

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 30, 2016

Gospel: Luke 8:26-39

Tone 2 (6th of Luke)

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 11:31-12:9

19th Sunday After Pentecost

Hieromartyr Zenobius and his sister Zenobia, of Aegæ in Cilicia (285). Apostles Tertius, Mark, Justus, and Artemas, of the Seventy (1st c.). Hieromartyr Marcian, Bishop of Syracuse (2nd c.). Martyr Eutropia of Alexandria (ca. 250). Martyr Anastasia of Thessalonica (3rd c.). St. Stephen Milutin, his brother Ven. Dragutin (Theoctistus in monasticism), and their mother, St. Helen (Jelena), of Serbia.

Troparion – Tone 4

As brother and sister united in godliness together you struggled in contest, Zenobius and Zenobia. / You received incorruptible crowns / and unending glory / and shine forth with the grace of healing upon those in the world.

Kontakion – Tone 8

Let us honor with inspired hymns the two martyrs for truth: / the preachers of true devotion, Zenobius and Zenobia; as brother and sister they lived and suffered / together and through martyrdom received their incorruptible crowns.



Hieromartyr Zenobius and his sister Zenobia, of Aegæ in Cilicia (285)

Prayer Requests

For Health of:

Uncle George, on his birthday, offered by Linda & Richard Dantine.

Dajana (Diana) & Daniel Ustia (Children's Home of Hope), on their birthday, offered by Sub-Deacon Vlashi.

Through the Grace of God – Orthodox Christianity

St Basil The Great: God's Providence

“Do not say, “This happened by chance, while this came to be of itself.” In all that exists there is nothing disorderly, nothing indefinite, nothing without purpose, nothing by chance ... How many hairs are on your head? God will not forget one of them. Do you see how nothing, even the smallest thing, escapes the gaze of God?”

Liturgical Schedule

Sunday, October 30th

9:30 am: Sunday School
9:40 am: Hours
10:00 am: Divine Liturgy
12:15 pm: Parish Council Meeting

Saturday, November 5th

6:30 pm: Vespers

Sunday, November 6th

9:30 am: No Sunday School
9:45am: General Confession
9:40 am: Hours
10:00 am: Divine Liturgy

Saturday, November 12th

6:30 pm: Vespers

Sunday, November 13th

9:30 am: Sunday School
9:40 am: Hours
10:00 am: Divine Liturgy
12:15 pm: 50th Golden Jubilee Anniversary Celebration Luncheon

Saturday, November 19th

6:30 pm: Vespers

Sunday, November 20th

9:30 am: Sunday School
9:40 am: Hours
10:00 am: Divine Liturgy

Bulletin Sponsors:

Linda & Richard Dantinne

Readings:

The Prokeimenon in the 2nd Tone:

The Lord is my strength and my song, / He has become my salvation.

(Psalm 117:14)

vs. The Lord has chastened me sorely, but He has not given me over to death.

(Psalm 117:18)

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 11:31-12:9

Brethren, the God and Father of the Lord Jesus, he who is blessed for ever, knows that I do not lie. At Damascus, the governor under King Ar'etas guarded the city of Damascus in order to seize me, but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped his hands. I must boast; there is nothing to be gained by it, but I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven--whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. And I know that this man was caught up into Paradise--whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows-- and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. Though if I wish to boast, I shall not be a fool, for I shall be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. And to keep me from being too elated by the abundance of revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan, to harass me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I besought the Lord about this, that it should leave me; but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." I will all the more gladly boast of my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Alleluia in the 2nd Tone:

May the Lord hear thee in the day of trouble! May the name of the God of Jacob protect thee! *(Psalm 19:2)*

vs. Save the King, O Lord, and hear us on the day we call!

(Psalm 19:10)

Gospel: Luke 8:26-39 (6th Sunday of Luke)

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.



Hieromartyr Zenobius and his sister Zenobia, of Aegae in Cilicia (285)

The Hieromartyr Zenobius, Bishop of Aegea, and his sister Zenobia suffered a martyr's death in the year 285 in Cilicia. From childhood they were raised in the holy Christian Faith by their parents, and they led pious and chaste lives. In their mature years, shunning the love of money, they distributed away their inherited wealth giving it to the poor. For his beneficence and holy life the Lord rewarded Zenobius with the gift of healing various maladies. He was also chosen bishop of a Christian community in Cilicia.

As bishop, St Zenobius zealously spread the Christian Faith among the pagans. When the emperor Diocletian (284-305) began a persecution against Christians, Bishop Zenobius was the first one arrested and brought to trial to the governor Licius. "I shall only speak briefly with you," said Licius to the saint, "for I propose to grant you life if you worship our gods, or death, if you do not." The saint answered, "This present life without Christ is death. It is better that I prepare to endure the present torment for my Creator, and then with Him live eternally, than to renounce Him for the sake of the present life, and then be tormented eternally in Hades."

By order of Licius, they nailed him to a cross and began the torture. The bishop's sister, seeing him suffering, wanted to stop it. She bravely confessed her own faith in Christ before the governor, therefore, she also was tortured.

By the power of the Lord they remained alive after being placed on a red-hot iron bed, and then in a boiling kettle. The saints were then beheaded. The priest Hermogenes secretly buried the bodies of the martyrs in a single grave.

St Zenobius is invoked by those suffering from breast cancer.



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

50th Golden Jubilee

Anniversary Celebration

Sunday, November 13, 2016

Luncheon following Liturgy — \$10 Donation — See Lore Stefy for tickets



NY/NJ Diocese News

Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors Support Vital Ministries – 10/27/16

Already this year, **Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors (DDB)** have contributed **\$121,505.00** to support our diocesan **seminarians** by way of tuition scholarships, our **mission parishes** with grants and assistance, and **parishes in need of revitalization**. Meeting our goal of desperately needed funding this year will be achieved only if the “roll call” of DDBs enlarges with those so blessed to be able to offer a sacrificial gift of loving support. ***“Thank-you!” to our DDBs.*** To join them, visit the “Vision for Our Future” webpage, where you can become a DDB easily with an on-line contribution, or print a donation form to mail in. ***It’s our Church and this is our Diocese ... together we can accomplish so much to the glory of God and the good-estate of His Holy Church!***

Rochester, NY: “Handmaidens of the Lord” - 10/24/16

Saint John the Baptist Church in Rochester NY inaugurated a special ministry of service in worship in which the girls and young women of the parish prepare for post-communion by cutting the antidoron (Ἀντίδωρον = unconsecrated church bread) and mixing wine with warm water for reception by the faithful. *“These handmaidens of the Lord prepare the bread and wine in sight of the parishioners, standing beside the Cross and Epitaphios/tomb of the Lord, in likeness of the Myrrh-bearing Women,”* said Father Ken James Stavrevsky (parish rector).

From the Office of the Archbishop

Congratulations to the following members of our diocesan family:

Reader Stephen Wasilewski, given the privilege of wearing the double orarion and serving as a blessed Sub-deacon, by His Eminence, Archbishop MICHAEL, in Saints Peter and Paul Church, Bayonne, NJ, on Sunday, October 23. *May God protect and preserve His servant, the Reader Stephen, for many blessed years! “Mnogaya Lyeta!”*

Presbyter Michael Speck, assigned as Assistant Rector of Saint Nicholas Church in Auburn, New York, effective October 1, 2016. *May God protect and preserve his servant, Father Michael, for many blessed years! “Mnogaya Lyeta!”*

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

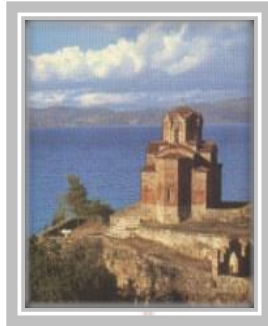
November 20 designated IOCC’s “Day of Sharing” Sunday

Each year, the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America designates the Sunday before US Thanksgiving Day as “IOCC Sunday.” This year’s commemoration falls on Sunday, November 20.

International Orthodox Christian Charities, the official humanitarian aid agency of the Assembly of Bishops, is supported by generous donations from Orthodox Christians. Since its establishment in 1992, IOCC has provided emergency relief, sustainable development and self-help programs to people in need worldwide. Programs are active in more than 50 countries across Europe, Asia, Africa, and North and South America. All assistance is provided based on need without discrimination and benefits orphans, refugees and displaced persons, the elderly, school children, families and people with disabilities. The IOCC web site features news of country programs and of IOCC’s growing Emergency Response Network.

To assist parishes in highlighting IOCC’s ministries, a variety of resources, including the IOCC Sunday Encyclical from the Assembly of Bishops, bulletin/newsletter inserts, and posters, is available on-line. IOCC suggests that youth can get involved by organizing an emergency-kit drive or hosting a small IOCC fundraiser—bake sale, angel tree, spaghetti dinner, etc. Parishes wishing to set up an information table during coffee hour are invited to contact an IOCC outreach coordinator—call 410-243-9820 or write to outreach@ioccc.org—to request posters, prayer booklets, brochures, icon cards, magnets and other materials for distribution.

Contributions can be made on-line, by toll-free call to 1-877-803-IOCC (4622), or by mail to IOCC, PO Box 17398, Baltimore, MD 21297-0429.



Prayers by the Laker, St. Velimirovich, LXXX:

The cypress is green in both summer and winter. Basil is fragrant in both summer and winter. Lambs are slain in both summer and winter.

Beware of wolves, when they attack you, one from the front and another from behind. But be even more wary of two sins: fearing sinners and scorning sinners. For your greenness will vanish like the greenness of a willow. And your fragrance will turn into a stench. And your humility will become arrogance. And sinners will call you their namesakes.

You who are righteous: sin is weakness, and to be afraid of sinners is to be afraid of weaklings. A sinner is terrified of the dead righteous man within himself, and twice as terrified of a living righteous man outside himself.

Do not be terrified of someone, who is twice as terrified of you.

Is not the Lord the courage of the righteous? Is not the Lord Almighty the general of the righteous hosts? Truly minute is the righteousness of those who stand with the Al-mighty and yet fear the all-unmighty.

If your justice is God's justice, your power is a divine power. In the beginning divine power seems to sinners to be weakness, for it is excessively meek, gentle and longsuffering. But in the end, when divine victory comes, sinners see with horror, that their house has been undermined by underground water, and is sinking down with no way back.

Like grass, God's victory grows slowly and silently. But once it has grown, one can no longer trample it or mow it.

Sinners are a flock without a shepherd; you are not. And if your shepherd leaves you, he does not leave you to abandon you, but to sift you in a fine sifter. Your shepherd will return soon, and you will die of shame for betraying him.

You who are righteous, sin is a sickness, and to despise sinners is to scorn the sick. He who gives of His own health to the sick, multiplies his own health.

Scorning sinners undermines the health of one who is healthy.

Sin sits at the table of those who are afraid to sit at the table of a sinner. Sin enters the home of those who are afraid to enter the home of a sinner.

Whoever turns back from his way, in order to avoid meeting a sinner, returns home laden with sin.

At every gate of your soul post a sentry, lest arrogance invade your temple. For if it enters, it will at once blow out the candles of all your virtues; and you will be like a wineskin filled with wine, when it is punctured with a needle.

Brief is this day of life, but true life knows no night.

Whoever dies of sin during this day, will die a death that knows no day.

You who are righteous, pass one course after the next without a break. Whoever completes one course in righteousness, will be enrolled by the Lord in more advanced and more difficult ones. The sinner suffers from a lack of education, the righteous man suffers from studying. But truly the travail of the righteous man is sweeter than the travail of the sinner, just as returning to one's homeland is sweeter than residing in a foreign country.

O compassionate Heavenly Mother of God, protect all those who have set out on the way of righteousness, lest they fear sinners and lest they scorn sinners.

Lest their fear make them God-betrayers, and lest their scorning of sinners make them manslayers.

Lest their quasi-righteousness be merely a pinnacle, from which they will fall even further downward to their destruction.

Sayings of the Ascetics of the Orthodox Church, LXXX:

**II. The Realities of the Spiritual World
Retribution**

God gives His communion to all who love Him. Communion with God is life and light and sweetness with all the good things that He has. But those who of their own will forsake him he rewards with separation from Him, which they themselves have chosen. As separation from light is darkness, so also alienation from God is deprivation of all good things which He has. But the good things of God are eternal and without end, so that the loss of them is eternal and without end. Thus sinners shall be the cause of their own torments, just as the blind do not see the light, although it is shining on them.

+ St. Irenaeus of Lyons, Against Heresies, V.27



The Morning Offering – Daily Inspiration by Abbott Tryphon

Be Not Afraid
God is still in charge

As Orthodox priests our true nation is the Church, and the head of our nation is Christ Himself. Therefore, our pastoral response to the madness of this present political scene, and the divisiveness that has resulted during the presidential campaign, must be to help our people remain calm, and not succumb to anger, despair, or fear.

Our people need to see their priests as strong, grounded, and fearless. Saint Paisius of the Holy Mountain said in the latter times we must not raise our hand against the Anti-Christ, but only save ourselves and as many around us as we can. We priests must help our people remember the words of Scripture, “I will not be afraid of evil tidings”.

Ultimately, God is still in charge, and no political party, politician, or candidate, can nullify this truth. Both the political parties in this country are corrupt, both candidates flawed, and there is evidence to suggest that our nation is no longer a true democracy. But none of this negates our responsibility as priests, to keep our people focused on the ultimate truth, that our life must continue to be focused on the acquisition of a humble and contrite heart.

It is not the business of us priests to tell our people how to vote, but only how to acquire inner peace. For our parishioners to see the importance of the Church’s salvific message, they must see in their priests the inner peace that comes with a life in Christ. Nothing in this world has changed, and no political party, or president, or even emperor, will ever usher in “the peace that passes all understanding”. Only Christ can do that, and our duty as priests, is to point the way to Christ.

With love in Christ,
Abbot Tryphon



Daily Reflection
Fellowship of the Spirit

“...If then there is any consolation in Christ (παράκλησις ἐν Χριστῷ), any encouragement of love, any communion/fellowship of the Spirit (κοινωνία Πνεύματος), any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition (κατ’ ἐπιθείαν) or conceit (κατὰ κευδοζίαν), but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.” (Phil 2: 1-4)

The Apostle is saying to me, in other words, – If you yourself have received consolation, encouragement, fellowship, compassion, etc., from God, then don’t keep these gifts to yourself, but go ahead and share them with others.

It is not a matter of “me” making up “my” mind to muster up “my” love or “my” humility, so I can “make myself” easier to live with. No. I am given to share abundantly in God’s mind and God’s love, which is “the same mind” and “the same love” abundantly given to, and shared by, all faithful in the “communion” or “fellowship” of the Spirit. I need only to open up to the gifts God has on offer, so I can step out of myself and have true connection



with others. So let me let God give me the consolation, love, fellowship, and compassion He already wants to give me, by re-connecting with Him, and with others in Him. “Freely you have received; freely give.” (Mt 10: 8)

Holy Orthodox Quotes

“Who could be more loathsome to me than myself? Truly nobody; in comparison to me all are righteous.”

+St John of Kronstadt

1 Timothy 1:15

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.†

1:12-17 Paul, as a former rebel toward God and persecutor of the Church (Acts 9:1-3), gives glory to God for his calling as an apostle. Throughout the OT and NT and church history, the greatest sinners have often become most notable saints (Moses, Rahab, David, Photini—the woman at the well, Matthew, Paul, St. Mary of Egypt).

1:15 Used in Orthodox liturgical prayer and said by all approaching the chalice for Holy Communion.
(The Orthodox Study Bible - Thomas Nelson)

The Philokalia: Daily Readings

If you want to be free from all the passions, practice self-control, love and prayer.

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

Ancient Christian Wisdom
On Wasting Time

What is more precious than anything in the world? Time!

And what do we waste uselessly and without being sorry? Time!

What do we not value and what do we disregard more than anything? Time!

When we waste time, we lose ourselves! We lose everything! When we have lost the most trivial item, we search for it. But when we lose time--we're not even aware of it. Time is given by God to use correctly for the salvation of the soul and the acquisition of the life to come. Time must be allocated in the same way that a good housekeeper allocates every coin--each one is used for something. Each one has its own purpose. In such a way let us also allocate time profitably, not for vain amusements and entertainments, conversations, feasts and parties.

The Lord will call us to account for having stolen time for our own whims, and for not using it for God and our soul.

+ Elder Sebastian of Optina



2017 OCMC Mission Teams Now Available!

by Sara Staff

The Orthodox Christian Mission Center needs your talents and gifts in 2017 in the mission field. If you've been wondering how you can serve the Church, an OCMC short-term mission team is a fantastic way to get involved. In 2017, OCMC teams will help strengthen the faith of young adults in Albania through teaching, assist in constructing a new Orthodox church in Kenya, offer healthcare to the Mayan people in Guatemala, and more. Whatever skills you have, Christ can work through a giving heart eager to serve those who want to share His love with others. Please prayerfully consider applying for a team!

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

Mission teams will serve in six different countries this coming year, including Albania, Guatemala, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico, and Alaska. Dates and descriptions for upcoming mission teams are as follows:

March:

3/10/2017 to 3/20/2017 – Albania: Work with Albanian Orthodox youth leaders to host conferences for youth and young adults who are seeking to strengthen their faith in a rapidly changing society.

3/17/2017 to 3/26/2017 – Guatemala: Provide health care and health education in the predominately Mayan region of northern Guatemala. Show the love of Christ by sharing your talents as a health care provider in Aguacate at the Fr. Andres Giron Clinic.

3/29/2017 to 4/10/2017 – Kenya: Make a difference in the lives of the youth at the St. Clement Orthodox School in Nairobi by participating in a Youth Mentorship Program. This initiative is geared to help teens learn life skills while sharing the Orthodox Faith.

April:

4/21/2017 to 5/2/2017 – Kenya: Be a part of a vibrant women's ministry in the new Diocese of Kisumu and West Kenya. Participate and teach at the Diocese Mother's Union retreat that brings women from different tribes and regions together for learning, fellowship, and growth.

May:

5/22/2017 to 6/10/2017 – Indonesia: Teach and encourage the students at Orthodox schools in Indonesia.

June:

6/6/2017 to 6/20/2017 – Kenya: Assist the community of St. Moses Orthodox Church in Kakamega, in the new Diocese of Kisumu and West Kenya, build their permanent church building.

6/13/2017 to 6/27/2017 – Albania: Conduct a summer camp program for youth at the Children's Home of Hope in Shen Vlash.

6/27/2017 to 7/10/2017 – Indonesia: Offer a family and youth outreach while teaching English in Bali. Minister to the youth and graduates of the St. Thomas Orthodox House that provides for the needs of disadvantaged youth.

July:

7/5/2017 to 7/15/2017 – Alaska: Offer a camp program for children and teenagers at the Protection of the Theotokos Orthodox community in Akhiok to help deepen the faith and be a sign of Christian love and solidarity.

7/20/2017 to 7/31/2017 – Alaska: Participate in a youth camp near Pilot Station, where you will encourage and teach youth at an annual camp that incorporates lessons on the Orthodox Church and Alaskan traditions into the curriculum.

August:

8/2/2017 to 8/14/2017 – Kenya: Offer a camp for youth at a new Orthodox orphanage in Kibera, one of the poorest neighborhoods in Nairobi, and be a part of a holistic ministry of the Church of Kenya.

8/12/2017 to 8/19/2017 – Mexico: Offer youth and adult catechism, experience worship services, and encourage the faithful in Vera Cruz. Spanish-speakers are encouraged to apply.

8/16/2017 to 8/26/2017 – Kenya: Touch the lives of children by leading a camp program for children from the Makarios Children's Home in the Diocese of Nyeri and Mt. Kenya.

8/16/2017 to 8/26/2017 – Kenya: Contribute to youth ministry efforts of the new Diocese of Kisumu and West Kenya at an annual youth retreat for youth leaders and young adults.

8/25/2017 to 9/3/2017 – Guatemala: Provide health care and health education in the predominately Mayan region of northern Guatemala.

September:

9/11/2017 to 9/23/2017 – Indonesia: Assist with the health care outreach at the Theotokos Orthodox Hospital in Medan.

Visit https://www.ocmc.org/about/open_teams.aspx, e-mail teams@ocmc.org, or call 1-877-463-6784 for more information or to volunteer.