

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, October 22, 2017

Gospel: Luke 16:19-31

Tone 3

Epistle: Galatians 1:11-19

20th Sunday after Pentecost (5th of Luke): St. Abercius the Bishop and Wonderworker of Hieropolis, Equal of the Apostles

The Holy Seven Youths (“Seven Sleepers”) of Ephesus: Maximilian, Jamblicus, Martinian, John, Dionysius, Exacustodian (Constantine), and Antonius (ca. 250). Martyrs Alexander the Bishop, Heraclius, Anna, Elizabeth, Theodota, and Glyceria (Glykéria), at Adrianopolis (2nd-3rd c.). The “KAZAN” Icon of the Most-holy Theotokos (commemorating the deliverance of Moscow and Russia from the Poles in 1612.

Troparion – Tone 4

You appeared to your flock as a rule of faith, / An Image of humility and a teacher of abstinence. / Because of your lowliness, Heaven was opened to you, / Because of your poverty, riches were granted to you. / O Holy Bishop Abercius, pray to Christ our God to save our souls!

Kontakion – Tone 4

All the Church honors you, Abercius, / The Great Bishop equal to the Apostles! / O blessed one worthy of all praise, / Through your intercession / Keep the Church victorious, calm and unshaken.



St. Abercius the Bishop and Wonderworker of Hieropolis, Equal of the Apostles

Prayer Requests

For Health of:

Erin Salamone, on her birthday (10/24), offered by her father, Sub-Deacon Vlashi.

Erin & Brian Salamone, on their anniversary (10/25), offered by Sub-Deacon Vlashi.

Inferrera & Bodulow families, offered by Luba.

In Memory of:

Gori Pietropolo, who reposed in the Lord October 19, offered by his daughter, Trudy.

James Moore, offered by his step-Aunt, Trudy.

Clara Gallagher, on her birthday (10/26), offered by her son Subdeacon Vlashi.

Stanley Bilinski, who fell asleep in the Lord on October 11, offered by Archbishop Michael & the Diocese of NY/NJ.

The Philokalia: Daily Readings

It was through victories in small things that the fathers won their great battles.

Whether a habit is good or bad, time nourishes it, just as wood feeds a fire.

- St Peter of Damascus, A Treasury of Divine Knowledge

Liturgical Schedule

Sunday, October 22nd

9:30 am: Sunday School
9:40 am: Hours
10:00 am: Divine Liturgy
After Communion: Sunday
School pre-K - Grade 3

Saturday, October 28th

6:30 pm: Vespers

Sunday, October 29th

9:30 am: Sunday School
9:40 am: Hours
10:00 am: Divine Liturgy
After Communion: Sunday
School pre-K - Grade 3

Saturday, November 4th

6:30 pm: Vespers

Sunday, November 5th

9:30 am: No Sunday School
9:40 am: Hours
9:45 am: General
Confession
10:00 am: Divine Liturgy
After Communion: Sunday
School pre-K - Grade 3

Saturday, November 11th

6:30 pm: Vespers

Bulletin Sponsors

***Trudy Ellmore; Luba
Bodulow***

Readings:

The Prokeimenon in the 3rd Tone:

Sing praises to our God, sing praises! / Sing praises to our King, sing praises!
(*Psalm 46:7*)
vs. Clap your hands, all ye people, shout to God with loud songs of joy!
(*Psalm 46:1*)

Epistle: Galatians 1:11-19

Brethren, I would have you know that the gospel which was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it; and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

Alleluia in the 3rd Tone:

In Thee, O Lord, have I placed my hope; let me not be put to shame!
(*Psalm 30:2*)
vs. Be Thou a God of protection for me, a house of refuge, in order to save me!
(*Psalm 30:3*)

Gospel: Luke 16:19-31

The Lord said, "There was a rich man, who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, full of sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table; moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried; and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes, and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus in his bosom. And he called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy upon me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in anguish in this flame.' But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.' And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.' But Abraham said, 'They have Moses, and the prophets; let them hear them.' And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' He said to them, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.'"

Orthodox Quote of the Day

Spiritual vigilance or sobriety is a spiritual art which completely
Delivers a man, with the help of God, from sinful actions and
passionate thoughts and words when fervently practiced for a
considerable time. It is silence of the heart; it is guarding of the
mind; it is attention to oneself without any other thought which
always, incessantly and unceasingly calls upon Jesus Christ,
the Son of God, and God...

St. Hesychius of Jerusalem
On the Prayer of Jesus 60



St. Abercius the Bishop and Wonderworker of Hieropolis, Equal of the Apostles

Saint Abercius, Bishop and Wonderworker of Hieropolis lived in the second century in Phrygia. The city of Hieropolis was inhabited by many pagans and very few Christians. The saint prayed to the Lord for the salvation of their souls and that they might be numbered among God's chosen flock. An angel appeared and bade Saint Abercius to destroy the idols in the pagan temple. He fulfilled the command of God with zeal. Hearing that the idol-worshippers wanted to kill him, the saint went to the place where the people had gathered and openly denounced the failings of the pagans. The pagans tried to seize the saint.

At this moment three demon-possessed youths in the crowd cried out. The people were dumbfounded, as the saint expelled the devils from them by his prayers. Seeing the youths restored to normal, the people of Hieropolis asked Saint Abercius to instruct them in the Christian Faith, and then they accepted Holy Baptism.

After this the saint went to the surrounding cities and villages, healing the sick and preaching the Kingdom of God. With his preaching he made the rounds of Syria, Cilicia, Mesopotamia, he visited Rome and everywhere he converted multitudes of people to Christ. For many years he guarded the Church against heretics, he confirmed Christians in the Faith, he set the prodigal upon the righteous path, he healed the sick and proclaimed the glory of Christ. Because of his great works, Saint Abercius is termed “Equal of the Apostles.”

Saint Abercius returned home to Hieropolis, where he soon rested from his labors. After his death, many miracles took place at his tomb. He wrote his own epitaph, and it was carved on his tombstone, which is now in the Lateran Museum.



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 sub-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

Council Meeting: [October 29th immediately after coffee hour.](#)

Bulletin News: Starting in January 2018 there will be two different sign-up sheets. One will be for [Prayer Request](#) and the other for [Bulletin Sponsors](#). More information will be forth coming on prices for Bulletin Sponsor.

The **Sisterhood** is planning an Italian basket of goodies to be raffled off at the anniversary dinner of the Orthodox Church of the Mother of God on November 12th. We are hoping everyone will participate by donating to the Italian basket and helping with the dinner. Dinner tickets are \$100 ea. And raffle tickets are \$1 ea.

Wisdom of the Church Fathers

"True perfection consists in having but one fear: the fear of losing God's friendship!"

**Saint Gregory of Nyssa
(335-394)**

NY/NJ Diocese News



JERSEY CITY NJ: Historic Church Celebrates 110th Anniversary

On Sunday, 24 September 2017, **Saints Peter & Paul Church in Jersey City NJ** celebrated its 110th Parish Anniversary. The celebration mirrored what was done 110 years earlier by its immigrant faithful as Marius Anghel greeted Archbishop Michael, saying, *"Seventeen years ago my family and I immigrated to America; now I am an adult. By the grace of God and prayers and lives of Saints Peter and Paul, I welcome you on behalf of our parish."*

During the Hierarchical Liturgy, His Eminence awarded the "Kamilavka" to Priest Nikolai Gulin and awarded the parish a Synodal Gramмота (Certificate of Appreciation), which was received by Archpriest Joseph Lickwar (parish rector and Chancellor of the Diocese of New York & New Jersey).

Archpriest Daniel Skvir, former choir director of the parish and son of Father John Skvir, among his reminisces particularly noted the parish's history of commendable choir directors of whom the present director, Aleksei V. Shipovalnikov is ranked.

The first priest was Saint Alexander Hotovitzky, who established and served the parish in its first year (1907). Pastoral longevity followed with 20 years of service of the Archpriest John Adamiak, 35 years of service by the Mitred Archpriest John Skvir and going on 26 years of service by Father Joseph Lickwar.

The commemorative luncheon was hosted in the church’s lower level amid a display of historic photos from 1908 until now. A commemorative book with a most extensive history of the parish was distributed and included a congratulatory letter from Protopresbyter Daniel Hubiak, former Chancellor of Orthodox Church in America and who served four years as rector of the Jersey City Parish. He was unable to attend and wrote, *“Under the direction of the Mitred Archpriest John Skvir, its priest for thirty-five years, the parish supported our seminaries, hosted visiting hierarchs and representatives of other Autocephalous Orthodox Churches, and accepted all decisions of our All-American Church Councils.”*

His Eminence commented at the luncheon of his particular fondness for the parish, which had hosted his consecration in 2010. He stated the parish is known *for “honoring the memory of the beloved founders and beautifiers of the parish, both clergy and faithful, and their incredible legacy of 110 years of love and Orthodox Christian witness: this vibrant parish and this beautiful church temple.”*

The servers in addition to His Eminence were: Archpriest Samuel Kedala, Archpriest Daniel Skvir, Archpriest Eric Tosi, Priest Nikolai Gulin, Archdeacon Michael Suvak, Deacon Daniel Greeson, Deacon Stephan Karlgut, Subdeacon Mark Federoff and Subdeacon Nektary Lukianoff, and parish servers Joseph and Nicholas Porada.

