

*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: Dean Inferrera



**Sunday, April 30, 2017**

Gospel: Mark 15:43-16:8

St. James: Luke 5:1-11

**Tone 2**

Epistle: Acts 6:1-7

St. James: Acts 12:1-11

## **3rd Sunday of Pascha: Holy Myrrhbearing Women with the Noble Joseph Holy Apostle James, the brother of St John the Theologian**

Uncovering of the Relics of St. Nikita, Bishop of Novgorod (1558). St. Donatus, Bishop of Euroea in Epirus (ca. 387). Uncovering of the Relics of St. Basil, Bishop of Amasea (4th c.). Martyr Maximus of Ephesus. St. Ignatii (Ignatius) Brianchaninov, Bishop of Stavropol' (1867). The "PASSION" Icon of the Most-holy Theotokos.

### **Troparion – Tone 2**

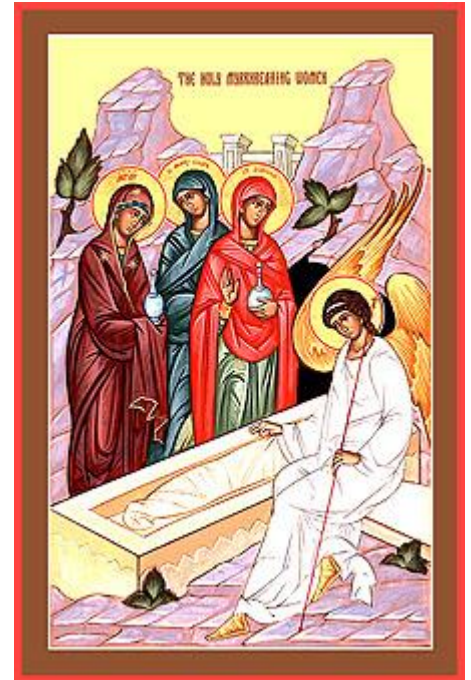
*The Noble Joseph, / When he had taken down  
Your most pure Body from the tree, / Wrapped  
it in fine linen and anointed it with spices, / And  
placed it in a new tomb. / But You did rise on  
the third day, O Lord, / Granting the world  
great mercy.*

### **Troparion – Tone 2**

*The angel came to the myrrhbearing women at  
the tomb and said: / Myrrh is meet for the dead;  
/ But Christ has shown Himself a stranger to  
corruption! / So proclaim: the Lord is risen, /  
Granting the world great mercy!*

### **Kontakion – Tone 2**

*You did command the myrrh-bearers to rejoice,  
O Christ! / By Your Resurrection, You did stop  
the lamentation of Eve, O God! / You did  
command Your apostles to preach: The Savior  
is Risen!*



*Holy Myrrhbearing Women with  
the Noble Joseph*

## **Prayer Requests**

### **For Health of:**

**Charlotte** (granddaughter), on her birthday, offered by her Nonna Trudy.

**Fr. Andrew Bartek**, on the anniversary of his ordination, offered by his spiritual daughter Trudy.

**Richard Dantinne, Sr.**, on his birthday, offered by his family with love.

## **Orthodox Quote of the Day**

In suffering, something goes on which helps the heart to receive God's revelation.

**Fr. Seraphim Rose**  
**Not of this World p.891**

### *Liturgical Schedule*

#### **Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup>**

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

#### **Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>**

6:30 pm: Vespers

#### **Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup>**

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

#### **Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>**

6:30 pm: Vespers

#### **Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup>**

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

#### **Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup>**

6:30 pm: Vespers

#### **Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>**

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

### *Bulletin Sponsors*

**Trudy Ellmore & The  
Dantinne Family**

### *Readings:*

#### **The Prokeimenon in the 6<sup>th</sup> 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)*

#### **Another, Tone 8 (St. James):**

Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the universe! *(Psalm 18:5)*

### **Epistle: Acts 6:1-7**

**In those days**, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists murmured against the Hebrews because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. And the twelve summoned the body of the disciples and said, "it is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brethren, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." And what they said pleased the whole multitude, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochoros, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaos, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands upon them. And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

### **St. James: Acts 12:1-11**

**In those days**, stretched out his hand to harass some from the church. Then he killed James the brother of John with the sword. And because he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to seize Peter also. Now it was during the Days of Unleavened Bread. So when he had arrested him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four squads of soldiers to keep him, intending to bring him before the people after Passover. Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church. And when Herod was about to bring him out, that night Peter was sleeping, bound with two chains between two soldiers; and the guards before the door were keeping the prison. Now behold, an angel of the Lord stood by him, and a light shone in the prison; and he struck Peter on the side and raised him up, saying, "Arise quickly!" And his chains fell off his hands. Then the angel said to him, "Gird yourself and tie on your sandals"; and so he did. And he said to him, "Put on your garment and follow me." So he went out and followed him, and did not know that what was done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. When they were past the first and the second guard posts, they came to the iron gate that leads to the city, which opened to them of its own accord; and they went out and went down one street, and immediately the angel departed from him. And when Peter had come to himself, he said, "Now I know for certain that the Lord has sent His angel, and has delivered me from the hand of Herod and from all the expectation of the Jewish people."

**Alleluia in the 8<sup>th</sup> Tone:**

O Lord, Thou hast been gracious to Thy land; Thou hast turned back the captivity of Jacob.  
(*Psalm 84:1*)

vs. Mercy and truth are met together, righteousness and peace have kissed each other.  
(*Psalm 84:10*)

**Another, Tone 1 (St. James):**

The heavens will praise Thy wonders, O Lord; and Thy truth in the congregation of the saints.  
(*Psalm 91:12*)

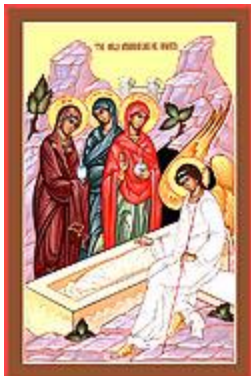
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**Gospel: Mark 15:43-16:8**

**At that time,** Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus. And Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he was already dead. And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. And he bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud, and laid him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus saw where he was laid. And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week they went to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?" And looking up, they saw that the stone was rolled back; for it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe; and they were amazed. And he said to them, "Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, he is not here; see the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you." And they went out and fled from the tomb; for trembling and astonishment had come upon them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

**St. James: Luke 5:1-11**

**So it was,** as the multitude pressed about Him to hear the word of God, that He stood by the Lake of Gennesaret, and saw two boats standing by the lake; but the fishermen had gone from them and were washing their nets. Then He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat. When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net." And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!" For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men." So when they had brought their boats to land, they forsook all and followed Him.



***Holy Myrrhbearing Women with the Noble Joseph***

Today we commemorate the Holy Myrrh-bearing women Saints Mary Magdalene (July 22), Mary the wife of Clopas, Joanna (June 27), Salome, mother of the sons of Zebedee (August 3), Martha and Mary, sisters of Lazarus (June 4). Also Saint Joseph of Arimathea (July 31), and Nicodemus.

The holy right-believing Queen Tamara of Georgia is commemorated twice during the year: on May 1, the day of her repose, and also on the Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women.





### *Holy Apostle James, the brother of St John the Theologian*

The Holy Apostle James, the son of Zebedee, was the brother of Saint John the Theologian, and one of the Twelve Apostles. He and his brother, Saint John, were called to be Apostles by our Lord Jesus Christ, Who called them the "Sons of Thunder" (Mark 3:17). It was this James, with John and Peter, who witnessed the Raising of the Daughter of Jairus, the Lord's Transfiguration on Mount Tabor, and His agony in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Saint James, after the Descent of the Holy Spirit, preached in Spain and in other lands, and then he returned to Jerusalem. He openly and boldly preached Jesus Christ as the Savior of the world, and he denounced the Pharisees and the Scribes with the words of Holy Scripture, reproaching them for their malice of heart and unbelief.

The Jews could not prevail against Saint James, and so they hired the sorcerer Hermogenes to dispute with the apostle and refute his arguments that Christ was the promised Messiah Who had come into the world. The sorcerer sent to the apostle his pupil Philip, who was converted to belief in Christ. Then Hermogenes himself became persuaded of the power of God, he burned his books of magic, accepted holy Baptism and became a true follower of Christ.

The Jews persuaded Herod Agrippa (40-44) to arrest the Apostle James and sentence him to death (Acts 12:1-2). Eusebius provides some of the details of the saint's execution (CHURCH HISTORY II, 9). Saint James calmly heard the death sentence and continued to bear witness to Christ. One of the false witnesses, whose name was Josiah, was struck by the courage of Saint James. He came to believe in Jesus Christ as the Messiah. When they led the apostle forth to execution, Josiah fell at his feet, repenting of his sin and asking forgiveness. The apostle embraced him, gave him a kiss and said, "Peace and forgiveness to you." Then Josiah confessed his faith in Christ before everyone, and he was beheaded with Saint James in the year 44 at Jerusalem.

Saint James was the first of the Apostles to die as a martyr.



**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](mailto:OrthodoxChurchMotherOfGod@outlook.com) ; [reader.charles@hotmail.com](mailto:reader.charles@hotmail.com) or [rsub-deacon.vlashi@outlook.com](mailto:rsub-deacon.vlashi@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*

#### *The Protection of the Mother of God Sisterhood News:*

Thank you to everyone who purchased raffle tickets for the Paschal basket. The winner of the basket was John Kuzemchak. The large children's basket was won by Julian Turpin, and the smaller basket was won by Madeline Dever.

The Sisterhood is planning a small repast for the evening of the bishop's visit on Wednesday May 24th. Please see Lore Stefy for more information or if you wish to make a food contribution.

The next meeting of the Sisterhood will be on May 7th to finalize plans for Bishop Michael's visit.



### *NY/NJ Diocese News*

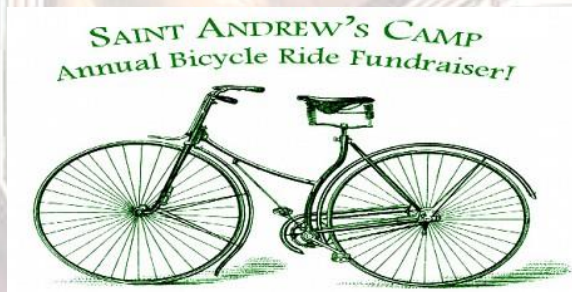
***Memorial Day Singers' and Conductors' Workshop at Saint Tikhon's, described in the attached flyer***

#### **MUSIC WORKSHOP FOR CHILDREN**



**Music Workshop for Children** will be sponsored by the Commission on Liturgical Music [CoLM] on **10 June 2017 in Sea Cliff NY**. The workshop is appropriate for younger school age children through teens, however adults are encouraged to attend, too! The Divine Liturgy is the most often attended and well-known church service. During the workshop, children will have an opportunity to deepen their understanding of Orthodox worship and allow them to participate more fully in the Divine Liturgy. Through singing, discussion, and activities, participants will learn about the service and become familiar with basic musical concepts.

#### **ST. ANDREW'S CAMP: Annual Bike Ride! Sign-up for summer programs!**



**Do a charity bike ride this year!** Mark your calendar for Saturday, 26 August 2017 and bike for **Saint Andrew's Camp**. This ride is ideal for the person who has never attempted a charity bike ride. You CAN do this ride! The Ride offers 3 distances from which to choose, each on flat to rolling terrain. Overnight accommodations are available at the camp. Make the Ride part of a Weekend getaway. Reunite with an alumnus. Nearby attractions are available for family members not riding. Reach out and ask a friend to bike with you and support the Camp at the same time. **Information for the Bike Ride is available at the diocese web site.** Information on **summer camping programs this year along with easy on-line registration is available at the diocese web site.**

