

July 6th, 2025

4th Sunday after Pentecost - Tone 3
Venerable Sisoës the Great

Scripture Readings

Romans 6:18-23 (Epistle)

And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness. For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Matthew 8:5-13 (Gospel)

Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented." And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him." The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel! And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you." And his servant was healed that same hour.

The Centurion's Faith

Adapted from St. John Chrysostom's Homily 26 on Matthew:

When Jesus said, "Many will come from east and west to sit with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom, but the children of the kingdom will be cast out," He was teaching a profound truth. After performing many miracles, He spoke boldly about faith, using the Roman centurion as an example.

The centurion, a Gentile and military leader, approached Jesus to heal his paralyzed servant. He didn't demand Jesus come to his house but humbly said, "Just say the word, and my servant will be healed" (Matt. 8:8). Jesus responded, "Go; as you believed, it will be done" (Matt. 8:13), and the servant was healed instantly. This miracle confirmed the centurion's faith and character.

The centurion's faith was remarkable. Despite his high rank, he didn't assume he deserved Jesus' help. Unlike the Jewish official who begged Jesus to come to his house (John 4:49) or those who

Many Years!

anniversaries

17th - Harry & Polly Mikita
 20th - Ernie & Jeanie Mikita
 22nd - Bill & Rachel Stevens

birthdays

1st - Kylie Jackson
 2nd - Lorene Denson
 6th - Rodney Glover
 7th - Bron Burnside
 7th - Jonathan Mikita
 8th - Brianna Pyatt
 8th - Carrie Ann Guy
 13th - Wyatt Mikita
 15th - Linda Hendrix
 16th - LD Meier
 17th - Bryan Hlatki
 17th - Haylee Schulte
 17th - Hannah Schulte
 18th - Brooklyn Billmire
 19th - Grady Leithead
 19th - Evie Stevens
 21st - Whitney Tunink
 22nd - Luke Meier
 23rd - Marcellus Rozdiłski
 27rd - Brayden Glover
 29th - Jason Mikita

Service Schedule

July 12th Great Vespers
 — Saturday 6:00p

July 13th Divine Liturgy
 — Sunday 9:30a

Parish Council

July 6th Council Meeting

Parish council members will meet with Fr. George today after coffee hour.

The Centurion's Faith *(continued from front)*

lowered a paralyzed man through a roof, the centurion trusted Jesus could heal from a distance. He believed Jesus had authority over sickness and death, like a commander over soldiers, saying, "I'm a man under authority, but you're far greater" (Matt. 8:9). His humility shone when he said he was unworthy to have Jesus in his home, even when Jesus offered to come.

Jesus praised him, saying, "I haven't found such great faith in Israel" (Matt. 8:10). This showed the centurion, a Gentile, surpassed many Jews in faith. Some might wonder why the leper, who said, "If you're willing, you can make me clean" (Matt. 8:2), wasn't praised as much. But the centurion's faith was extraordinary because he wasn't part of Israel yet grasped Jesus' divine power. He imagined Jesus commanding diseases like soldiers, a bold vision for someone outside the Jewish faith.

Jesus used this moment to teach that salvation comes through faith, not heritage. He prophesied that many Gentiles would enter God's kingdom, while some Jews, though "children of the kingdom," would be excluded for unbelief. The centurion sought his servant's healing but received far more—a place in God's kingdom. Jesus honored him by healing his servant instantly and proclaiming his faith to all.

Venerable Sisoes the Great

Saint Sisoes the Great (+ 429) was a solitary monk, pursuing asceticism in the Egyptian desert in a cave sanctified by the prayerful labors of his predecessor, Saint Anthony the Great (January 17). For his sixty years of labor in the desert, Saint Sisoes attained to sublime spiritual purity and he was granted the gift of wonderworking, so that by his prayers he once restored a dead child back to life.

Extremely strict with himself, Abba Sisoes was very merciful and compassionate to others, and he received everyone with love. To those who visited him, the saint first of all always taught humility. When one of the monks asked how he might attain to a constant remembrance of God, Saint Sisoes remarked, "That is no great thing, my son, but it is a great thing to regard yourself as inferior to everyone else. This leads to the acquisition of humility." Asked by the monks whether one year is sufficient for repentance if a brother sins, Abba Sisoes said, "I trust in the mercy of God that if such a man repents with all his heart, then God will accept his repentance in three days."

When Saint Sisoes lay upon his deathbed, the disciples surrounding the Elder saw that his face shone like the sun. They asked the dying man what he saw. Abba Sisoes replied that he saw Saint Anthony, the prophets, and the apostles. His face increased in brightness, and he spoke with someone. The monks asked, "With whom are you speaking, Father?" He said that angels had come for his soul, and he was entreating them to give him a little more time for repentance. The monks said, "You have no need for repentance, Father." Saint Sisoes said with great humility, "I do not think that I have even begun to repent."

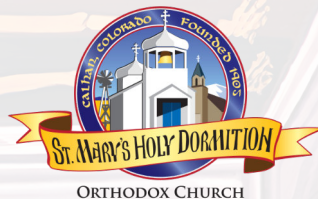
After these words the face of the holy abba shone so brightly that the brethren were not able to look upon him. Saint Sisoes told them that he saw the Lord Himself. Then there was a flash like lightning, and a fragrant odor, and Abba Sisoes departed to the Heavenly Kingdom.

Troparion | Tone 1

O dweller of the wilderness and angel in the body, thou wast a wonderworker, O our God-bearing Father Sisoes. Thou didst receive heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil, and prayer, healing the sick and the souls of those drawn to thee by faith. Glory to Him Who gave thee strength! Glory to Him Who granted thee a crown! Glory to Him Who grants healing to all!

Kontakion | tone 4

In asceticism thou wast revealed to be an earthly Angel, continually enlightening the thoughts of the faithful with divine signs. Therefore we honor thee with faith, venerable Sisoes.



Prayer List living

Met. Tikhon, Abp. Benjamin, Archim. Vasily, Fr. Andreas, Fr. Anthony, Fr. Dennis, Meryl, Harold, Tammy, Litsa, Lilliana, Carl, Christina, Lindy, John, Alicia, Patricia, Danny, Jerry, Roberta, Wendy, Judy, Michael, Jill, Beverly, Lily with child, Infant Dominic, Tayla with child, Joseph, Alisha with child, Jackie, Amber with child, Anna with child, Joan, Trisha, Stella, Lee, Carol, Ethan, infant AdaLynn, Nauvlet, Leilah, Austin, Brian, Josh, Mother Magdalena, Kodiak, Miriham, Cheri, infant Gus, April, Madalyn, McKenzie, MaKiya, Hannah, Haylee, Keith, Samantha, Christina, Jake, Ashton, infant Sophie, Jeanie, Jetlyn, Lauren, Bob, Taylee with child, Georgianna, Clint, Murl, Carolyn, Millie, Earnie, child Charlotte, Cathy, Michael

Those who are confined: Ethen, Casey, Basil, Mark, Hannah, Theodore

departed

Fr. Thomas, Milt, Dave, Lonnie, Paul, infant Dorthy, Vladimir, James, Larry, Vontae, Carol

Kids Food Program

Remnant Summer Food Program. For all children ages 18 or younger - no income requirements and open to all families. Must register to participate. *Note: Must register by the Wednesday prior to pickup.*

www.kidseat.org

Coffee Hour

Today's coffee hour is a potluck hosted by the parish. All are welcome to attend, following liturgy.

The July 13th coffee hour is available to host—reserve your spot! The signup sheet is in the parish hall.