Memory Eternal:

Our deepest sympathies are expressed to the family, and the fellow staff and campers at Saint Andrew's Camp, of + **Stanley Bilinski**, who fell asleep in the Lord on October 11. Stan served as St. Andrew's Camp Chef for several years. He was well-loved by the campers, the counselors, and all the Saint Andrew's Camp Community -- and he loved the children too, so much so that, having been drawn to the Orthodox Faith, he asked to be Chrismated at camp, so that he could receive Holy Communion together with the campers who had so endeared themselves to him. *Grant rest eternal in blessed repose with the Saints, O Lord, to the soul of Thy newly departed servant, + Stanley, who has fallen asleep; and make his memory to be eternal! "Vechnaya Pamyat!"*

Congratulations to:

Archpriest Daniel and Matushka Tamara Skvir, celebrating the 50th Anniversary of their Marriage and the 30th Anniversary of Father Daniel's Ordination to the Holy Priesthood, awarded the Synodal Gramota by His Eminence, Archbishop Michael, on Sunday, October 15, in the Chapel of the Holy Transfiguration, Princeton NJ. *Grant, O Lord, a prosperous and peaceful life, good health, salvation, visitation, and good hastening in all things, to Thy servants, Archpriest Daniel and Matushka Tamara, and protect and preserve them, O Lord, for many blessed years! “Mnogaya Lyeta!”*



Orthodox Church in America (OCA) News **IN THE NEWS: At home and abroad**

Lazarevac, Serbia: OCA Military Chaplain concelebrates with Serbian Military Bishop

During a recent visit to Serbia, Father James Sizemore, CH (LTC), a US Army Reserve chaplain based in Ohio, concelebrated the Divine Liturgy with His Grace, Bishop Jovan, the Serbian Orthodox Church's Military Hierarch, and Serbian military chaplains at the Church of the Great Martyr Dimitri in Lazarevac, Serbia in conjunction with the State Partnership Program the Ohio National Guard [ONG] maintains with Serbia.

“The Chaplain Corps has offered guidance to the Serbian Armed Forces [SAF] since 2010 on the development of a chaplain corps within the SAF,” explained Father James. “There were no chaplains in the SAF during the communist era. In 2013, the SAF military academy graduated its first class of chaplains. The ONG was present for this occasion. Since then, the ONG has traveled to Serbia twice to offer assistance and the SAF chaplains have traveled to Ohio once.”

Father James went on to explain that “during these times, training is offered to the SAF chaplains on functions of the chaplains and chaplain assistants within the military.

“During the Liturgy, members of the American military and Serbian soldiers who served during the 1999 NATO bombing of Yugoslavia worshiped together,” Father James added. “This is another sign of the strengthening partnership between the two nations.”

Overland Park, KS: Holy Trinity Parish celebrates 100th anniversary

On the weekend of October 7-8, 2017, His Grace, Bishop Paul presided at the 100th anniversary celebration of Holy Trinity Church, Overland Park, KS.

Bishop Paul was welcomed by Archpriest Timothy Sawchak, Rector, on Saturday, October 7. A meeting with parish teens and a Memorial Service for the founders, benefactors and clergy of the parish followed. In the evening, Great Vespers was celebrated; a reception followed.

Serving with Bishop Paul and Father Timothy at the Sunday morning Divine Liturgy were Archpriest John Zdinak, Chancellor of the Diocese of the Midwest; Priests Christopher Rowe, Michael Medis, and Joshua Lollar; and Deacon Brent Beasley. During the Liturgy, Fathers Christopher and Michael were elevated to the dignity of Archpriest, while Father Timothy was awarded the jeweled cross. A Synodal Gramota was presented to the parish at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy.

A gala celebration was held on Sunday evening, which featured a special video presentation on the theme of 100 years of Faith and Witness.

Lawrence, KS: Parish celebrates annual blessing of vineyard

For several years, Priest Joshua Lollar and the faithful of Saint Nicholas Church, Lawrence, KS, have gathered at Blue Jacket Crossing Vineyard and Winery to help with the grape harvest.

