



WEEK EIGHT

SPF: Say Prayers Frequently--and Read the Bible too!

This week, on August 1, we enter the fasting period for the Dormition of the Theotokos (August 15). This is an appropriate time to explore the virtue of compassion exemplified by the "Panagia," the Mother of our God. Add the following troparion from the Small Paraklesis service to your family's prayer time this week. If you're able, learn to chant it: <https://www.goarch.org/-/learn-to-chant-paraklesis>.

*For those in great sorrow you are joy,
And for the oppressed, a protection, And for the hungry, their food,
Comfort unto those estranged; You are a staff to the blind
Visitation of all those sick, And to those held by pain
Shelter and a comforting, And to the orphaned, an aide;
Mother, of our God in the highest, You who are the Spotless One, hasten,
Save your servants from their sin, we ask of you.*

As a family, go over the following scriptural passage and discuss the questions that follow (if you have younger children, please paraphrase for their understanding):

And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?" So he answered and said, " 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,' and 'your neighbor as yourself.' " And He said to him, "You have answered rightly; do this and you will live. But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Then Jesus answered and said: "A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.' So which of these

three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?" And he said, "He who showed mercy on him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

-Luke 10:25-37

- What is the overall meaning of the passage?
- How did the Samaritan show compassion to the injured man?
- In what ways can we show Christ-like compassion daily?

LIFE GUARD: St. Panteleimon (July 27)

St. Panteleimon was from Nicomedia. His father was an idolater, but his mother was a Christian and instructed him in virtue. It was St. Hermolaus who catechized him in the Faith of Christ and baptized him. St. Panteleimon was a physician by vocation and practiced in a philanthropic manner, healing every illness—more by the grace of Christ than by medicines. His parents had named him "Pantoleon" ("a lion in all ways"), but because of the compassion he showed for the souls and bodies of all, he was worthily renamed "Panteleimon," meaning "all-merciful."

His healings became the cause for his martyrdom. After healing a blind man and revealing the truth of Christ to him, Panteleimon was arrested and tortured. He was taken to be beheaded near an olive tree. As Panteleimon knelt down and prayed, a soldier struck him with his sword in order to kill him but the weapon melted like wax and he was unharmed. After he finished his prayer, "a voice was heard from Heaven, calling the passion-bearer by his new name, summoning him to the heavenly Kingdom." He instructed the soldiers to rise from their knees where they had fallen in fear and to complete the execution. After they followed his instruction, the olive tree became covered with fruit. Adapted from www.goarch.org and www.oca.org.

DIVE IN: Apostles Log

Week Eight Journal Entry: Random Acts of Compassion

Remember to be compassionate toward others this week! Record in your journal how you acted compassionately and how it felt. Then, enter instances when you were shown compassion—whether recently or long ago.

VITAMIN D: From St. Maria of Paris

As a family, watch this short video from FOCUS North America. FOCUS North America is a national movement of Orthodox Christians, united in faith and joined by a desire to provide action-oriented and sustainable solutions to poverty in communities across America. FOCUS has operations and youth volunteer experiences in more than fifty cities in the United States.

ICONS

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-VPgyXyYVoE>

Don't forget to share your pictures and videos with us!

#soakuptheSON



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