

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 29, 2017

Gospel: Luke 8:26-39

Tone 4

Epistle: Galatians 2:16-20

21st Sunday after Pentecost (6th of Luke): Martyr Anastasia the Roman

Ven. Abramius the Recluse, and his niece, Bl. Mary, of Mesopotamia (ca. 360). Ven. Abrámii, Archimandrite of Rostov (1073-77). Martyr Claudius, Asterius, Neon, and Theonilla, of Aegæ in Cilicia (285). Righteous Anna of Constantinople (826). Monk Martyr Timothy of Esphigmenou (Mt. Athos—1820).

Troparion – Tone 4

Your lamb Anastasia, calls out to You, O Jesus, in a loud voice: / “I love You, my Bridegroom, and in seeking You I endure suffering. / In baptism I was crucified so that I might reign in You, / and I died so that I might live with You. / Accept me as a pure sacrifice, / for I have offered myself in love.” / Through her prayers save our souls, since You are merciful.

Kontakion – Tone 3

Purified by the waters of virginity, / righteous Anastasia, you were crowned by the blood of martyrdom. / You grant healing and salvation to those in need, / and who call on you from their hearts, / for Christ gives you strength, pouring out on you ever-flowing grace!



Martyr Anastasia the Roman

Prayer Requests

In Memory of:

Leonid Stefy, offered by his wife, Lore Stefy.

Joseph Hartzel Sr., offered by his son, Joseph Hartzel Jr.

Father Stephen Mack, fell asleep in the Lord Sunday, Oct. 22nd, Archbishop Michael and the Diocese of NY/NJ.

Mary Mihopulos, beloved mother of Presbytera Irene and Archpriest Jonathan Ivanoff, offered by Archbishop Michael and the Diocese of NY/NJ.

Protodeacon Keith S. Russin, fell asleep in the Lord here on Thursday, October 26, 2017, offered by Metropolitan Tikhon, OCA, Archbishop Michael and the Diocese of NY/NJ.

The Philokalia: Daily Readings

Stillness, which is the basis of the soul's purification, makes the observance of the commandments relatively painless.

- St Peter of Damascus, A Treasury of Divine Knowledge

Liturgical Schedule

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

Sunday, November 12th

9:40 am: Hours
9:45 am: General
Confession
10:00 am: Divine Liturgy
After Communion: Sunday
School pre-K - Grade 3

Saturday, November 18th

6:30 pm: Vespers

Bulletin Sponsors

*Lore Stefy; Joseph Hartzel
Jr.*

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: Galatians 2:16-20

Brethren, you know that a man is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ, and not by works of the law, because by works of the law shall no one be justified. But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we ourselves were found to be sinners, is Christ then an agent of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again those things which I tore down, then I prove myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law, that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

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 dost hate iniquity.
(Psalm 44:8)

Gospel: Luke 8:26-39

At that time, as Jesus arrived at the country of the Gadarenes, there met him a man from the city who had demons; for a long time he had worn no clothes and he lived not in a house but among the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him, and said with a loud voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beseech you, do not torment me." For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many a time it had seized him; he was kept under guard, and bound with chains and fetters, but he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the desert.) Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him. And they begged him not to command them to depart into the abyss. Now a large herd of swine was feeding there on the hillside; and they begged him to let them enter these. So he gave them leave. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned. When the herdsmen saw what happened, they fled, and told it in the city and in the country. Then people went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had gone, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. And those who had seen it told them how he who had been possessed with demons was healed. Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gadarenes asked him to depart from them; for they were seized with great fear; so he got into the boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but he sent him away, saying, "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him.

Orthodox Quote of the Day

He who abandons prayer abandons his salvation; he who is careless about prayer is careless about his salvation; he who quits prayer renounces his salvation.

St. Ignatius Brianchaninov



Martyr Anastasia the Roman

The Martyr Anastasia the Roman lost her parents in infancy, and was then taken to be reared by the abbess of a women’s monastery, named Sophia. She raised Anastasia in fervent faith, in the fear of God and obedience.

The persecution against Christians by the emperor Decius (249-251) began at that time. The city administrator, Probus, on the orders of the emperor commanded that Anastasia be brought to him. Blessed by her abbess to suffer for Christ, the young martyr Anastasia humbly came out to meet the armed soldiers. Seeing her youth and beauty, Probus first attempted flattery to make her deny Christ.

“Why waste your youth, deprived of pleasure? What is there to gain by enduring tortures and death for the Crucified? Worship our gods, marry a handsome husband, and live in glory and honor.”

The saint steadfastly replied, “My spouse, my riches, my life and my happiness are my Lord Jesus Christ, and you will not turn me away from Him by your deceit!”

Probus subjected Anastasia to fierce tortures. The holy martyr bravely endured them, glorifying and praising the Lord. In anger the torturers cut out her tongue.

The people, seeing the inhuman and disgusting treatment of the saint, became indignant, and the ruler was compelled to end the tortures by beheading the martyr. In this manner, Saint Anastasia received the crown of martyrdom.

The body of the saint was thrown out beyond the city to be eaten by wild animals, but the Lord did not permit her holy relics to be dishonored. At the command of a holy angel, Abbess Sophia went to find Saint Anastasia’s mutilated body. With the help of two Christians, she buried it in the earth.



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: Today immediately after coffee hour.

"Orthodox Church of the Mother of God: Joy of all the Sorrowful" founded in 1966

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

"Do not wish for everything to be done according to your determination, but wish that it is how it should be, and in this way, you will attain peace with everyone. And believe that everything that happens to us, even the most insignificant, occurs through God's Providence. Then you will be able to endure everything that comes upon you without any agitation".

Saint Dorotheus of Gaza
(505-565)



NY/NJ Diocese News

**Establishing a Connection:
Journeying With
Your Patron Saint**



Annual Girls' Retreat
Saint Basil Academy, Garrison NY
November 10-12, 2017

For Young Women in Grades 7-12
Sponsored by the OCA Diocese of New York & New Jersey
All jurisdictions and nearby dioceses are welcome!

GIRLS RETREAT: November 10-12, 2017

Congratulations to:

Protopresbyter Leonid Kishkovsky, awarded the miter, by His Eminence, Archbishop Michael, on Sunday, October 29, at Our Lady of Kazan Church in Sea Cliff NY. "Axios! Axios! Axios!"

Archpriest John Bartholomew, awarded a Synodal Gramota on his 30th Anniversary of Ordination to the Holy Priesthood, by Archbishop Michael, on Sunday, October 29, at Our Lady of Kazan Church in Sea Cliff NY.

May God protect and preserve His servants, the Protopresbyter Leonid and the Archpriest John, for many blessed years! "Mnogaya Lyeta!"

Orthodox Church in America (OCA) News

Historic Unalaska church receives national fund award
UNALASKA, AK [OCA]



On Wednesday, October 25, 2017, the National Fund for Sacred Places, a program of Partners for Sacred Places and the National Trust for Historic Preservation announced that Holy Ascension Russian Orthodox Church, Unalaska, AK, has been selected as one of 17 congregations nationwide to participate in a national grant-making program that supports capital building projects at historic houses of worship. Launched in 2016 with grants totaling \$14 million from the Indiana-based Lilly Endowment Inc., the Philadelphia-based National Fund will offer planning grants, professional

services, and capital grants ranging from \$50,000 to \$250,000 to a minimum of 50 congregations over four years.

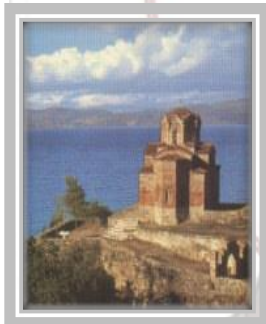
Holy Ascension Church, a National Historic Landmark, was constructed in 1896. Located in the largest city of the Aleutian Islands, the church through the generations has been looked upon by fisherman as a symbol of their safe return to land.

“Holy Ascension is a ‘Spiritual Lighthouse’ to the fishermen who call the Aleutians their port of call,” says His Grace, Bishop David of Sitka and Alaska of the Orthodox Church of America. The oldest cruciform-style Orthodox church in North America, Holy Ascension holds over 200 icons, books and relics, some of which date to the 16th century. “If these items were ever lost, they would be irreplaceable,” says Bishop David. The congregation will use awarded funds to install a fire suppression system in its cathedral.

Chad Martin, Director of the National Fund, says that Holy Ascension Church was well positioned for acceptance into this year’s group, for which over 220 congregations applied. “The story of Russian Orthodox activity in Alaska is a unique and important thread in American religious history. Further, the church’s ongoing commitment to local Native Alaskan communities is important today. We are thrilled with the opportunity to be a part of this major effort to preserve a true treasure of religious architecture as an asset for its community,” says Martin. “We believe this project is of national importance for the stewardship of America’s sacred places.”

The final grant amount will be determined upon the completion of the technical support parts of the program, including training and project consultation.

Partners for Sacred Places helps congregations and others with a stake in older religious properties make the most of them as civic assets in ways that benefit people of all faiths and of no faith. The National Trust for Historic Preservation, a privately funded non-profit organization, protects significant places representing our diverse cultural experience by taking direct action and inspiring broad public support.



