

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 30, 2017

Gospel: Matthew 14:14-22

Tone 7

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

8th Sunday after Pentecost:

Apostles Silas and Silvanus of the Seventy, and those with them: Crescens, Epenetus, and Andronicus (1st c.).

Martyr John the soldier at Constantinople. Uncovering of the Relics of Ven. Herman of Solovétsky Monastery (1484). Hieromartyr Polychronius, Bishop of Babylon, and Martyrs Parmenius, Helimenas, and Chrysotelus—Presbyters, Luke and Moscius—Deacons, and Abdon, Sennen, Maximus and Olympius (ca. 251). Hieromartyr Valentine, Bishop of Interamna (Terni) in Italy, and Martyrs Proculus, Ephebus, Apollonius and Abundius, youths (ca. 273).

Troparion – Tone 3

Holy Apostles Silas and Silvanus, / entreat the merciful God / to grant our souls forgiveness of transgressions.

Kontakion – Tone 4

You were revealed to be branches of the vine of Christ, O wise ones, / bearing clusters of virtues that pour out on us the wine of salvation. / Receiving it, we are filled with gladness, / and we celebrate your most honored memory, apostles of the Lord, Silas and Silvanus. / Therefore, intercede that great mercy and remission of sins may be granted to us.



Apostles Silas and Silvanus of the Seventy, and those with them: Crescens, Epenetus, and Andronicus

Prayer Requests

For Health of:

John Dantine, who is ill, offered by his family.

Andrew & Maribeth Romanofsky, on their anniversary, offered by their family.

Elizabeth Zimmerman, on her birthday, offered with love by her family.

Jaclyn Dantine, on her birthday, offered by her family with love.

Barbara Searfoorce, on her birthday, offered by her family.

Luba Bodulow, on her 80th birthday, offered by their family.

The Philokalia: Daily Readings

By our free choice we abandon our own wishes and thoughts and do what God wishes and thinks. If we succeed in doing this, there is no object, no activity or place in the whole of creation that can prevent us from becoming what God from the beginning has wished us to be.

- St Peter of Damascus, A Treasury of Divine Knowledge

Liturgical Schedule

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

Wednesday, August 16th

6:30 pm: Vesperal Liturgy:
Dormition of the Most Holy
Theotokos

Saturday, August 19th

6:30 pm: Vespers

Sunday, August 20th

9:40 am: Hours
10:00 am: Divine Liturgy

Bulletin Sponsors

**Searfoorce Family;
Inferrera Family;
Romanofsky Family;
Tammy Zimmerman &
Family; Dantinne Family**

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 you sons of God! Offer young rams to the Lord!
(Psalm 28:1)

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Brethren, I appeal to you by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no dissensions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brethren. What I mean is that each one of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius; lest anyone should say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

Alleluia in the 7th Tone:

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

Gospel: Matthew 14:14-22

At that time, Jesus saw a great throng; and he had compassion on them, and healed their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a lonely place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They said to him, "We have only five loaves here and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass; and taking the five loaves and the two fish he looked up to heaven, and blessed, and broke and gave the loaves to the crowds. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children. Then he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds.

Orthodox Quote of the Day

Many think that love is a feeling, but this is not the case. It is a state of the will. If love were a feeling it would not be a commandment. Naturally, love is accompanied by certain feelings, but in essence it is a state of the will.

**Priest Daniel Sysoev
How Can I Learn God's Will?**



***Apostles Silas and Silvanus of the Seventy, and those with them:
Crescens, Epenetus, and Andronicus***

The Holy Apostles of the Seventy Silas, Silvanus, Crescens, Epenetus and Andronicus were disciples of the Savior.

