

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

The Most Reverend Michael, Archbishop of NY & the Diocese of NY/NJ

V. Rev. Dr. Matthew Searfoorce, Temporary Rector

Sub-Deacon Edward Dawson Sub-Deacon Vlashi

Parish Council President: Andrew Romanofsky

Parish Council Vice President: Sub-Deacon Edward

HYMNS OF THE DAY

[Troparion in Tone 4 \(Resurrection\)](#)

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the joyous message of thy Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the apostles: “Death is overthrown! Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy!”

[Troparion in Tone 8 \(for Saints Cosmas and Damian\)](#)

Holy Unmercenaries and Wonderworkers, Cosmas and Damian, heal our infirmities! Freely ye have received; freely ye give to us.

[Kontakion in Tone 4 \(Resurrection\)](#)

My Savior and Redeemer as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains. He has shattered the gates of hell, and as Master, He has risen on the third day!

[Kontakion in Tone 2 \(for Saints Cosmas and Damian\)](#)

Having received the grace of healing, ye grant healing to those in need. Glorious wonderworkers and healers, Cosmas and Damian, visit us and put down the insolence of our enemies, and bring healing to the world through your miracles!

Prayer Requests

For Health of:

Billy Kuzemchak, , offered by the Kuzemchak family.

Archpriest Thomas Kadlec, undergoing surgery for cancer; **Archpriest Terence Baz**, who had surgery Friday, June 29;

Matushka Anastasia Molodyko-Harris, also had a procedure on Friday, June 29; **Helen Toroney**, mother of Fr. Joseph, hospitalized with a broken leg; **Mack Fox**, son of Father David & Matushka Kerri, for safe travels in and return from South Korea, offered by Archbishop Michael and the Diocese of NY/NJ.

In Memory of:

Kathleen & Joseph, parents of Maribeth Romanofsky, offered by the Romanofsky family.

Eduard Aleksashin, who fell asleep in the Lord on 6/27/18, offered by Tatsiana DaGrosa and family.

Maria Proch, parish council member of St. Basil’s Church, Simpson, PA; and officer of St. Tikhon’s Century Association, offered by Archbishop Michael and the Diocese of NY/NJ.

Sharon Naughton, beloved mother and grandmother of Matushka Jessica and Father Stephen, Jacob and Julia Evanina, offered by Archbishop Michael and the Diocese of NY/NJ.

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SAINTS AND FEASTS OF THE DAY

JULY 1, 2018

5TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST: HOLY AND WONDERWORKING UNMERCENARIES COSMAS AND DAMIAN, MARTYRS AT ROME (284).



Holy Wonderworking Unmercenary Physicians Cosmas and Damian at Rome

The Holy Martyrs, Wonderworkers and Unmercenary Physicians Cosmas and Damian were born at Rome, brothers by birth, and physicians by profession. They suffered at Rome in the reign of the emperor Carinus (283-284). Brought up by their parents in the rules of piety, they led strict and chaste lives, and they were granted by God the gift of healing the sick. By their generosity and exceptional kindness to all, the brothers converted many to Christ. The brothers told the sick, "It is not by our own power that we treat you, but by the power of Christ, the true God. Believe in Him and be healed." Since they accepted no payment for their treatment of the infirm, the holy brothers were called "unmercenary physicians."

Their life of active service and their great spiritual influence on the people around them led many into the Church, attracting the attention of the Roman authorities. Soldiers were sent after the brothers. Hearing about this, local Christians convinced Saints Cosmas and Damian to hide for a while until they could help them escape. Unable to find the brothers, the soldiers arrested instead other Christians of the area where the saints lived. Saints Cosmas and Damian then came out of hiding and surrendered to the soldiers, asking them to release those who had been arrested because of them.

At Rome, the saints were imprisoned and put on trial. Before the Roman emperor and the judge they openly professed their faith in Christ God, Who had come into the world to save mankind and redeem the world from sin, and they resolutely refused to offer sacrifice to the pagan gods. They said, "We have done evil to no one, we are not involved with the magic or sorcery of which you accuse us. We treat the infirm by the power of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and we take no payment for rendering aid to the sick, because our Lord commanded His disciples, "Freely have you received, freely give" (Mt. 10: 8).

The emperor, however, continued with his demands. Through the prayer of the holy brothers, imbued with the power of grace, God suddenly struck Carinus blind, so that he too might experience the almighty power of the Lord, Who does not forgive blasphemy against the Holy Spirit (Mt. 12:31). The people, beholding the miracle, cried out, "Great is the Christian God! There is no other God but Him!" Many of those who believed besought the holy brothers to heal the emperor, and he himself implored the saints, promising to convert to the true God, Christ the Savior, so the saints healed him. After this, Saints Cosmas and Damian were honorably set free, and once again they set about treating the sick.

But what the hatred of the pagans and the ferocity of the Roman authorities could not do, was accomplished by black envy, one of the strongest passions of sinful human nature. An older physician, an instructor, under whom the holy brothers had studied the art of medicine, became envious of their fame. Driven to madness by malice, and overcome by passionate envy, he summoned the two brothers, formerly his most beloved students, proposing that they should all go together in order to gather various medicinal herbs. Going far into the mountains, he murdered them and threw their bodies into a river.

Thus these holy brothers, the Unmercenary Physicians Cosmas and Damian, ended their earthly journey as martyrs. Although they had devoted their lives to the Christian service of their neighbors, and had escaped the Roman sword and prison, they were treacherously murdered by their teacher.

The Lord glorifies those who are pleasing to God. Now, through the prayers of the holy martyrs Cosmas and Damian, God grants healing to all who with faith have recourse to their heavenly intercession.

The Unmercenary Saints Cosmas and Damian of Rome should not be confused with the Unmercenary Saints Cosmas and Damian of Asia Minor (November 1), or the Unmercenary Saints Cosmas and Damian of Arabia (October 17).

Martyr Potitus at Naples

The Holy Martyr Potitus suffered under the emperor Antoninus Pius (reigned 138-161). Having become familiar with the Christian teaching, the young Potitus believed in the true God and accepted holy Baptism at

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thirteen years of age. When he learned of this, his pagan father was extremely upset and tried, first by endearments, and then by threats to dissuade his son from his faith in Christ the Savior, but his efforts were in vain. Impressed by the boy's firmness of faith, the father also came to believe in the Son of God and became a Christian himself.

Saint Potitus traveled through many lands preaching about Christ, and by the power of God he worked wondrous miracles.

In the region of Epiros, lived the illustrious woman Kyriake, the wife of a senator; she was afflicted with leprosy. Hearing of Saint Potitus, she summoned him and asked him to heal her. The saint declared that if she believed in Christ, she would be healed. The woman accepted holy Baptism and was immediately made well. Seeing such a miracle, her husband and all their household believed in Christ and were baptized as well.

After this, the saint settled on Mount Garganus and lived in solitude, among the animals. He was found there by servants of the emperor Antoninus, whose daughter was possessed by a demon. Through the lips of the maiden, the devil said that he would come out of her only if Potitus should come. They brought the holy youth to the emperor, and through the prayers of Saint Potitus the demon released the girl. But instead of being grateful, the emperor treated the saint with inhuman cruelty. For his firm confession of faith in Christ the Savior, and for his refusal to offer sacrifice to the pagan gods, to whom the emperor imputed the healing of his daughter, he ordered that the saint's tongue be torn out, and that he be blinded. After lengthy torture, Saint Potitus was finally beheaded.

Venerable Peter of Constantinople

Saint Peter was born into a patrician family at Constantinople at the end of the eighth century. During the reign of the Byzantine emperor Nicephorus (802-811) Peter was commissioned as an officer and participated in the campaigns of the Greek army against Bulgaria. In one particular battle the emperor was mortally wounded, and Peter was one of many soldiers taken captive.

One night, while he was praying, the holy Evangelist John the Theologian appeared to him in a vision and released him from captivity. Having returned to Constantinople, Saint Peter left the world and withdrew into a monastery on Mount Olympos (in Asia Minor) and became a monk. There he passed his time in constant ascetic efforts for 34 years under the guidance of Saint Joannicius the Great (November 4). Saint Peter lived all his monastic life in strict fasting and constant vigil, wearing a prickly hair-shirt and going barefoot. He lived the final eight years of his life at Constantinople, where he founded a church and a monastery named for Saint Euandrus.

Saint Peter died in 854 in the seventieth year of his life, and was buried in his monastery.



St. Angelina of Serbia

Saint Angelina was the daughter of Prince George Skenderbeg of Albania. Her mother's name is not known, but she raised her daughter in Christian piety and taught her to love God.

Saint Stephen Brancovich (October 9 and December 10), the ruler of Serbia, had come to Albania to escape those who wished to kill him. Sometime before he arrived in Albania, Saint Stephen was unjustly blinded by the Turkish Sultan for some perceived offense. Since he was innocent, he bore his affliction with courage.

Saint Stephen was not only Prince George's guest, but he was also treated as a member of his family. Not surprisingly, Stephen and Angelina eventually fell in love. With her parents' blessing, they were married in church. After a few years, they were blessed with two sons: George and John.

When the boys were grown, Saint Stephen and his family were forced to flee to Italy for their safety. At that time the Turks invaded Albania and began to slaughter men, women, and even children.

Saint Stephen died in 1468, leaving Angelina a widow. In her distress, she turned to the ruler of Hungary for help. He gave them the town of Kupinovo in Sirmium.

Saint Angelina left Italy with her sons in 1486, stopping in Serbia to bury Saint Stephen's incorrupt body in his native land.

The children of these pious parents also became saints. George gave up his claim to the throne in favor of his brother John, then entered a monastery and received the name Maximus.

John was married, but had no sons. He died in 1503 at a young age, and many miracles took place before his holy relics.

Saint Angelina survived her husband and both of her sons. Mindful of her soul's salvation, she entered a women's monastery. She departed to the Lord in peace, and her body was buried in the same tomb as her sons in the monastery of Krushedol in Frushka Gora.

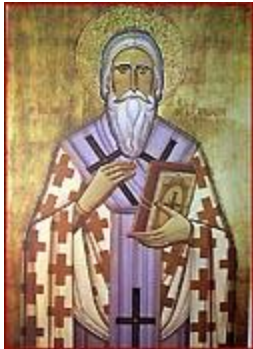
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Saint Angelina is also commemorated on December 10 with her husband Saint Stephen and her son Saint John.



Translation of the relics of the Venerable John of Rila from Trnovo to Rila

On October 19, 1238 the relics of Saint John of Rila were solemnly transferred to the new capital, Trnovo, and put in a church dedicated to the saint. Then on July 1, 1469 the holy relics of Saint John were returned to the Rila monastery, where they rest to the present day, granting grace-filled help to all the believers.



St. Leontius of Rădăuți

Saint Leontius was born in Rădăuți, Moldavia in the fourteenth century. He was named Laurence when he received the monastic tonsure. In time he was found worthy of ordination to the holy priesthood, and founded a monastery near Rădăuți, which later became known as Saint Laurence's Monastery. Among his many disciples was Saint Daniel the Hesychast (December 18).

Because of his holy life, he received from God the grace of working miracles. Many sick people were healed by his prayers, and he became a father, teacher, and protector to all.

Prince Alexander the Good recommended that he be made Bishop of Rădăuți. Saint Leontius led his flock with wisdom for many years, then retired to live alone in the wilderness. He received the Great Schema with the name of Leontius, and departed to the Lord soon afterward. His holy relics were found incorrupt, and many people received healing at his tomb.