Prayers by the Laker, St. Velimirovich, XXX:

Blot out, O Lord, all my memories--except one. For memories make me old and feeble. Memories ruin the present day. They weigh down the present day with the past and weaken my hope in the future, for in legions they whisper in my ear: "There will only be what has already been."

But I do not wish for there to be only what has been. I do not wish and You do not wish, O Lord, for the future to be the past repeated. Let things happen that have never appeared before. The sun would not be worth much, if it only watched repetitions.

Worn paths mislead a wayfarer. Earth has walked over the earth a long time. Earthly walkways have become boring, for they have been traveled again and again from generation to generation throughout all time. Blot out, O Lord, all my memories except one.

Just one memory do I ask You not to blot out, but to strengthen in me. Do not blot out but strengthen in my consciousness the memory of the glory that I had when I was entirely with You and entirely in You, before time and temporal illusions.

When I, too, was a harmonious trinity in holy unity, just as You are from eternity to eternity.

When the soul within me was also in friendship with consciousness and life.

When my soul also was a virginal womb, and my consciousness was wisdom in virginity, and my life was spiritual power and holiness.

When I, too, was all light, and when there was no darkness within me.

When I, too, was bliss and peace, and when there were no torments of imbalance within me.

When I also knew You, even as You know me, and when I was not mingled with darkness.

When I, too, had no boundaries, no neighbors, no partitions between "me" and "you."

Do not blot out this memory, my Father, but strengthen it. Even if it reveals to me the abyss along which I am journeying in humbleness and nothingness.

Even if it separates me from friends and pleasantries, and demolishes all the barriers between Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow.

Even if it leads me outside of myself, and makes me seem mad in the eyes of my fellow wayfarers.

In truth, no companionship pleases me except Yours, and no memory pleases me except the memory of You.

O my Merciful Father, blot out all my memories except one alone.

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

IV. Concerning that which Brings us Close to God

Prayer

The prayer of one who does not consider himself a sinner is not accepted by the Lord.

St. Isaac the Syrian, Homilies, 55



The Morning Offering – Daily Inspiration by Abbott Tryphon

Prayer

When prayer becomes dry

When we find ourselves struggling with prayer, and feel that it has become dry and lifeless, we are sometimes tempted to stop praying. When our prayer has become a struggle, it is good to remember that God knows our needs, and even knows what we want to say when we don't seem to know. This is the time we need to just pray without worrying about it. When we find we can't keep our minds focused on the formal morning and evening prayers, as found in our prayer book, it is perfectly acceptable to simply light our lampada (hanging oil lamp), sit quietly before our icons, and let silence be our voice.

God wants to enter into our heart, and requires only our permission and cooperation. This relationship does not require an emotional response, for, like all relationships, we are not always open to an emotional response. Being real with God is far more important than being emotional, since emotions can be contrived and fleshly. As in all relationships, there are times when we do feel moved by emotions, but the lack of such feelings in no way represents a lack of love for God, because God cares for us, and God knows we love him, even when suffering in those dry times.



Daily Reflection

“Let Us Attend”

“No one, when he has lit a lamp, covers it with a vessel or puts it under a bed, but sets it on a lampstand, that those who enter may see the light. For nothing is secret that will not be revealed, nor anything hidden that will not be known

and come to light. Therefore take heed how you hear. For whoever has, to him (more) will be given; and whoever does not have, even what he seems to have will be taken from him.” (Lk 8: 16-18)



It is important, the Lord is telling me here, not only “that” I hear His word, but “how” I hear it. Even when I don't quite understand it, He calls me to patient and persistent exploration of His divine wisdom, in humble and prayerful teachability. “For nothing is secret that will not be revealed” to a heart mindful of God's daily little revelations. Whoever “has” this attentiveness, or “the ears to hear,” to him or her God's wisdom and understanding “will be given.” Conversely, if I am inattentive to God's voice in my life, even what I “seem” to have, – say, Orthodoxy in its beautiful rites and traditions, – “will be taken” from me for all practical purposes. That is to say, if I am just going through the external motions/words of our Tradition, without letting its light into my heart, then it will not make any real difference in my life, or in the lives of “those who enter” it.

So, “Let us attend!” I say to all my senses today, that I may be open to whatever God has to teach me today, through the people, places and things He brings my way; and that His light may grow in me.

Ancient Christian Wisdom

Be fearful that you do not become famous because of some work that you do. If they begin to praise you because of your work, do not rejoice or take delight in it, but keep your works secret as much as you can, and do not allow anyone to speak about them.

- Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica