

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## WELCOME

FR. MICHAEL AND MKA. GEORGIA VALLECILLO!

*Fr. John and Mka Deborah are on vacation this week.*

Tues. Nov. 15		<i>No Bible Study</i>
Sat. Nov. 19	5 pm	Great Vespers
Sun. Nov. 20	11 am	Divine Liturgy
Tues. Nov. 22	6:30 pm	ASONA Bible Study
Wed. Nov. 23	6 pm	Molieben of Thanksgiving
Sat. Nov. 26	5 pm	Great Vespers
Sun. Nov. 27	11 am	Divine Liturgy

**PLEASE NOTE: The Parking Lot will be repaved this week.** If you come to Church, please **DO NOT PARK** in the lot. You will have to use the streetside parking. ***Thanks everyone!***

**FLOCKNOTE.** Did you know - you must personally sign up for the Flocknote texts and emails (see below). If you do not add your name to Flocknote, you will be removed after a month. Please add your name and phone number! Go to [ASONA.flocknote.com](http://ASONA.flocknote.com) and sign up online!

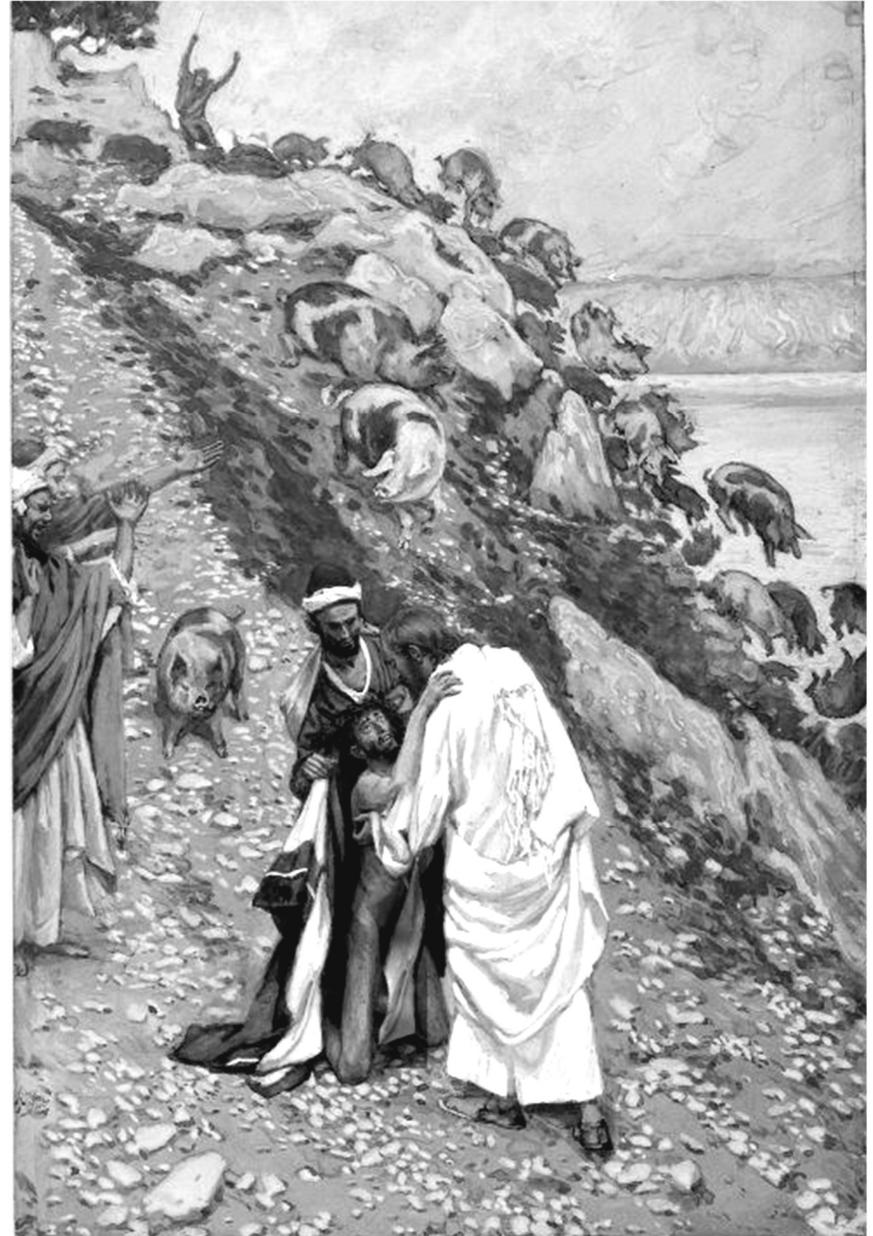
## ARIZONA BISHOP'S ITEMS

We still need your help. Can you help us by sponsoring any Episcopal visitation items?

## PARISH TEXT ALERTS

*Sign up easily!* **Text ASONA to 84576**

stay up to date via email or text alerts - Remember to add your name





**Prokeimenon in Tone 5 (Ps 12)**

Thou, O Lord, shalt protect us and preserve us from this generation forever!

Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer any that is godly.

**EPISTLES: GALATIANS 6:11-18**

**BRETHREN**, see with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand! As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

**Alleluia in Tone 5 (Ps 89)**

I will sing of Thy mercies, O Lord forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Thy Truth from generation to generation.

Thou hast said: Mercy will be established forever, and my Truth will be prepared in the heavens.

**GOSPEL: LUKE 8:26-39**

**A**T THAT TIME, they sailed to the country of the Gadarenes, which is opposite Galilee. And when He stepped out on the land, there met Him a certain man from the city who had demons for a long time. And he wore no clothes, nor did he live in a house but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out, fell down before Him, and with a loud voice said, "What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me!" For He had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For it had often seized him, and he was kept under