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www.HolyCrossFtMyers.Org

3rd Sunday of Pascha —Tone 2. Holly Myrrhbearing Women. Martyrs Timothy the Reader and his wife Maura of Antioch in Egypt (286). St. Peter the Wonderworker, Bishop of Argolis (10th c.). Ven. Theodosius, Abbot of the Kiev Caves Monastery (1074).

Divine Liturgy of St. John:
Acts 6:1-7 Mark 15:43-16:8

Announcements

Liturgical Schedule:

Divine Liturgy Sundays: 9:30 am

The Value and Brevity of Time

'Behold, now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation. With these words St. Paul admonished the Corinthians not only because the remainder of time is brief but also because the present time is the only available season for our salvation ... Therefore, let us not neglect this favorable opportunity of time but let us display a zeal worthy of this gift of grace. Knowing both the brevity of time and the value of time, let us press forward, making most of the time that is allotted to us. (St. John Chrysostom)

Killing time is one of our most favorite pastimes, and we might add, one of our biggest sins. If we carefully examine our life, we find that hour upon hour and day after day are being wasted in so many ways: by doing nothing, by doing something useless, or by doing something bad. Little do we realize that in the process of killing time we are really harming our souls and promoting our own spiritual death? By wasting our time, we are throwing away the chance of fulfilling our call to grow spiritually and to serve God and our fellow men.

Time is a very valuable element in the Christian life. It is an essential ingredient, like the water we drink, the air we breathe, the food we eat. It is within the course of time that we are given the opportunity to reach forward to that high calling of God in Jesus Christ", as St. Paul puts it. Time is the medium which enables us to give our selves and our lives to working with God and for God. Time gives us the possibility to achieve and acquire, to grow and aspire, to promote and accomplish. Therefore what we do with our time demands important consideration and attention. St. Paul says: We must make the best use of the time available to us.

How we spend our time has a direct influence on our personal life and consciousness, on our religious development, on our spiritual condition and on our moral growth. The way we use our time plays a vital role in forming our ideas, our values and our attitudes. What we do with our time affects our mind and understanding, our relationship with God and our ultimate destiny. The way we spend our time strongly determines the nature of our personality, our character and our spiritual disposition. Time can lead us to the fruits of wisdom and intelligence or to the decay of ignorance and stupidity. Surely such facts are more than adequate reasons for using our time wisely and well.

There is another reason why we must utilize our time to the best advantage. This is that our time is very limited; it can be taken from us at any moment. Our time is short; it passes by very quickly. It is amazing how large periods of time become lost to us without anything worthwhile being accomplished. The wasted hours of yesterday consist of a period of time which is lost to us and which can never be recovered. We cannot save time as we save money, for future use. Time must be used in the present moment. Time does not wait; it keeps moving on; and every available moment must be used right now before it escapes us.

Most importantly, our time must be used in a profitable and holy and beneficial way. It should not be used simply to indulge and to gratify and to entertain ourselves. WE must spend our time doing those things which enable us to transcend our petty selves, those things which are enriching, valuable and good. We must use our time doing those things which will promote our knowledge and learning and understanding, which will enhance our wisdom and intelligence. We must devote our time to developing our religious and spiritual wellbeing as well as the general welfare of our fellow human beings.

Our time must be consecrated to God's service and glory, and used in accordance with His Holy Will. It must be spent in fulfilling

God's creative purpose for us: our development to be like God. This doesn't mean that we should stop working and leave the world and completely disregard our material needs. But beyond the basic needs of food, clothing and shelter, we al lot a greater portion of time, to taking care of our spiritual needs, to nurturing our souls and minds and hearts. Such time consuming practices as meditation, solitude and silence lead us to transcend time and to end time, and thereby to commune with the timeless, the holy and the sacred

When urged to devote more time to such spiritual and religious matters, to what is contemplative and holy, one

of the most common remarks offered by most people is the popular protest: "But we have no time". This is a feeble excuse and illusion that rings in the ears of every spiritual director. But what is worse is that these people are duly deceived into believing that this excuse justifies their religious ignorance and spiritual poverty. The truth is this: It is only because we waste our time on nonessentials that we find no time for communing with God and developing our spiritual life.

No time for spiritual training and worship but loads of time for T.V. viewing and other forms of empty entertainment; no time for prayer

and devotion but plenty of time for idle talk and gossip; no time for quiet reflection and meditation but much time for partying and senseless games; no time for studying the Bible and spiritual writings but enough time for reading junk magazines and other trivial trash; no time for learning the knowledge and truth of God but plenty of time for learning the ways and means of the world; no time for the church but loads of time for sports and pleasure. In reality, we have much time for all kinds of useless occupations but no time for anything spiritually and mentally useful.