

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 25, 2016

Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

Saint: Luke 6:17-23

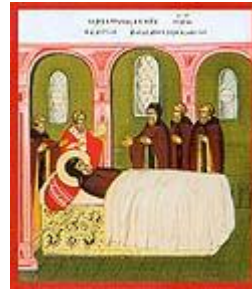
Tone 5 (1st of Luke)

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 1:21-2:4

Saint: Galatians 5:22-6:2

14th Sunday after Pentecost; Repose of Ven. Sergius (Sérgii), Abbot and Wonderworker of Rádonezh

**Glory to
Jesus Christ!**



*Repose of Ven. Sergius
(Sérgii), Abbot and
Wonderworker of Rádonezh*

**Glory
Forever!**

A zealot of good deeds and a true warrior of Christ our God, you struggled greatly against the passions in this passing life; in songs and vigils and fasting you were an image and example to your disciples, thus the most Holy Spirit lived within you, and you were made beautiful by His working. Since you have great boldness before the Holy Trinity, remember the flock which you have wisely gathered, and do not forget to visit your children as you promised, venerable Sergius our father!

(Troparion – Tone 4)

Bound by the love of Christ, O venerable one, and following Him with unwavering desire, you despised all carnal pleasures and you shone like the sun in your land. Therefore, Christ has enriched you with the gift of miracles. Remember us who venerate your most holy memory, and who call out to you:

“Rejoice, Sergius, made wise by God!”

(Kontakion – Tone 8)

Today’s Commemorated Feasts and Saints

14th Sunday After Pentecost — Tone 5. Repose of Ven. Sergius (Sérgii), Abbot and Wonderworker of Rádonezh (1392). Ven. Euphrosyne of Alexandria (5th c.). Ven. Euphrosyne of Suzdal’ (1250). Translation of the Relics of St. Herman, Archbishop of Kazan’ (1595). Martyr Paphnutius and 546 companions in Egypt (3rd c.).

Prayer Requests

For Health of:

Mike & Susan Guedes, on their 19th wedding anniversary, offered by their family.

Rebeka (Silvana) Rroko (Home of Hope), on her birthday, offered by Sub-Deacon Vlashi.

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 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

Saturday, October 15th

6:30 pm: Vespers

Sunday, October 16th

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

Bulletin Sponsors:

The Guedes Family

Readings:

The Prokeimenon in the 7th Tone:

Thou, O Lord, shalt protect us and preserve us from this generation forever.
(Psalm 11:8)
vs. Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer any that is godly!
(Psalm 11:2)

Another, Tone 4 (Saint):

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.
(Psalm 115:6)

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 1:21-2:4

Brethren, it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has commissioned us; he has put his seal upon us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. But I call God to witness against me--it was to spare you that I refrained from coming to Corinth. Not that we lord it over your faith; we work with you for your joy, for you stand firm in your faith. For I made up my mind not to make you another painful visit. For if I cause you pain, who is there to make me glad but the one whom I have pained? And I wrote as I did, so that when I came I might not suffer pain from those who should have made me rejoice, for I felt sure of all of you, that my joy would be the joy of you all. For I wrote you out of much affliction and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to cause you pain but to let you know the abundant love that I have for you.

Saint: Galatians 5:22-6:2

Brethren, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another. Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

Alleluia in the 5th Tone:

I will sing of Thy mercies, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Thy truth from generation to generation. *(Psalm 88:2)*
vs. For Thou hast said: "Mercy will be established forever; My truth will be prepared in the heavens."
(Psalm 88:3)

Another, Tone 6 (Saint):

Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in His commandments.
(Psalm 111:1)

Gospel: Luke 5:1-11 (1st Sunday of Luke)

At that time, Jesus was standing by the lake of Gennesaret. And he saw two boats by the lake; but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when he had ceased speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." And when they had done this, they enclosed a great shoal of fish; and as their nets were breaking, they beckoned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." For he was astonished, and all who were with him, at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching men." And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

Saint: Luke 6:17-23

And He came down with them and stood on a level place with a crowd of His disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem, and from the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear Him and be healed of their diseases, as well as those who were tormented with unclean spirits. And they were healed. And the whole multitude sought to touch Him, for power went out from Him and healed them all. Then He lifted up His eyes toward His disciples, and said: Blessed are you poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who hunger now, for you shall be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh. Blessed are you when men hate you, and when they exclude you, and revile you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of Man's sake. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy! For indeed your reward is great in heaven, for in like manner their fathers did to the prophets.



Repose of Ven. Sergius (Sérgii), Abbot and Wonderworker of Rádonezh

Saint Sergius of Radonezh was born in the village of Varnitsa, near Rostov, on May 3, 1314. His parents were the pious and illustrious nobles Cyril and Maria (September 28). The Lord chose him while still in his mother's womb. In the Life of St Sergius it is reported that even before the birth of her son, St Maria and those praying heard the thrice-repeated cry of the infant at the Divine Liturgy: before the reading of the Holy Gospel, during the Cherubic hymn, and when the priest pronounced: "Holy Things are for the

Holy."



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

There is a parish council meeting today after Divine Liturgy and coffee hour at 12:15 pm.

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

WHITESTONE NY: Parish Celebrates 100th Anniversary

The 100th Anniversary of **Saint Nicholas Church in Whitestone NY** was celebrated on 18 September 2016. Sunday morning found the congregation eagerly waiting to greet Archbishop “Vladika” Michael. Bread, salt and flowers were presented to greet His Eminence by Paul Tymus and his granddaughter, Heather. After worship, parishioners and guests gathered nearby for a festive banquet and dance. The 100th Anniversary of Saint Nicholas Church was a time of gratitude for God’s abundant blessings, memories shared, fine fellowship and joyful festivity.

From the Office of the Bishop

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

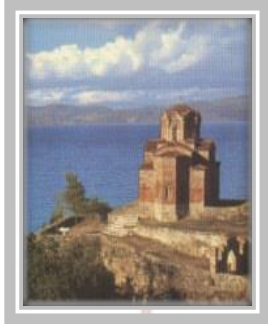
Retreat fosters brotherhood among STOTS alumni, seminarians

Students and alumni of Saint Tikhon’s Orthodox Theological Seminary here gathered on campus for a joint retreat—hailed as the most positive, successful seminarian-alumni gathering in recent memory—on September 1 and 2, 2016. The retreat afforded students the opportunity to meet those who had been trained at Saint Tikhon’s and now serve as stewards of Christ’s vineyard while providing a context in which both groups could grow together in fellowship and self-reflection.

On Thursday afternoon, September 1, Priest Andrew Stephen Damick, Pastor of Saint Paul Antiochian Orthodox Church, Emmaus, PA [STOTS 2007], opened the retreat with a presentation titled “The Priest and Parish as Family,” in which he encouraged those assembled to consider how their own parish communities operate under the same dynamics as families. In a follow-up session with Archpriest Steven Voytovich, STOTS Dean, seminarians and alumni briefly separated into small groups to consider how their own personal family experiences might shape parish ministry. Reflections from each group were shared with all participants. In the evening, the alumni treated the seminarians and their families to a delicious barbeque dinner.

Archimandrite Sergius, Abbot of Saint Tikhon’s Monastery [STOTS 2005], delivered a powerful talk the next day in which he outlined the three stages of spiritual life as taught by Archimandrite Zacharias [Zacharou] in his work, Remember Thy First Love. Archimandrite Sergius offered encouragement that the difficulties we frequently experience are the “testing of your faith [that] produces patience” [James 1:3], and that it is by this patient endurance that we gain the salvation of our souls [Luke 21:19].

The final event of the retreat was unique in that second and third-year seminarians were present at the alumni business meeting as official alumni for the first time. While there were many thoughts, feelings and deep emotions expressed at this meeting concerning the importance of the work of Saint Tikhon’s Seminary, perhaps the theme that stood out most prominently was that the student body and the gathered alumni may learn from each other and that both are dependent in one way or another. While it is clear that the seminarians may be guided and taught by those currently serving in parish ministry, the clergy also expressed their conviction that they may learn from the seminarians and be inspired by their zeal and vision for the Church. Christ is our source of life and renewal, and as branches of the True Vine, we abide in Him and grow together.



Prayers by the Laker, St. Velimirovich, LXXV:

Bless my enemies, O Lord. Even I bless them and do not curse them.1

Enemies have driven me into Your embrace more than friends have. Friends have bound me to earth, enemies have loosed me from earth and have demolished all my aspirations in the world.

Enemies have made me a stranger in worldly realms and an extraneous inhabitant of the world. Just as a hunted animal finds safer shelter than an unhunted animal, so have I, persecuted by enemies, found the safest sanctuary, having ensconced myself beneath Your tabernacle, where neither friends nor enemies can slay my soul. Bless my enemies, O Lord. Even I bless them and do not curse them.

They, rather than I, have confessed my sins before the world.

They have flagellated me, whenever I have hesitated to flagellate myself.

They have tormented me, whenever I have tried to flee torments.

They have scolded me, whenever I have flattered myself. They have spat upon me, whenever I have filled myself with arrogance.

Bless my enemies, O Lord. Even I bless them and do not curse them.

Whenever I have made myself wise, they have called me foolish.

Whenever I have made myself mighty, they have mocked me as though I were a dwarf.

Whenever I have wanted to lead people, they have shoved me into the background.

Whenever I have rushed to enrich myself, they have prevented me with an iron hand.

Whenever I thought that I would sleep peacefully, they have wakened me from sleep.

Whenever I have tried to build a home for a long and tranquil life, they have demolished it and driven me out.

Truly, enemies have cut me loose from the world and have stretched out my hands to the hem of Your garment.

Bless my enemies, O Lord. Even I bless them and do not curse them.

Bless them and multiply them; multiply them and make them even more bitterly against me --

so that my fleeing to You may have no return; so that all hope in men may be scattered like cobwebs; so that absolute serenity may begin to reign in my soul;

so that my heart may become the grave of my two evils twins: arrogance and anger;

so that I might amass all my treasure in heaven;²

ah, so that I may for once be freed from self-deception, which has entangled me in the dreadful web of illusory life.

Enemies have taught me to know -- what hardly anyone knows -- that a person has no enemies in the world except himself.

One hates his enemies only when he fails to realize that they are not enemies, but cruel friends.

It is truly difficult for me to say who has done me more good and who has done me more evil in the world: friends or enemies.

Therefore bless, O Lord, both my friends and my enemies.

A slave curses enemies, for he does not understand. But a son blesses them, for he understands.

For a son knows that his enemies cannot touch his life. Therefore he freely steps among them and prays to God for them.

Bless my enemies, O Lord. Even I bless them and do not curse them.

Sayings of the Ascetics of the Orthodox Church, LXXV:

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

Tell everything to your spiritual father, and the Lord will have mercy on you and you will escape delusion. But if you think that you know more about the spiritual life than your spiritual father, and you stop telling him everything about yourself in confession, then you will immediately be allowed to fall into some sort of delusion, in order that you may be corrected.

+ St. Silouan the Athonite, Writings, XVII.13

The Morning Offering – Daily Inspiration by Abbott Tryphon



Reverence in Church

God’s house is entered with awe and fear

We must practice reverence in the temple, whether during services or when we step into the church to light a candle and venerate the holy icons. The temple is the place set apart for the worship of the Holy Trinity and is the place where the Bloodless Sacrifice is offered before the Throne of God.

It is in the temple that we receive the Body and Blood of our Saviour unto remission of sins and unto life everlasting. It is the holy place where we are cleansed of our sins through the threefold immersion of baptism, becoming members of One Body, the Church.

The temple is the place where we seek to be reconciled with God through the Mystery of Penance and enter into the life of the Spirit. The temple is God’s house and must be entered with awe and fear.

With love in Christ,
Abbot Tryphon



**Daily Reflection
Too Much Information**



“(The serpent) said to the woman, ‘Did God say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree of the garden?’ And the woman said to the serpent, ‘We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden; but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” But the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked...” (Gen 3: 1-7)

Weren’t Adam and Eve supposed to grow in knowledge? Yes. But not like this. Not on their own terms, nor at their own, desired pace. According to God’s terms, in their “infancy” the first human beings were not to eat of the “fruit” of “the tree of knowledge of good and evil.” Because this “fruit” represents “Too Much Information,” – or “too much, too soon.” Like most young people, in the garden we decided we wanted to speed up our growing-up process, and like most loving parents, God had wanted to slow us down, “lest we die.”

In our age of Too Much Information, available practically at any time and in any place, I am reminded today of God’s loving boundaries, intended to guide and protect me amidst the abundance of it all. I caution myself, in His wisdom, both against “oversharing” my own information, and against “over-indulging” in other people’s. I am also reminded not to be discouraged by our “falls” into “eating of the fruit” of the forbidden tree. Because God has provided me with His “other” tree, the Tree of Life (Gen 2: 9), or His life-giving cross. I take it up and carry it today, as it carries me, helping me walk forward and face life on Life’s terms.

Holy Orthodox Quotes

“Let no one think that he has actually become a child of God if he has not yet acquired divine qualities.”

+St. Thalassios the Libyan

2 Peter 1:2-11

Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord,† as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,† by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.† But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge,† to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.† For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.† Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.†

The Philokalia: Daily Readings

Now that you have renounced the world and material things, renounce evil thoughts as well.

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

Daily Readings with Early Church Fathers and Mothers

"How to Conquer Men" by St. Isaac the Syrian

Conquer men by your gentle kindness, and make zealous men wonder at your goodness. Put the lover of justice to shame by your compassion. With the afflicted be afflicted in mind. Love all men, but keep distant from all men.

Through the Grace of God – Orthodox Christianity

St Nikolai Velimirovich: Struggles

“If your entire life passed smoothly and without worry, then weep for yourself.

For the Gospel and the experience of the people, with one accord assert that no one has, without great suffering and pain, left behind any great and beneficial work on earth or was glorified in the heavens.

If, however, your earthly sojourn is completely adorned with sweat and tears to attain justice and truth, rejoice and be exceedingly glad for truly great is your reward in the heavens.

Do not ever succumb to the insane thought that God has abandoned you. God knows exactly how much one can endure and, according to that, measures the sufferings and pains of everyone.

St. Nil Sorsky says: “When even men know how much weight a horse, or a donkey or a camel can carry and, according to that they are loading them according to their strength; when a potter knows how long to leave the clay in the kiln for it to be neither shattered nor over-baked, how could God not know how much temptation a soul can bear to make it ready and fitted for the Kingdom of Heaven?””

Collected Sayings of Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica

I always seem to be coming back to this subject and repeating myself: we must learn how to approach our Heavenly Father, how to come before Him with our heart and with our whole being, how to please Him as the angels and the saints do. For we are very unclean. God does not take our uncleanness into account when we approach Him from the heart; He accepts us at once. When we sin against our Father and then approach Him from the heart, He forgives everything, as though nothing had ever happened.

Ancient Christian Wisdom

There is the example of the holy martyr Catherine, who suffered for Christ when she was very young, only eighteen years old. Her tormentors threw her into a dungeon all tortured and broken, and the Lord appeared to her. When she asked Him, "Lord, where have You been all this time?" He answered, "I was here all the time, in your heart." "How can that be, O Lord, when my heart is impure, and full of evil and pride?" "Yes," said the Lord, "but you have left room in it for Me. Had I not been with you, you would not have been able to bear all these tortures. I will give you strength so that you can endure until the end.

+ St. Maximus the Confessor

BIBLICAL JESUS	VS	MODERN JESUS
- Born as God Almighty in the flesh <small>(John 1:1-14)</small>		- Was a good teacher and man
- Loves us enough to speak the truth <small>(John 4:1-38)</small>		- Waters down words to avoid offense
- Points us toward eternal treasure <small>(Matthew 6:19-21)</small>		- Promises us earthly treasure
- Warns of sin, judgement & hell <small>(Matthew 5:29)</small>		- Sends all to heaven, dismisses hell
- Commands repentance of sins <small>(Matthew 4:17)</small>		- Minimizes need for repentance of sins
- Gives you salvation, hope, peace & joy <small>(John 15:9-17 & John 14:1-14,27)</small>		- Gives you health, wealth & happiness
- Hated & despised by the world <small>(John 15:18)</small>		- Loved & accepted by the world
- Hates sin & exposes the truth about sin <small>(John 3:18-21)</small>		- Overlooks sin & never corrects you
- Commands with divine authority <small>(Mark 5:1-20)</small>		- Gives suggestions not commandments
- Says to expect persecution in his name <small>(Matthew 10:22)</small>		- Promises our best life now
- Brings division when necessary <small>(Luke 12:49-56)</small>		- Promotes unity & tolerance at all costs
- Exalts God the Father's will <small>(John 6:38)</small>		- Serves your will above God's will
- Warns of false signs & wonders; magnifies God's Word <small>(Matthew 24:24)</small>		- Exalts signs, wonders & mysticism above God's Word
- Demands that emotion, experience & opinion conform to sound teaching <small>(Matthew 23:1-39)</small>		- Exalts emotion, experience & opinion above sound teaching
- Commands you to deny yourself & be willing to lay down your life for God <small>(Matthew 16:24)</small>		- Encourages you to love yourself first & gratify all your fleshly desires

WHICH JESUS DO YOU FOLLOW?