

Class Structure

03/26/23

- 1: Lords Prayer English & Greek**
- 2: Gospel Reading, discussion and explanation**
- 3: Talk about St Sophrony**
- 4: Read the Creed until learned by memory Greek & English**
- 5: Play Cross of Christ game**

1: Lords Prayer English & Greek *(Pray with class)*

2: Gospel Reading, discussion and explanation

The Gospel for 03/26/2023

(Get a Student to Read) Ask who wants to read the Gospel

Mark 9:17-31 *(New King James Version)*

We pray that we may believe and believe that we might pray *(Augustine)*.

No measure of faith is preserved without prayer *(Jerome, John Cassian)*.

In this gospel we see the demons are bound up when they come into the presence of the incarnate Lord, Jesus Christ. Whoever lacks the presence of the Holy Spirit become vulnerable to demonic systems and powers. Just the touch of the hand of Jesus cures the boy.

An Epileptic Boy Healed

17 Then one of the crowd answered and said, “Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit.

18 And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not.”

Here the man brings his possessed son to Chris showing his love for his son and his belief in Christ. Demons, having lost the simplicity of their created being are weighed down and blocked of their nature with iniquity. Being deprived of the Spirit of God they try to infuse this onto others as they did to this boy. This did not happen because of sin but, because of the lack of faith. When we command them by the one true God, the wretches, bitterly against their will, fall into horrible shiverings, and either spring straightaway from the bodies they possess, or vanish by degrees, according to the faith of the patient or the grace of the physician. *(OCTAVIUS 26–27)*.

19 He answered him and said, “O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me.”

20 Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth.

Although the boy fell to the ground convulsing it was the demon in side that was suffering and being punished in the presence of God. This is what will happen to those who fall short of heaven when Christ comes to judge them in the end times. The boy was possessed by the demon and this was shown through the demons actions.

21 So He asked his father, “**How long has this been happening to him?**” And he said, “From childhood.

We said the boy did not sin at birth. So what caused this demon possession? Remember that no one is born into this world free from the taint of the first transgression the original sin of Adam and Eve. This is why Jesus came to abolish sin through our faith in him. So through the grace of God he might be “delivered from this body of death through Jesus Christ our Lord.

22 And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But **if You can do anything**, have compassion on us and **help us.**”

23 Jesus said to him, “**If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.**”

24 Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, “**Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!**”

In **Luke 18:8** Jesus said ... **when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?**” The faith that Jesus talks about is fully matured faith which is found in the saints. The Church has faith If not would anyone even come to Church? But is our faith matured? No If it were we could move mountains, so we come to increase our faith to get closer to Christ. What better way to get closer than to receive communion and be one with him. The apostles had such great faith they left all to follow Christ. When the man said “Lord, I believe, help me in my unbelief.” he had faith it was not full faith. If our faith is not full we should use the apostles example and follow Christ. How do we follow him? We follow him by praying, fasting, reading the bible, attending Church and receiving communion. All these things will grow our faith and hopefully one day, it will be mature.

We need to pray to believe and believe to pray.

PRAY TO BELIEVE, BELIEVE TO PRAY.

St Augustine says: Where faith fails, prayer perishes. For who prays for that in which he does not believe?... So then in order that we may pray, let us believe, and let us pray that this same faith by which we pray may not falter. **SERMONS ON NEW TESTAMENT LESSONS 65.1.**

When we pray we need to ask for the grace of God to help us. Although God gives us free will we can not do anything without his grace.

GRACE TO ASSIST FAITH.

John Cassian says: Seeing that his faith was being driven by the waves of unbelief on the rocks which would cause a fearful shipwreck, he asks of the Lord an aid to his faith, saying “Lord, help me in my unbelief.” So thoroughly did the apostles and those who live in the gospel realize that everything which is good is **brought to completion by the aid of the Lord**, and not imagine that they could preserve their faith unharmed **by their own strength or free will**, that they prayed that it might be helped and granted to them by the Lord. **CONFERENCE OF ABBOT PAPHNUTIUS 16.**

25 When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, **“Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!”**

From The Gospel of St. Matthew, Homily 57.3. CHRYSOSTOM:

The Scripture indicates that this man was extremely weak in faith, as is evident at four points:

- 1: When Christ’s says that **“All things are possible to him that believes;”** he is pointing out the unbelief.
- 2: When the man said himself as he approached, **“Help me in my unbelief;”** he admitted his unbelief.
- 3: When Christ’s commanded the devil to **“enter no more into him;”** If you believed in Christ whole hearted the demons would not be able to stay in him.
- 4: When the man said to Christ, **“If you can.”** If was showing doubt in the mans faith in Christ.

26 Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, “He is dead.”

27 But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose.

As he appeared to be dead, Jesus revealed himself to us in the reality of his Godhead, by his power to lift the boy up by the hand showing how he will lift us up in the end times.

28 And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?”

29 So He said to them, **“This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting.”**

THE WEAPON OF CHOICE.

Tertullian: Fasting is the weapon of choice for battling with the more dreadful demons. **ON FASTING 8.8.**

Through prayer and fasting we stimulate the Holy Spirit to activate. After the Lord was baptized he prayed and fasted 40 days. Then when he was tempted by the devil he he endured the temptations and won the fight. Should we be surprised if the expulsion of the spirit of iniquity require prayer and fasting.

Jesus Again Predicts His Death and Resurrection

30 Then they departed from there and passed through Galilee, and He did not want anyone to know it.

31 For He taught His disciples and said to them, “The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day.”

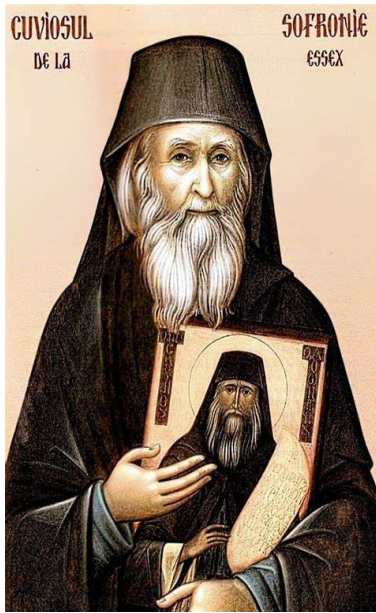
After Jesus told the disciples that they would kill him and he would resurrect on the 3 day. The apostles missed the point because they were too occupied with worldly things.

In this Gospel we were taught through Christ's example as he stated in **Mark 12:30-31** **30**, which says “**Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.** **31 The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.’**”

He told us to pray and fast in doing this we are loving God. He shows us through helping the boy in need to love our neighbor. Throughout the Gospels Christ continues to show us through his life how we should strive to live.

3: Talk about St Sophrony and St Silouan





Reminder Notes

1	His impact to the world was a book written about St Silouan and his teachings
2	Elder Amillianos said we have a new philicalio (collection spiritual works) referring to the writings of St Sophrony of the modern world.
3	As boy in prayer he saw the uncreated light of Christ.
4	Wanted to seek God and started with painting studied art.
5	Got side tracked and started studing Eastern Religions. Then repented and came back to Orthodoxy. Because we had a personal relationship with God our Father
6	Studied 1922 left Russia and ended up studing theology at St Surgeous in Parris France.
7	He desired to become closer to God so he left and went to Mt Athose to become a monk at St Pondilimon.
8	After becoming a monk he was Ordained a Deacon St Nickoli Elomedovich
9	During the liturgy he was censing the monks and saw one that he felt he could see his whole spiritual life but did not know who he was St Silouan
10	Fr Vladimer came to St Sophrony for advise about his struggles and he said. Told him about the abyss and a cupp of tea. (story) think about this
11	St Silouan said God told him keep your mind in Hell and disrepair not.
12	Fr Vladimer went back and told St Silouan what he said. St Silouan thought this young Deacon has some spiritual knowledge.

13	St Silouan went to St Sophrony and said what did you say to Fr Vladimer. He answer was it to much for hime with introduction. Or small talk. (never talking before)
14	Then St Silouan became St Sophrony spiritual father for 8 years before he died. Learn \ed a lot
15	The he went to the desert and live a difficult life and conditions alone the became a spiritual fr and a priest.
16	Went back to Parris to see Fr Vladimer to publish writings of St Silouan. He said no value
17	Then St Sophrony went back wrote the first 2/3rds of the book and it is known as a complete summary of our faith in the modern world the want to go back to Mt Athos
18	While he was doing this he got sick an ulcer in his stomach
19	Went to the hospital and cut out 90% of his stomach fed him Milk with teaspoon several times a day to sustain him for years.
20	Then they sent him to Hospise to be taken care of to die
21	They had a chaple so he did the liturgy everyday
22	He started talking to the old people who attended about the Jesus Prayer
23	They want to become monks and nuns (earthly angels)
24	At this time the book became popular and some young people search St Sophrony out and said they wanted be monks.
25	Told them to stay in the barn and come for liturgy
26	More and more came so he said I need to strat a monestary
27	He sent people to different places find a place for a monestary germany france belgim
28	Rosemary Edgans found a place in England Essecks not all could go because they need Green cards
29	The people were old ready to die or youn with no skills
30	So when filling out papers the agent said what do you have to contribute to England We will be completely useless to you we just want to place to pray
31	The agent said this is not a good repose they will probably deny you.. He said its the truth put it down.
32	All applications had to go through the british parlament
33	
34	A great debate started about denying the entry because there were 30 or 40 people not just the one monk
35	Just before it was denied at last secound a man stood up and said If the 12 apostles came to Dover you would turn them away But if Judice cam you would let him in because he has the money bags.
36	Everyone was so ashamed and imbarried the Secratary of immagrations took the paper and signed it and said let the Archimadrich have what ever he wants.

37	The monastery of Essecks began they do the services in many languages
38	While building the St Sophrony gave the blessing to do a Jesus Prayer service to the monk and nuns seperated by a small rode except for services and to eat
39	Decribe the Jesus Prayer Service.
40	St Sophrony reposed 1993
41	Before he died he had a crypt build under the alter in the basement where he was to be buried. Because he want to be raised up in to the liturgy when Christ returns. 10 days before they told him it will be done in 10 days 3 days before it was done he told the workers he has said everything he needed to the Lord after 3 days it was completed he died.
42	The old testament shows that heaven is highly organized and that all worship God constantly this is where the liturgy comes from and why he wanted to be call up directly in to the liturgy

4: Read the Creed until learned by memory Greek & English

5: Play Cross of Christ game