

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 4, 2016

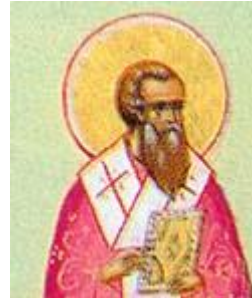
Gospel: Matthew 18:23-35

Tone 2

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 9:2-12

11th Sunday after Pentecost; Hieromartyr Babylas the Bishop of Antioch

**Glory to
Jesus Christ!**



*Hieromartyr Babylas the
Bishop of Antioch*

**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 Babylas, entreat Christ God to save our souls.*

(Troparion – Tone 4)

*You guarded the mighty works of faith in your heart,
therefore, you did not fear the tyrant; preserve us as well,
Hieromartyr Babylas, good servant of Christ.*

(Kontakion – Tone 4)

Today's Commemorated Feasts and Saints

11th Sunday After Pentecost — Tone 2. Hieromartyr Gorazd, Bishop of Bohemia and Moravia-Silesia (Serbian—1942 (1942). Hieromartyr Babylas (Vavila), Bishop of Antioch, and with him Martyrs Urban, Prilidian, and Epolonius; and their mother, Christodula (251). Holy Prophet and Godseer Moses (16th c. B.C.). Uncovering of the Relics of St. Joasaph, Bishop of Belgorod (1911). Martyr Hermione, daughter of St. Philip the Deacon (ca. 117). Martyr Babylas of Nicomedia, and with him 84 children (4th c.). Martyrs Theodore, Mianus (Ammianus), Julian, Kion (Oceanus), and Centurionus, of Nicomedia (305-311). Icon of the Most-holy Theotokos, “THE UNBURNT BUSH” (1680).

Prayer Requests

For Health of:

Laura, on her birthday, offered by mom, Liz.

Janet Van Duyn & June Pavlov, recovering from surgery:

Juliana Woodill and her new-born daughter Elizabeth (the baby is presently in the NICU);

Archpriest John Reeves, being treated for cancer;

Presbyter John Parsells, son of Archpriest James Parsells, undergoing surgery (Thursday, Sep. 1), offered the Diocese of NY/NJ.

In Memory of:

For all who died in the 9/11 terrorist attacks, offered by Trudy Ellmore.

Liturgical Schedule

Sunday, September 4th

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

Saturday, September 10th

6:30 pm: Vespers

Sunday, September 11th

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

Saturday, September 17th

6:30 pm: Vespers

Sunday, September 18th

9:40 am: Hours
9:45 am: Sunday School
10:00 am: Divine Liturgy

Saturday, September 24th

6:30 pm: Vespers

Sunday, September 25th

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

Bulletin Sponsors:

*Liz Pastore; Trudy
Ellmore*

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: 1 Corinthians 9:2-12

Brethren, you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. This is my defense to those who would examine me. Do we not have the right to our food and drink? Do we not have the right to be accompanied by a wife, as the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living? Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard without eating any of its fruit? Who tends a flock without getting some of the milk? Do I say this on human authority? Does not the law say the same? For it is written in the law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it is treading out the grain." Is it for oxen that God is concerned? Does he not speak entirely for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of a share in the crop. If we have sown spiritual good among you, is it too much if we reap your material benefits? If others share this rightful claim upon you, do not we still more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ.

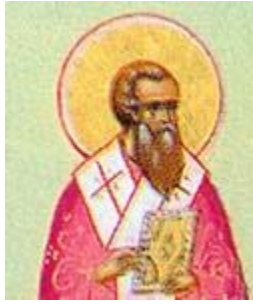
Alleluia in the 2nd Tone:

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 to Thee!
(*Psalm 19:10*)

Gospel: Matthew 18:23-35

The Lord said this parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the reckoning, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents; and as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him the lord of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But that same servant, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' So his fellow servant fell down and besought him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' He refused and went and put him in prison till he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you besought me; and should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord delivered him to the jailers, till he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."



Hieromartyr Babylas the Bishop of Antioch

The Hieromartyr Babylas and with him the three youths Urban, Prilidian, Epolonius and their mother Christodoula died as martyrs under the emperor Decius (249-251). During his stay in their city of Antioch, the emperor arranged for a large festival in honor of the pagan gods.

At the same time, Babylas, the holy and God-fearing Bishop of Antioch, was serving the Divine Liturgy in church. He prayed for his flock and taught them to endure all tribulations for Christ with courage. The idolater Decius, curious to witness the Divine Mysteries, decided to enter the church.

News of this reached the bishop, so he went out to meet Decius and blocked the path to the church, for he was unwilling to permit impiety in the temple of God. When the emperor approached the church doors, St Babylas refused to let him enter, so the emperor had to abandon his intention. He wanted to take revenge on the saint right away, but when he saw the large throng of Christians, he feared they might riot.

The next day the angry emperor ordered that the church be set on fire, and for Bishop Babylas to be brought before him. When asked why he had insulted the imperial dignity by not allowing the emperor to enter the church, the holy bishop answered, “Anyone who would rise up against God and want to desecrate His sanctuary, is not worthy of respect, but has become the enemy of the Lord.”

Decius declared that the holy bishop must worship the idols in order to make up for his lack of respect for the emperor, or else face execution. After convincing himself that the martyr would remain steadfast in his faith, he commanded the military commander Victorinus to put him in heavy chains and lead him through the city in disgrace. The holy martyr replied, “Emperor, these chains are as venerable for me as your imperial crown is for you. For me, suffering for Christ is as desirable as the imperial power is for you. Death for the Immortal King is as precious to me as your life is to you.”

At the trial with Bishop Babylas were three young brothers, who did not forsake him even in this most difficult moment. Seeing them, the emperor asked, “Who are these children?”

“These are my spiritual children,” the saint replied, “and I have raised them in piety, I have given them an education, cultivated them with guidance, and here before you in a small body are these great young men and perfect Christians. Test them and see.”

The emperor tried in all sorts of ways to entice the youths and their mother Christodoula to renounce Christ, but in vain. Then, in a rage, he ordered each of them to be whipped with a number of blows corresponding to their age. The first received twelve blows, the second, ten, and the third, seven. Dismissing the mother and children, the torturer again summoned the bishop, telling him that the children had renounced Christ. He did not believe the lie, however.

Then he commanded all the martyrs be tied to a tree and burned with fire. Seeing the stoic bravery of the saints, the emperor finally condemned them to be beheaded with the sword.



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 will begin again on 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.



NY/NJ Diocese News

ARCHBISHOP MICHAEL: "Happy Birthday!"

"The clergy and faithful of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey convey love, admiration and sincere gratitude to His Eminence, our beloved **Archbishop Michael, as he celebrated his birthday on August 29th.** His love, leadership, determination and wisdom have strengthened, inspired and encouraged dedicated service of the diocesan clergy and laity, and various institutions throughout the Church. We pray that the Lord will give him strength of soul and body, and many good and blessed years. *Eis polla eti Despota!*"

From the Office of the Bishop

Congratulations are extended to:

William Vasily Warner, tonsured to the rank of Reader, by His Eminence, Archbishop Michael, in Saint Innocent Mission, Oneonta NY, on Sunday, August 28.

Upcoming Events:

- September 11: New Jersey Deanery Clergy Family Picnic, Brick, NJ
- 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

SVOTS to host panel discussion on sacred arts September 17

On Saturday, September 17, 2016, at 7:00 p.m., Saint Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary [SVOTS] here will host a panel discussion titled "Rethinking Sacred Arts." The event, which is open to the public, will feature eleven renowned international scholars and artists and draw upon their expertise in the study, practice, and interpretation of the visual arts, music, rhetoric, and aesthetics.

The panel discussion will top off a weekend-long "Sacred Arts Symposium," which is the first in a series of events planned between fall 2016 and spring 2018 by the seminary, all of which are a part of its Sacred Arts Initiative [SAI]. SAI events are funded by a grant from the Henry Luce Foundation and are designed to explore the seminary's contribution to the study and practice of the sacred arts.

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

The prestigious panel will include Father Ivan Moody, Universidade Nova de Lisboa; Gordon Graham, Princeton Theological Seminary; Helen Evans, the Metropolitan Museum of Art; Vasileios Marinis, Yale Divinity School; George Kordis, the University of Athens; Christina Maranci, Tufts University; Annemarie Weyl Carr, Southern Methodist University [Emerita]; Peter Jeffery and Margot Fassler, University of Notre Dame; Judith Wolfe, Saint Andrew’s, Scotland; and Mary Carruthers, New York University [Emerita]. Peter C. Bouteneff, Professor of Systematic Theology at Saint Vladimir’s and SAI Director, will introduce the discussion.

The event will be held in the Metropolitan Philip Auditorium of the John G. Rangos Family Building. Admission is free.

A flyer is available for downloading on the SVOTS web site.

In Memoriam: Stephen Paul Andrew

Stephen Paul Andrew, 32, son of Archpriest Thomas Andrew, Chancellor of the Diocese of Alaska, and Matushka Taisia Andrew of Kenai, AK, perished in a midair plane collision near Russian Mission, AK on Wednesday, August 31, 2016.

According to a story that appeared in the September 1 edition of the Alaska Dispatch News, the pilot and another passenger on the aircraft in which Stephen was traveling also perished in the crash, as did the pilot and passenger of the other plane.

Additional information will be posted as it is received.
May Stephen’s memory be eternal!

Study Guide on Caring for Creation ideal for new school year

September 1 marks the beginning of the ecclesiastical year, but since the late 1980s, it also has been observed as the “Day of Prayer for Creation.” Within this context, “The Earth is the Lord’s: Caring for God’s Creation” — a five-session study guide originally published by the Orthodox Church in America in 1995 and reissued in 2015 — makes an ideal curriculum resource for the opening of the new Church school year.

“The Earth is the Lord’s” addresses stewardship of creation in conjunction with the Day of Prayer. The resource is available free of charge in PDF format, along with a poster highlighting the Day of Prayer. The study resource, written and edited by Archpriest Michael Anderson, Matushka Barbara Kucynda, the late Dr. Constance Tarasar and others, has been widely used over the years in Church school, camping and vacation Bible school programs.

It was on September 1, 1989, that His All-Holiness, the late Ecumenical Patriarch Demetrios I issued the first message from the Ecumenical Throne on the environment and proclaimed the first day of the ecclesiastical year as a Day of Prayer for Creation.



**Orthodox Community Action Teams
Assist in Flood-Ravaged Louisiana**

Baltimore, MD (IOCC) — More than 40,000 homes have been damaged after powerful floods swept across much of Baton Rouge last month. The race to clean homes before mold and other health hazards set in is a challenge as more hands are needed to help in the short-term response and long-term recovery. Orthodox Christian volunteers organized by International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) are rallying to their neighbors in need with cleanup assistance in affected communities.

IOCC Community Action volunteers of all ages, many from New Orleans, have been working tirelessly over the past few weeks, helping clean out the flood-damaged Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, and assisting people in the communities surrounding Baton Rouge rip out waterlogged walls and cabinets, pull up soaked carpet, and throw away family furniture and possessions that were beyond saving.

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

Memories of the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina more than ten years ago are still vivid for New Orleans resident, Dimitri Poulos, 40, and his son, Andreas, 14, who came out to volunteer. "I will never forget the destruction to our house and all around me. Our family home was left without walls," said Dimitri. He also remembers the kindness of strangers who helped his family clean up after the disaster, prompting him to take time off from the family restaurant business and drive two hours with his son to offer their assistance to distressed families. "A lot of people of Baton Rouge aren't getting the help they need like we did after Hurricane Katrina. I know what a difference it made for us, and this is my chance to pay it forward."

The clean-up efforts by Orthodox Christian volunteers have been warmly welcomed, but the needs in Baton Rouge are still great as flood survivors face the slow and costly path to recovery, according to IOCC US Country Representative Dan Christopulos. "The outpouring of support and willingness to help has been tremendous, especially in offering to help people in the community," he said. Along with the volunteer clean-up crews, 1,000 school kits and 500 clean-up buckets provided by Orthodox Christians and ecumenical partners have been distributed to Louisiana flood victims in six counties.

"We encourage Orthodox volunteers to continue to assist in the recovery with local IOCC relief partners once we leave the area. The most effective way that people who are not able to offer hands-on help but wish to support these efforts is by making a financial contribution or by assembling kits," added Christopulos.

Many areas affected around Baton Rouge were not thought to be at high risk for flooding. The flooding and natural disasters are a reminder to all families to be prepared for disasters and have a family emergency plan. Severe summer weather has left a path of destruction across the US. In addition to the Louisiana flood relief, IOCC and Orthodox Christian volunteers around the country have also responded to their neighbors in need with cleanup assistance in the aftermath of floods in West Virginia, Missouri and Minnesota.

