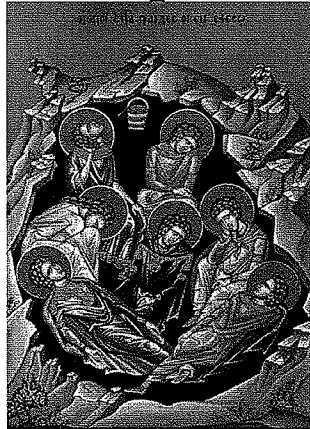




The Olive Shoots
St. Symeon Orthodox Church
August 4, 2013

✙The Seven Sleepers of Ephesus✙



“Therefore receive ye one another, as Christ also
received us to the glory of God.”

Romans 15: 1

Upcoming Services:

Monday- Great Vespers for Transfiguration at 6:30 PM

Tuesday- Divine Liturgy for Transfiguration at 10:00 AM

Wednesday- Paraklysis at 6:30 PM

Saturday- Great Vespers at 6:00 PM

Check out our website-theoliveshoots.webstarts.com!



Troparion — Tone 4

Great is the wonder of faith!

The Seven Holy Youths lived in the cave as in a royal
chamber!

They died without falling into corruption! After much time
had passed, they arose from sleep, an assurance of the
Resurrection of all men! By their prayers, o Christ God,
have mercy on us!

Kontakion — Tone 4

Turning from the corruption of this world! And accepting
the gifts of incorruption, though they died, they remained
untouched by corruption! Therefore, after many years they
rose, burying all the unbelief of the wicked! O Faithful, let
us sing hymns to Christ as we praise them today!

Today's Bible Verse:

“For whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to
say, Arise, and walk? But that ye may know that the Son of
man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the
sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine
house. And he arose, and departed to his house.”

~ Matthew 9:5-7

What Does it Mean?

Jesus performs this miracle because the Pharisees are angry with Him for
saying that He has the power to forgive sins, for only God can forgive sins.

What the Pharisees refuse to believe, however, is that Jesus is God and
therefore does have the power forgive sins. Jesus heals the man in order to
show the Pharisees that He does have the power to forgive sins, just like He
has the power to raise a paralyzed man.

The Seven Sleepers of Ephesus

Along time ago, in the year 250, there were seven young boys. Their fathers were all holy men, priests and elders. One day, some men were trying to hurt the boys because they were Christians, so the boys ran and hid in a cave. When the men found out that they were hiding in the cave, they closed up the cave with a big rock. The boys couldn't breathe! Imagine how that would feel! The boys fell asleep, and were presumed dead.

Some people in that town did not believe that Jesus really came back to life after He was nailed to the cross. So God worked a miracle. Shepherds were gathering rocks near the cave where the seven boys were entombed. They moved the rock at the mouth of the cave, and the boys came out after being dead for 200 years. Nothing had happened to them; they looked just like they did 200 years ago! This is an example of how God proved the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

α ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥ ΙΩΑΝΝΗ
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΥ

ΙΩΑΝΝΗ ΕΥΧΕΙΣ
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΥ

