

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, September 18, 2016

Gospel: Mark 8:24-9:1 (Sunday After)
Matthew 21:33-42

Tone 4
Epistle: Galatians 2:16-20 (Sunday After)
1 Corinthians 16:13-24

11th Sunday after Pentecost; Afterfeast of the Elevation of the Cross

**Glory to
Jesus Christ!**



*Afterfeast of the Elevation
of the Cross*

**Glory
Forever!**

*O Lord, save Your people, And bless You inheritance.
Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians Over their adversaries.
And by virtue of Your Cross, Preserve Your habitation.*

(Troparion – Tone 1)

*As You were voluntarily raised upon the cross for our sake,
Grant mercy to those who are called by Your Name, O Christ God;
Make all Orthodox Christians glad by Your power,
Granting them victories over their adversaries,
By bestowing on them the Invincible trophy, Your weapon of Peace.*

(Kontakion – Tone 4)

Today's Commemorated Feasts and Saints

11th Sunday After Pentecost — Tone 4. Afterfeast of the Elevation of the Cross. Sunday after Elevation. St. Eumenes, Bishop of Gortyna (6th c.). Martyr Ariadne of Phrygia (2nd c.). Martyrs Sophia and Irene of Egypt (3rd c.). Martyr Castor of Alexandria (3rd c.). Greatmartyr Prince Bidzini and Martyrs Princes Elizabar and Shalvi, of Georgia (1660).

Prayer Requests

For Health of:

Brianna, on her birthday, offered by her parents Trudy & Phil Elmore.

Gabrielle, on her birthday, offered by her godmother Trudy Elmore.

Marina Moroz, the mother of Matushka Katia Vansuch; **Luba Japadjief**; and **Helen Fadell**, offered by Archbishop Michael and the Diocese of NY/NJ.

In Memory of:

Matushka Cecelia Burdikoff, wife of Archpriest Igor, and mother Deacon Michael Burdikoff, offered by Archbishop Michael and the Diocese of NY/NJ.

Liturgical Schedule

Sunday, September 18th

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

Saturday, September 24th

6:30 pm: Vespers

Sunday, September 25th

9:40 am: Hours
10:00 am: Divine Liturgy
12:15 pm: Council Mtg.

Saturday, October 1st

6:30 pm: Vespers

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

Bulletin Sponsors:

Trudy and Phil Elmore

Readings:

The Prokeimenon in the 7th Tone:

Extol the Lord our God: worship at His footstool for He is holy!
(*Psalm 98:5*)
vs. The Lord reigns, let the people tremble!
(*Psalm 98:1*)

Epistle: Galatians 2:16-20 (Sunday After)

Brethren, knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified. But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not! For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make 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 lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 16:13-24

Brethren, be watchful, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love. Now, brethren, you know that the household of Steph'anas were the first converts in Acha'ia, and they have devoted themselves to the service of the saints; I urge you to be subject to such men and to every fellow worker and labourer. I rejoice at the coming of Steph'anas and Fortuna'tus and Acha'icus, because they have made up for your absence; for they refreshed my spirit as well as yours. Give recognition to such men. The churches of Asia send greetings. Aq'uila and Prisca, together with the church in their house, send you hearty greetings in the Lord. All the brethren send greetings. Greet one another with a holy kiss. I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. If anyone has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Alleluia in the 1st Tone:

Remember Thy congregation, which Thou hast purchased of old!
(*Psalm 73:2*)
vs. God is our King before the ages; He has worked salvation in the midst of the earth.
(*Psalm 73:12*)

Gospel: Mark 8:24-9:1 (Sunday After)

When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, “Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels. And He said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power.”

Gospel: Matthew 21:33-42

The Lord said, "Hear another parable. There was a householder who planted a vineyard, and set a hedge around it, and dug a wine press in it, and built a tower, and let it out to tenants, and went into another country. When the season of fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants, to get his fruit; and the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first; and they did the same to them. Afterward he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.' And they took him and cast him out of the vineyard, and killed him. When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons." Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The very stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes'?"



Afterfeast of the Elevation of the Cross

From September 15 until the Leavetaking, we sing “O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ. O son of God crucified in the flesh, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia” at weekday Liturgies following the Little Entrance.

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: ChurchMotherOfGod@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

Church School News: Our Sunday school classes begin today, Sunday September 18th. The schedule for classes will remain the same as last year: The upper elementary grades (grade 4 & up) will meet before the Liturgy at 9:30 am. This class will not meet on the first Sunday of each month because of general confessions. The primary grades and pre-school classes will meet immediately after communion each week. These classes will meet every week.

If your child attended our Sunday school last year, we ask that you use the sign-up sheet at the candle stand to re-register. If your child did not attend our church school last year and you wish to enroll him/her this year, please fill out a registration form, also available at the candle stand. Questions about Sunday school can be directed to Maribeth Romanofsky or Linda Dantine.

The Sisterhood of the Protection of the Theotokos is having a "Let's Celebrate Our Heritage" luncheon on October 2, 2016. See the posters for details. This should be fun!

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



NY/NJ Diocese News

HERKIMER NY: Preparing for the Parish 100th Anniversary

The Parishioners and Clergy of **Saints Peter & Paul Orthodox Church in Herkimer NY** welcome you to join us as we celebrate our **100th Anniversary** on (Friday and Saturday) **October 14-15, 2016**. Archbishop Michael will celebrate a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy on Saturday morning at 9:30 AM with the entrance and vesting of His Eminence at 9:00 AM. A celebratory banquet will follow.

From the Office of the Bishop

Congratulations are extended to:

Matushka Christine Hoeplinger, her son Stephen and daughter-in-law Stephanie, on the birth her granddaughter and their daughter **Louisa May** on Wednesday, September 14.

Lawrence Barlow, tonsured to the rank of Reader, by His Eminence, Archbishop Michael, on Sunday, September 4, in Saints Peter and Paul Church, Endicott NY.

Reader Basil Kozak, awarded the Diocesan Gramota by His Eminence, Archbishop Michael, in honor of his 25 years of service as Choir Director in Saints Peter and Paul Church, South River NJ, on Sunday, September 11.

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

Honoring our college students on Sunday, October 2

Every year, parishes across North America honor their college students at the outset of the fall semester. This year, the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America has designated October 2 as College Student Sunday.

"Orthodox Christian Fellowship continues to provide students with opportunities to encounter Christ and grow in their Orthodox faith through their growing network of campus OCF chapters led by talented students, clergy and lay advisors, as well as through programs such as regional retreats, college conference, 'Real Break,' and the summer leadership institute," writes His Grace, Bishop Gregory of Nyssa, Liaison to OCF for the Assembly, in an encyclical marking the occasion. "OCF continues to make every effort to connect new freshmen to campus chapters and local parishes through the First Forty Days Initiative, which involves extensive effort from our student leaders and spiritual advisors to contact every incoming freshman within their first 40 days on campus. We wholeheartedly pray for and strongly encourage your support of these noble efforts by ensuring that the contact information for your parish's graduating high school seniors be sent each and every year to the OCF National Office for dissemination to our dedicated local chapters."

OCF offers a number of suggestions by which parishes can reach out to students on College Student Sunday and throughout the school year.

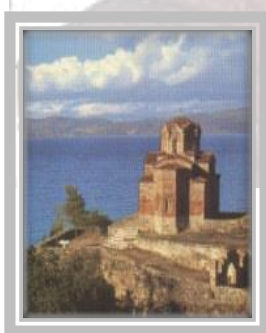
1. Give a presentation. Invite your local OCF chapter or a student from your parish to give a short presentation on the impact OCF has had on their lives.

2. Do something to recognize your college students. Host a lunch, make care packages, or even just mention OCF from the pulpit.

3. Designate a Parish Liaison. Select one person—a Church School teacher, a secretary, a parish council member, any willing volunteer—to be the OCF parish liaison. Through the Parish Liaison Program, OCF will keep your community informed about all that it does and assist with collaborating on initiatives.

4. Make a donation. OCF asks that a tray be passed on its behalf this year. More information on donating to OCF may be found on the OCF web site.

5. Become a Parish Partner. Those parishes wishing to make the strongest commitment to Orthodox campus ministry and our Church's young people are encouraged to become Parish Partners. In addition to designating a Parish Liaison to keep your community informed and prepared as advocates for Orthodox campus ministry, your parish would make an annual financial commitment to OCF to ensure its continued success and growth for generations of Orthodox college students to come. Send an e-mail to info@ocf.net for more details about Parish Partnerships.



Prayers by the Laker, St. Velimirovich, LXXIV:

*The Father looks from Heaven and sees me covered with wounds from the injustice of men, and says: "Do not take revenge."*¹

On whom shall I take revenge, O Lord? On a portion of the flock on its way to slaughter?

Does a physician take revenge on patients, for cursing him from their death bed?

On whom shall I take revenge? On the snow, for melting, or on the grass, for withering? Does a gravedigger take revenge on those descending into the grave?

On whom shall I take revenge? On simpletons, for thinking that they can do evil to someone else in the world besides themselves? Does a teacher take revenge on illiterate

children for not knowing how to read?

Eternity bears me witness, that all those who are quick to avenge are slow to read and comprehend the mysteries of vengeance.

Time bears me witness, that all those who have taken revenge, have accumulated poison in themselves, and with poison they have blotted themselves out of the book of the living.

In what way can you avengers boast before your adversaries, except by being able to repeat their evil? Are you not thereby saying: "We are no better than you?"

God bears me witness: both you and your adversaries are equally reckless and equally incapable of good.

I have seen a cherry tree stripped of its bark and set fire to by children, yet it gave its ripe fruit to those same children.

And I have seen cows, which men tormented with heavy burdens, patiently give milk to those same men.

And tears welled up in my eyes: why is nature more compassionate to men than man is to his fellow man?

Nature bears me witness, avengers: a man is more powerful than those who do him evil only when he is powerless to repeat their evil deeds.

There is no end to vengeance, and the heirs continue the work of their fathers and then depart, leaving it unfinished.

Evil races along the wide road, and from each new duel it gains strength and territory, and it multiplies its retinue.