Saint Leontius was glorified by the Orthodox Church of Romania in 1992.

GOSPEL AND EPISTLE READINGS

Prokeimenon, Tone 4:

O Lord, how manifold are Thy works! / In wisdom hast Thou made them all! (*Psalm 103:24*)
vs. Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord my God, Thou art very great! (*Psalm 46:1*)

Epistle Reading

The reading is from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Romans 10:1-10

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but it is not enlightened. For, being ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law, that everyone who has faith may be justified. Moses writes that the man who practices the righteousness which is based on the law shall live by it. But the righteousness based on faith says, Do not say in your heart, "Who will ascend into heaven?" (that is, to bring Christ down) or "Who will descend into the abyss?" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart (that is, the word of faith which we preach); because, if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For man believes with his heart and so is justified, and he confesses with his lips and so is saved.

Alleluia, Tone 4:

Go forth, prosper and reign, for the sake of meekness, righteousness and truth. (*Psalm: 44:5*)
vs. For Thou lovest righteousness, and dost hate iniquity. (*Psalm 44:8*)

Gospel Reading

The Reading is from Matthew 8:28-9:1

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At that time, when Jesus came to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes, two demoniacs met him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one would pass that way. And behold, they cried out, "What have you to do with us, O Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?" Now a herd of many swine was feeding at some distance from them. And the demons begged him, "If you cast us out, send us away into the herd of swine." And he said to them, "Go." So they came out and went into the swine; and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and perished in the waters. The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, and what had happened to the demoniacs. And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw him, they begged him to leave their neighborhood. And getting into a boat he crossed over and came to his own city.



Daily Inspirations by Abbott Tryphon

Being God's Messenger

*When we put aside ourselves and put on Christ,
we become God's messenger*



Walking through life with a smile on our face and a song in our heart is the best way to keep our mind and heart in a good place. Life has many turns and many trials, but when we keep centered on all the good that is in our life, the trials are short lived.

Smiles are contagious. Ever notice how a room brightens up when someone walks in who is always smiling, always happy, always extending a warm greeting to others? What better gift can we give another, than a sincere smile.

I remember finding a young man sitting on a log, deep on the trail above Multnomah Falls, on the Columbia River of Oregon, many years ago, while hiking on a trail. The trail head was some four miles from that spot, and I was somewhat surprised to find another person, alone, that far into the forest (I'd thought I was the only one who loved to hike alone). He was deep in thought, so I apologized for startling him. Sensing something was wrong, I commented on the beauty of God's creation and asked if he'd like to share a sandwich and some coffee. Sitting down on the log next to him, I opened my backpack, and handed him half of my lunch.

A few moments passed when he turned to me, showed me a revolver, and told me he'd come to this remote spot with the intent of killing himself. When he saw me appear with a long beard, long hair, and dressed in my long black robe, he'd first thought I might be an angel, sent by God. He'd been praying that God would forgive him for what he was about to do. I assured him that I was indeed flesh and blood, and no angel. But I also told him that I was sent by God with a message. The message from God was that he was loved, and that God had a plan for his life, and this period of despair would soon pass.

He handed me his revolver, which I placed in my backpack, and we had a long conversation about his life. Eventually we walked together back to our vehicles. With the promise that he would return the revolver to his father, and let him know he'd intended kill himself, until that encounter with a monk, I handed him the gun, and we parted ways.

I've long wondered about the direction his life must have taken after that encounter in the forest, so very many years ago. I've also wondered what may have happened if I'd continued on that trail without stopping to greet him, without offering a smile and a shared sandwich.

To this day I feel blessed that God allowed me to be His messenger on that lonely trail, and I try to be available each and every day as His messenger. When we make a concerted effort to be centered in Christ, each and every day, each and every hour, we make way for a heart and mind that is always in a good place, and we allow the love of Christ to be seen and experienced by others. When we put aside ourselves and put on Christ, we become God's messengers.



