

Synaxis of All Saints:

The Sunday following Pentecost is dedicated to All Saints, both those who are known to us, and those who are known only to God. There have been saints at all times, and they have come from every corner of the earth. They were **Apostles, Martyrs, Prophets, Hierarchs, Monastics, and Righteous**, yet all were perfected by the same Holy Spirit. The Descent of the Holy Spirit makes it possible for us to rise above our fallen state and to attain sainthood, thereby fulfilling God's directive to "be holy, for I am holy". Therefore, it is fitting to commemorate All Saints on the first Sunday after Pentecost.

This feast may have originated at an early date, perhaps as a celebration of all martyrs, and then it was broadened to include all men and women who had borne witness to Christ by their virtuous lives, even if they did not shed their blood for Him.

St Peter of Damascus mentions five categories of saints: Apostles, Martyrs, Prophets, Hierarchs, and Monastic Saints. St Nicodemus of the Holy Mountain adds the Righteous to St Peter's five categories.

The hymnology for the feast of All Saints also lists six categories: *"Rejoice, assembly of the Apostles, Prophets of the Lord, loyal choirs of the Martyrs, divine Hierarchs, Monastic Fathers, and the Righteous..."*

Some of the saints are described as **Confessors**, a category which does not appear in the above lists. Since they are similar in spirit to the martyrs, they are regarded as belonging to the category of Martyrs. They were not put to death as the Martyrs were, but they boldly confessed Christ and came close to being executed for their faith. St Maximus the Confessor is such a saint

The order of these six types of saints seems to be based on their importance to the Church. The **Apostles** are listed first, because they were the first to spread the Gospel throughout the world. The **Martyrs** come next because of their example of courage in professing their faith before the enemies and persecutors of the Church, which encouraged other Christians to remain faithful to Christ even unto death.

Although they come first chronologically, the **Prophets** are listed after the Apostles and Martyrs. This is because the Old Testament Prophets saw only the shadows of things to come, whereas the Apostles and Martyrs experienced them firsthand. The New Testament also takes precedence over the Old Testament. The **holy Hierarchs** comprise the fourth category. They are the leaders of their flocks, teaching them by their word and their example.

The **Monastic Saints** are those who withdrew from this world to live in monasteries, or in seclusion. The last category, the **Righteous**, are those who attained holiness of life while living "in the world." Examples include Abraham and his wife Sarah, Job, Sts Joachim and Anna, St Joseph the Betrothed, St Juliana of Lazarevo, and others.

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# Church of the Mother of God

## "The Joy of All the Sorrowful"

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All Saints

#### Glory to Jesus Christ

#### Glory Forever

*As with fine porphyry and royal purple,  
Your church has been adorned with Your martyrs' blood shed throughout all the world.*

*She cries to You, O Christ God:  
Send down Your bounties on Your people,  
Grant peace to Your habitation, and great mercy to our souls!*

*Kontakion - Synaxis of All Saints*

#### On this day the Church remembers:

- All Saints • Holy Apostle Jude, the brother of the Lord (ca. 80 A.D.)**  
• Ven. Barlaam of Shenkursk (1462) • Martyrs Zosimas the soldier at Antioch in Pisidia (2<sup>nd</sup> c.) • Ven. Paisius the Great (5<sup>th</sup> c.) • St. John the Solitary of Jerusalem (6<sup>th</sup> c.) • Ven. Paisius of Chilandari (Bulgarian—18<sup>th</sup> c.) • Repose of St. Job, Patriarch of Moscow and All Rus (1607)

June 12, 2011  
Sunday of All Saints

Tone 8 of the Octoechos.

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**Today's Bulletin Sponsors are:****For eternal memory of:**

**All departed Fathers, Steppathers, Grandfathers, and Godfathers**, by the Parish Council on Fathers Day.

**For the health of:**

**Fr. Boris** for his birthday, by Matushka Galina

**Richard Dantine** on Fathers Day, offered by his family.

**All Fathers, Steppathers, Grandfathers, and Godfathers**, by the Parish Council on Fathers Day.

**Readings:**

- Hebrews 11:33-12:2
- Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38; 19:27-30

**Brethren**, who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated - of whom the world was not worthy - wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect. Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

**The Lord said** to his disciples, "Every one who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven; but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny him before my Father who is in heaven. He who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he who loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and he who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me." Then Peter said in reply, "Lo, we have left everything and followed you. What then shall we have?" Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of man shall sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. But many that are first will be last, and the last first."

**Summer Sunday service:**

**Hours - 9:10 AM**

**Divine Liturgy - 9:30 AM**

(**General Confession** on the first Sunday of each month)

**Coffee hour** after Liturgy

**We would like to welcome all parish visitors and invite you to join us after the Liturgy, downstairs, for Coffee hour.**

**Announcements:**

- Congratulations to **Fr. Boris** on receiving a Gold Pectoral Cross Award from our diocesan hierarch, Bishop Michael, yesterday.
- Congratulations to **Charles Gallagher** who was tonsured our Reader by Bishop Michael, yesterday.
- Thanks to all the volunteers who helped to make the visit by Bishop Michael a success.
- Congratulations to **Elizabet Bogomolova** and **Elizabeth Zimmerman** for having the best attendance records in Church School this year. Also, congratulations to **Christopher Dawson** on his "graduation" from Church School, and thanks to him for his contributions over the past nine years. Church School will resume in September.

**Special Announcements:**

- The Sunday **Divine Liturgy service will begin a half hour earlier** now that Sunday school is on its summer break. The hours will be celebrated at 9:10 AM, and the Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at 9:30 AM. We will return to the normal service schedule the Sunday after Labor Day.
- Upcoming bulletins can be sponsored; this can be done with the signup sheet at the candle stand.
- Special Announcements for the bulletin can be submitted by E-Mail to: [Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org](mailto:Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org)
- The next **meeting of the Parish Council** will be **June 26**, after coffee hour.