

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, July 23, 2017

Gospel: Matthew 9:27-35

Tone 6

Epistle: Romans 15:1-7

7th Sunday after Pentecost:

Martyrs Trophimus, Theophilus, and 13 others in Lycia &

Icon of the Mother of God “the Joy of All who sorrow” (with coins) in St Petersburg
Hieromartyr Apollinaris, Bishop of Ravenna (ca. 75). Commemoration of the Miraculous Appearance of the POCHAEV Icon of the Mother of God, which saved the Monastery from the assault of the Tatars and Turks (1675).

Troparion – Tone 4

Your holy martyr Trophimus and his companions, O Lord, / through their sufferings have received incorruptible crowns from You, our God. / For having Your strength, they laid low their adversaries, / and shattered the powerless boldness of demons. / Through their intercessions, save our souls!

Kontakion – Tone 8

Ye have appeared as bright lamps, O holy martyrs! Illumine the whole creation with the brightness of your miracles. Deliver it from infirmity and drive away the deep darkness, always interceding before Christ God for us all.



Icon of the Mother of God “the Joy of All who sorrow” (with coins) in St Petersburg

Prayer Requests

For Health of:

Erika Freed, on her birthday, offered by her aunt Lore Stefy.

Rich & Lisa Dantine, on their anniversary, offered by their family with love.

Sub-Deacon Edward, who had a medical procedure done Friday, offered by his wife Holly and his family.

Matushka Jeanne Plekon, who underwent heart valve replacement surgery, on July 19;

Matushka Shirley Lickwar, preparing to undergo surgery, on Tuesday, July 25;

Archpriest George Hasenecz, presently hospitalized;

Archpriest Sergei and Matushka Gerry (Genevieve) Glagolev, receiving medical treatment;

Deacon John Holoduek, recovering from foot surgery, all offered by Archbishop Michael and the Diocese of NY/NJ.

In Memory of:

Our mother **Ann**, offered Linda & Richard Dantine.

The Philokalia: Daily Readings

If your heart can inwardly experience it, you will find a wealth the world cannot contain, a god-like fountain flowing with unheard-of life.

- Theophanes the Monk, Ladder of Divine Graces

Liturgical Schedule

Sunday, July 23rd

9:40 am: Hours

10:00 am: Divine Liturgy

Saturday, July 29th

6:30 pm: Vespers

Sunday, July 30th

9:40 am: Hours

10:00 am: Divine Liturgy

12:15 pm: Council Meeting

Saturday, August 5th

6:30 pm: Vespers

Sunday, August 6th

9:40 am: Hours

9:45 am: General
Confession

10:00 am: Divine Liturgy

Saturday, August 12th

6:30 pm: Vespers

Sunday, August 13th

9:40 am: Hours

10:00 am: Divine Liturgy

Saturday, August 19th

6:30 pm: Vespers

Sunday, August 20th

9:40 am: Hours

10:00 am: Divine Liturgy

Bulletin Sponsors

*Lore Stefy; Linda &
Richard Dantinne*

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: Romans 15:1-7

Brethren, we who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves; let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to edify him. For Christ did not please himself; but, as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached thee fell on me." For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

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: Matthew 9:27-35

At that time, as Jesus passed on from there, two blind men followed him, crying aloud, "Have mercy on us, Son of David." When he entered the house, the blind men came to him; and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to him, "Yes, Lord." Then he touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith be it done to you." And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly charged them, "See that no one knows it." But they went away and spread his fame through all that district. As they were going away, behold, a dumb demoniac was brought to him. And when the demon had been cast out, the dumb man spoke; and the crowds marvelled, saying, "Never was anything like this seen in Israel." But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the prince of demons." And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people.

Orthodox Quote of the Day

Now let me give you a "curse" too! May God flood your heart with His kindness and His abundant love until you go out of your mind! May your mind leave this earth even while you are in this life and stay close to Him!

Elder Paisios of Mount Athos

Martyrs Trophimus, Theophilus, and 13 others in Lycia

The Holy Martyrs Trophimus, Theophilus, and thirteen martyrs with them, suffered during the persecution against Christians under the emperor Diocletian (284-305). Brought to trial, they bravely confessed themselves Christians and refused to offer sacrifice to idols. After fierce tortures, they broke the legs of the holy martyrs and threw them into a fire. Strengthened by the Lord, they came out of the fire completely unharmed, and they glorified Christ all the more. Unable to break the will of the holy confessors, the torturers beheaded them.



