

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 9, 2017

Gospel: Matthew 28:38-9:1

Tone 4

Epistle: Romans 10:1-10

5th Sunday after Pentecost:

Hieromartyr Pancratius, Bishop of Taormina in Sicily (1st c.).

Hieromartyr Cyril, Bishop of Gortyna in Crete (3rd-4th c.). Martyrs Paternuthius, Coprius, and Alexander the Soldier, in Egypt (4th c.). St. Theodore, Bishop of Edessa (9th c.). Ven. Paternuthius and Coprius, Ascetics, of Egypt (4th c.). Ven. Dionysius the Orator of St. Anne Skete (Mt. Athos—1606). Ven. Metrophanes, disciple of Ven. Dionysius.

Troparion – Tone 8

As a flaming arrow You were sent from on high / To the throne of Taormina to wound godless impiety / And to illumine the hearts of the faithful, / Confirming them in the faith through the word of God. / And having completed your course You did suffer unto bloodshed. / O Hieromartyr Pancratius, pray for all who praise your memory.

Kontakion – Tone 8

You were a brilliant star in Taormina, O blessed Pancratius, / And You became a hieromartyr for Christ. / Standing before Him now, pray for those who honor you.



Hieromartyr Pancratius, Bishop of Taormina in Sicily (1st c.).

Prayer Requests

For Health of:

Lore Stefy, on her birthday, offered by her family.

Amy Schneider, on her birthday, offered by her parents Andy and Maribeth Romanofsky.

Linda & Richard, on their anniversary, offered by their family.

Archpriest Michael Hatrack, undergoing chemotherapy treatments, offered by Archbishop Michael and the Diocese of NY/NJ.

Paul Justin Holowatch, who had surgery on Thursday, July 6, offered by Archbishop Michael and the Diocese of NY/NJ.

Matushka Eugenia Nehrebecki, who had hip surgery on Friday morning, July 7 offered by Archbishop Michael and the Diocese of NY/NJ.

In Memory of:

Arlene Slinski, offered by the Jankowski family.

Anne, our mother, offered by Linda & Richard Dantine.

Barbara Degyansky, mother of Archpriest Daniel Degyansky, who fell asleep in the Lord on Friday evening, offered by Archbishop Michael and the Diocese of NY/NJ.

Roger Alexander Breton, the father of Archpriest Gary Joseph Breton, who fell asleep in the Lord on Saturday morning, July 8, offered by Archbishop Michael and the Diocese of NY/NJ.

The Philokalia: Daily Readings

The stars are hidden when the sun rises, and thoughts vanish when the intellect returns to its own realm (prayer).

- St Elijah the Priest, Gnostic Anthology

Liturgical Schedule

Sunday, July 9th

9:40 am: Hours

10:00 am: Divine Liturgy

Saturday, July 15th

6:30 pm: Vespers

Sunday, July 16th

9:40 am: Hours

10:00 am: Divine Liturgy

Saturday, July 22nd

6:30 pm: Vespers

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

Saturday, August 5th

6:30 pm: Vespers

Sunday, August 6th

9:40 am: Hours

9:45 am: General
Confession

10:00 am: Divine Liturgy

Bulletin Sponsors

***The Family of Lore Stefy,
Romanofsky Family,
Jankowski Family, Linda
& Richard Dantinne and
their Family***

Readings:

The Prokeimenon in the 4th Tone:

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 103:1)

Epistle: 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 in the 4th Tone:

Go forth, prosper and reign, for the sake of meekness, righteousness and truth!

(Psalm 44:5)

vs. For Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest iniquity.

(Psalm 44:8)

Gospel: Matthew 28:38-9:1

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 neighbourhood. And getting into a boat he crossed over and came to his own city.

Orthodox Quote of the Day

All troubles come from a mental outlook that is too broad. It is better to humbly cast your eyes down toward your feet, and to figure out which step to take where. This is the truest path.

St. Theophan the recluse



Hieromartyr Pancratius, Bishop of Taormina in Sicily (1st c.).

The Hieromartyr Pancratius, Bishop of Taormina, was born when our Lord Jesus Christ yet lived upon the earth.

The parents of Pancratius were natives of Antioch. Hearing the good news of Jesus Christ, Pancratius' father took his young son with him and went to Jerusalem in order to see the great Teacher for himself. The miracles astonished him, and when he heard the divine teaching, he then believed in Christ as the Son of God. He became close with the disciples of the Lord, especially with the holy Apostle Peter. It was during this period that young Pancratius got to know the holy Apostle Peter.

After the Ascension of the Savior, one of the Apostles came to Antioch and baptized the parents of Pancratius together with all their household. When the parents of Pancratius died, he left behind his inherited possessions and went to Pontus and began to live in a cave, spending his days in prayer and deep spiritual contemplation. The holy Apostle Peter, while passing through those parts, visited Pancratius at Pontus. He took him along to Antioch, and then to Sicily, where the holy Apostle Paul then was. There the holy Apostles Peter and Paul made Saint Pancratius Bishop of Taormina in Sicily.

Saint Pancratius toiled zealously for the Christian enlightenment of the people. In a single month he built a church where he celebrated divine services. The number of believers quickly grew, and soon almost all the people of Taormina and the surrounding cities accepted the Christian Faith.

Saint Pancratius governed his flock peacefully for many years. However, pagans plotted against the saint, and seizing an appropriate moment, they fell upon him and stoned him. Thus, Saint Pancratius ended his life as a martyr.

The saint's relics are in the church named for him in Rome. He is also commemorated on February 9.



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

Wisdom of the Church Fathers

"We have such a law: If you forgive, it means that God has forgiven you; but if you do not forgive your brother, it means that your sin remains with you."

Saint Silouan the Athonite
(1866-1938)

NY/NJ Diocese News



**CAMPERS STILL WELCOME AT SAINT ANDREW'S CAMP:
SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE**

What did your kids do this week? What are they doing NEXT week? They could be forming lifelong friendships, enjoying the outdoors in a beautiful lakeside setting, and growing in their faith – along with other young Orthodox Christians, at Saint Andrew's Camp! There are still openings for each of the next 4 weeks!

Saint Andrew's just finished its first week of camp for the 2017 season – Music Week. Everyone took lessons in singing and various instruments with Father David and Matushka Tamara Cowan. We went swimming and kayaking, and we celebrated July 4th with a campfire sing-along, playing guitars, ukuleles, and all sorts of drums! Wednesday took us on a boat tour to the beautiful Thousand Islands. Friday began with Divine Liturgy celebrated by His Eminence, Archbishop Michael. We ended the week with a concert by the campers, performing patriotic and Christian songs practiced throughout the week.

We have four more weeks of camp. The week of July 9-15 is Ecology and Astronomy Week. We will be looking at our planet Earth during the day and gazing at the wonder of the heavens by night. July 16-22 is Horse Week, with lessons at a local riding stable. Campers will be able to create their own masterpieces in Art Week from July 23-29. The summer closes with a week for Teens from July 30 - August 5.

Visit SaintAndrewsCamp.org for details or call the phone number listed below. There are still openings for registration for each of the remaining weeks. Full scholarships are available for any camper in need of financial assistance. You may contact the camp at:

1280 State Route 49
Jewell, NY 13042
Office: (315) 675-9771
Fax: (315) 675-8005
saintandrewscamp@aol.org

CONGRATULATIONS are extended to:

Sub-Deacon Samuel Davis, ordained to the Holy Diaconate, by His Eminence, Archbishop Michael, on Saturday, July 1, at Saint Simon the Cyrene Mission, New Brunswick, NJ. He is assigned to Saint Simon the Cyrene Mission in New Brunswick.

Archpriest Alexey Karlgut, celebrated the 30th Anniversary of his Ordination to the Holy Priesthood, on Sunday, July 2, at Saints Peter and Paul Church, Endicott, NY. He is the Rector of Saints Peter and Paul Church in Endicott.

Presbyter Michael Speck, elevated to the rank and dignity of "Archpriest," by His Eminence, Archbishop Michael, on Sunday, July 1, at Saints Peter and Paul Church, Endicott, NY. He serves as the Assistant Pastor of Saint Nicholas Church, Auburn, NY.

Sub-Deacon Stephan Karlgut, ordained to the Holy Diaconate, by His Eminence, Archbishop Michael, on Saturday, July 1, at Saints Peter and Paul Church, Endicott, NY. He is assigned to Saint Athanasius Chapel, Bronxville, NY.

May God grant a prosperous and peaceful life, good health and salvation, visitation and good hastening in all things, to His servants: the Archpriest Alexey, the Archpriest Michael, the newly-ordained Deacon Samuel, and the newly-ordained Deacon Stephan, and protect and preserve them for many, blessed years! "Mnogaya Lyeta!" --
"Axios! Axios! Axios!"



Orthodox Church in America (OCA) News
New Skete to celebrate Annual Pilgrimage August 12

“We Shall All Be Changed” [1 Corinthians 15:51] will be the theme of the 51st annual Pilgrimage to New Skete here on Saturday, August 12, 2017.

The day will open at 8:00 a.m. with the celebration of Matins. The Divine Liturgy will begin at 9:30 a.m., followed by a tour of New Skete’s Holy Wisdom Temple. A talk on monastic life will be offered at 12:30 p.m.

A presentation titled “We Shall All Be Changed: Armenian Artist-Theologians Ponder the Transfiguration” will be offered by this year’s guest speaker, Dr. Roberta Ervine, Professor of Armenian Studies at Saint Nerses Armenian Seminary, Armonk, NY. She will explain how the Armenian Fathers used the story of the Transfiguration to illuminate other Biblical themes, experiences and events in words, music and the visual arts.

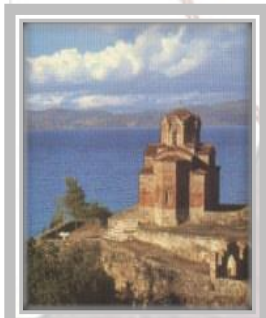
Other afternoon events include a guided hike, an iconography demonstration, a dog training demonstration, and a photo exhibit. Pilgrims are also invited to visit the meditation gardens and the Monks’ and Nuns’ gift shops in addition to enjoying Greek and Lebanese food, which will be available for purchase throughout the day. The pilgrimage will close with the celebration of Vigil and a Healing Service at 5:00 p.m.

New Skete — a monastic community of the Orthodox Church in America since 1979 — was established in 1966 by a small group of Byzantine Rite Franciscan monks. In 1969, seven Poor Clare nuns from Indiana, inspired by the vision of contemporary monastic life, settled near the monks and joined New Skete. In 1983, a third community was established when eight dedicated parish members expressed their desire to live in accordance with the monastic way of life and formed the Companions of New Skete.

The event is open to the public at no charge.

For further information please contact Karen Gladstone at 518-677-3928, ext. 214 or karengladstone@newskete.org, or visit the New Skete web site.

Prayers by the Laker, St. Velimirovich, XIV:



What is clothing worth, if there is no body to clothe? What is the body worth, if the soul is not covered with it? What is the soul worth, If You do not keep vigil in it, like fire in ashes?

My clothing is smoke and ashes, if my body does not give it value.

My beautiful lake is blind mud, if its wide-eyed water is drained from it.

My soul is smoke and ashes, if You, my morning Dew, are drained from her.

You write Your name over the ashes of all things, and the flame of Your radiance dazzles the smoke of all things.

Your flame is a dew for the thirsty, who find refuge in Your embrace. But Your flame is a consuming fire for those who flee from it.

Truly, You are paradise for the pure and hell for the im-pure.

When the last Day comes—when the First and last Day shall be revealed as the One Day—the pure shall rejoice, but the impure shall mourn. And the impure shall cry out: “Alas, we ate ashes on earth, and now we must eat fire in heaven!”

Your prophets, O heavenly Mother, were the discoverers of the fire beneath the ashes, who dove into the mouths of volcanoes. Through Your boundless mercy You allowed each prophet to discover the spark for which he dove, until all the sparks merged into the blazing conflagration of Your Son, O heavenly Mother.

O Lord, You raised up shepherds for every flock, and the shepherds kindled fires for their flocks, lest they freeze on the rugged road of history, leading to the time when the Ultimate Man, the Only-begotten Son, would burst into a great fire and summon all the flocks to warm themselves.

Indeed how deeply hidden are all the precious metals—the eyes of the depths of the earth! Just as You are concealed beneath the ashes of the world, O most precious Stone!

The poor man plows his field and shakes his head when I say to him: “Rich man, deep beneath your barren field lies a lake of molten gold.”

Do not shake your heads, impoverished sons of the King, when I tell you that the body is more precious than clothing, the soul is more precious than the body, and the Blazing King is more precious than the soul.

Sayings of the Ascetics of the Orthodox Church, CXIV:

III. Us and Our Neighbors

On Forgiveness of Insults

We have such a law: If you forgive, it means that God has forgiven you; but if you do not forgive your brother, it means that your sin remains with you.