guard, bound with chains and shackles; and he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the wilderness. Jesus asked him, saying, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion," because many demons had entered him. And they begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss. Now a herd of many swine was feeding there on the mountain. So they begged Him that He would permit them to enter them. And He permitted them. Then the demons went out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the lake and drowned. When those who fed them saw what had happened, they fled and told it in the city and in the country. Then they went out to see what had happened, and came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. They also who had seen it told them by what means he who had been demon-possessed was healed. Then the whole multitude of the surrounding region of the Gadarenes asked Him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear. And He got into the boat and returned. Now the man from whom the demons had departed begged Him that he might be with Him. But Jesus sent him away, saying, Return to your own house, and tell what great things God has done for you. And he went his way and proclaimed throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him.+

entrusted her to the heavenly protection of the holy brothers. But the enemy of the race of mankind, having taken hold over one of Malchos' friends, planned to destroy the woman. A certain while went by, and this man went to her at home and said that Malchos had sent him, – to take her to him. The woman believed him and went along. He led her to a solitary place and wanted to molest and kill her. The woman – seeing that disaster threatened her – called upon God with deep faith.

Two fearsome men then appeared, and the cunning man let go of the woman, and took to flight: he fell off a cliff! The men led the woman home. At her own home, bowing to them deeply she asked:

"What name do they call you? –my rescuers, to whom I shalt be grateful to the end of my days!"

"We are the servants of Christ, Cosmas and Damian"

– they answered and became invisible. The woman with trembling and with joy told everyone about what had happened with her, and glorifying God she went up with tears to the icon of the holy brothers and offered up prayers of thanks for her deliverance.