A wise man gets off the road, and leaves evil to race [with itself].

A piece of bread silences a barking dog more swiftly than a pile of stones does.

He who taught men: an eye for an eye -- also taught them how they would all be left blind.

On whom shall I take revenge, my heavenly Father? On a portion of the flock on its way to slaughter?

Ah, how wretched are all evildoers and avengers! Truly, they resemble a flock on its way to be slaughtered and, unaware of where they are heading, they butt horns with each other and perpetrate a slaughter before the slaughter.

I do not seek vengeance, my Father; I do not seek vengeance, but seek rather that You grant me a sea of tears, so that I can bewail the wretchedness of those who are on their way to slaughter, unaware of where they are heading.

Sayings of the Ascetics of the Orthodox Church, LXXIV:

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

If a man does not tell everything to his spiritual father, then his path is crooked and does not lead to the Kingdom of Heaven. But the path of one who tells everything leads directly to the Kingdom of Heaven.

+ St. Silouan the Athonite, Writings, XIII.9

The Morning Offering – Daily Inspiration by Abbott Tryphon



The Age of Information

The difference between wisdom and knowledge

In this age of information we must demonstrate to our youth the difference between information and wisdom. Wisdom is that which is passed down from the past and which imparts substance and enlightenment. Wisdom is not about information, and does not compete with worldly knowledge. Wisdom need not be in conflict with science, nor be linked to narrow mindedness. Wisdom is that which not only connects us to the best of human knowledge and experience, but links us to that which is eternal. Wisdom gives us the ability to relate to our Creator, to our culture and to others. The urgency of imparting this message is great, for we have a whole generation that is in danger of losing faith in God.

With love in Christ,
Abbot Tryphon



Daily Reflection
Decorating the Graves

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and decorate the graves of the righteous, and you say, ‘If we had lived in the days of our ancestors, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.’ Thus you testify against yourselves that you are descendants of those who murdered the prophets. And you fill up complete the measure of your ancestors.” (Mt 23: 29-31)



The Pharisees have this ostentatious fidelity to prophetic authorities of the distant past, while murderously plotting against One speaking to them in the here and now. It's easy, isn't it, to profess loyalty to “patristic Tradition” and to the Fathers no longer with us? It's chilling, really, how such loyalty can be coupled, also in our time, with a disregard, or even fierce opposition to, the Church-authorities of today. It's reminiscent of some of the “traditionalist” opposition to the Holy Council recently convened in Crete.

But my point is not to argue with anyone. “...I mean no harm,” as Bob Dylan says, “nor put fault / On anyone that lives in a vault...” Let me be reminded today, for myself, of our Lord's admonishments to the scribes and Pharisees, that I be sensitive to His voice in the here and now. Let me “be attentive” to the authorities He sends me today, that I may have the eyes to see, and the ears to hear, where He is leading me in the today.

Holy Orthodox Quotes

“Wealth and ambition often serve as the cause of a multitude of sins and such happiness is not one on which to rely.”

+St. Makary of Optina

1 Timothy 6:6-12

Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.† Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.†

The Philokalia: Daily Readings

Worldly virtues promote human glory, spiritual virtues the glory of God.

+ 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. Nikolai Velimirovich: Our Cross

“What does it mean to take up your cross? It means the willing acceptance, at the hand of Providence, of every means of healing, bitter though it may be, that is offered. Do great catastrophes fall on you? Be obedient to God's will, as Noah was. Is sacrifice demanded of you? Give yourself into God's hands with the same faith as Abraham had when he went to sacrifice his son. Is your property ruined? Do your children die suddenly? Suffer it all with patience, cleaving to God in your heart, as Job did. Do your friends forsake you, and you find yourself surrounded by enemies? Bear it all without grumbling, and with faith that God's help is at hand, as the apostles did.”

Collected Sayings of Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica

Our Lord is pleased with the good deeds we perform. Works of mercy and everything else we do for our salvation and the benefit of our neighbor and the Holy Church, all this is pleasing to God. However, what pleases Him most is simple, innocent and childlike love which cleaves to His heart. This is what is most pleasing to Him and what He wants from us. This is what every person can give Him, rich or poor, young or old.

Ancient Christian Wisdom

Cleanse your mind from anger, remembrance of evil, and shameful thoughts, and then you will find out how Christ dwells in you.

+ St. Maximus the Confessor

It's Strange

- It's strange how twenty dollars seems like such a large amount when you donate it to church, but such a small amount when you go shopping.
- It's strange how 2 hours seem so long when you're at church, and how short they seem when you're watching a good movie.
- It's strange that you can't find words to say when you're praying, but you have no trouble thinking what to talk about with a friend.
- It's strange how difficult it is to read one chapter of the Bible, but how easy it is to read a popular novel.
- It's strange how everyone wants front-row-tickets to concerts, but they want to sit in the last row at Church.
- It's strange how we need to know about an event for Church 2-3 weeks before the day so we can include it in our agenda, but we can adjust it for other events in the last minute?
- It's strange how difficult it is to learn a fact about God and share it with others, but it's easy to repeat gossip.
- It's strange how we believe everything that magazines and newspapers say, but we question the words in the Bible?