

We would like to welcome all parish visitors and invite you to join us after the Liturgy for Coffee hour.

Orthodox Church of the Mother of God

OCA – Diocese of New York-New Jersey

V. Rev. Dr. Matthew Searfoorce, Rector

Sub-Deacon Edward Dawson Sub-Deacon Vlashi

Parish Council President: Andrew Romanofsky Parish Council Vice President: Holly Dawson



Sunday, January 22, 2017

Gospel: Luke 18:35-43

Tone 6

Epistle: 1 Timothy 1:15-17

31st Sunday After Pentecost

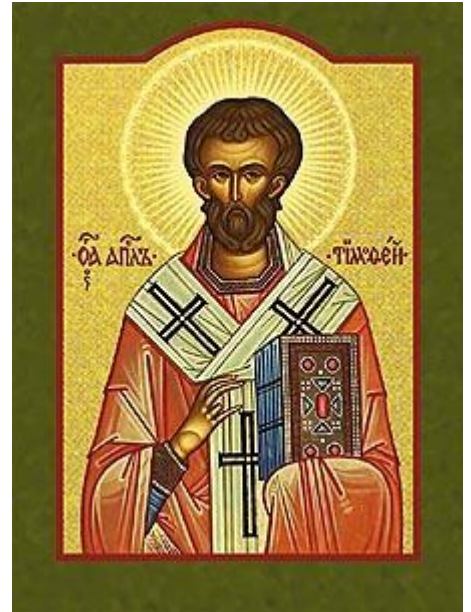
Apostle Timothy of the Seventy (96). Monk Martyr Anastasius the Persian (628). Monk Martyr Anastásii, Deacon, of the Kiev Caves (Near Caves—12th c.). Ven. Makáry of Zhabynsk, Wonderworker (1623). Martyrs Manuel, George, Peter, Leontius—Bishops; Sionius, Gabriel, John, Leontius, Parodus—Presbyters; and 377 companions in Bulgaria (ca. 817).

Troparion – Tone 4

Having learned goodness and maintaining continence in all things, / you were arrayed with a good conscience as befits a priest. / From the chosen Vessel you drew ineffable mysteries; / you kept the faith, and finished a course equal to His. / Bishop martyr Timothy, entreat Christ God that our souls may be saved.

Kontakion – Tone 1

Let us the faithful praise the Holy Apostle Timothy, / the companion of Paul in his travels and together with him / let us honor the wise Anastasius, who came as a star from Persia / for the healing of the passions of our souls and the diseases of our bodies.



Apostle Timothy of the Seventy

Prayer Requests

For Health of:

Sub-Deacon Edward, on his birthday, offered by his wife Holly.

Richard Dantine Jr., on his birthday, offered by her family with love.

In Memory of:

George Hock, nephew of Bill and Maryann Kuzemchak.

Pannikhida:

Lubov (mother) & **Peter** friend), offered by Svetlana.

Wisdom of the Church Fathers

"It was pride that turned angels into devils...
it is humility that makes men as angels..."

Blessed Augustine
(354-430)

Liturgical Schedule

Sunday, January 22nd

9:30 am: Sunday School
9:40 am: Hours
10:00 am: Divine
Liturgy/Pannikhida

Saturday, January 28th

6:30 pm: Vespers

Sunday, January 29th

9:30 am: Sunday School
9:40 am: Hours
10:00 am: Divine Liturgy

Saturday, February 4th

6:30 pm: Vespers

Sunday, February 5^h

9:30 am: No Sunday School
9:45 am: General
Confession
9:40 am: Hours
10:00 am: Divine Liturgy

Saturday, February 11th

6:30 pm: Vespers

Sunday, February 12^h

9:30 am: Sunday School
9:40 am: Hours
10:00 am: Divine Liturgy

Bulletin Sponsors

*Holly Dawson, Bill &
Maryann Kuzemchak and
the Dantine Family*

Readings:

The Prokeimenon in the 6th Tone:

O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance!
(Psalm 27:9)
vs. To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me!
(Psalm 27:1)

Epistle: 1 Timothy 1:15-17

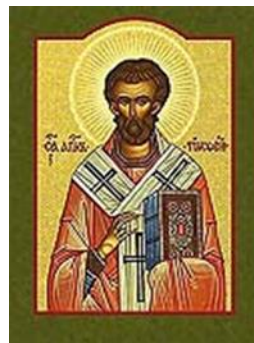
Brethren, the saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. And I am the foremost of sinners; but I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience for an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Alleluia in the 6th Tone:

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the heavenly God.
(Psalm 90:1)
vs. He will say to the Lord: "My Protector and my Refuge; my God, in Whom I trust."
(Psalm 90:2)

Gospel: Luke 18:35-43

At that time, as he drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging; and hearing a multitude going by, he inquired what this meant. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." And he cried, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" And Jesus stopped, and commanded him to be brought to him; and when he came near, he asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me receive my sight." And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.



Apostle Timothy of the Seventy

The Holy Apostle Timothy was from the Lycaonian city of Lystra in Asia Minor. Saint Timothy was converted to Christ in the year 52 by the holy Apostle Paul (June 29). When the Apostles Paul and Barnabas first visited the cities of Lycaonia, Saint Paul healed one crippled from birth. Many of the inhabitants of Lystra then believed in Christ, and among them was the future Saint Timothy, his mother Eunice and grandmother Loida (Lois) (Acts 14:6-12; 2 Tim. 1:5).

The seed of faith, planted in Saint Timothy's soul by the Apostle Paul, brought forth abundant fruit. He became Saint Paul's disciple, and later his constant companion and co-worker in the preaching of the Gospel. The Apostle Paul loved Saint Timothy and in his Epistles called him his beloved son, remembering his devotion and fidelity with gratitude.

"Orthodox Church of the Mother of God: Joy of all the Sorrowful" founded in 1966

He wrote to Timothy: "You have followed my teaching, way of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, and patience" (2 Tim. 3:10-11). The Apostle Paul appointed Saint Timothy as Bishop of Ephesus, where the saint remained for fifteen years. Finally, when Saint Paul was in prison and awaiting martyrdom, he summoned his faithful friend, Saint Timothy, for a last farewell (2 Tim. 4:9).

Saint Timothy ended his life as a martyr. The pagans of Ephesus celebrated a festival in honor of their idols, and used to carry them through the city, accompanied by impious ceremonies and songs. Saint Timothy, zealous for the glory of God, attempted to halt the procession and reason with the spiritually blind idol-worshipping people, by preaching the true faith in Christ.

The pagans angrily fell upon the holy apostle, they beat him, dragged him along the ground, and finally, they stoned him. Saint Timothy's martyrdom occurred in the year 93.

In the fourth century the holy relics of Saint Timothy were transferred to Constantinople and placed in the church of the Holy Apostles near the tombs of Saint Andrew (November 30) and Saint Luke (October 18). The Church honors Saint Timothy as one of the Apostles of the Seventy.

In Russian practice, the back of a priest's cross is often inscribed with Saint Paul's words to Saint Timothy: "Be an example to the believers in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity" (1 Tim. 4:12).



Bulletin Sponsor: Use the sign-up sheet at the candle stand for the health of, eternal memory of or a Pannikhida for a loved one or friend, for a donation of \$10. Sponsors will be remembered during Divine Liturgy for the day/week that you signed up for.

Memorial Candles: Candles be purchased at the candle stand, suggested donation of \$10 for a large one.

Private Confessions: Can be heard a half hour before any service. See Father Matthew for other times.

General Confession: Will be at 9:45 am on the first Sunday of the month.

Pannikhida Service: The third Sunday of each month there will be a Pannikhida after Divine Liturgy. If you would like your loved ones to be remembered please give a list of names to Father Matthew before that Sunday for those to be remembered in the month.

Special Announcements for the bulletin can be submitted by E-Mail:

OrthodoxChurchMotherOfGod@outlook.com

The Living Clean Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets every Friday from 8-9:15 pm downstairs in the community room.

The Grey Book Step Meeting Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets every Tuesday from 7-8:00 pm downstairs in the community room.



Orthodox Church of the Mother of God: Parish News

Next Council meeting: January 29, 2017

Annual Parish meeting: February 12, 2017 after Divine Liturgy



NY/NJ Diocese News

PRINCETON NJ: Letter to Mother of God, Joy of All Who Sorrow, Parish

"A letter was found by my wife Jeanne under the door of the church when she came to set up for the potluck dinner we were going to have after Vespers on Saturday 14 January," said Father Peter Baktis (parish rector). "I read the letter after liturgy on Sunday. When we had our first flea market this fall at the church neighbors came and visited the church. They told me they called the site the "dead house" (for the past four years before we started to complete the site). We are far from dead now and are a witness to the life that is given to us in Jesus Christ!"

"The letter confirms the support and joy that our neighbors have. When we were erecting the cupola, traffic stopped on the road and people got out of their cars took pictures and blessed themselves. This is the Lord's doing and it is marvelous in our eyes!" (See attached letter)

Congratulations & "Many Years!"

On 28 December 2016, **Father Paul Shafran** celebrated his 69th anniversary of ordination to the Holy Priesthood and, on 27 November, he and **Matushka Mary** celebrated their 69th wedding anniversary at Saint Vladimir Orthodox Church in Trenton NJ (where Father Paul is Pastor Emeritus). The parish sang "Many Years" for both of them Sunday, 1 January 2017, in honor of Father Paul's ordination anniversary; unfortunately, Matushka Mary unable to attend. **"Many Years! Father Paul & Matushka Mary!"**

Rev. Fr. Leonid Schmidt, installed as **Rector** of Christ the Saviour Church, Paramus, NJ, by Archbishop Michael, on Sunday, January 8, 2017.

Deacon Joel Brady, ordained to the **Holy Priesthood** by His Eminence, Archbishop Melchisedek of Pittsburgh (on behalf of Archbishop Michael, who was unable to be present because of weather constraints), in St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, Allison Park, PA, on Sunday, January 8, 2017. "Axios! Axios! Axios!" Fr. Joel is attached to St. Athanasius Chapel, Bronxville, NY, awaiting a pastoral assignment.

The faithful of the newly opened Saint Simon of Cyrene Mission, New Brunswick NJ, who celebrated their first Vespers service, led by Reader Samuel Davis and presided over by Archpriest Gary Breton, Dean of the New Jersey Deanery, representing Archbishop Michael, unable to be present, on Sunday evening, January 8, 2017.

May God protect and preserve His servants, the Presbyter Leonid, the newly-ordained Presbyter Joel, and the faithful members of Saint Simon of Cyrene Mission, for many blessed years! "Mnogaya Lyeta!"



*"In all things, I have shown you that while
working hard, one must help the weak,
remembering the words of the Lord Jesus,
how He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"
(Acts 20:35)*

*You are cordially invited to attend
the New Jersey Deanery Appreciation Dinner
for the 2016 Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors
of the Diocese of New York & New Jersey*

*hosted with gratitude by
His Eminence, Archbishop MICHAEL*

*Sunday, February 19, 2017
at five o'clock in the evening*

*Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church
285 French Hill Road
Wayne, New Jersey 07470*

~You are encouraged to bring family members and parish guests~

*RSVP by Sunday, February 5 with the number attending
to Fr. Paul Kucynda, email: frpaul@heisrisen.org ~ phone (973) 696-6572*

Orthodox Church in America (OCA) News



Study resources now available for Spirituality volume of “The Orthodox Faith”

The Orthodox Church in America’s Department of Christian Education [DCE] recently released a series of review and study questions based on the text of Spirituality, one of four volumes of the late Protopresbyter Thomas Hopko’s series *The Orthodox Faith*. Resources for two other volumes—*Doctrine and Scripture* and *Church History*—are already available, while resources for the fourth volume, *Worship*, will be completed this spring, fulfilling Father Thomas’s request that the DCE provide these resources for his series.

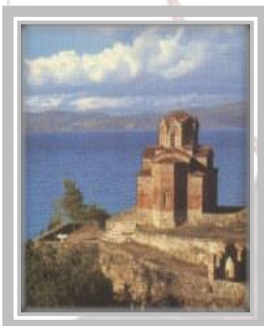
“The questions, which are keyed to the pages in the book from which they are taken, offer readers a way of reviewing and reinforcing what they have read,” said Matushka Valerie Zahirsky, DCE Chair. “A separate document provides answers, also taken from book.

“If the book is being used in a discussion group, the leader might give participants the questions for a chapter before they read it, and they can then find the answers as they go through the text,” Matushka Valerie suggested. “Those who read the book on their own, rather than as part of a group, will find the questions and answers helpful in the same way. Several answers also offer points for further reflection.”

The Spirituality volume deals with many intriguing topics and questions, including what is the noonday demon, how does the Orthodox Church define “spirituality,” is it ever appropriate to hate ourselves, what in God’s eyes is the most vile of all human evils, and is there a difference between being tolerant and being merciful.

“Great Lent would be an especially appropriate time to reflect on the elements of Christian spirituality presented in this book,” Matushka Valerie added. “But at any time, it offers an inspiring picture of what it means to ‘do all to the glory of God’ [1 Corinthians 10:31].”

Visit the DCE web site for a wealth of additional educational resources and study units on a variety of topics.



Prayers by the Laker, St. Velimirovich, XCI:

The blood of a righteous man is the only writing on earth that cannot be erased.

Did you kill the Christ, you desperate people, as you had hoped? Or does His blood even today burn on your heads?

Proclaim with your roar, O sea, to all the ends of the earth:

The blood of the righteous burns on the head for a hundred generations.

Crisscross from the east to the west, O thunder, and inscribe it clearly even for the blind: People can do no evil to one who is righteous, and may this evil not come crashing down twice as hard onto their own heads!

For a stone cast at a righteous man has been thrown up high, and as it falls from the heights it becomes all the heavier.

The stones of Jerusalem, which today lie around all scattered, cry out and exclaim to the human race, a forgetful race, what became of a slain righteous man and what became of those who slew him!

I saw a dog burn its tongue on steaming hot porridge once, and it has never again approached even cold porridge. And I see people day after day burning themselves with the blood of the righteous, and yet they never avoid it.

O you who are more insane than the insane, are you not at all ashamed to have repeated a lesson that even a dog learned the first time?

It is better for a bloodthirsty nation to disappear rather than a single righteous man. For heaven does not ask how much blood is spilled, but whose blood is spilled.

If all the nations were to rise up against one righteous man, they would not be able to do him any harm. They can only be his escort to the grave. But he will escort them after the grave.

Truly, the righteous man inflicts punishment with his mercifulness before the grave and with his righteousness after the grave.

Do not ensure belongings for your children, you who have joined in shedding the blood of a righteous man. Indeed, all your belongings will be lost to them except for the blood that you spilled.

And it will not be the righteous man who will hurl a curse on you, but your own children, when they will have eaten the bitter bread of slaves.

God conceals Himself in the rags of the righteous. Woe to you, if those rags disturb you, and consequently you also despise the one clad in those rags.

You were raised up on the cross, O Christ our God, not in order to manifest Your powerlessness over the world, but in order to manifest the world's powerlessness over You.

Like shadows that beat upon a boulder in the moonlight, so also are those nations powerless, who strike at You. O Lord, the solace of the righteous and the courage of the martyrs, have mercy on us and save us.

Sayings of the Ascetics of the Orthodox Church, XCI:

**III. Us and Our Neighbors
Relationships With Other People**

Draw nigh to the righteous, and through them you will draw nigh to God. Communicate with those who possess humility, and you will learn morals from them. A man who follows one who loves God becomes rich in the mysteries of God; but he who follows an unrighteous and proud man gets far away from God, and will be hated by his friends.

St. Isaac the Syrian, Sermon 57,8



The Morning Offering – Daily Inspiration by Abbott Tryphon

Do Not Judge
Judging divides us

As members of the Body of Christ, we must resist speaking against other members of the Church. If we judge each other it is because Satan wishes to divide us. The best defense against the Evil One is to stand united in prayer with one another. We must not give in to the temptation of judge anyone, but rather pray for those who may disappoint or hurt us. To do anything less is to fall short of the Glory of God. We must all stand strong against the temptations that would divide us. It is Christ Who sustains us and in turn we need to sustain one another. It is Christ who unites us, and the devil who divides us. This truth must be forefront in our thinking if we are to gain victory in spiritual warfare.



Daily Reflection
The Litany of Peace

*“Deacon: In peace let us pray to the Lord.
People/Choir: Lord, have mercy.*

*Deacon: For the peace from above and for the
salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.*

People/Choir: Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon: For the peace of the whole world, for the stability of the holy churches of God, and for the unity of all,
let us pray to the Lord.*

People/Choir: Lord, have mercy...”

(Litany of Peace, Byzantine Divine Liturgy)



In this very first litany of Divine Liturgy, we are called to pray “in peace “and” for peace,” specifically the kind “from above.” It is the kind we cannot muster up or negotiate on our own, just amidst ourselves. In fact we have never done very well, when it comes to “peace,” either within or without *“the holy churches of God.”* That is why we are called to give up self-reliance and self-centeredness, and *“pray to the Lord.”* Not only for “us,” the insiders, but for *“the whole world”* and *“for the unity of all,”* – all those with whom we, sinfully, are not in “unity.” We neither justify ourselves nor blame anyone else for this state of affairs, but simply appeal to God’s mercy in the brief response, “Lord, have mercy.”

As I appeal to God for His “mercy” at Divine Liturgy, let me indeed be open to it, that I may extend it to others, both within and without the praying community of my Church. *“Blessed are the merciful,”* our Lord reminds me, *“for they shall obtain mercy.”* (Mt 5: 7)

Holy Orthodox Quotes

"We must receive the one who curses us as a messenger from God, rebuking our hidden evil thoughts."

+St Mark the Ascetic

2 Kingdoms 16:5-13

Now when King David came to Bahurim, there was a man coming from there from the family of the house of Saul, whose name was Shimei the son of Gera. As he came out, he was cursing continuously,[†] casting stones at David and all the servants of David, and at all the people and all the mighty men on the right and on the left hand of the king. And Shimei cursed him and said, "Come out! Come out! You bloodthirsty man, you unlawful man! The Lord brought upon you all the blood of the house of Saul because you reign in his place. And the Lord now gives the kingdom into the hand of Absalom your son. So now you are caught in your own evil because you are a bloodthirsty man!" Then Abishai the son of Zeruiah said to the king, "Why is this dead dog cursing my lord the king? I will go over and take off his head!" But the king said, "What do I have to do with you, you sons of Zeruiah? Leave him alone and let him curse, because the Lord told him to curse David. Who then shall say, 'Why have you done so?'" And David said to Abishai and all his servants, "See how my son who came from my own body seeks my life. Still more now may the son of Benjamin! Let him curse, because the Lord told him. May the Lord somehow look on my humiliation, and may He turn his cursing of me this day into good." And as David and his men went along the road, Shimei went along the hillside opposite him and cursed as he went, throwing stones alongside him and kicking up dust.

Matthew 5:43-48

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,[†] that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.[†]

Romans 12:14-21

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion. Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.[†] Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good

The Philokalia: Daily Readings

If you think that God is in your debt because of the good things you imagine you have done, you are quite deluded. For how can the bestower of gifts be the debtor?

The longing for transient things will not drag you earthwards if you keep your mind on the things of heaven.

Do not try to attain dispassion prematurely and you will not suffer what Adam suffered when he ate too soon from the tree of spiritual knowledge. But patiently labor on, with constant entreaty and self-control in all things; and if by means of self-reproach and the utmost humility you keep the ground you have won, you will then in good time receive the grace of dispassion.

+ St Theognostos, On the Practice of Virtue

Ancient Christian Wisdom

We must consider all evil things, even the passions which war against us, to be not our own, but of our enemy the devil. This is very important. You can only conquer a passion when you do not consider it as part of you.

+ St. Nikon of Optina

It sometimes happens that a person in despondency thinks to himself that it would be easier for him to be destroyed, or to be without any feeling and consciousness, than to remain any longer in this unaccountably tormenting state of mind. One should try to get out of it as quickly as possible. Beware of the spirit of despondency, for it gives birth to every evil.

+ St. Seraphim of Sarov

Through the Grace of God – Orthodox Christianity

St Porphyrios: Living in Christ

“If we wish to follow Him, then this life, too, with Christ, is joy, even amid difficulties. As Saint Paul says, I rejoice in my sufferings. This is our religion, and this is the direction we must move in. It is not the outward formalities that count; it is living in Christ that matters. When you achieve this, what else do you want? You have gained everything. You live in Christ and Christ lives in you. Thereafter, everything is easy: obedience, humility and peace.”

Mother Gavrilia: Knowledge You Suffer

“Not knowledge you learn, but knowledge you suffer. That’s Orthodox spirituality.”

