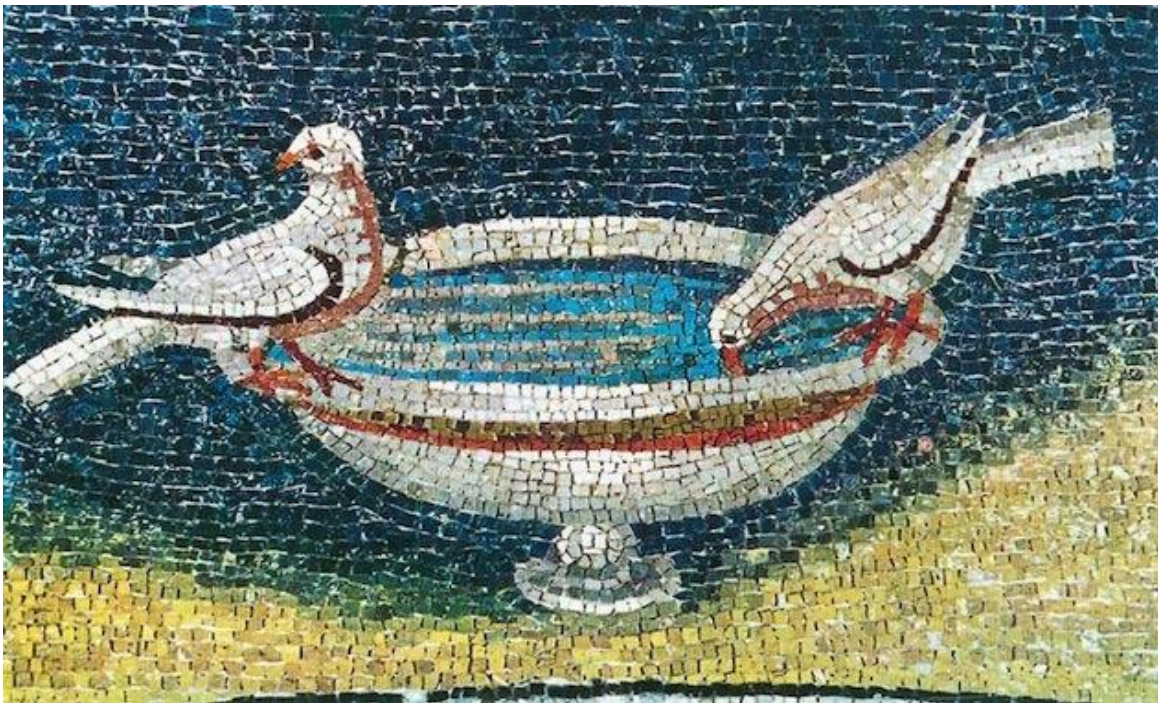


Pastoral Message from Fr. George for May 21, 2021

Christ is risen! In my efforts to inform and lift God's Word and its relevance in our lives, I often turn to pictures put together with sayings from the Saints of the Orthodox Church. The following seven (7) sets of images and sayings are reprinted from <https://pemptousia.com> and are intended to encourage self-reflection. God guides us in our relationships and if appropriate, perhaps you will find opportunities to share one or more with you family and co-workers.

Even when we keep quiet...



We can enclose the whole world, if we enclose the atmosphere of paradise within us. Because, if we lose the kingdom of heaven, we neither save ourselves nor anyone else. Those who have the kingdom of God within them will imperceptibly transmit it to others. People will be attracted by the peace and warmth within us, they will want to be with us, and the atmosphere of heaven will gradually pass to them, too. It is almost not necessary to talk to people about it. The atmosphere of paradise will radiate from us, even when we are silent or when we are talking about everyday matters. It will radiate from us even when we have no sense that it is doing so. - **Elder Tadej Vitovnički**

Dangerous storms...