St. Silouan the Athonite, Writings, VII.9



The Morning Offering – Daily Inspiration by Abbott Tryphon

The Mother of God

The veneration of the Holy Virgin in the Ancient Church

The biblical practice was to refer to all cousins as siblings, and none of the early Christians believed Mary had born any children other than Jesus. This modern protestant idea that she had many children was simply unthinkable to the protestant reformers, including Luther and Calvin, for they all believed Mary to be Ever Virgin. Furthermore, the veneration of the Holy Virgin did not begin in the fifth century, but came about very early in the life of the Early Church.

The problem with many of our protestant brethren is that everyone becomes the authority, and the memory of the teachings and practices of the Early Church are forgotten, replaced with the mess that followed with individual interpretation of the Scriptures.

When we do not have Holy Tradition and Holy Scripture held side by side in importance, we go astray. The key to Orthodoxy’s claim to being the Ancient Apostolic Church preserved in all her purity, can be seen in her insistence that Holy Tradition has kept her way of worship, and her dogma, unchanged. No need for change, for the Church knows the truth of the words, “the faith which was once delivered unto the saints (Jude 1:3)”.

The ancient practice for the veneration of the Holy Virgin can clearly be seen in the prayer found in Egyptian papyrus fragments from the year 250:

Under your mercy we take refuge Mother of God; may our petitions not be abandoned into temptation, but from danger deliver us, only pure & blessed.

It is liberating to discover we need not search the Bible to understand the meaning of the Word of God for ourselves. There is no need to reinvent Christianity for this modern age, in a feeble attempt to make Christianity relevant. We can even avoid the prideful arrogance of thinking we can decipher the meaning of the Bible, for we need only look to the Church for the truth that has been preserved from the very beginning. We can say with certainty that we keep to the faith of our fathers. The veneration of the Holy Virgin Mary is but one example of our connection, unbroken, with the Early Apostolic Church.



Daily Reflection

Blessing God

“Bless (εὐλόγει) the Lord, O my soul, and let all that is within me bless His holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits.” (Ps 102/103: 1-2)



Does God need that I “bless” (εὐ-λόγει, say a good word about) Him? No, of course not. But I need to say “good words” about the Source of Good, the Source of Blessing, lest I forget all His gifts or “benefits,” showered upon me and others every day. I need actively to exercise my God-given capacity for “good words,” even when it is easier to grumble and choose “bad words,” about whatever bad things may cross my path.

The “blessing” (or “good word”) I speak with my mouth, and say in my “soul,” has creative power, because God, my Creator, is the Source of all Blessing. I grow in Him, to be more “like” Him, when I participate or share in His creative energies of “blessing.” Conversely I do damage to my growth, if I choose de-structive, “bad words,” or words that are God-less, outside of God. So let me choose good words today; let me bless, that I may be blessed.

Holy Orthodox Quotes

“Fight the good fight until you reach the end, clinging fast to those qualities that will assure your passage to love’s goal.”

-St Maximos

1 Timothy 6:11-12

But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.† Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.†

2 Timothy 4:7-8

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.† Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

John 14:15

“If you love Me, keep My commandments.

John 14:20-24

At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.† He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.” Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, “Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?” Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father’s who sent Me.

John 13:34-35

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.† By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

John 15:9-15, 17

“As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love.† “These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends. You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.† No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. These things I command you, that you love one another.

1 John 4:7-8, 20-21

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.† He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.

2 Peter 1:4-11

by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.† But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge,† to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.† For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.† Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.†

Ancient Christian Wisdom

You must bear the spiritual infirmities of your brother gladly, and without annoyance. For when someone is physically ill, we are not only not annoyed with him, but we are exemplary in our care of him; we should also set an example in cases of spiritual illness.

+ St. Moses of Optina

Through the Grace of God – Orthodox Christianity

St John Chrysostom: Sufferings

“God has not forgotten the man to whom He sends suffering and trials, but in this way is proving His closeness to him.”

Chick-Fil-A and Christians United for Peace: SYRIA “Spirit Night” fundraiser.

Stop by the Egg Harbor Township Chick-Fil-A on Tuesday, July 18th from 5 pm to 8 pm to get 10% off your order AND support our brothers and sisters in Syria. See the flyer below for details on the Christians United for Peace: Syria “Spirit Night” fundraiser. If you do not live in the area and have family and friends there, please let them know also. Thank you for supporting this worthy cause!

<http://www.christiansunitedforpeacesyria.org/>



Just tell them you are here for Spirit Night and
CUPS(Christians United for Peace: SYRIA)
earns 10% of your order!



Thank you for helping us to help
our brothers and sisters
suffering in Syria