How Can You Help

Make a donation. You can help the victims of disasters in the United States, like the West Virginia floods and Minnesota floods and tornadoes, by making a financial gift to the United States Emergency Response Fund. Your support will provide immediate relief as well as long-term support through emergency aid, recovery assistance and other support to help those in need. To make a gift, please visit iocc.org, call toll free at 1-877-803-IOCC (4622), or mail a check or money order payable to IOCC, P.O. Box 17398, Baltimore, MD 21297-0429.

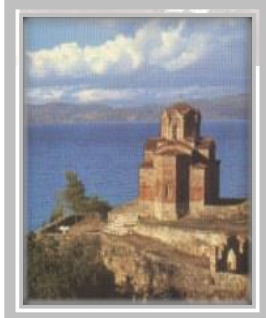
Assemble emergency kits. IOCC also anticipates the need for emergency clean-up buckets which are in low supply. For directions on how to assemble emergency clean-up buckets, please visit iocc.org/kits.

Prepare a household disaster preparedness kit and emergency plan like the one offered at ready.gov/kit.

About International Orthodox Christian Charities

IOCC is the official humanitarian aid agency of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America. Since its inception in 1992, IOCC has delivered \$580 million in relief and development programs to families and communities in more than 50 countries. IOCC is a member of the ACT Alliance, a global coalition of churches and agencies engaged in development, humanitarian assistance and advocacy. To learn more about IOCC, please visit our website at iocc.org.

Prayers by the Laker, St. Velimirovich, LXXII:



Deliver my soul from self-delusion, my God, so that my body may also be delivered from bodily sin.

Deliver my soul from foolish arrogance and burning anger, and my body will neither behave foolishly nor burn.

The soul designed the body to be a portrait of herself, to be the organ of her speech. The body is mute and inert, either for good or for evil, if the soul will not speak.

The body knows nothing of adultery, if the soul does not tell it. Adultery is carried out in the heart; the body only repeats in its clumsy way what has been woven with fine threads in the mysterious chambers of the heart.¹

My neighbors, look upon a woman the way a woman looks upon herself and self-delusion will fall from your eyes like scales.² look upon every being from within that being, and you will look, not with desire, but with compassion. You, O God, have sanctified marriage, and You have also sanctified celibacy.³

Those, who have the wisdom and the strength to use all the life bestowed on them by You for serving You, You have blessed.

And those, who are unable to keep within themselves all the life given to them, You have blessed, so that they can share it and transfer it to new beings, through a wife.

Truly it is self-delusion for a man to think that a woman attracts him. Indeed, it is the unused life in a man -- which drives a man toward a woman, for life does not wish to remain unused. You are life, O my God, and life is light. You are light, O my God, and You do not wish to be hidden in darkness and kept from shining.

Blessed is the man, who knows You within himself, and gives free rein to You to shine in his soul and in his body.

It is not important, whether you shine in one body or in shared flesh -- You merely wish to shine and illuminate the world and to fill it with Your life and Your strength.

Blessed is the woman from whose eyes self-delusion falls and who knows a man the way a man knows himself, the woman who rejects desire and fills herself with compassion. She too keeps life within herself, with fear and dignity, as though she were keeping heaven within herself.

Blessed is everyone who comes to know in due time that adultery defiles and kills life.

One does not fool around with God. It is safer to fool around with fire than with God.

Nor is life, which comes from God, a narcotic for instant stupefactions, after which self-delusion manifests itself again and again; while shame and humiliati6n fall like heavy stones on the heart, emptied of one demented desire.

Deliver my soul from self-delusion, my God, so that my body may also be delivered from bodily sin.

Sayings of the Ascetics of the Orthodox Church, LXXII:

**II. The Realities of the Spiritual World
The Church of Christ**

When are we living in Christ? When we live according to His Gospel and His Church. For He Himself, and not only His Gospel, is in the Church with all of His perfections and virtues. The Church is the eternally living Body of the God-man Christ. In her we find the medium of the holy mysteries. In her we find the means of holy good deeds. Our Lord Jesus Christ abides inseparable from the Church in this world. He abides with each member of the Church throughout all ages. He has His entire self for us in the Church, and continually gives Himself to us entirely, so that we might be enabled to live in this world as He lived.

+ St. Justin Popovich, Explanation of I John, 4:9, 17

The Morning Offering – Daily Inspiration by Abbott Tryphon



The Objective Reality of God

How do we discover God in an unbelieving world?

God is a merciful God, quick to forgive, quick to show mercy, quick to embrace us when we turn to Him. In all of eternity our God chose to create humankind in His image and likeness, offering His creatures the opportunity to commune with Him in the endlessness that is time. He's given us free will, allowing us to choose, or not to choose, a relationship with Him. We, in our freedom, can choose between good (God) and evil (Satan), as is our choice.

We can usually tell the difference between good and evil. Murder and theft are obviously to be found in the evil camp, whereas kindness, philanthropic deeds, mercy and love, are in the camp of holiness, and the divine. Yet so many feel that God is simply a myth, a nice idea, but hardly believable. If this God they'd like to believe in were truly real, wouldn't He make it easier to see Him, and seek Him out? If we are free to choose God, why doesn't He make Himself easier to find? Why does this God expect us to believe in Him when we cannot see Him, or feel Him? If there be a God, why doesn't He simply make Himself known, letting us choose or not choose communion with Him?

These are questions that many people pose, at least to themselves. Many want to believe there is a God who cares for them, and is capable of making a difference in their day to day struggles, but just can't quite surrender to belief. The nihilistic philosophy that has possessed the hearts of many young people today is based on the despair of an age that has seen so many wars, so much poverty, so many murders, so many children abused, and a seemingly

hopeless future. How can there be a God when so much suffering abounds in this world? How can there be a God when even innocent people, good people, suffer?

Where is God? He is in the sunrise. He is in the glorious mountains, and the vast sea that stretches beyond the horizon. He is in the tender touch of a mother’s hand on her newborn baby. He is in the protective arm of the police officer who comforts the lost child. He is in the words of absolution pronounced by the priest after a good confession. He is in the smiling face of an old woman at the site of a young couple holding hands. He is in the wonder of the cosmos on a darkened night. He is in the giggle of a small child playing with his grandfather. He is in the warmth of a kitten held in one’s hand. He is in the cross that bore the Son of Man. He is in the bread and wine that become His Body and Blood. He is the transforming Spirit that changes hearts and makes men saints. He is closer to us than our own breath, more loving than a grandmother’s embrace of a sick child. He is everywhere, for there is no place He cannot be. He fills all things. He is everywhere to be seen if only we look with open eyes and open hearts.

With love in Christ,
Abbot Tryphon



Daily Reflection **I Walk The Line**

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he will give you another Counselor, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him

nor knows him; you know him, for he dwells with you, and will be in you. I will not leave you desolate; I will come to you.” (Jn 14: 15-18)

I thought of this passage recently, not because I was reading the Gospel, but because I was listening to a song by Johnny Cash, “...because you’re mine, I walk the line.”

Is that strange, to be led to Scripture from a song by Johnny Cash? No, I don’t think so. After all, if the High-Priest Caiaphas, an important voice of his time, was given to prophesy about our Lord’s redemptive death (Jn 11: 49-52), then great artists of our time can give voice to vital truths about us; e.g., about the nature of human love and its consequences, like mindfulness and obedience: “I keep a close watch on this heart of mine,” says Johnny Cash, “I keep my eyes wide open all the time...”

It’s my imperfect, human love that our Lord appeals to, when He says to me: “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.” And He says this to all of us, just before His arrest and trial, when most of us scattered and left Him desolate: “I will not leave you desolate...” Because His perfect, divine love is willing to make perfect my imperfect, human kind: “I will pray the Father, and he will give you another Counselor...”

So let me embrace His love for me today, as He embraces mine, despite its imperfections. He sends me “another Counselor” despite my betrayals to “other” counselors, time and again. Today let me “walk the line,” His line, not because I have to, and not because I’m “worthy” to, but simply because He’s mine, and I’m His. Glory be to Him.



Holy Orthodox Quotes

“Time passes and does not come back, and woe to us if time goes by without spiritual profit.”

