

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: Holly Dawson



Sunday, October 2, 2016

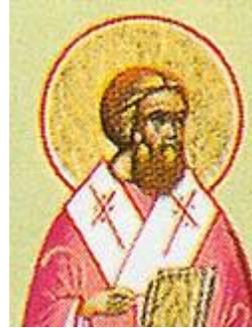
Gospel: Luke 6:31-36

Tone 6(2nd of Luke)

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 4:6-15

15th Sunday after Pentecost; Hieromartyr Cyprian of Nicomedia

**Glory to
Jesus Christ!**



*Hieromartyr Cyprian of
Nicomedia*

**Glory
Forever!**

By sharing in the ways of the Apostles, you became a successor to their throne. Through the practice of virtue, you found the way to divine contemplation, O inspired one of God; by teaching the word of truth without error, you defended the Faith, even to the shedding of your blood. Hieromartyr Cyprian, entreat Christ God to save our souls.

(Troparion – Tone 4)

You abandoned ungodly darkness, becoming a light of truth; You were illustrious as a pastor; You were glorified in contest: O righteous Father Cyprian together with godly Justina, Intercede for us before God the Creator of all!

(Troparion – Tone 4)

You turned from the art of sorcery to the knowledge of God, and were shown forth as a skillful healer for the world, Cyprian, inspired by God. Together with Justina you grant cures to those who honor you; with her, pray to the Master who loves mankind that He may save our souls.

(Kontakion – Tone 1)

Today's Commemorated Feasts and Saints

15th Sunday After Pentecost — Tone 6. Hieromartyr Cyprian, Virgin Martyr Justina, and Martyr Theoctistus, of Nicomedia (304). Bl. Andrew, Fool-for-Christ, at Constantinople (936). Repose of Rt. Blv. Princess Anna of Kashin (1338). Ven. Cassian of Uglich (1504). Martyrs David and Constantine, Princes of Georgia (740). Righteous Warrior Theodore Ushakov (1817).

Prayer Requests

For Health of:

Elizabeth Turpin, on her birthday, offered by her family.

Liturgical Schedule

Sunday, October 2nd

9:40 am: Hours
9:45 am: General
Confession
10:00 am: Divine Liturgy

Saturday, October 8th

6:30 pm: Vespers

Sunday, October 9th

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

Saturday, October 15th

6:30 pm: Vespers

Sunday, October 16th

9:40 am: Hours
10:00 am: Divine Liturgy
Panikhida – Leonid Stefy

Saturday, October 22nd

6:30 pm: Vespers

Sunday, October 23rd

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

Bulletin Sponsors:

The Turpin Family

Readings:

The Prokeimenon in the 6th Tone:

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance!
(*Psalm 27:9*)

vs. To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me!
(*Psalm 27:1*)

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 4:6-15

Brethren, it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For while we live we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you. Since we have the same spirit of faith as he had who wrote, "I believed, and so I spoke," we too believed, and so we speak, knowing that He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into His presence. For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

Alleluia in the 6th Tone:

He that dwelleth in the aid of the Most High shall abide under the protection of the God
of heaven. (*Psalm 90:1*)

vs. He will say to the Lord: Thou art my protector and my refuge, my God. In Him will I
trust! (*Psalm 90:2*)

Gospel: Luke 6:31-36 (2nd Sunday of Luke)

The Lord said, "And as you wish that men would do to you, do so to them. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful."



Hieromartyr Cyprian of Nicomedia

Hieromartyr Cyprian, Virgin Martyr Justina and Martyr Theoctistus suffered for Christ at Nicomedia in the year 304.

St Cyprian was a pagan and a native of Antioch. From his early childhood his misguided parents dedicated him to the service of the pagan gods. From age seven until thirty, Cyprian studied at the most outstanding centers of paganism: on Mount Olympus, in the cities of Argos and Tauropolis, in the Egyptian city of Memphis, and at Babylon. Once he attained eminent wisdom in pagan philosophy and the sorcerer’s craft, he was consecrated into the pagan priesthood on Mount Olympus. Having discovered great power by summoning unclean spirits, he beheld the Prince of Darkness himself, and spoke with him and received from him a host of demons in attendance.

After returning to Antioch, Cyprian was revered by the pagans as a prominent pagan priest, amazing people by his ability to cast spells, to summon pestilence and plagues, and to conjure up the dead. He brought many people to ruin, teaching them to serve demons and how to cast magic spells.



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

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

The Sisterhood of the Protection of the Theotokos is having a “Let’s Celebrate Our Heritage” luncheon today October 2, 2016.

Anniversary Booklet - Well Wishes

FOR the donation amount of your choice (\$5, \$10, \$20, \$25 or other amount) a message of congratulations, many years, or prayers can be included in the back of the Anniversary Booklet that is being written. The message can be given in memory of or for the health of someone. Or no specific dedication is necessary. You can just write a message. The message is limited to 120 characters (punctuation, spaces included in count). Forms are available at the candle desk. Firm deadline: Sunday, October 15. No submissions will be accepted following that date due to printing deadline. Submit the form and payment IN AN ENVELOPE and place it in the CANDLE MONEY BOX on the candle desk. Donation will go towards deferring printing costs. **Questions: Speak to Trudy Ellmore.**

50th Year Golden Jubilee Anniversary Dinner is Nov 13, 2016. **More details to follow.**



NY/NJ Diocese News

From the Office of the Bishop

Congratulations are extended to:

Archpriest Joseph and Matushka Charlotte Woodill, on being awarded a Diocesan Gramota in recognition of their extraordinary service to Christ, His Holy Orthodox Church in America, the Diocese of New York and New Jersey, and Saint Nicholas Parish in Whitestone, NY, on Sunday, September 18, 2016, by His Eminence, Archbishop Michael.

Archpriest Wiaczeslaw Krawczuk, on being awarded the Synodal Gramota, on the Thirtieth Anniversary of his Ordination to the Holy Priesthood, and in recognition of his distinguished service of priestly ministry, by His Beatitude, Metropolitan TIKHON, and the entire Holy Synod of Bishops, on Sunday, September 25, in the Cathedral of the Holy Transfiguration, Brooklyn, NY.

Konrad Petelski, on being tonsured a Reader of the Church, by His Eminence, Archbishop Michael, in the Cathedral of the Holy Transfiguration in Brooklyn, NY, on Sunday, September 25, the 100th Anniversary Celebration of the Building of the Cathedral.

May God grant them all a prosperous and peaceful life, good health and salvation, visitation and good hastening in all things, and may He protect and preserve them for many blessed years! "Mnogaya Lyeta!"

Clergy Changes

Archpriest Alexander Revyuk, canonically received into the Orthodox Church in America by His Beatitude, Metropolitan TIKHON, and placed under the omophorion of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey, is assigned Acting Rector of Holy Trinity Church in Brooklyn, New York, effective September 1, 2016.

Presbyter John Diamantis is relieved of his duties as Acting Rector of Saint Gregory Palamas Church, Glen Gardner, New Jersey, and is granted a Personal Leave of Absence, effective September 24, 2016. (He is attached to Saint Athanasius Chapel, Bronxville, New York).

Archpriest George Hasenecz is named the Priest in Charge of Saint Gregory Palamas Church in Glen Gardner, New Jersey, effective September 24, 2016.

Upcoming Events:

- November 1-2: Diocesan Assembly, Holy Trinity Church, Yonkers, NY
- November 11-13: Diocesan Girls Retreat, Saint Basil Academy, Garrison, NY
- November 18-19: Diocesan Matushki Retreat, Warwick Retreat Center, Warwick, NY



Orthodox Church in America (OCA) News

Metropolitan Tikhon welcomes Antiochian Metropolitan Joseph to OCA Chancery

On Thursday, September 29, 2016, His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, Primate of the Orthodox Church in America welcomed His Eminence, Metropolitan Joseph of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America on his first official visit to the Chancery of the Orthodox Church in America.

Accompanying Metropolitan Joseph was His Grace, Bishop John of the Antiochian Diocese of Worcester and New England and Archpriest Thomas Zain, Vicar General of the Archdiocese. In attendance from the Orthodox Church in America were His Eminence, Archbishop Michael of New York and New Jersey and Secretary of the Holy Synod of Bishops; Protopresbyter Leonid Kishkovsky, Director of the Office of

External Affairs and Inter-Church Relations; Archpriest John Jillions, OCA Chancellor; Archpriest Eric G. Tosi, OCA Secretary; and Archdeacon Joseph Matusiak, Secretary to Metropolitan Tikhon.

The visit opened with the celebration of a brief Service of Intercession in honor of Saint Raphael of Brooklyn in Saint Sergius of Radonezh Chapel, after which Metropolitan Tikhon awarded the Order of Saint Innocent, Gold Class, to Metropolitan Joseph “for his many years of faithful service to Orthodoxy in North America, leadership in the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America, and encouragement of theological education and monasticism throughout this continent.”

“I have personally known Your Eminence for many years, and we have had the opportunity to share our common love for Christ and His Church since the time of my consecration as Bishop of Eastern Pennsylvania and your appointment as Bishop of the Diocese of Los Angeles and the West, which occurred in the same year—2004,” Metropolitan Tikhon said as he made the presentation. “During that time, I have seen Your Eminence’s faithfulness to Christ and dedication to being a good shepherd for your clergy and your faithful, always in a very personal and direct manner.

“I have also appreciated your good foundation in the monastic and ascetical tradition of our Orthodox Faith and your concern for theological education in North America,” Metropolitan Tikhon continued. “And so, in recognition of all your apostolic labors for Orthodoxy in North America and for the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese, especially as you take upon your shoulders the heavy cross of service as Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of All North America for the Antiochian Church, I am pleased to bestow upon you the Order of Saint Innocent, Gold Class. *Mustahek! Axios!*”

Metropolitan Tikhon also awarded the Order of Saint Innocent, Silver Class, to Bishop John “for his many years of faithful service to Orthodoxy in North America, the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America and encouragement of pastoral formation throughout this continent.”

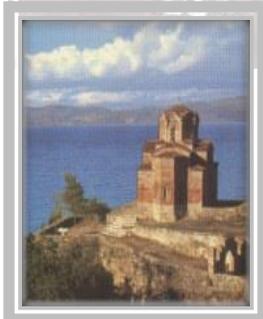
In turn, Metropolitan Joseph presented a panagia on behalf of the Antiochian Archdiocese to Metropolitan Tikhon while taking note of the close relationship of the Antiochian Archdiocese and the Orthodox Church in America. He also recalled that most of the Archdiocese’s seminarians attend Saint Vladimir’s Seminary or Saint Tikhon’s Seminary, while stressing “the historical roots that we both share, given our common witness and heritage in this country, through individuals like Saint Raphael and Saint Tikhon.” Finally, Metropolitan Joseph shared his desire to work more closely to help the Orthodox Church in North America in its ongoing growth and witness in the broken world in which we live today.

Lengthy discussions on various topics of mutual interest took place during a luncheon in the Chancery dining room. Among the matters discussed was the mutual concern for the state of Christians in the Middle East and the current refugee crisis. Metropolitans Tikhon and Joseph agreed to further discuss methods of cooperation to assist the victims of the crisis and to take steps to further highlight the seriousness of the situation to the faithful. Also discussed was the recent Pan-Orthodox Council in Crete and the status of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the USA.

Building on the experience of the Bilateral Commission of the OCA and the Antiochian Archdiocese, Metropolitans Tikhon and Joseph also considered various projects designed to strengthen mutual cooperation.

A photo gallery of the visit is available on the OCA website and Facebook page.

Prayers by the Laker, St. Velimirovich, LXXVI:



At dawn when I awake, my seemly thoughts fly straight to You; the first stirrings of my soul reach for Your smile; the first whisper in my ear -- is Your name, the first surprise I encounter -- is You, beside me.

Like a young boy after a nightmare, who embraces his mother and rejoices because the dream did not separate him from his mother, so also do I, when waking, embrace You and rejoice because my journey in sleep has not distanced me from Your hand.

How unkind I am toward You, my love! Shame devours me because I have been so unkind toward You. Whereas You do not separate Yourself from me for a single second, I divorce myself from You in sleep for hours at a time. Therefore I curse sleep and my sleeping, and I marvel at the heavenly hosts, who never take their eyes off You either day or night.

Sleep makes me weary, but You give me rest. There is no rest for one who is weary unless he looks at You, nor is there any sweetness for one embittered unless he converses with You, nor is there any health for one who is sick unless he touches Your hand, nor is there any purification for one who is impure unless he bathes in Your light.

I hasten through deserted streets to Your church, I hasten and greet no one in the empty streets. Everyone is sleeping and in their dreams they torment themselves far away from You, yet You sit at every bedside and await the return of souls from the distance.

Shame devours me, my love, when I consider how unkind the souls of men are toward You, and how profoundly they separate themselves from their Life.

Even the animals in the mountain forests awake at dawn, and You stand beside them and shepherd them. The forest creatures are thinking about food, they think about food early in the morning even as I do. Indeed, I too think at dawn about my food, and I know that my hunger can only be satisfied with You.

Through the deserted streets I hasten, my Glory, to seek Your glory. I hear both the muezzin calling from the minaret and the church bell summoning the faithful to church. And in my thoughts I raise myself and survey every place on earth to see how many sons of men have left their senseless wandering in sleep and met with the One Who Is, who is far distant from senseless sleep.

The holy ascetics in their monastery cells and hermitage caves have risen, and have already been conversing with You for a long time. These holy monastics have risen, whose soul never even lies down, but like a candle burns upright before You day and night.

Bless, O Lord, all these prayerful ascetics, who cense the slumbering world with their life like incense.

Thousands upon thousands of souls bid farewell to their bodies at dawn. And when the sun is born, it will burn like a funerary candle over the thousands of deceased.

And I watch You, my love, keeping vigil beside the thousands dying as you wait for them to call upon Your name. And behold, some of them repent for the whole slumber of their life and cry out to You for help.

Bless, O Lord, all penitents at death, and respond to their cry.

Through deserted streets I hasten, my Glory, and I enter into church to hymn and extol Your glory. And I stand alone in the church, packed with You and Your angels. And I fall down on my knees and pray to You with tears:

Awaken all the slumbering souls to Yourself, O celestially-supported Lord, all the slumbering souls of my brethren and my people!

The souls of sinners have become heavy and flabby, and have descended near to Hades. O eternally vigilant love, awaken them before death shoves them yet another step deeper into sleep, into everlasting sleep -- into the dreadful sleep which ends with You not keeping vigil.

Sayings of the Ascetics of the Orthodox Church, LXXVI:

II. The Realities of the Spiritual World The Spiritual Father

The Holy Spirit acts mystically through the spiritual father, and then when you go out from your spiritual father, the soul feels her renewal. But if you leave your spiritual father in a state of confusion, this means that you did not confess purely and did not forgive your brother all of his sins from your heart.

+ St. Silouan the Athonite, Writings, XIII.11

The Morning Offering – Daily Inspiration by Abbott Tryphon



Holding on to Shame

When we hold on to guilt and shame

There are many people who cling to memories of past sins, holding on to guilt and shame, and reliving things long ago confessed, as though they happened yesterday. They struggle with regret, often revisiting shame as though they were archeologists, digging for historical artifacts that must be preserved.

Such is not the case with God, for His interest is not in our past, but in our future. Confessed sins are counted as nothing, for God looks with interest on the transformed heart that has been made anew, with contrition. God looks to our future, for His loving mercy is upon the man who has confessed his sin, and that sin is counted as nothing. God is interested in what we are doing with our future, and as a loving Father takes pleasure in the steps we take in our journey towards Him.

For us to look back is to reject the very role of confession, for if we cling to past regrets, we are rejecting the very meaning of repentance, which means a change of heart and taking a direction that is all about the future.

Transformation is not something that happens in an instant, but is a journey towards holiness, and as long as we look to the future with hope, transformation of the heart continues, and our past becomes but a fading memory.

