

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 29, 2017

Gospel: Luke 19:1-10

Tone 7

Epistle: 1 Timothy 4:9-15

32nd Sunday After Pentecost

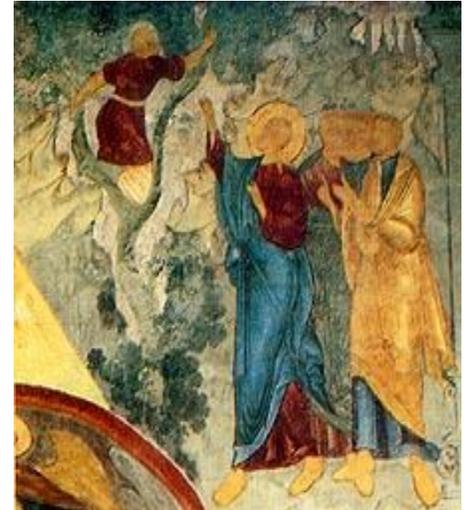
Sunday of Zacchaeus. New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia. Translation of the Relics of Hieromartyr Ignatius the Godbearer, Bishop of Antioch (107). St. Lavrentii (Lawrence), Recluse, of the Kiev Caves, Bishop of Turov (Near Caves—12th c.). Ss. Gerásim (1441-1467), Pitirim (1445) and Jonah (1470), Bishops of Perm. Martyrs Romanus, Jacob (James), Philotheus, Hyperechius, Abibus, Julian, and Paregonius, at Samosata (297). Martyrs Silvanus, Bishop of Emesa, Luke the Deacon, and Mocius (Mucius) the Reader (312).

Troparion – Tone 7

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death. To the thief Thou didst open Paradise. For the Myrrhbearers Thou didst change weeping into joy, and Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God, to proclaim that Thou art risen, granting the world great mercy.

Kontakion – Tone 7

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive, for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers. Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and cry: “The Savior has come to those in faith; enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!”



Sunday of Zacchaeus

Prayer Requests

For Health of:

Gori, offered by his daughter Trudy.

Karen Dancho, cousin of Archbishop Michael, recovering from surgery, offered by Archbishop Michael & the Diocese of NY/NJ.

Michael Cmunt, recovering from surgery, offered by Archbishop Michael & the Diocese of NY/NJ.

Michael John and Laila Michele Della Pesca, new twin great-grandchildren of V. Rev. Fr. John and Matushka Eugenia Nehrebecki, born Sunday, January 22. Prayers are requested for the twins, who are still being treated in the hospital; and for their parents, **Michael and Leslie Della Pesca**.

Elizabeth Vinogradov, offered by Archbishop Michael & the Diocese of NY/NJ.

In Memory of:

Barbara, offered by her niece Trudy.

Antonina, beloved mother of Archpriest Wiaczeslaw and Matushka Elzbieta Krawczuk, offered by Archbishop Michael & the Diocese of NY/NJ.

Liturgical Schedule

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 5th

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 12th

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

Saturday, February 18th

6:30 pm: Vespers

Sunday, February 19th

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

Bulletin Sponsors

Trudy Ellmore

Readings:

The Prokeimenon in the 7th Tone:

The Lord shall give strength to His people. / The Lord shall bless His people with peace.
(*Psalm 28:11*)
vs. Offer to the Lord, O ye sons of God! Offer young rams to the Lord!
(*Psalm 28:1*)

Epistle: 1 Timothy 4:9-15

Brethren, the saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. Command and teach these things. Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Till I come, attend to the public reading of scripture, to preaching, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophetic utterance when the council of elders laid their hands upon you. Practice these duties, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress.

Alleluia in the 7th Tone:

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Thy Name, O Most High.
(*Psalm 91:2*)
vs. To declare Thy mercy in the morning, and Thy truth by night.
(*Psalm 91:3*)

Gospel: Luke 19:1-10

At that time, Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man named Zacchaeus; he was a chief collector, and rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he made haste and came down, and received him joyfully. And when they saw it they all murmured, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded any one of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost."



Sunday of Zacchaeus

The paschal season of the Church is preceded by the season of Great Lent, which is also preceded by its own liturgical preparation. The first sign of the approach of Great Lent comes five Sundays before its beginning. On this Sunday the Gospel reading is about Zacchaeus the tax-collector. It tells how Christ brought salvation to the sinful man, and how his life was changed simply because he “sought to see who Jesus was” (Luke 19:3). The desire and effort to see Jesus begins the entire movement through Lent towards Pascha. It is the first movement of salvation.

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

Our Lenten journey begins with recognition of our own sinfulness, just as Zacchaeus recognized his. He promised to make restitution by giving half of his wealth to the poor, and by paying to those he had falsely accused four times as much as they had lost. In this, he went beyond the requirements of the Law (Ex. 22:3-12).

The example of Zacchaeus teaches us that we should turn away from our sins, and atone for them. The real proof of our sorrow and repentance is not just a verbal apology, but when we correct ourselves and try to make amends for the consequences of our evil actions.

We are also assured of God’s mercy and compassion by Christ’s words to Zacchaeus, “Today salvation is come to this house” (Luke 19:9). After the Great Doxology at Sunday Matins (when the Tone of the week is Tone 1, 3, 5, 7) we sing the Dismissal Hymn of the Resurrection “Today salvation has come to the world,” which echoes the Lord’s words to Zacchaeus.

Zacchaeus was short, so he climbed a tree in order to see the Lord. All of us have sinned and come short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23). We are also short in our spiritual stature, therefore we must climb the ladder of the virtues. In other words, we must prepare for spiritual effort and growth.

St Zacchaeus is also commemorated on April 20.



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

Council meeting today, January 29, 2017 after Divine Liturgy

Annual Parish meeting: February 12, 2017 after Divine Liturgy

NY/NJ Diocese News



ANNUAL MARCH FOR LIFE: Washington DC, 27 January 2017

As in years past, Orthodox Christian hierarchs, seminarians, clergy, and faithful from around the country participated in the annual **"March For Life."** While in the nation’s capital, Metropolitan Tikhon attended the Vigil at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Other hierarchs of the Orthodox Church in America participating in the march included our own **Archbishop Michael**, along with Archbishop Nathaniel and Archbishop Melchisedek.

Other Orthodox hierarch in attendance were: Bishop Maxim of the Serbian Orthodox Church, Bishop John of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America, and Bishop Dimitrios of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago. *“Gathering together in a peaceful way to give voice and raise awareness to the sorrowful effects of abortion and its legalization is very important,”* said Priest Andrew Bartek (Rector, Saint Panteleimon Church, Summit IL).<http://nynjoca.wixsite.com/nynjocayouth> and click on "Upcoming Events" to register.

Congratulations & "Many Years!"

Matthew (Keanu) Ortiz, tonsured to the rank of Reader, by His Eminence, Archbishop Michael, on Sunday, January 15, 2017, in Mother of God Joy of All Who Sorrow Mission, Princeton NJ. *May God protect and preserve His servant, the newly tonsured Reader Matthew, for many blessed years! "Mnogaya Lyeta!"*

Orthodox Church in America (OCA) News



Metropolitan Tikhon joins Metropolitan Joseph in honoring NY Cardinal Dolan

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon was among the 30 guests who attended a reception and lunch hosted by His Eminence, Metropolitan Joseph of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America in honor of His Eminence, Timothy Cardinal Dolan, Roman Catholic Archbishop of New York, on Monday, January 23, 2017.

Accompanying Metropolitan Tikhon to the gathering, which was held at the Antiochian Archdiocese's headquarters, Englewood, NJ were Protopresbyter Leonid Kishkovsky, OCA Director of External Affairs and Interchurch Relations, and Archdeacon Joseph Matusiak.

“During the reception and the lunch, a beautiful dialogue took place on ways those present can cooperate to address both the moral issues confronting our country as well as the plight of Christians in the Middle East,” reads a press release posted on the Antiochian Archdiocese’s web site. “In his speech, Metropolitan Joseph offered a warm welcome to Cardinal Dolan, thanking him for his work and concern for the suffering people of the Middle East, especially those who’ve endured the ongoing war in Syria. He challenged all present to work as a united body before the government, witnessing to the world of our care and deep concern for peace in the region, so that our voices do not go unheard.”

Metropolitan Tikhon was among those who also addressed Cardinal Dolan after expressing gratitude to Metropolitan Joseph for his hospitality.