Saint Silas was a respected figure in the original Church at Jerusalem, one of the “chief men among the brethren” (Acts 15:22). The Council of the Apostles was convened at Jerusalem in the year 51 to deal with the question of whether Gentile Christian converts should be required to observe the Mosaic Law. The Apostles sent a message with Paul and Barnabas to the Christians of Antioch, giving the decision of the Council that Christians of Gentile origin did not have to observe the prescriptions of the Mosaic Law. Nonetheless, they were told that they must refrain from partaking of foods offered to idols, from things strangled and from blood, to refrain from fornication (Acts 15:20-29). Together with Saints Paul and Barnabas, the Council of the Apostles sent Saints Silas and Jude to explain the message in greater detail, since they both were filled with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Saint Jude was later sent back to Jerusalem, but Saint Silas remained at Antioch and zealously assisted Saint Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles, on his missionary journeys preaching the Gospel. They visited Syria, Cilicia, Macedonia.

In the city of Philippi they were accused of inciting unrest among the people, and for this they were arrested, beaten with rods, and then thrown into prison. At midnight, when the saints were at prayer, suddenly there was a strong earthquake, their chains fell off from them and the doors of the prison opened. The prison guard, supposing that the prisoners had fled, wanted to kill himself, but was stopped by the Apostle Paul. Then, he fell down trembling at the feet of the saints, and with faith accepted their preaching about Christ. He then led them out of the prison and took them to his own home, where he washed their wounds, and was baptized together with all his household.

From Philippi Saints Paul and Silas proceeded on to the cities of Amphipolis, Apollonia and Thessalonica. In each city they made new converts to Christ and built up the Church.

At Corinth the holy Apostle Silas was consecrated as bishop, and worked many miracles and signs, and there he finished his life.

The Holy Apostle Silvanus preached the Word of God together with the chief Apostles Peter and Paul. In his First Epistle, the holy Apostle Peter makes mention of him: “By Silvanus, a faithful brother to you, as I suppose, I have written briefly...” (1 Peter 5:12). Saint Silvanus was made bishop at Thessalonica and died there a martyr, having undergone many sorrows and misfortunes for the Lord’s sake.

The Holy Apostle Crescens is mentioned by the holy Apostle Paul (2 Tim. 4:10), saying that Crescens had gone preaching to Galatia. He was made bishop there, and afterwards he preached the Word of God in Gaul (modern-day France). In the city of Vienna (modern Austria) the holy Apostle Crescens established his student Zacharias as bishop. Having returned to Galatia, he died as a martyr under the emperor Trajan (98-117).

The Holy Apostle Epenetus was made bishop at Carthage. In his Epistle to the Romans, the holy Apostle Paul writes: “Greet my dear Epenetus, who is the first fruits of Achaia unto Christ” (Rom. 16:5).

The Apostle Andronicus is mentioned by Saint Paul: “Salute Andronicus and Junia, my kinsmen, ... who are of note among the Apostles, who also were in Christ, before me” (Rom. 16:7). The holy Apostle Andronicus was bishop in Pannonia (modern-day Hungary).



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 today, July 30th after coffee hour.

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

Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos Vespers Liturgy on Wednesday night at 6:30 pm August 16th, 2017.

Wisdom of the Church Fathers

"The earthly life is for us a continual Judgment of God. If we follow Christ's commandments, then the Grace of the Holy Spirit will come to us; but when we embark on them (even in small ways), God leaves us and we feel that abandonment about which outsiders do not even know. They do not understand what abandonment by God is".

**Elder Sophrony of Essex
(1896-1993)**



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 Chaykivskyi, 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!"



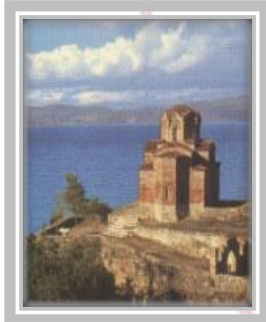
Orthodox Church in America (OCA) News
August 19 Golf Tournament to benefit St. Tikhon's Seminary

Saint Tikhon's Seminary will host its 20th Annual Golf Tournament at Jack Frost National Golf Course, Blakeslee, PA on Saturday, August 19, 2017.

"This is a special event in the life of the seminary, and we hope to raise a target of \$20,000.00 to help the next generation of Orthodox Christian priests prepare for pastoral ministry," said Archpriest Steven Voytovich, STOTS Dean. "All sponsorship gifts will be given directly to the seminary and benefit the seminarians."

The tournament will begin with a shotgun start at 1:00 p.m. An awards banquet will be held at 6:00 p.m. at the course.

Organizers promise a day filled with great golf, great food, and great fellowship. The cost is \$100.00 per golfer, which includes golf, cart, lunch, banquet, refreshments, and prizes. Contact Bernard Golubiewski at 570-825-4780 or bernygober@comcast.net to reserve a space or book a foursome. A registration form is available on-line, together with sponsorship information.



Prayers by the Laker, St. Velimirovich, XVII:

How tedious to me are the counsels of human leaders and wise men--oh how tedious they seem to me--ever since Your wisdom caused my heart and mind to tremble, Holy God.

Those whom the dark desires of the heart are dragging into the abyss do not believe in Your light. There are no obstacles for a stone while it is rolling down a hill. The higher the steep slope and the deeper the abyss -- the swifter and more unrestrained is the rolling of the stone.

One dark desire lures another with its success; and that one hires yet another, until all that is good in a person withers, and all that is evil gushes out in a torrential flood--until, along with everything else, all that the Holy Spirit has built is washed away, both inside and out;

Until the scorners of the light begin to scorn themselves and their teachers;

Until the sweetest sweets begin to choke them with their stench;

Until all the material goods, for which they killed neighbours and razed cities, begin to mock their monstrosity.

Then they stealthily lift their eyes toward heaven, and through the dung of their profaned and putrid existence, they cry out: "Holy God!"

How it irritates me like a burning arrow to hear men boasting of their power, ever since I came to know of Your powerful hand, Holy Mighty!

They build towers of stone and say: "We are better builders than your God." But I ask them: "Did you, or your fathers, build the stars?"

They discover light inside the earth, and boast: "We know more than your God." But I ask them: "Who buried the light beneath the earth for you to discover?"

They fly through the air and arrogantly say: "By ourselves we have created wings for ourselves, where is your God?" But I ask them: "Who gave you the idea of wings and flying if not the birds, which you did not create?"

Yet see what happens when You open their eyes to their own frailty! When irrational creatures show them their monstrous power; when their mind becomes filled with wonder at the starry towers, that stand in space without pillars or foundations; when their heart becomes filled with fear of their own frailty and insanity--then, in shame and humility, they stretch out their arms toward You and cry: "Holy Mighty!"

How it saddens me to see people overrating this life, ever since I tasted the sweetness of Your immortality, Holy Immortal!

The shortsighted see only this life, and say: "This is the only life there is, and we shall make it immortal by means of our deeds among men." But I tell them: "If your beginning is like a river, then it must have a source; if it is like a tree, it must have its root, if it is like a beam of light, it must come from some sun." And again I tell them: "So, you intend to establish your immortality among mortals? Try starting a fire in water!"

But when they look death in the face, they are left speech-less, and torment seizes their heart. When they smell the flesh of their dead brides; when they leave the empty faces of their friends in the grave; when they place their hands on their sons' chests that have grown cold; when they realize that even kings are not able to buy off death with their crowns, nor heroes with their mighty deeds, nor wise men with their wis-dom--then they feel the icy wind of death breathing down their necks too, and they fall down on their knees and bow their heads over their toppled pride, and pray to You: "Holy Immortal, have mercy on us!"

300 Sayings of the Ascetics of the Orthodox Church, CXVII:

III. Us and Our Neighbors

When People Curse Us

We must receive the one who curses us as a messenger from God, rebuking our hidden evil thoughts, so that we, seeing our thoughts with exactness, might correct ourselves. For we do not know how many hidden evils we have; Only a perfect man can understand all of his own shortcomings.

