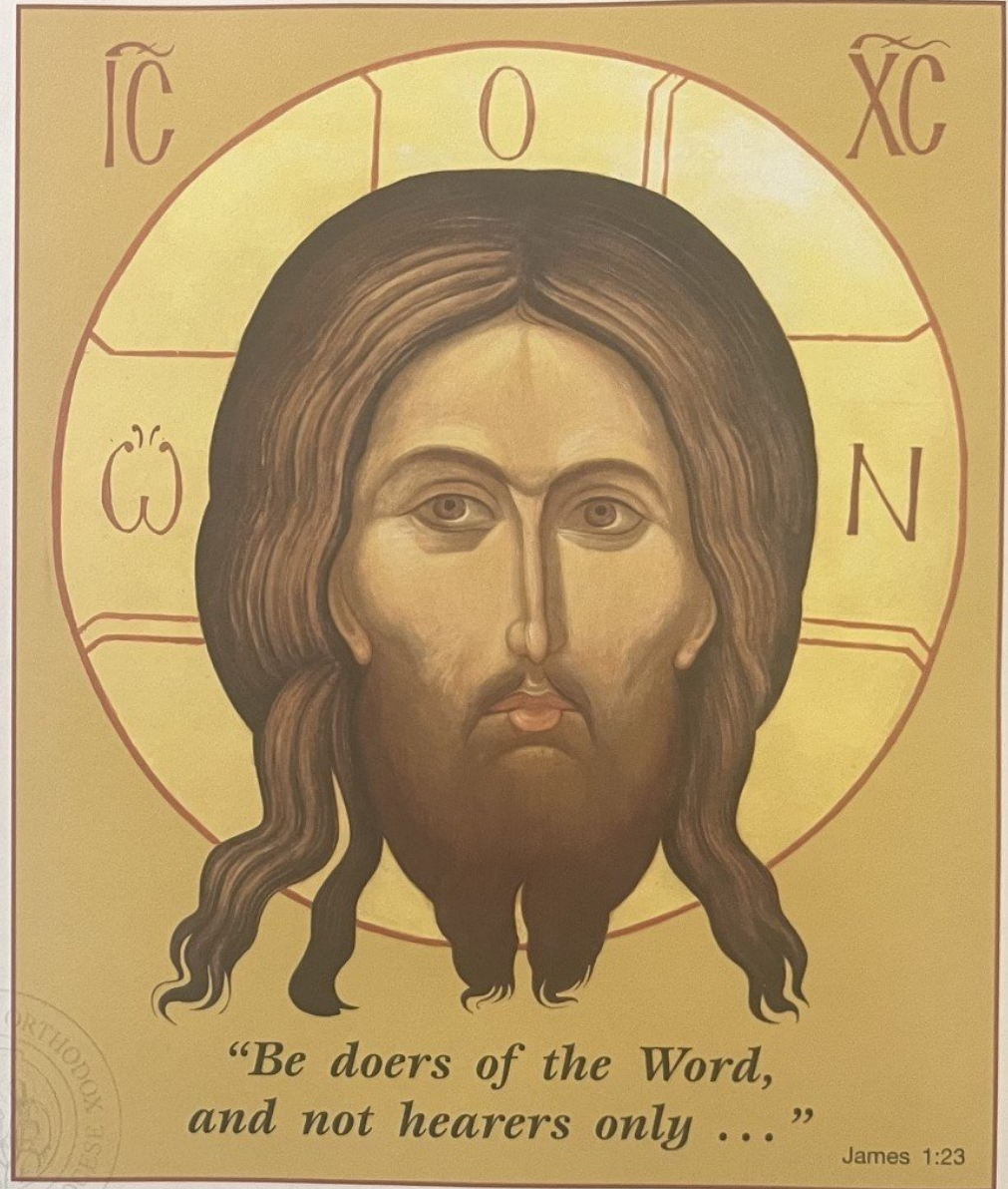
Unfortunately, life is not always fair, and we find ourselves being wronged almost on a daily basis. Often it is the people who are dearest to us who cause us the most pain. When this happens, there is a part of us that is not interested in making peace with those who have hurt us. Anger dominates our thoughts — the desire

for revenge fills our hearts. Often we are not willing to pardon mistakes and move on. Many a family or friendship has been ruined by this type of attitude.

Yet that is precisely what our Lord wants us to do: **FORGIVE AND FORGET**. When His Apostles asked Him to teach them how to pray, Christ gave them the "Our Father" prayer, which clearly points out our need to "... forgive those who trespass against us." When He hung from the Cross — a Victim of hatred and jealousy — He implored His Heavenly Father to forgive those who were responsible for this vilest of crimes.

Only a person with a strong faith and a strong character can forgive. As we continue on our Lenten journey, may we **SEEK** forgiveness from God for our many transgressions, and may we **SHOW** similar forgiveness to those who have sinned against us.

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Welcome our Visitors! We invite you to venerate the cross at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. However, only Orthodox Christians who are in good standing and who have prepared by prayer, fasting, and Confession may receive Holy Communion.

A Gift of Blessing

Visit the Church Gift Shop.

See the Beautiful Icons, Crosses & Home Censers

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Church Calendar: Check the Link. <http://www.stgeorgevicksburg.org/service.html>

SAINT GEORGE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The Very Rev. Father Gabriel Karam, Pastor

Saturday Great Vespers 6:00 p.m. - Sunday Orthros 9:15 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m. - Confessions: By Appointment

DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES SUNDAY JULY 05, 2026

TONE 4 / EOTHINON 5

APOLYTIKION OF PENTECOST IN TONE FOUR

Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation. And proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying: Death hath been spoiled; Christ God is risen, granting the world Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. ATHANASIUS THE ATHONITE IN TONE THREE

The Angels' ranks were awed by thy life in the flesh, * how, though corporeal, and clad with earthly clay, * thou didst set forth with courage to invisible wars and wrestlings * and didst boldly smite the hordes * of the demons with mortal wounds. * Wherefore, Christ rewarded thee * with abundant gifts in return. * Entreat Him that our souls find salvation, * O most renowned Father Athanasius.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. GEORGE IN TONE FOUR

As deliver of Captives: And defender of the Poor, Healer of the Infirm, champion of Kings, Victorious Great Martyr George, Intercede with Christ our God for our souls' salvation.

ORDINARY KONTAKION IN TONE TWO

O protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the Creator most constant, O despise not the suppliant voices of those who have sinned; but be thou quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession, and speed thou to make supplication, thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.

We Celebrate Today

On July 5 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate our **Venerable and God-bearing Father Athanasius of Athos**, and his six disciples who died with him.

Verses

Anthony the Great was the inception of the Fathers,
And divine Athanasius, their godly culmination.

On the fifth, Angels took Athanasius and his disciples to the City of God.

Born in Trebizond of God-fearing parents, he was early left destitute, but, by the providence of God, a high-ranking army officer took him to Constantinople and educated him there. Finishing his schooling, Athanasius eventually moved to the Holy Mountain to live in silence and strict asceticism. Many, desirous of the ascetic life, began to gather round him and he was constrained to build the famous Lavra. The Byzantine Emperors gave him generous help in this. Manifold temptations came upon Athanasius, from demons and from men, but he, as a valiant soldier of Christ, resisted and overcame them all by his immense humility and unceasing prayer to the living God.

Filled with the grace of God, he was found worthy to behold the most holy Mother of God, who miraculously brought forth water from a rock. Death came to him suddenly in 1003. He, together with six of his monks, had climbed up onto a newly-constructed part of the church to inspect a wall that was in building when the wall fell in and buried them all. Athanasius appeared a number of times to his brethren after his death, to console or rebuke them.

On this day, we also commemorate **Venerable Lampados of Irenoupolis**; and **Venerable hieromartyr Cyprian** of Mount Athos. By the intercessions of Thy Saints, O Christ our God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+Healing & Recovery Bishop Nicholas, Fr. Paul Yerger, Dea Terry, Kh. Janet Henderson, Joy Logue, Dolores Nosser, Rick Collins, George Michael Nasif, Lynne Abraham, Pam Smith, Irene Tzotzolas, Michael Farris, Athena, Georgia, Andrea Simon, Chuck Abraham, Carla Leese, Rex Whiteaker, Drew Anderton, Robert Taylor.

+Birthdays & Anniversaries, July. Roxy Kabanova (4), Kathy Saikley Saway (13), Emil Ellis (14), Haylee Hull Nix (19), Mark & Rebecca Antwine, (21), Nicholas Saway (22), Joy Logue, Jarret & Jori Whitley (23), Claire Griner, Lauren Nosser (24), Taylor Thomas, Marlene Middleton (25), Cynthia Freeny (26), Mattie Sue Antwine (27), Alan Evans (28),

+Holy Bread & Coffee Hour are offered today by Jim and Susie Angelo & Their family. The 60th Anniversary.

+One Year Memorial Service. A trisagion prayer for the handmaid of God Tatiana Zavyalova Cummings.

+Keep in your prayers. Our Catechumens, Cole Gary, Who is preparing himself for the Holy Sacrament of Chrismation.

+Antiochian Men Meeting Monday July 13th @ 6 Pm

+Parish Council Meeting Tuesday July 14th. @ 6 pm.

+The Archdiocese 23rd Biennial Clergy Symposium @ the Antiochian Village July 20-24.

"The Shepherd Knows His Sheep: Reading the Parish, Serving the Flock"

Guest Speakers His Eminence Metropolitan Jacob of Buenos Aires and All Argentine, and Dr.

Tarek Mitri "Deputy Prime Minister of Lebanon and President of Saint George University of Beirut."

The Church Fathers Teach

If you have the sinful habit of judging your neighbor, then whenever you judge someone make three prostrations that day with this prayer: "Save, O Lord, and have mercy on him (whom I have judged) and by his prayers, have mercy on me, a sinner." Do this every time you judge someone. If you do this, God will see your sincerity and will deliver you from this sinful habit forever. And if you never judge anyone, then God will never judge you. In this way you will even receive salvation.

=(Priest-confessor Sergei Pravdolubov)

DIVINE LITURGY JULY 03, 2026

“DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM”

THE EPISTLE

(For St. Athanasius)

*The saints shall boast in glory, and they shall rejoice upon their beds.
Sing unto the Lord a new song; His praise is in the church of the saints.*

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians. (5:22-6:2)

Brethren, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. Let us have no self-conceit, no provocation of one another, no envy of one another. Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Look to yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

The GOSPEL

(For the Fifth Sunday of Matthew)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (8:28-9:1)

At that time, when Jesus came to the country of the Gergesenes, two demoniacs met Him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one could pass that way. And behold, they cried out, "What have we to do to Thee, O Son of God? Art Thou come here to torment us before the time?" Now a herd of many swine was feeding at some distance from them. And the demons begged Him, "If Thou castest us out, send us away into the herd of swine." And He said to them, "Go." So, they came out and went into the swine; and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and perished in the waters. The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, and what had happened to the demoniacs. And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw Him, they begged Him to leave their neighborhood. And getting into a boat He crossed over and came to His own city.