And from that time the holy brothers were venerated as protectors of the holiness and inviolability of Christian marriage, and as givers of harmony to conjugal life. And from ancient times their veneration spread also to Russia. +

*Holy Unmercenaries Cosmas and Damian, pray to God for us!*

## Glory to God for All Things!



## THE ASONA CHRISTMAS PAGE IS UP

[arizonaorthodox.com/Christmas](http://arizonaorthodox.com/Christmas)

*Time to study up on what we really believe, and we have done the work for you! We often hear it said that Jesus was not “really” born December 25th; that this date is a mere fiction, appropriated by church authorities in an attempt to Christianize the pagan solstice, or festival of the sun. However, such charges are actually recent. **Learn the truth. Defend the faith!***

### **Census Considerations**

On the Dateline NBC’s “The Birth of Jesus” episode, Dr. John Dominic Crossan, co-founder of the wildly popular Jesus Seminar, called into question the historical veracity of Holy Scripture. Said Crossan: “Luke tells us the story that at the time Jesus was born Augustus had decreed a census of the whole earth. Now, every scholar will tell you there was no such census ever.” Is Crossan correct? Is the Canon corrupt?

### **A Pagan Records the Slaughter of the Holy Innocents by Herod**

Matthew says that when Herod realized the magi were not going to return, he ordered the slaughter of all male children two years old and under in Bethlehem and the neighboring towns (Matt. 2:16-18). The witness of Matthew and John is corroborated by a pagan writer named Macrobius.

### **Christmas Trees: Pagan or Biblical? In Defense of the Christmas Tree**

The Christmas Tree? Pagan? The Christmas tree does not date from early Germanic times. Its origins are to be found in a tradition that has virtually disappeared from Christianity, the Liturgical Drama.

*Our Christmas page includes the hilarious  
“Horus Ruins Christmas” videos.*

# SAINTS ALIVE

The lives and deeds of the heroes of our faith

## UNMERCENARIES SS. COSMAS AND DAMIAN



Saints Cosmas and Damian were natives of Asia Minor. Their father, a pagan, died while they were still quite small children. Their mother, Theodotia, raised the brothers in Christian piety. The example of their mother and the reading of holy books preserved them in chasteness of life in accord with the command of the Lord, and Cosmas and Damian grew up into righteous and virtuous men.

Trained and having become skilled as physicians, they acquired a graced gift of the Holy Spirit – to heal by the power of prayer people's illnesses both of body and soul, and they treated even animals. With fervent love for both God and neighbour, the brothers went forth into social service.

For the maladies which the brothers treated they never took payment, and they strictly observed the command of our Lord Jesus Christ: "Freely have ye received, freely in turn give" (Mt. 10: 8). The fame of Saints Cosmas and Damian spread through-

out all the surrounding region, and people called them – unmercenaries.

One time the saints were summoned to a grievously ill woman – whom all the doctors had refused to treat because of her seemingly hopeless condition. Through faith Palladia (thus was her name) and through the fervent prayer of the holy brothers, the Lord healed the deadly disease and she got up from her bed perfectly healthy and giving praise to God.

In gratitude for being healed and wanting them to accept a small gift from her, Palladia went quietly to Damian. She presented him with three eggs and said: "Take this small gift in the Name of the Holy Life-Creating Trinity – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit". Hearing the Name of the Holy Trinity, the unmercenary one did not dare to refuse.

Cosmas, however, when he learned of what had happened, became very sad. He thought that his brother had broken their strict vow. And soon approached the time when Saint Cosmas was to expire to the Lord. Dying, he gave last instructions that his brother should not be buried alongside him. After a short while Saint Damian also died.

All were greatly perplexed where Saint Damian's grave should be. But through the will of God a miracle occurred: there came to the people a camel, which the saints had treated for its wildness, and it spoke with an human voice saying – that they should not doubt to put Damian alongside Cosmas – because it was not for the reward that Damian accepted the gift from the woman, but on account of the Name of God. The venerable remains of the holy brothers were buried together at Theremanea (Mesopotamia).

Many miracles were worked upon the death of the holy unmercenaries. There lived at Theremanea, nearby the church of Cosmas and Damian, a certain man by the name of Malchos. One day in setting off on a distant journey, and leaving behind his wife all alone for what would be a long time – he prayerfully