St. Mark the Ascetic, Homilies, 6



The Morning Offering – Daily Inspiration by Abbott Tryphon

When God Seems Absent

Experiencing the dark night of the soul

Sometimes we enter a dark night of the soul, where God seems distant from us. This is only an illusion, for God is closer to us than our own breath. These times are allowed by God to bring us closer to Him, much like the loving parent who stands her child on his feet, walks a few feet away holding out her arms, and waits for the child to take his first steps. She is ever ready to reach out and lift the child up should he start to fall, but she

knows she must distance herself for a few moments if the child is going to learn to stand on his own two feet. We are like that.

When you find it difficult to pray, light your lampada before your icons and sit silently before them. Say to God, I am hurting and sad, and am unable to speak to You, so I need You to speak to my heart. Sometimes the most profitable spiritual growth can take place in such periods of brokenness because we see in these moments how very much we need God and depend upon Him.

Be not fearful, dear ones, for God is near, and will not leave you. The Lord is allowing these dry moments, where you are fearing He has left you, as the way of making you reach out to Him. When we are struggling, or even suffering, we grow stronger in our faith. Prayer will return as long as you give God moments in your life when you avail yourself in silence, and listen for His voice.

The parent who constantly does his child's homework, does him no favor, for the child never learns to stand on his own, and will forever remain dependent on his parent. The Lord wants us to grow strong in our faith, while entering into a mature relationship with Him. If we do not learn to stand on our own, we will forever be like the codependent child, never having the skills to reach high places, and forever remaining weak and fearful.



Daily Reflection

The Kingdom Within Us

“Being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God was coming, he answered them, ‘The kingdom of God is not coming with things to be observed (μετὰ παρατηρήσεως, with observation); nor will they say, ‘Lo,

here it is!’ or ‘There!’ for behold, the kingdom of God is within you (ἐντὸς ὑμῶν).” (Lk 17: 20-21)



The “kingdom” Christ is talking about is one in which He is King; in which He is both our primary and ultimate authority. This “kingdom” already “is,” because Christ is already King. However, for this kingdom to “come” to us, and for us to inhabit it, it requires our response to His authority, in “obedience” to (from the Latin “ob-audire,” literally, “listen(ing) to”), and acceptance of, Him as King.

It is “within us” that we nurture this obedience and acceptance of Christ, through our ups and downs. Today there may be “other” voices and authorities that may compete for my heart. Time and again, I may slip into people-pleasing, leading me to an unwise or unhealthy use of my time, or an unwise use of my money; I may also slip into some self-destructive codependency, unwisely offering my affection and obedience where it doesn’t belong, according to God’s purpose for me. “Thy kingdom come,” I say this morning, with all my heart, and open up to my One primary and ultimate Authority, that He may liberate me from unnecessary bondage to any imposters.

Holy Orthodox Quotes
Orthodox Teaching of the Elders

When we remember the glorious Prophet Elias, we remember the end-times, and the second coming of Our Lord...

Metropolitan Athanasios of Lemesos [Cyprus] talks about the right Christian attitude regarding the signs of the end of the age.

Met. Athanasios:

“God Himself has concealed this from us...”

People have always been anxious, and it’s a good anxiety, about the signs of times. Christ Himself told us to act upon and observe the signs of the times and to show a positive interest as to where things are heading and how to direct ourselves. **It’s not good for a person to be indifferent and not to participate in this positive interest and positive effort.**

Good observation depends on the spirit that our Lord has taught us in the Gospel and it’s in this spirit that He taught His students...

Of course, He told them general things, which would precede His coming. **He spoke to us of turmoil, of wars, of many deceptions, many people who’d mislead many others. He spoke to us of a diminution of man’s love for God** with all the concomitant sins that involves. He spoke to us and told us that the Gospel would be preached to all of creation...

But Christ didn’t say all these things in order for us to discover when the Second Coming would occur because He told His disciples that it wasn’t their business to learn when it would happen... This is none of our business. The heavenly Father kept it to Himself. **He revealed it to no one, so that no saint, no prophet, no angel, nothing in existence would know the timing of the coming of God...**

Christ gave us some advice. He told us to watch and to pray so that we may avoid temptation and deception. He told us to beware of the false prophets, to beware of those who would tell us that Christ is coming now, that Christ is there or here, or that He will come in a few years at such and such time. **This is how you know false prophets. These are the features of those who are out to agitate God’s people,** and to present the Church as a place full of feather-brained people who are terrified and waiting in horror and fear for that day and the moment that God will appear.

However, **the main feature that typifies the word of God is that the coming of Christ into the world is a joyous event, it’s an event to be desired. What does the Nicene Creed say? “I await the resurrection of the dead.”** I’m waiting, expecting, anticipating the moment and time with longing, with joy and peace... without a trace of fear, terror, psychological panic or any other negative emotion... the children of the Church are looking forward to it with joy...

So joy is one element.

The next... the devil won’t prevail, nor will the Antichrist or the frightening events that will unfold as time goes by... **Christ will conquer all of these difficulties.** And what is our duty? Our attitude? **To remain faithful to Him. To remain faithful to Christ united with the Church.**

When the first rumors and fears of the Antichrist first began to spread, about 666, or about various cards and scratches and all the other things, I was on the **Holy Mountain** and there was well, quite a commotion among the monks. **So I asked the elders what would happen and how we should react... The response of these elders was: “stay united with God, stay united to the Church.” If you are in the Church, it is as if you were in the ark at the time of the flood. They were afraid of nothing and nothing happened to them... Nobody who calls upon the name of the Lord and stays in the ark of the Church will be lost.**

On the other hand there are **those who believe they have found their own path to salvation** and who create their own escape routes from these events. In this way they are excluding the Church because they believe it is compromised. As if the Church of Christ were a human construct and not the work of the Holy Spirit, as if God didn't reside within the Church. **How could the Church, which is the pillar and foundation of the truth of Christ, be mistaken?**

...

We must be concerned, but in the knowledge that we must be careful not to be misled, not to be separated from the Church, no to concoct our own interpretations and our own labyrinthine mazes, all the while having the peace of God in our hearts.

...

At any moment now, we are all in the departure lounge, ready for take-off. Who can say they still have years ahead of them? No-one.

...

Therefore, my friends, may Christ be the expectation for each of us. And the signs of Christ are the fruits of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faith, meekness, restraint... anything else is not from God... **Stay united with Me and I with you and don't concern yourselves with the Antichrist. We do better concern ourselves with Christ Who is our Love, Who is the object of our love and our lives...**

Ancient Christian Wisdom

Try to fill your soul with Christ so as not to have it empty. Your soul is like a cistern full of water. If you channel the water to the flowers, that is, to the virtues, you will experience true joy and all the thorns of evil will wither away. But if you channel the water to the weeds, these will grow and choke you and all the flowers will wither.

+ St. Seraphim of Sarov

Through the Grace of God – Orthodox Christianity

St Maria of Paris: Church

“It would be a great lie to tell searching souls: ‘Go to church, because there you will find peace.’ The opposite is true. The Church tells those who are at peace and asleep: ‘Go to church, because there you will feel real anguish for your sins, for your perdition, for the world’s sins and perdition. There you will feel an unappeasable hunger for Christ’s truth. There, instead of becoming lukewarm, you will be set on fire; instead of pacified, you will become alarmed; instead of learning the wisdom of this world you will become fools for Christ.”

Daily Readings with Early Church Fathers and Mothers

"Denying Yourself" by St. Innocent

To deny oneself means to give up one's bad habits; to root out of the heart all that ties us to the world; not to cherish bad thoughts or desires; to suppress every evil thought; not to desire to do anything out of self-love, but to do everything out of love for God.