

Today's Bulletin is Sponsored for:

Vasil, Oleg, Anna, and Maria

Readings:

- I Timothy 2:1-7 (Epistle, New Year)
- Luke 4:16-22 (Gospel, New Year)
- Colossians 3:12-16 (Epistle, St. Simeon)
- Matthew 11:27-30 (Gospel, St. Simeon)
 - **1 Corinthians 4:9-16**
 - **Matthew 17:14-23**

BRETHREN, God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are ill-clad and buffeted and homeless, and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become, and are now, as the refuse of the world, the off-scouring of all things. I do not write this to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. I urge you, then, be imitators of me.

At that time, when they came to the crowd, a man came up to him and kneeling before him said, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly; for often he falls into the fire, and often into the water. And I brought him to your disciples, and they could not heal him." And Jesus answered, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me." And Jesus rebuked him, and the demon came out of him, and the boy was cured instantly. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" He said to them, "Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you." As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of man is to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him, and he will be raised on the third day." And they were greatly distressed.

Saturday service: Vespers – 6:30 PM

Sunday service:

Hours – 9:40 AM

Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM

Private Confession – Half hour before any service. See Fr Matthew for other times.

General Confession – 9:45 AM on the first Sunday of each month

Pannikidas – after Divine Liturgy 3rd Sunday of each month

Coffee hour – after Liturgy

(Church School will begin on September 15th at 9:30 AM.)

We would like to welcome all parish visitors and invite you to join us after the Liturgy, downstairs, for Coffee hour.

Announcements:

- **Church School** will be beginning for the new school year on September 15th. Classes meet at 9:30 AM in the community room, and will meet each Sunday **except for the first Sunday of each month**. Church School is open to all children in grades pre-K through 8. Registration forms are available at the candle stand. Lessons are individualized and materials are purchased for each student, so once you have registered, please make every effort to attend Church School each week. Children of visitors are welcome to attend without prior registration.
- The next **meeting of the Sisterhood of the Protection of the Mother of God** will be next Sunday, September 8th, after coffee hour.
- The next **meeting of the Parish Council** will be on Sunday, September 29th, after coffee hour.
- There are now new brochures on a table in our vestibule! If you have not seen them, check them out: "**Welcome to The Orthodox Church: An Introduction**" • "**Prayer 101: A basic 'no excuse' daily rule of prayer for the entire year**" • "**The Orthodox Church & The 12 Steps**" • "**Orthodox Church of the Mother of God**" • "**Church History Timeline**" Contributions to defray printing costs (paper and ink) are welcome.

Special Announcements:

- Special Announcements for the bulletin can be submitted by E-Mail to: Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org
- Upcoming bulletins can be sponsored; this can be done with the signup sheet at the candle stand.

Church New Year:

The first day of the Church New Year is also called the beginning of the **Indiction**. The term Indiction comes from a Latin word meaning, *“to impose.”* It was originally applied to the imposition of taxes in Egypt. The first worldwide Indiction was in 312 when the Emperor Constantine (May 21) saw a miraculous vision of the Cross in the sky. Before the introduction of the Julian calendar, Rome began the New Year on September 1.

According to Holy Tradition, Christ entered the synagogue on September 1 to announce His mission to mankind (Luke 4:16-22). Quoting Isaiah 61:1-2), the Savior proclaimed, *“The spirit of the Lord is upon me; because He has anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent me to proclaim release to captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord...”* This scene is depicted in a Vatican manuscript (Vatican, Biblioteca. Cod. Gr. 1613, p.1).

Tradition says that the Hebrews entered the Promised Land in September.

Simeon the Stylite:

Simeon was born to a shepherd's family in the Cappadocian village of Sisan in Syria. When he was a youth, he was deeply moved after hearing the Beatitudes, and decided to join a monastery. His desire for fasting and asceticism grew quickly.

The abbot asked him to withdraw from the monastery due to his strict asceticism, fearing that the other brothers would imitate the extreme fasts. Simeon withdrew to live in an empty well in the nearby mountains. The monks searched for him and asked Simeon to return to the monastery, but he soon left again to continue his asceticism.

Crowds came to him to receive healing and to learn more about the Christian faith, but to avoid them, Simeon went up to a pillar and began to live there in a little cell, still devoted to prayer and fasting. He sat or stood in prayer for many weeks at a time, but he was hardly cut off from the world.

He wrote letters and even received visitors via a ladder. Many threatened and ridiculed him, but far more were inspired by his constant fasting and prayer. Those who were attentive to his teachings include the Emperor Theodosius II of Rome and his wife, Empress Aelia Eudocia, as well as the Righteous Genevieve of Paris. His letter to the Emperor Leo of Constantinople in favor of the Council of Chalcedon was highly respected. Many people came to listen to him and even to be baptized:

“Theodoret says that he became so famous in Rome that the Nomadic Arabs by the thousands believed in Christ and were baptized because of him; the King of Persia sent envoys to inquire into his way of life, and the Queen asked to be sent oil that he had blessed. He also was a great defender of sound doctrine, and confirmed the Orthodoxy of the Holy Council of Chalcedon for many who had been beguiled by the teachings of the Monophysites, including the Empress Eudocia, widow of Theodosius the Younger. After a life of unheard-of achievements and struggles, he reposed in peace at the age of sixty-nine, in the year 459.”

His body was taken down three days after his death, and his relics were sent to Antioch.



See us on the web at: ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin
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Sunday Bulletin

Church of the Mother of God

“The Joy of All the Sorrowful”

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St. Simeon the Stylite

**Glory to
Jesus Christ**

**Glory
Forever**

*Seeking the things of the Highest,
And having made your pillar a fiery chariot, you were joined to the heights.
Therefore, you have become a companion to the angels, O Venerable One,
And with them you are praying incessantly to Christ God for us all.*
Kontakion- Simeon Stylites, the Elder

Today the Church remembers:

Church New Year (Indiction) ● St. Simeon the Stylite (the Elder) and his mother, Ven. Martha (ca. 428) ● Martyr Aithalas of Persia (380) ● Holy Forty Women Martyrs and Martyr Ammon the Deacon, their teacher, at Heraclea in Thrace (4th c.). Martyrs Callista and her brothers, Evodius and Hermogenes, at Nicomedia (309) ● Righteous Joshua the Son of Nun (16th c. B.C.) ● Synaxis of the Most-holy Theotokos in the Miasenga Monastery (commemorating the finding of her Icon there—864) ● The “CHERNIGOV-GETHSEMANE” Icon of the Most-holy Theotokos (1869)

September 1, 2013

10th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 1 of the Octoechos