Icon of the Mother of God "the Joy of All who sorrow" (with coins) in St Petersburg

The Icon of the Mother of God "Joy of All Who Sorrow" (With Coins) was glorified in the year 1888 in Petersburg, when during the time of a terrible thunderstorm lightning struck in a chapel. All was burned or singed, except for this icon of the Queen of Heaven. It was knocked to the floor, and the poor box broke open at the same time. Somehow, twelve small coins (half-kopeck pieces), became attached to the icon. A church was built in 1898 on the site of the chapel.



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 ; reader.charles@hotmail.com or 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

There will be a council meeting on July 30th after coffee hour.

Church needs: Small envelopes 3 5/8 x 6 1/2 and Stamps (First Class)

Wisdom of the Church Fathers

"Remember God, that He may remember thee constantly; and when He remembers thee and saves thee, thou wilt receive all these goods. Forget Him not in idle distraction, lest He also forget thee in thy temptations. In prosperity be near to Him and obedient, that thou mayest have freedom of speech with Him in trouble because of thy constantly being near to Him in thy heart by means of thy prayer. Sit before His face all thy time, thinking of Him and recollecting Him in thy heart, lest, seeing Him only after long thou shouldst lack freedom of speech with Him on account of bashfulness..."

Saint Isaac the Syrian



NY/NJ Diocese News

**Raising Our Young People
As A Generation
of Disciples and Leaders**

Conference Leader:
Very Reverend Dr. Joseph Purpura

2017 DIOCESAN CHURCH SCHOOL CONFERENCES

The annual **Church School Conference** is designed to provide guidance and assistance, with an opportunity for sharing and cooperation, among teachers and others interested or involved in parish religious education programs. It is highly recommended that all clergy and church school coordinators attend this valuable resource. There are two dates and locations of the conference to enable maximum participation. **On Saturday, 12 August, a conference for the New Jersey & New York City Deaneries will be in Paramus NJ. On Saturday, 26 August, the New York State Deanery conference will be in Elmira Heights NY.** Conference flyers with additional information are available in the "Upcoming Events" section of the diocese webpage.

Congratulations to:

Fr. Volodymyr Chaykovskiy, awarded the skufiya, and named the Rector of St. Vladimir Church in Trenton, NJ, on Saturday, July 15, 2017, by His Eminence, Archbishop Michael;

Fr. Thaddeus Franta, awarded the kamilavka, and named the Rector of SS. Peter and Paul Church in East Herkimer, NY, on Sunday, July 16, 2017, by Archbishop Michael.

May God protect and preserve His servants, the Presbyter Volodymyr and the Presbyter Thaddeus, for many blessed years! "Mnogaya Lyeta!"



Orthodox Church in America (OCA) News

SVOTS to host fourth annual Fr. John Meyendorff Memorial Lecture September 15

Dr. Alice-Mary Talbot will present the fourth annual Father John Meyendorff Memorial Lecture on the campus of Saint Vladimir's Seminary here on Friday, September 15, at 7:00 p.m. Dr. Talbot is the Director Emerita of Byzantine Studies at Dumbarton Oaks, a prestigious research institute of Harvard University, located in Washington, DC. She also serves as Editor of the Byzantine Greek series, Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library. Her presentation will center on her forthcoming book on Byzantine monasticism and Mount Athos.

Dr. Talbot is one of the world's foremost scholars of Byzantium, the Roman Empire in the eastern Mediterranean that endured for almost a thousand years after its eclipse in the west, until the fall of its capital, Constantinople, to the Ottoman sultan in 1453. Her contribution to the study of middle and late Byzantine social and religious history in general, and women and religious culture in Byzantium in particular, has been immense.

Dr. Talbot is one of the editors/translators of Holy Men of Mount Athos [Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library 40], which presents the lives of Euthymios the Younger, Athanasios of Athos, Maximos the Hutburner, Niphon of Athos, and Philotheos, who lived on Mount Athos at different times from the ninth to the 15th centuries and were known for their asceticism, clairvoyance, and in most cases, the ability to perform miracles. The book illuminates both the history and the varieties of monastic practice on Athos, individually by hermits as well as communally in large monasteries. The work also demonstrates the diversity of hagiographic composition and provides important glimpses of Byzantine social and political history.

Dr. Talbot first met Protopresbyter John Meyendorff, who retired as Dean of Saint Vladimir’s Seminary on June 30, 1992, just a few months before his repose, when he coincidentally and suddenly substituted for another member of her Ph.D. dissertation committee while she was earning her degree in Byzantine and Ottoman History at Columbia University in New York. “I was thrilled that he was on the jury for my Columbia dissertation defense in 1970, and I was able to benefit from his comments in my revision of the thesis for publication,” Dr. Talbot remarked.

The Father John Meyendorff Memorial Lecture is free and open to the public. An open reception will follow the presentation.

Additional information may be found on the seminary web site or by calling 914-961-8313.

Fourth Small Parish Forum attracts record number of participants

A record 70 individuals representing parishes across the US and Canada participated in the Small Parish Forum at Saint John the Baptist Church here July 13-15, 2017. The group was the largest of any previous Small Parish Forums, attracting clergy and lay participants from eight OCA Dioceses—Western Pennsylvania, the Midwest, the South, New York and New Jersey, and New England, and the Bulgarian, Albanian and Romanian Dioceses—as well as the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese and the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia.

Jointly sponsored by the Orthodox Church in America’s Archdiocese of Western Pennsylvania and the Diocese of the Midwest, the Forum — the fourth in a series initiated in 2014 — had as its theme “Becoming a Community of Engagement.” The program was facilitated by Joseph Kormos, Parish Development Ministry Leader for the Archdiocese of Western Pennsylvania.

His Eminence, Archbishop Melchisedek of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania and His Grace, Bishop Paul of Chicago and the Midwest welcomed the participants and offered their insights throughout the three-day gathering.

“Individual sessions explored the dimensions of engaging in worship, engaging with the neighborhood, engaging across generations and engaging with our parish future,” Mr. Kormos explained. “Eight speakers offered remarks of various length along with video presentations and open discussion.”

Among the presenters were:

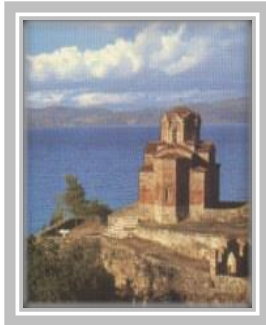
- Priest Justin Patterson, Rector of Saint Athanasius Church, Nicholasville, KY; Archpriest Joshua Frigerio, Rector Holy Ascension Church, Albion, MI; and Priest Jonathan Bannon, Rector of Christ the Savior Church [ACROD], Rockford, IL, who offered profiles of life in their small parishes.
- Mother Seraphima, choir director at Orthodox Monastery of the Transfiguration, Ellwood City, PA, who offered remarks and a music laboratory session titled “Engaging in Worship.”
- Igumen Patrick [Carpenter], Rector Holy Assumption of Mary Church, Pittsburgh, PA, and Matt McCroskery and Janet Damian Lapko, both of Saints Peter and Paul Cathedral, Detroit, MI, who shared their experiences in the segment on “Engaging with the Neighborhood.” Archpriest Jonathan Proctor, Rector of Holy Trinity Church, St Paul, MN, joined the session via video.
- Archpriest Marc Vranes, Rector Holy Trinity Church, Willimantic, CT, and Cathy Vrugitz of Saint Gregory of Nyssa Church, Columbus, OH, who collaborated to share perspectives on “Engaging Across Generations.”
- Archpriest Peter Baktis, Rector of the Mother of God, Joy of All Who Sorrow Mission, Princeton, NJ, who helped attendees focus on “Engaging with our Parish Future.”

Mr. Kormos also facilitated a number of workshops on related themes.

“One important product of the Forum was the development of a set of ‘Principles of Vibrant Small Orthodox Parishes,’ the final version of which will be available shortly,” Mr. Kormos added. “We felt that building a consensus around fundamentals of healthy small churches was an important breakthrough for the Forum, and we hope to build on these in the future. We also encouraged attendees to select one initiative for their parish upon return. Members of the Forum planning group will be available as catalysts for follow-up to encourage parish action.”

The 2018 Forum tentatively has been scheduled for July 12-14, 2018.

Presentations and resources offered during the Forum are available on-line.



Prayers by the Laker, St. Velimirovich, XVI:

Arise O sons of the Sun of God! Arise, the merciful sun has risen and has begun to pour its light lavishly over the dark fields of the earth. It has risen to set you free from sleep's gloom and terror.

Your sins of yesterday are not written out on the sun. The sun does not remember or seek revenge for anything. On its face there are no wrinkles from your forehead, nor is there any sadness, envy, or sorrow. Its joy lies in giving, its youth-- its rejuvenation -- lies in serving. Blessed are those who serve, for they shall not grow old.

What if the sun were to imitate you, my neighbors? How little light it would shed on earth, you misers! How bloody its light would be, you murderers! How green it would become with envy when it saw greater suns than itself, you envious people! How red with wrath it would become when it heard the profanities below, you short-tempered people! How yellow it would become with yearning for the beauty of the stars, you greedy people! How pale it would become with fear, if no one marked its way, you cowards! How dark it would become with worry, you worrisome worriers! How wrinkled and old it would become living on yesterday's wrongdoing, you vengeful people! How astray it would go from the right way if it fought over rights, you auctioneers of rights! How cold and dead it would become, and how it would envelop the entire universe with its death, you preachers of death!