“We are grateful for the hospitality of His Eminence, Metropolitan Joseph, who is hosting us so warmly and with such Christian love at the headquarters of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese,” Metropolitan Tikhon said. “It is my joy to be present with you and, together with our Director of External Relations, Father Leonid Kishkovsky, to bring the greetings of the Holy Synod, the clergy and the faithful of the Orthodox Church in America to all of you, but most especially to our guest of honor today, His Eminence, Cardinal Timothy Dolan.

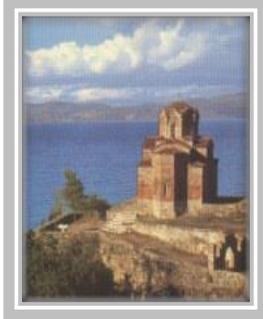
“Your Eminence, your patron saint, the Holy Apostle Timothy, was commemorated yesterday on the Eastern Orthodox calendar and will be commemorated later this week on the Roman Catholic liturgical calendar,” Metropolitan Tikhon continued. “It is always good to remember our common veneration of many ancient saints, particularly during this week of Christian Unity, when we join together to offer testimony to the world of the love and glory of our Lord, Jesus Christ, which is reflected in the lives of the saints.”

Turning his attention to “these times of war and terrorism in the Middle East and in many other places throughout the world, in this time of growing division and uncertainty in our own lands,” Metropolitan Tikhon went on to say that “it is important that we focus on the healing power of the Divine Physician, and we are grateful that it is precisely this message that Your Eminence has consistently offered through your leadership, your preaching and your very person. Whether solemnly or on your blog, your voice always resonates as a voice of peace and of joy, even as you stand firmly on the rock of Christ’s truth. We offer our heartfelt prayers for you today, so that, whether you are serving as President of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, as you have in the past; sharing a meal with your brothers in Christ, as you are today; or leading thousands of young people on the March for Life, as you will do later this week, you will know that you have the support and encouragement of the Orthodox Church in America.

“We ask that God grant you many years of continued health, so that you can continue to ‘be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus’ and, like Saint Timothy hearing many things from Saint Paul among many witnesses, you will commit these same things to faithful individuals who will be able to teach others also and thereby continue ‘as a good soldier of Jesus Christ’” [2 Timothy 2:1-3], Metropolitan Tikhon concluded.

Among the other guests attending the lunch, as reported on the Antiochian Archdiocese’s web site, were His Grace, Bishop Gregory Mansour, Maronite Catholic Eparchy of Saint Maron, Brooklyn, NH; His Grace, Bishop Mor Dionysius Jean Kawak, Patriarchal Vicar, Syriac Orthodox Church in the USA; His Grace, Bishop Yousif Habash, Syriac Catholic Diocese; His Eminence, Archbishop Mor Titus Yeldo Pathickal, Malankara Archdiocese of the Syrian Orthodox Church in the USA; and His Grace, Bishop Nicholas of the Antiochian Archdiocese. Among the prominent laypersons in attendance were Fawaz El Khoury, Vice-Chairman of the Antiochian Archdiocese Board of Trustees; Adib Kassis, Managing Director of Middle East Airlines; John Abi-Habib, owner of MSI Net,

Inc., Brooklyn, NY; and members of the Antiochian Archdiocese Board of Trustees from the region.



Prayers by the Laker, St. Velimirovich, XCII:

My Lord is the One who resurrects. He resurrects the dead from morning until dusk, and from dusk until dawn.

What the morning buries, the Lord brings to life in the evening; and what the evening buries, the Lord brings to life in the morning.

What work is more fitting for the living God than to resurrect the dead into life?

Let others believe in the God who brings men to trial and judges them.

I shall cling to the God who resurrects the dead.

Let others believe in the God, who does not even draw near to the living when they call upon Him.

I shall worship the God, who holds His cupped ear even at cemeteries and listens, to hear whether anyone is crying out for resurrection or for the One who resurrects.

The gravediggers dig graves and are silent. The Lord opens graves and shouts.

A mother places her daughter in a grave, the Lord takes her out of the grave; the Lord is a better mother than the mother.

A father covers his son with soil, the Lord uncovers him. The Lord is a better father than the father.

A brother buries his brother, the Lord resurrects him. The Lord is a better brother than the brother.

The Lord has neither tears nor smiles for the dead. His whole heart belongs to the living.