Give yourself over to God's will. He does not abandon anyone who hopes in Him. The most terrible storms are useful for Christ's servants, because they bring great benefit. Make use of these storms as a lesson which prepares you and gives you experience to withstand the even more terrible and dangerous storms which are to come. - **Saint Seraphim Romantsiov of the Monastery of Glinsk**

What they call irritable...



If you are quick-tempered, or what they call irritable, that is a real disaster. Even if you suffer from phobias and from being easily aggravated, you will be cured through

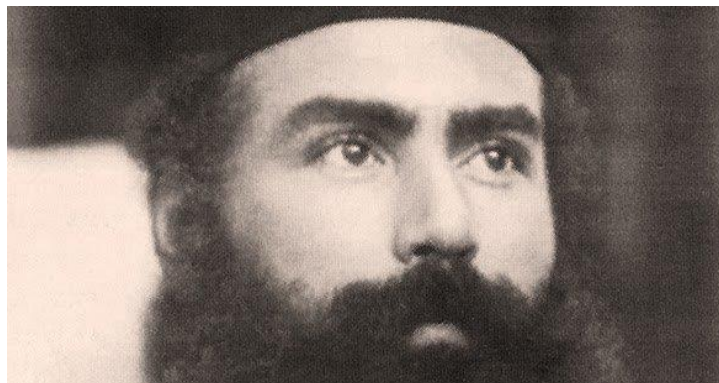
repentance, with a humble outlook and with love for others, even your enemies. If people do not love their enemies, the grace of God does not yet reside in them. - **Saint Silouan the Athonite**

They were and are ready...



What injured person ever cured their wounds without patience regarding the pain and the course of treatment from the doctor? Who can follow Christ without taking up the cross of patience on their shoulders? Nobody. Everyone who has followed and is following Him was and is prepared to face patiently the trials that certainly await them. – **Saint Dimitri of Rostov**

Who will take the blame?



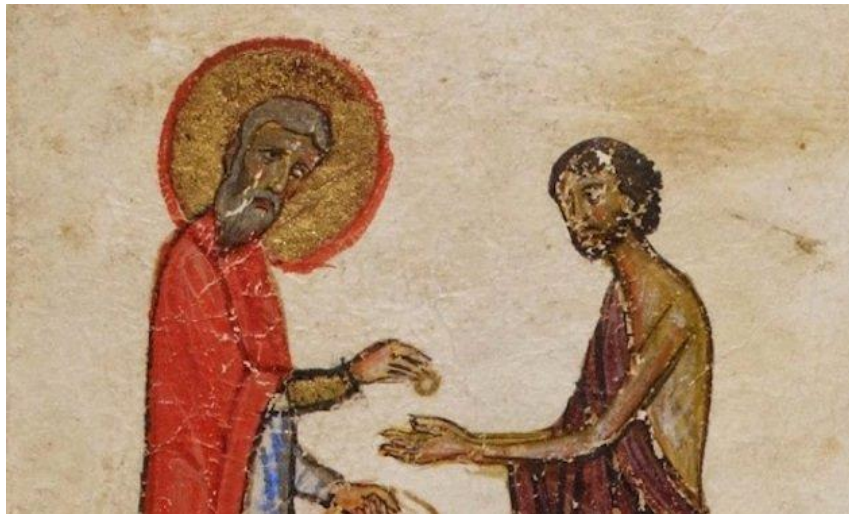
If a soul is to be saved, we need patience. Because if we are not patient with a soul and that person then ties a stone round their neck and jumps into the sea, whose fault will it be? - **Hieromonk Chrysostomos Stavronikitianos**

They endure calmly...



Those who have love, calmly put up with the sorrows and pains brought upon them by their enemies. Be patient in sorrows and pains that are sent to you, because through them you are being cleansed by God's providence. - **Saint Thalassios the Libyan**

Tearful eyes...



Our eyes should always be brimming with tears at the good things given to us by God and we should be constantly thanking Him. - **Dimitrios Panagopoulos, preacher**

- **Fr. George Tsahakis, May 21, 2021**