Oh how fortunate it is for the world that the sun will never imitate you, O sons and daughters of earth!

Indeed, the sun does not know many things as you do, but it does know two things eternally: that it is a servant and a symbol. It knows that it is a servant of the One who kindled it and that it is a symbol of the One who put it at His service.

Be servants of the One who illuminates you with the sun on the outside and with Himself on the inside, and you will taste the sweetness of eternal youth.

Be a symbol of the One who put you among the animals of the earth, and you will surpass the radiance of the sun. Truly all the animals around you will swim in happiness beneath the rays of your goodness, even as moons swim around suns.

Yet what are the sun and all the stars except piles of ashes, through which You shine, O Son of God? Piles of ashes that lessen Your radiance and sift it through themselves like a thick sieve? For indeed, in Your full radiance nothing would be seen except You, just as in total darkness nothing is seen except darkness.

O Lord, Lord, do not scorch us with Your radiance, which is unbearable for our eyes; and do not leave us in the gloom where one grows old and decays.

You alone know the measure of our needs, O Lord, glory to You!

Sayings of the Ascetics of the Orthodox Church, CXVI:

***III. Us and Our Neighbors
On Forgiveness of Insults***

The forgiveness of insults is a sign of true love, free from hypocrisy. For thus the Lord also loved this world.

St. Mark the Ascetic, Homilies, 2.48



The Morning Offering – Daily Inspiration by Abbott Tryphon

Being Compassionate

None can be saved without being compassionate toward others

We must not be so self-consumed as to have no compassion for others. Saint Basil tells us that a man who has two coats or two pair of shoes, when his neighbor has none, is a thief. In the Holy Scriptures we read, “The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell in it (Psalm 24:1).” No one can be saved, according to Saint John Chrysostom, without giving alms and without caring for the poor. We are but stewards of what belongs to God, and must share the gifts of God’s creation with one another as much as we can. To

store up earthly possessions, according to Christ, is the epitome of foolishness, and a rich man shall hardly be saved (Luke 12:15-21).

When we turn our attention towards the needs of others we cease to be consumed with self. In this turning of the heart towards those in need, we are turning our hearts to God. “Verily I say unto you, Since you have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, you have done it unto me (Matthew 25:40).” In our fasting, increased time spent in prayer, and acts of alms giving (charity), we are energized in our battle against the passions, and our hearts become at rest in Christ



Daily Reflection **The Cherubic Hymn**



“Let us, who mystically represent (μυστικῶς εἰκονίζοντες, mystically being icons of) the Cherubim and who sing the thrice-holy hymn to the life-creating Trinity, now lay aside every worldly care. So that we may receive (ὑποδεξόμενοι) the King of all, Who is invisibly escorted by the angelic hosts. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.” (Cherubic Hymn, Byzantine Divine Liturgy)

What is the “point,” one might ask, of likening ourselves to God’s invisible, bodiless creation, like the Cherubim and the angelic hosts? The point is, to re-affirm our unity with “all” of God’s creation, both visible and invisible, and give us a broader frame of reference than our merely-human one. In Christ’s One Body we’re given a “bigger picture,” extending above and beyond our time and space, and this “bigger picture” helps us, in practical terms, to “lay aside every earthly care” that we may “receive,” and be received by, “the King of all” in peace.

Let me let that happen at Divine Liturgy. Let me open my heart to the life-giving actions and words offered to us and by us, as “we” escort the King of all, both visibly and invisibly.

Holy Orthodox Quotes

“Happiness can only be achieved by looking inward and learning to enjoy whatever life has and this requires transforming greed into gratitude.”

-St John Chrysostom

Ancient Christian Wisdom

Prayer, fasting, vigil and all other Christian practices, however good they may be in themselves, do not constitute the aim of our Christian life, although they serve as the indispensable means of reaching this end. The true aim of our Christian life consists in the acquisition of the Holy Spirit.

+ St. Seraphim of Sarov

Through the Grace of God – Orthodox Christianity

St Maria of Paris: Giving To The World

“The more we go out into the world, the more we give ourselves to the world, the less we are of the world, because what is of the world does not give itself to the world.”

Daily Readings with Early Church Fathers and Mothers

"Bad Company" by St. Isaac the Syrian

Do not pass through the streets of the hot-tempered and quarrelsome, lest your heart be filled with anger, and the darkness of delusion dominate your soul.