With love in Christ,
Abbot Tryphon



Daily Reflection **Seeking The Living Among The Dead**



“But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices which they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel; and as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, ‘Why do you seek the living among the dead? Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and on the third day rise.’ And they remembered his words...” (Lk 24: 1-8)

Jesus did, indeed, predict His death and resurrection many times (e.g., Lk 18: 32-33). This was common knowledge even to the scribes and Pharisees, which is why, after His death and burial, these religious leaders went to Pilate and asked him to secure the Tomb, saying: “Sir, we remember how that imposter said, while he was still alive, ‘After three days I will rise again.’ Therefore order the sepulchre to be made secure until the third day...” (Mt 27: 63-64)

And yet the women are “perplexed” about the empty Tomb. And they need to be reminded, “Remember how he told you...” Because in the trauma over His Cross, which the women witnessed first-hand, they lost sight of His repeated assurance that He will rise again. Just as I might tend to forget His promise of new life, at moments when things look dark on my cross-carrying journey. Just as I might start seeking answers “among the dead,” wallowing in the “problem” rather than remembering the Solution.

So let me look forward today, to the Solution promised to me many times by my reassuring Lord. He shall “rise again,” – and again, in my life, giving me growth and new life, whatever my grief or loss or “problem” is today. “Remember how he told you,” I am reminded today, by reliable witnesses. Glory be to His cross and resurrection.

Holy Orthodox Quotes

“If a man is not set in his heart that there is no one else in the world but himself and God, he cannot find peace in his soul.”

+St. Alonius

Psalms 73:25-28

Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee. My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion forever. For, lo, they that are far from thee shall perish: thou hast destroyed all them that go a whoring from thee. But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, that I may declare all thy works.

Acts 4:10-12

Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

The Philokalia: Daily Readings

There are three ways through which thoughts arise in you: through the senses, through the memory, and through the body's temperament. Of these the most irksome are those that come through the memory.

+ *St Thalassios the Libyan, 400 Texts on Love and Self-Control*

Daily Readings with Early Church Fathers and Mothers
"Withdraw Yourself from Sin" by St. Isaac the Syrian

Whoever does not voluntarily withdraw himself from the causes of the passions is involuntarily drawn away by sin. These are the causes of sin: wine, women, riches, and robust health of body. Not that by their nature these things are sins, but that nature readily inclines towards the sinful passions on their account., and for this reason man must guard himself against them with great care.

Through the Grace of God – Orthodox Christianity
St John Chrysostom: Always Give Thanks To God

“The mark of a soul that loves wisdom always gives thanks to God. If you have suffered evil, give thanks and it is changed to good. He has not sinned who suffered the evil but he who has done the evil. Give thanks even in disease, lack of possessions, or false accusations. It is not we who are injured but those who are the authors of them”

Ancient Christian Wisdom

A humble man is never rash, hasty or perturbed, never has any hot and volatile thoughts, but at all times remains calm. Even if heaven were to fall and cleave to the earth, the humble man would not be dismayed. Not every quiet man is humble, but every humble man is quiet. There is no humble man who is not self-constrained; but you will find many who are self-constrained without being humble. This is also what the meek humble Lord meant when He said, ‘Lean of Me, for I am meek and humble of heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls.’ [Matt 11:29] For the humble man is always at rest, because there is nothing which can agitate or shake his mind. Just as no one can frighten a mountain, so the mind of a humble man cannot be frightened. If it be permissible and not incongruous, I should say that the humble man is not of this world. For he is not troubled and altered by sorrows, nor amazed and enthused by joys, but all his gladness and his real rejoicing are in the things of his Master. Humility is accompanied by modesty and self-collectedness: that is, chastity of the senses; a moderate voice; mean speech; self-belittlement; poor raiment; a gait that is not pompous; a gaze directed towards the earth; superabundant mercy; easily flowing tears; a solitary soul; a contrite heart; imperturbability to anger; undistributed senses; few possessions; moderation in every need; endurance; patience; fearlessness; manliness of heart born of a hatred of this temporal life; patient endurance of trials; deliberations that are ponderous, not light, extinction of thoughts; guarding of the mysteries of chastity; modesty, reverence; and above all, continually to be still and always to claim ignorance.

+ **St. Isaac the Syrian**