As the Camp's chapel bell rang, so started the 5th Annual St. Andrew's Camp Bike Ride (SACBR)! Archbishop Michael has long rallied to "train up" our youth. His recent Appeal to support the Camp was clear. St. Andrew's Camp "remains an invaluable way to link Orthodox Christian children to one another..." The SACBR is a fun and active event that supports this Appeal. Parishioners with various levels of abilities; from never before bike riders to experienced cyclists; young and retired; those in the faith and friends; have met at St. Andrew's Camp in late August. This year Doug Schwarz from St. John the Baptist in Rochester, NY



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

participated. Past riders have included, Marie Goikas, (2013, 2014, 2015), from St. Basil's in Watervliet, NY. David Goikas, rode in 2013. John Bober travelled in from Akron, Ohio, after reading about the ride on the camp's website. John was a camp counselor in 1976! The ride provided the perfect opportunity for his reunion trip back to the Camp. Erin McGuinness from SS. Peter and Paul's in Syracuse, NY was another camp alumnus and has completed three Metric Century! Other participants included Liz Lynch and Sandy Jakubowski who came in from Boonton, New Jersey, on their way to visit relatives in Utica, NY. Brenda Geloff, from SS. Peter and Paul's also rode. Other participants included members from a local cycle group: The Central New York Cranks. A wonderful barbecue greeted the riders upon their finish! The Ride provides an opportunity for parishioners to form fellowships from within their church community and among sister churches. Consider asking a fellow parishioner and form a CHURCH TEAM. Church clubs can sponsor their TEAM with fund raising events that involve the whole congregation. Challenge or unite with a sister church to enter the event.

The bike ride also provides an opportunity to reconnect with former friends. Alumni can contact former camp mates and form new memories. Additionally, the St. Andrew's Camp Ride can be a fun way to introduce our non-Orthodox friends to the ministry and works of our OCA. Ask friends, relatives and co-workers to bike with you and register as a TEAM. New bicycle riders are encouraged to participate. Need tips on how to get started? Here's your opportunity! Charity bikes rides often provide the initial motivation to get started. As Archbishop Michael appeals to us to “TRAIN UP” our youth, allow St. Andrew's Camp help “TRAIN YOU” to bicycle in its 5th Annual Bike Ride. Visit the Camp's website to receive “training tips” and be ready to pedal for the camp. Accommodations are available in the girl's dormitory Friday and Saturday nights for a nominal cost on a first come first serve basis. Those cyclists staying overnight enjoy a free pasta dinner Friday night. The Camp is conveniently located within a few miles of many attractions providing activities for non- cycling family members (golf, shop, beaches, amusement park, museums). Make your charitable gift in the form of a registration fee and pedal the donation! Mark your calendar on Saturday, August 26th, 2017 ride for the Camp. Visit the camp's website [www.saintandrewscamp.org](http://www.saintandrewscamp.org) to register and obtain training tips to get you on the road to the CAMP!

Do a charity bike ride this year! Mark your calendar for Saturday, August 26, 2017 and bike for St. Andrew's Camp. This ride is ideal for the person who has never attempted a charity bike ride. You CAN do this ride! The Ride offers 3 distances from which to choose, each on flat to rolling terrain. Overnight accommodations are available at the camp. Make the Ride part of a Weekend getaway. Reunite with an alumnus. Nearby attractions are available for family members not riding. Reach out and ask a friend to bike with you and support the Camp at the same time. Read on for additional information and registration.

Three distances are available: 12, 30, or 62 (metric century) miles. You can decide on the day of the event. Coffee and sign is at 8 AM. Ride start time is 9 AM for the metric century and 10 AM for the shorter routes. Cue sheets will be distributed on event day. Each route starts and ends at the Camp. Registration is \$60. Each route has designated rest stops with water bottle refills and food. A SAG wagon provides access for your extra gear as it follows along the routes and rest stops experienced bike riders will be available to buddy up with so no one rides alone. A delicious BBQ awaits you at the finish.

Click onto the TIPS link to get ready for the Ride. You have all Spring and Summer to practice bike riding.

**Other Logistics and Contact Information:**

\*Overnight accommodations are available for Friday and/or Saturday at the Camp for \$30/night. (Pitching a tent is free.)

\* There will be a free pasta dinner for registrants and donors staying overnight on the evening before the bike ride, on Friday, August 26, 2017 at approximately 7 PM.

\* Showers are now available for participants to clean up but cannot stay overnight.

\* Feel free to contact us with questions at [saintandrewscamp@aol.com](mailto:saintandrewscamp@aol.com)

\* To register go to [BikeReg.com/St. Andrew's Camp Bicycle Ride](http://BikeReg.com/St.Andrew'sCampBicycleRide)

**Holy Apostles Church (Clifton NJ) hosts the Tamburitans in the Fall of 2017**

On Saturday September 23rd from 4 PM to 6 PM Holy Apostles will be presenting the Tamburitans, the country's premiere Eastern European Folk Dance and Song Troop, at the Clifton High School Auditorium (333 Colfax Avenue, Clifton, NJ 07013). Tickets are on sale now and may be purchased online at [talentshadows.events/](http://talentshadows.events/). Tickets

are \$40 at the door and \$35 if purchased in advance. All proceeds go to support the Tamburitzans and the ministries of Holy Apostles. An event flyer is <attached>.

For questions about the concert call Daria Miskiv at 201-796-2050 or email at [events\\_holyapostles@gmail.com](mailto:events_holyapostles@gmail.com)

For a video of the Tamburitzans follow this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u1OPBfQbGLY&feature=youtu.be>

To learn more about the Tamburitzans visit their website: <http://www.thetamburitzans.org/>

### **From Abp. Michael: Small Parish Forum, July 13-15, Kensington, PA**

Archbishop Michael asks whether any of you are interested in attending the "Small Parish Forum" event announced in the article below, and at the following link, to be held July 13-15 in New Kensington, PA. Our Diocese can underwrite the associated expenses for a limited number of participants

<http://www.ocadwpa.org/smallparishforum.html>

Please let us know at your earliest convenience. Thank you.

### **Small Parish Forum 2017**

*July 13-15, St John the Baptist Church,  
New Kensington PA*

The fourth annual Small Parish Forum, sponsored by the Archdiocese of Western PA and the Diocese of the Midwest will be held from 3:00 Thursday July 13th thru noon on Saturday July 15 at St. John the Baptist Church New Kensington PA.

Clergy and laity who love their parish (who doesn't?) and want to entrust a healthy, vital Christ-centered community to future generations will be nourished by attending the Forum.



The following are reactions of past attendees:

- 'We met others with the same problems. Sharing ideas was helpful.'
- 'It opened our eyes. We now see that it's OK for a parish to be small but it's not an excuse for inactivity.'
- 'Surprised so many parishes help people in need in their neighborhood. We need to explore this.'
- Doing a lot of new things is beyond us right now.
- But we can work to strengthen 1-2 things we do already.'
- 'Honestly, this was a breath of fresh air. I can see we're in a rut.'

Info on registration, hotels, agenda will be available in the future via Parish Pulse, Diocesan websites, SPF Facebook page, OCA.org and more. The registration fee will remain a low \$100 per person. Parishes from sponsoring dioceses are eligible for grants to offset travel and registration costs.

See more info on the Forum [here](#) or contact Joe Kormos. [Joekormos1@gmail.com](mailto:Joekormos1@gmail.com) or [513-683-1911](tel:513-683-1911)



## Topics 2017 Small Parish Forum

### *What Will Be Covered?*

Given that we're well over two months from the Forum's beginning readers can appreciate that the full SPF agenda is in flux. We can, however, provide a preview of just how the SPF Planning Team intends to flesh out the theme of *"Becoming a Community of Engagement: On Behalf of All"*.

The graphic at right provides a reasonable summary. In addition to two or three small parish profiles the Forum will offer four segments - each with presentation, discussion and small group sessions to explore an aspect of the topic.

#### ***Engaging in Worship***

Why do we sing everything in Church? Role of the [small] choir? Role of the congregation in terms of church music? Avoiding the mundane... "vain repetition" week to week, month to month, year after year. Making the "same old music" come alive. Help! Our choir has no women (or no men)! Singing with only a few voices

#### ***Engaging with Our Neighbors***

Brief vignettes from four or five contributors. One will speak about WHY small parishes are not exempt from active charitable efforts. Others will talk about WHAT is done and more importantly HOW they went about convincing their parish to embrace these ideas.

#### ***Engaging Across Generations***

A focus on building a parish where people of all ages know and care about one another. Listen to one another. Enjoy one another.

#### ***Engaging with Our Future***

A review of important parish leadership topics: Leadership principles; Mission/Vision/Identity; Values; and Change.

Registration will be open mid May 2017

### BECOMING A COMMUNITY OF ENGAGEMENT



### ON BEHALF OF ALL



### *Orthodox Church in America (OCA) News*

#### **St. Tikhon's Monastery announces 113th Memorial Day Pilgrimage schedule**

The community of Saint Tikhon's Monastery and Seminary extends a cordial invitation to all faithful to attend the 113th Annual Pilgrimage Memorial Day weekend, May 26-29, 2017.

"We are very glad to be able to offer the blessing of the monastery and her founder, Saint Tikhon of Moscow, to all visiting hierarchs, clergy and faithful from the Orthodox Church in America and other Orthodox jurisdictions and guests from near and far," said Archimandrite Sergius, Abbot of Saint Tikhon's Monastery.



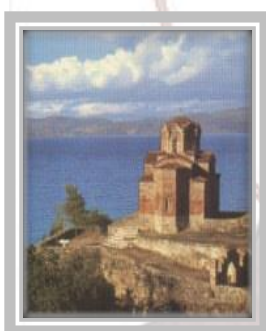
The pilgrimage will officially open on Friday, May 26, at 3:30 p.m. with the greeting of the Hawaiian Myrrh Streaming Icon of the Iveron Mother of God and the celebration of a Molieben. Vespers and Matins will follow at 4:00 p.m. in the Monastery Church of Saint Tikhon of Zadonsk. The icon will be available for veneration throughout the pilgrimage. All pilgrims are invited to dinner in the monastery dining hall following Friday's services.

The 75th annual Commencement of Saint Tikhon's Seminary will be held on Saturday, May 27. The day will open with the celebration of the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy in the monastery church at 9:00 a.m., followed by a meal in the dining hall. Commencement Exercises will begin at 1:00 p.m. The Resurrection Vigil will be celebrated at 4:00 p.m., followed by dinner for all pilgrims in the dining hall.

The Hierarchical Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, May 28, followed by a meal for all in the dining hall. Vespers and Matins will be celebrated at 4:00 p.m.

On Memorial Day—Monday, May 29—the Divine Liturgy will be celebrated in the Monastery Church at 7:30 a.m. The Hierarchical Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m., followed by a Panikhida for Veterans at All Saints Bell Tower at 12:15 p.m. The Akathistos Hymn to Saint Alexis will be celebrated in the monastery church at 1:30 p.m., while the Molieben to the Most Holy Theotokos with the Anointing of the Sick, Infirm and All Pilgrims will be celebrated at the monastery bell tower at 2:30 p.m. The pilgrimage will close with the celebration of Vespers and Matins at 4:00 p.m.

Concurrent with the Pilgrimage, the Patriarch Tikhon Russian-American Music Institute [PaTRAM] will hold its Second Annual Memorial Day Young Singers' Conference at the Monastery. [See related story.] PaTRAM recently released the first recording by its Patriarch Tikhon Choir, titled “Praise the Lord, All Ye Nations.” Under the direction of Maestro Vladimir Gorbik, the 30-voice mixed choir includes vocalists and choral musicians from the US, Canada and Russia. Conference participants will sing the liturgical responses during the Pilgrimage. Detailed Conference information may be accessed on PaTRAM's web site.



#### *Prayers by the Laker, St. Velimirovich, IV:*

*My elders taught me, when I was a youth, to cling to heaven and earth, lest I stumble. For a long time I remained a child, and for a long time I used to lean on the crutch that they gave me.*

*But once eternity flooded through me and I felt like a stranger in the world, heaven and earth snapped in two in my hands like a frail reed.*

*O Lord, my strength, how frail are heaven and earth! They look like palaces built of lead, but they evaporate like water in the palm of the hand in Your presence. Only by their bristling do they conceal their frailty, and frighten uneducated children.*

*Get out of my sight, suns and stars. Sunder yourselves from the earth. Do not entice me, women and friends. What help can I receive from you, who are helplessly growing old and sinking into the grave?*

*All your gifts are an apple with a worm in its core. All your potions have passed through someone's entrails many times. Your garments are a cobweb that my nakedness mocks. Your smiles are a proclamation of sorrow, in which your feebleness is screaming to mine for help.*

*O Lord, my strength, how feeble heaven and earth are! And all the evil that men do under heaven is an admission of feebleness and—infirmity.*

*Only someone strong dares to do good. Only someone who is nourished and watered with You, my strength, is filled with strength for goodness.*

*Only someone who sleeps in Your heart knows rest. Only someone who plows before Your feet will enjoy the fruit of his labors.*

*My childhood, nourished with fear and ignorance, came to an end; and my hope in heaven and earth vanished. Now I only gaze at You and cling to Your gaze in return, O my cradle and my resurrection.*

***Sayings of the Ascetics of the Orthodox Church, CIV:***

**III. Us and Our Neighbors**

**Should We Denounce Them that have Sinned?**

Whoever with fear of God corrects and directs a sinner gains virtue for himself, that of opposition to sin. But whoever insults a sinner with rancor and without good will falls, according to a spiritual law, into the same passion with the sinner.

**St. Mark the Ascetic, Homilies, 2.183**



***The Morning Offering – Daily Inspiration by Abbott Tryphon***

**The Eternal Banquet**

*And the importance of frequent communion*

Eternity is an everlasting banquet (the Divine Liturgy) that takes place in the heavenly realm. Every time we participate in the Divine Liturgy we are transported into a place where there is neither time nor space, and participate in that very banquet. As we receive the Holy Mysteries (Christ's very Body and Blood), we receive the healing medicine for that which ails us. Our brokenness in both body and soul are given the healing medicine that we so very much need.

God is everywhere present and fills all things. There is no where He is not. Hell fire is none other than the Fire of God, burning those who are unloving and unresponsive to His invitation to commune with Him. God does not send anyone to hell, for we sentence ourselves. Eternity with God necessitates a transformation of our souls, that we be purified in order to be engulfed by God's uncreated light. Without transformation the fire of God burns us, not because He desires we be burned, but because our fallen nature cannot withstand the presence of God without having been purified.

The Eucharist is the very medicine that God designed for this transformation. Our response should be one of humble submission to this invitation to commune with the very God Who created us. Holy Communion is meant to be the very agent that changes us, making us whole. The Holy Mysteries give us life. Frequent confession and communion are the means we have for change.

The Eucharist is both mystical and symbolic and is understood to be the genuine Body and Blood of Christ, precisely because bread and wine are the mysteries and symbols of God's true and genuine presence and His manifestation to us in Christ.

The Holy Eucharist defies analysis and explanation in purely rational and logical terms, precisely because it is a mystery. The Eucharist, as is Christ himself, is a mystery of the Kingdom of Heaven which, as Jesus has told us, is "not of this world." The Eucharist, because it belongs to God's Kingdom, is truly free from the earth-born "logic" of fallen humanity.

Saint John of Damascus says, "If you enquire how this happens, it is enough for you to learn that it is through the Holy Spirit ... we know nothing more than this, that the word of God is true, active, and omnipotent, but in its manner of operation unsearchable



***Daily Reflection***

**Witnesses both Male and Female**

*"Now when he rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons. She went out and told those who had been with him, as they mourned and wept. But when they*

*heard that he was alive and had been seen by her, they would not believe it. After this he appeared in another form to two of them, as they were walking into the country. And they went back and told the rest, but they did not believe them. Afterward he appeared to the eleven themselves as they sat at table; and he upbraided them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen." (Mk 16: 9-14)*



The Lord's original "plan," for delivering the news of His resurrection to the Apostles, was to send a woman to do it. But that didn't work, because "they would not believe" her, Mary Magdalene, whom our Tradition calls,



perplexingly (for our time), “Equal to the Apostles.” Then, two of the disciples receive the same revelation, and tell the rest, but “they did not believe them” either. So, – we weren’t ready, at that point, to receive the good news from one another, as the risen Lord wanted us to.

But all that has changed, somehow, in the “Church of the Apostles.” Which is also, one must think, the “Church of the Equal to the Apostles.” Because we do, today, receive the good news from one another, both male and female, to a greater or lesser degree. We don’t do this perfectly, in our human weakness, but we do receive a Tradition passed on to us from the earliest eye-witnesses, both male and female, to our Lord’s resurrection. And this, trusting one another, I believe, is a gift of the Holy Spirit, poured out abundantly upon us at Pentecost. Glory be to the Holy Spirit, Who sends us out, both male and female, to deliver His good news, and overcomes in us our “unbelief and hardness of heart,” with respect to one another, – insofar as we are willing to accept this gift, in our human weakness.

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### *Holy Orthodox Quotes*

“If a man tries to overcome temptations without prayer and patient endurance, he will become more entangled in them instead.”

- St. Mark the Ascetic

#### **Psalms 61:6-8**

However, be submissive to God, O my soul, For my patient endurance is from Him. For He is my God and my savior, My protector; I shall never be moved. In God is my salvation and my glory; He is the God of my help, and my hope is in God.

#### **Wisdom of Sirach 2:11-18**

Because the Lord is compassionate and merciful, He forgives sins and saves in time of affliction. Woe to cowardly hearts and weakened hands, And to a sinner who walks on two paths!† Woe to a fainting heart, because it does not believe! Therefore it will not be sheltered. Woe to you who have lost your patient endurance! What will you do when the Lord visits you? Those who fear the Lord will not disobey His words, And those who love Him will keep His ways. Those who fear the Lord will seek His approval, And those who love Him will be filled with the law. Those who fear the Lord will prepare their hearts And will humble their souls before Him. We will fall into the hands of the Lord And not into the hands of men; For as His majesty is, so is His mercy.

#### **Mark 14:38**

Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

#### **Psalms 4:2**

You heard me when I called, O God of my righteousness. You strengthened my heart when I was in distress; Have mercy on me, and hear my prayer.

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### *The Philokalia: Daily Readings*

Not all those who are discreet in their words are also circumspect in their thought. Nor are all those who are circumspect in their thought also discreet where their external senses are concerned.

- St. Elijah the Priest, Gnostic Anthology

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### *Ancient Christian Wisdom*

Do not seek earthly glory in any matter, for it is extinguished for him who loves it. In its time it blows on a man like a strong wind, and then quickly, taking from him the fruits of his good works, it goes away from him, laughing at his foolishness.

+ St. Gennadius of Constantinople



***Wisdom of the Church Fathers***

"Strive to enter the shrine within you and you will see the shrine of heaven for the one is the same as the other and a single entrance permits you to see both. The ladder leading to that Kingdom is hidden within you, that is, within your soul: cleanse yourself from sin and there you will find the steps by which to ascend".

**Saint Isaac the Syrian  
(640-700)**

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***Through the Grace of God – Orthodox Christianity***  
**St Symeon Metaphrasis: Salvation**

"We receive salvation by grace and as a divine gift of the Spirit. But to attain the full measure of virtue we need also to possess faith and love, and to struggle to exercise our free will with integrity.

In this manner we inherit eternal life as a consequence of both grace and justice. We do not reach the final stage of spiritual maturity through divine power and grace alone, without ourselves making any effort; but neither on the other hand do we attain the final measure of freedom and purity as a result of our own diligence and strength alone, apart from any divine assistance.

If the Lord does not build the house, it is said, and protect the city, in vain does the watchman keep awake, and in vain do the laborer and the builder work (cf. Ps. 127:1-4)."



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