Daily Reflection

Our Aging Process in Christ

"...He said to him (to Peter) the third time, 'Simon, son of Jonah, do you love me?' Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, 'Do you love me?' And he said to him, 'Lord, you know all things; You know that I love you.'



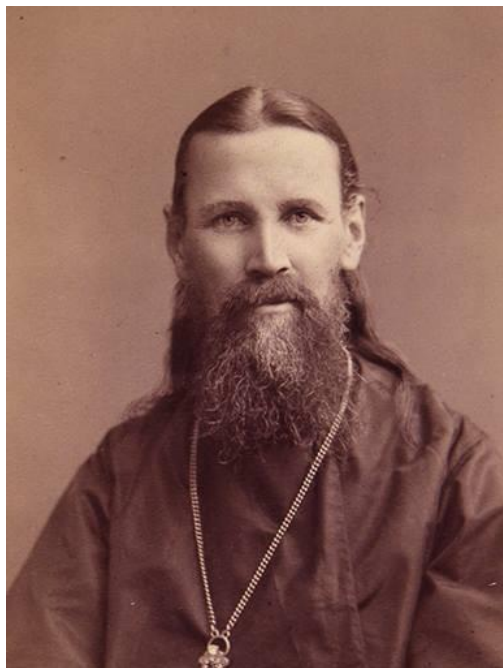
Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep. Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and

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carry you where you do not wish.' This he spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he said to him, 'Follow me.'" (Jn 21: 17-19)

As we age, in Christ, we are increasingly called to nurture others; to “feed” His “sheep,” by witnessing from and to the little storage-house of experience and wisdom we’ve accumulated along the Way. Our God-given, “motherly” calling/vocation, to be nurturing, gets stronger, as we age, while – ironically, perhaps, – our merely-human desire, as we advance in age, is to relax and be left to do “our own thing” in our retirement. Because, as we grow in experience on our cross-carrying journeys, we also grow in humility and an awareness of the “smallness” of our “experience” and “wisdom,” so we have a healthy kind of self-doubt as to our usefulness for others. Nonetheless, and “ironically,” as I noted above, God begins to use us in ways we “do not wish,” when we are “old” and self-aware enough to recognize our limitations.

As I age, and am brought to places and situations I “do not wish,” let me humbly witness to my hope, love, and faith in Christ, in the small or big ways I am called to do, in my immediate surroundings. “Lord, You know all things,” I say to my Lord today, Who knows my failings and shortcomings, as He knew those of St. Peter. “You know that I love You,” and follow You, wherever You choose to lead me, Your imperfect and yet-faithful servant.



...those who reject fasting take away from themselves and from others the arms against their flesh, with, its manifold passions, and against the Devil, both of which are especially powerful against us through our intemperance;

St. John of Kronstadt
My Life in Christ p.329

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PARISH NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Sunday, July 1st

9:40 am: Hours

9:45 am: General Confession

10:00 am: Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Saturday, July 7th

6:30 pm: Vespers

Sunday, July 8th

9:40 am: Hours

10:00 am: Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Saturday, July 14th

6:30 pm: Vespers

Sunday, July 15th

9:40 am: Hours

10:00 am: Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Saturday, July 21st

6:30 pm: Vespers

Sunday, July 22nd

9:40 am: Hours

10:00 am: Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Saturday, July 28th

6:30 pm: Vespers

Sunday, July 29th

9:40 am: Hours

10:00 am: Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Request & 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 will be remembered during Divine Liturgy for the day/week that you signed up for.

Memorial Candles: Candles can 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.

Receiving Holy Communion: Holy Communion is offered to those baptized Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves for the reception of the Sacrament by prayer and fasting. Blessed Bread is available for all our visitors at the very end of the Divine Liturgy.

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.