The world mourns for their kindred in the cemeteries, the Lord seeks His own with a song and awakens them.

Resurrect my soul, O Lord, so that my body might also be resurrected. Dwell in my soul, and my body will become Your temple.

My neighbors ask with anxiety whether this body of ours will be resurrected.

If you have denied yourself once and for all, and no longer live for yourself, then your body is already being resurrected.

If your body is a temple of the Most High God, then the One who resurrects is within you, and your resurrection is already being accomplished.

Our body changes with age, throughout our lifetime we have called many bodies our own. Which of them will be resurrected?

Perhaps none of them. But you can be certain that if you have had a body which expresses the Word of God clearly, it will be resurrected.

My Lord who resurrects, does not resurrect death, because death was never alive.

You are the One who resurrects and You are the resurrection, for You are life.

Only the seed which contains You is resurrected, and that seed which is of You.

You will only bring to life that soul which now lives by You and not by the world.

You will only preserve that body, which has begun to be filled with the Holy Spirit during this time.

That which is of the Living God in the graves, will be resurrected into life.

No one can resurrect the dead except the Lord, and no one can rise from the dead except the Lord.

For He is in His holy people. Truly, He is in His living people, both in the grave and out of the grave.

Sayings of the Ascetics of the Orthodox Church, XCII:

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

St. Pimen the Great said: Depart from every man who loves to quarrel.

Ancient Paterikon, 11.59

The Morning Offering – Daily Inspiration by Abbott Tryphon



The Right to Life

Those who use abortifacients commit homicide—Saint Clement

The heinous crimes committed by ISIS have shocked the civilized world. Burning innocent men alive, stoning women in the streets of Islamic countries, beheading captive Christians, and raping women with such abject cruelty and total disregard for the life of another human, have stunned us all. How anyone, in the name of religion, could be so depraved as to murder others, and cause such horrid pain and suffering, is beyond the comprehension of civilized people everywhere. Yet another form of murder, just as cruel and depraved, is the killing of the unborn child in the womb.

We are living in a period of history that has seen the cause of human rights take the forefront as never before. We champion equality under the law for minorities, and continue the struggle for equal rights and equal pay for women, but ignore the rights of the most vulnerable among us, the unborn. We'd rather kill the child in the womb than deprive ourselves of a lifestyle that would be hampered by a baby. Sexual gratification takes priority over the right to life of the unwanted child that is the result of our unchecked lust. We deny the humanity of the unborn by dismissing the reality of a life by deciding the child is not a real person until the moment they are born. We dispose of that which God has created, through the gift of our sexuality, preferring lustful gratification to chastity. The idea of saving oneself for the marriage bed has become as outdated as the Victrola.

We explain away the infanticide that is abortion, while our legal system can find a man guilty of murder should his attack on a pregnant woman result in the death of her unborn child. We think nothing of depriving another human being of life, while we pursue a life of unbridled pleasure for ourselves. Saint Basil the Great said, “The woman who purposely destroys her unborn child is guilty of murder. The hair-splitting difference between formed and unformed makes no difference to us.”

If we are to be a friend of God, we must keep the laws of God. An unborn child has been given the gift of life, even if under circumstances that are the result of our sin. That the child should forfeit her life for the convenience of selfish parents is unconscionable. The sin of sexual intercourse outside the marriage bed is compounded ten thousand fold by the sin of abortion. The woman who would abort her child to avoid poverty will have placed her soul in a state of absolute poverty. Men must truly take responsibility for their part in a life being formed, and do everything in their power to support the mother in caring for the child, ensuring not only the birth, but also the financial care and loving support of the child, following the birth.

In an age when many question the morality of state sanctioned executions of criminals, or question the justification of war, it is beyond the pale that we would think we have the right to kill an unborn child. We must ask ourselves, as did Saint John Chrysostom, “Why do you sow where the field is eager to destroy the fruit? Where there are medicines of sterility? Where there is murder before birth? You do not even let a harlot remain only a harlot, but you make her a murderess as well. Indeed, it is something worse than murder and I do not know what to call it; for she does not kill what is formed but prevents its formation. What then? Do you condemn the gifts of God, and fight with His laws? What is a curse you seek as though it were a blessing. Do you make the anteroom of slaughter? Do you teach the women who are given to you for a procreation of offspring to perpetuate killing?”

Let us stand firm for the rights of all people, especially for the most vulnerable, defenseless of them all, the unborn children. The Sixth Commandment tells us that we must not kill, and makes no distinction between the killing of another person, the killing of oneself (suicide), or the killing of the unborn. The Church has confessed from the beginning that each life is created by God, and that human life is the supreme gift of the Creator. Human life is not given unconditionally, but is given under the condition that we will be responsible for preserving it.

The testimony that God respects life above all else is contained in the words of the Gospel: “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). In so far as God’s perfection is beyond our understanding, by His grace and mercy we are called to theosis, the process of becoming like God. Theosis (deification) begins from the moment of our conception and continues until the very hour of our death. No one has the right to interfere in this process that was begun when God created us.



Daily Reflection Physical Exercise



“Have nothing to do with profane and silly myths. Train yourself rather in godliness (πρὸς εὐσέβειαν); for while physical exercise is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe.” (1 Tim 4: 7-9)

In our culture, often obsessed with “physical fitness” (and related issues like “body image”), it is easy to lose sight of its proper place in one’s daily life in Christ. So I love that here St. Paul mentions “physical exercise” (σωματικὴ γυμνασία), not dismissing it offhand, but putting it in a healthy perspective. It does, he says, benefit us “a bit” (πρὸς ὀλίγον ἐστὶν ὠφέλιμος), but another kind of training, in “godliness” or “evseveia,” benefits us all around, “in every way.” And by “godliness” Paul means focusing on “the living God,” as well as “attending to the reading of Scripture, to preaching, to teaching” (1 Tim 4: 13). It provides us with a healthy attitude both toward “the present life” and its concerns (like physical exercise), and “the life to come.”

Today let me put first things first, re-affirming my focus on “the living God” and seeing to nourishing myself with His word. A connection with Him helps me see all “other things” in their proper place, and tend to them in their proper time. “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well.” (Mt 6: 33)

Holy Orthodox Quotes

“He who is insolent towards men is insolent towards God...respect in the man the grand, inestimable image of God,”

+St John of Kronstadt

Genesis 1:26-27

Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of heaven, over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that moves on the earth.”† So God made man; in the image of God He made him; male and female He made them.

Wisdom of Solomon 2:23-24

For God created man for immortality And made him an image of His own eternity. But death entered the world by the envy of the devil, And those of his portion tempt it.

Proverbs of Solomon 30:18

The eye that mocks his father and dishonors the old age of his mother, Let the ravens of the valleys pick it out, And the young eagles devour it.

Wisdom of Sirach 27:28

Mockery and abuse come back on an arrogant man, And vengeance lies in wait for him like a lion.

Proverbs of Solomon 17:5

He who laughs at the poor provokes the One who made him, And he who rejoices in destruction will not be unpunished; But he who has compassion will be shown mercy.

Jude 1:17-25

But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ: how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts. These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit.† But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,† keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. And on some have compassion, making a distinction; but others save with fear, pulling

them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh. Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,† To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, Be glory and majesty, Dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen.

The Philokalia: Daily Readings

The priestly dignity, like the priestly vestments, is full of splendor, but only so long as it is illumined from within by purity of soul.

+ St Theognostos, On the Practice of Virtue

Ancient Christian Wisdom

We should refer all our problems, whatever they are, to God, just as we say in the Divine Liturgy that we 'commend our whole life to Christ our God.' We leave everything to You, O Lord. Whatever you will. Let Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

+ St. Porphyrios

Wisdom of the Church Fathers

"Make your heart a monastery. There sound the semandron, there call your vigil, cense and whisper ceaseless prayers. God is next to you!"

**Saint Luke of Surgeon
Archbishop of Crimeea**

(1877-1961)

Through the Grace of God – Orthodox Christianity

Father Seraphim Rose: Truth

“Why is the truth, it would seem, revealed to some and not to others? Is there a special organ for receiving revelation from God? Yes, though usually we close it and do not let it open up: God’s revelation is given to something called a loving heart”

Mother Gavrilia: God and Your Purpose

“Let God intervene between you and your purpose, instead of letting your purpose intervene between you and God”

St Seraphim of Sarov: Acquire Peace

“That I am a monk, and you are a layman is of no importance...rather that we are both in the light of the Holy Spirit...acquire the spirit of peace and thousands around you will be saved”