“Blue Jacket is a vineyard just outside Lawrence where the parish gets wine for Liturgy,” explains Father Joshua. “Our participation in the harvest each year presents us with a different experience and a different grape, depending upon the weather, and this year we helped harvest the chambourcin vines, a variety that is used in the wine we use at Liturgy.”

This, Father Joshua added, was a record-setting year for production at the vineyard.

“We, along with dozens of other local volunteers, harvested 17,000 pounds of grapes during the morning work session,” Father Joshua said. “After the harvest and lunch with the other volunteers and vineyard staff, we blessed the vines as we do every year: ‘O God our Savior, who wast well-pleased that thine Only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ should be called a Vine, and who didst show the fruit of this Vine bringing forth immortality by the grace of thy Spirit: do Thou Thyself now bless this fruit of the vine, O Master, and grant sanctification and prosperity of soul to all of us who shall partake of it.’”

Princeton, NJ: Archbishop Michael addresses Brotherhood of St. Moses the Black annual conference

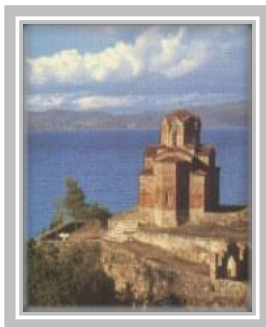
His Eminence, Archbishop Michael of New York and New Jersey was one of two hierarchs addressing participants in the 24th annual Ancient Christianity Conference sponsored by the Brotherhood of Saint Moses the Black. October 6-8, 2017.

Also addressing the 100-plus participants was His Grace, Bishop Thomas of the Antiochian Orthodox Diocese of Charleston, Oakland and the Mid-Atlantic.

“Growing Closer to Christ, Growing Closer Together” was the theme of the conference, which was held at the Mother of God, Joy of All Who Sorrow Church, Princeton, NJ. Over a dozen other presenters—among them Archpriests Moses Berry and John Kowalczyk, Priest Jerome Sanderson, Hieromonk Alexii [Altschul], Prof. Al Raboteau, and Mother Katherine—further developed the conference theme.

A highlight of the conference was the annual Young Preachers’ Panel, moderated by Hieromonk Alexii.

The Brotherhood of Saint Moses the Black is a Pan-Orthodox organization which has desired through its efforts to make the Orthodox faith available to the African American community and help the Church itself in realizing this goal.



Prayers by the Laker, St. Velimirovich, XXIX:

For all the sins of men I repent before You, Most Merciful Lord. Indeed, the seed of all sins flows in my blood! With my effort and Your mercy I choke this wicked crop of weeds day and night, so that no tare may sprout in the field of the Lord, but only pure wheat.

I repent for all those who are worried, who stagger under a burden of worries and do not know that they should put all their worries on You. For feeble man even the most minor worry is unbearable, but for You a mountain of worries is like a snowball thrown into a fiery furnace.

I repent for all the sick, for sickness is the fruit of sin. When the soul is cleansed with

repentance, sickness disappears with sin, and You, my Eternal Health, take up Your abode in the soul.

I repent for unbelievers, who through their unbelief amass worries and sicknesses both on themselves and on their friends.

I repent for all those who blaspheme God, who blaspheme against You without knowing that they are blaspheming against the Master, who clothes them and feeds them.

I repent for all the slayers of men, who take the life of another to preserve their own. Forgive them, Most Merciful Lord, for they know not what they do. For they do not know that there are not two lives in the universe, but one, and that there are not two men in the universe, but one. Ah, how dead are those who cut the heart in half!

I repent for all those who bear false witness, for in reality they are homicides and suicides.

For all my brothers who are thieves and who are hoarders of unneeded wealth I weep and sigh, for they have buried their soul and have nothing with which to go forth before You.

For all the arrogant and the boastful I weep and sigh, for before You they are like beggars with empty pockets.

For all drunkards and gluttons I weep and sigh, for they have become servants of their servants.

For all adulterers I repent, for they have betrayed the trust of the Holy Spirit, who chose them to form new life through them. Instead, they turned serving life into destroying life.

For all gossipers I repent, for they have turned Your most precious gift, the gift of speech, into cheap sand.

For all those who destroy their neighbor's hearth and home and their neighbor's peace I repent and sigh, for they bring a curse on themselves and their people.

For all lying tongues, for all suspicious eyes, for all raging hearts, for all insatiable stomachs, for all darkened minds, for all ill will, for all unseemly thoughts, for all murderous emotions--I repent, weep and sigh.

For all the history of mankind from Adam to me, a sinner, I repent; for all history is in my blood. For I am in Adam and Adam is in me.

For all the worlds, large and small, that do not tremble before Your awesome presence, I weep and cry out: O Master Most Merciful, have mercy on me and save me!"

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

IV. Concerning that which Brings us Close to God

Prayer

Whatever we do or say without prayer always ends up either sinful or harmful and convicts us through the deeds in some mysterious way.

St. Mark the Ascetic, Homilies, 2.108



The Morning Offering – Daily Inspiration by Abbott Tryphon

Humility

Acquiring a humble heart

Our brotherhood's beloved Father Spiridon (the Scotsman whose own humility inspired us, and who died a number of years ago), told us a wonderful story of humility in action. It concerned the Ever memorable Metropolitan Laurus, the saintly bishop who led the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia as her Chief Hierarch, and who help bring about the unification of the two parts of the Russian Church.

Rimmon Stuart (the future Monk Spiridon) had come from England to be baptized into the Orthodox Church at Holy Trinity Monastery in Jordanville, New York. Upon arrival at the monastery, Rimmon settled into his guest cell, and proceeded to take a walk around the grounds of the monastery. He saw an old man in bib overalls, crouched down in a large vegetable garden, pulling up weeds. Being an avid gardener himself, Rimmon asked the old man if he'd mind having some help with the weeding. The old man replied with a smile, and welcomed this Scotsman to join him.

Sometime later the bells of the monastery began tolling, and the old man stood up, announcing it was time to head to the cathedral for the service. Rimmon headed to his guest cell to change into clean clothes, and headed to Holy Trinity Cathedral, where he found the assembled monks awaiting the arrival of their abbot, the then Archbishop Laurus.

As the church banners flickered in the wind, the assembled vested priestmonks, together with the whole of the monastic brotherhood, awaited the arrival of their archbishop. You can imagine the shock awaiting Rimmon, when he saw Archbishop Laurus was the very man he'd been toiling away with, while weeding in the monastery's garden.

Saint Seraphim of Sarov said that it is easy to be humble before God, but real humility is formed in our hearts, when we humble ourselves before men.



Daily Reflection **The Commandment to Rest**

“Six days you shall do your work, but on the seventh day you shall rest, so that your ox and your donkey may have relief, and the son of your bondmaid and the resident alien may be refreshed.” (Ex 23: 12)



Setting aside the disputed issues of the Sabbath-commandment and its status in Christianity (e.g., how or whether it relates to Sunday), I'd just like to reflect on its motivation, in its above-quoted version. We are commanded to rest, not primarily for our own sake, but out of consideration for our dependents, including animals. So, if we do not heed the commandment to rest, and are “on” non-stop, as many of us are (at least to some degree) in our 24/7 Internet-culture, we are over-burdening not only ourselves, but also others.

So let me take a break this weekend, and take time “off” as God calls me to do. My well-rested self makes life easier and more healthy not only for me, but for those dependent on me in some way.

Ancient Christian Wisdom

If thoughts that take away our peace assail us, know that they are from hell. Such thoughts must not be accepted. They must be banished immediately. We must struggle for our own good and strive for peace to take root in our souls - peace, joy, and Divine love. Our Heavenly Father wants all of His children to have His Divine properties. He wants us to be full of love, peace, joy, truthfulness, and kindness. He wants us to be able to comfort others. We also want to become meek and humble, for only such a person radiates goodness and kindness - Such a person is never insulted even when you shout and scold him; you can even hit him and all he does is pity you for tormenting yourself so. There are very few such people on this earth, but they are the reason why the sun still warms planet Earth and why God gives us His blessing to go on living and to have everything we need in order to live. You see now why our thoughts must change.

- Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica

Through the Grace of God – Orthodox Christianity

St Philaret of Moscow: Every Christian..

“Every Christian should find for himself the imperative and incentive to become holy. If you live without struggle and without hope of becoming holy, then you are Christians only in name and not in essence. But without holiness, no one shall see the Lord, that is to say they will not attain eternal blessedness. It is a trustworthy saying that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners (1 Tim. 1:15). But we deceive ourselves if we think that we are saved while remaining sinners. Christ saves those sinners by giving them the means to become saints.”

— St. Philaret of Moscow, Sermon of September 23, 1847