+Elder Ephraim

Ephesians 5:15-21

See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise,† redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,† speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,† giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another in the fear of God.†

Romans 13:11-14

And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and

let us put on the armor of light.† Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

The Philokalia: Daily Readings

Just as ignorance divides those who are deluded, so the presence of spiritual light draws together and unites those whom it enlightens.

+ *St Maximus the Confessor, 500 Various Texts*

Daily Readings with Early Church Fathers and Mothers

"Strife" by St. Herman

A terrible accident has a power to awaken us to the realization of the existence of various calamities and dangers surrounding us, from which the Providence of God preserves us. At the same time it convincingly persuades us to acknowledge our own infirmity and weakness and to seek the Father's protection and His most powerful defense, which affirms us in the Wisdom and the Word of God, which came down from above by the will of the Heavenly Father under a curtain of flesh like ours, woven by the Divine Might from the Immaculate Virgin, for our salvation. He became man and taught us to pray that we be not led into temptation. This reminds us from what Father we have our existence, and this in turn should make us seek our heavenly Fatherland and our eternal inheritance.

Through the Grace of God – Orthodox Christianity

St Basil The Great: Helping The Poor

“When someone steals another's clothes, we call them a thief. Should we not give the same name to one who could clothe the naked and does not? The bread in your cupboard belongs to the hungry; the coat unused in your closet belongs to the one who needs it; the shoes rotting in your closet belong to the one who has no shoes; the money which you hoard up belongs to the poor.”

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

Every person should have his share of suffering and tribulations allocated by God. Who can flee from His Face? Sometimes, a person can complain about being in a certain place and think, 'If I go somewhere else, I will be happy,' but in fact, he will find the same or other types of pain wherever he goes. So victory comes from patience. Our life on earth is all about falling and rising.

- Fr. Mettaous El Suriany

SEPTEMBER – 2016

Sunday Resurrection	Monday Holy Angels	Tuesday St. John the Baptist	Wednesday Most-Holy Theotokos	Thursday Holy Apostles	Friday Life-giving Cross	Saturday Departed
				1 Church New Year Ghemigov-Gethsemane Icon Ven. Simeon the Stylite Ven. Martha	2 Kaluga Icon Ven. SS. Anthony & Theodosius of the Kiev Caves 8:00-9:15pm Living Clean NA Group Mtg.	3 Fish, Wine & Oil Hieromartyr Anthimus Ven. Theoctistus St. Phoebe 6:30pm Vespers
4 Icon "The Unburnt Bush" Hieromartyr Babylas Holy Prophet Moses Relics St. Joasaph 9:40am Hours 9:45am Gen'l Confession 10:00am Divine Liturgy / Social	5 Arapetskaya & Kiev-Bratsk Icons Prophet Zachariah & Righteous Elizabeth Virgin Martyr Raissa	6 Miracle of Archangel Michael at Colossae 7:00-8:00pm The Grey Book Study NA Grp Mtg.	7 Fish, Wine & Oil Forefeast Nativity Theotokos Martyr Sozon St. John, Abp. Of Ngorod	8 Kursk-Root, Pochayev & Kholmisl Icon NATIVITY OF THE MOST-HOLY THEOTOKOS	9 Afterfeast Nativity Theotokos Righteous Joachim & Anna Relics At. Theodosius 8:00-9:15pm Living Clean NA Group Mtg.	10 Sat. Before Elevation Martyrs Menodora, Metrodora & Nymphdora 6:30pm Vespers
11 Sun. Before Elevation 29 Aug. O.S. Beheading John Baptist Ven. Theodora Ven. Sergius & Herman of Valaam 9:40am Hours 10:00am Divine Liturgy / Social	12 Leavetaking Nativity Theotokos Hieromartyr Autonomus Martyr Julian	13 Founding of Church of the Holy Sepulchre 7:00-8:00pm The Grey Book Study NA Grp Mtg.	14 Strict Fast Wine & Oil EXALTATION (ELEVATION) OF THE PRECIOUS AND LIFEGIVING CROSS	15 Greatmartyr Nicetas (Nikita) the Goth	16 Greatmartyr Euphemia The All-Praised Martyr Liudmila 8:00-9:15pm Living Clean NA Group Mtg.	17 Sat. After Elevation Martyr Sophia & her Daughters, Faith, Hope & Charity (Vera, Nadezhda, liubov) 6:30pm Vespers
18 Sat. After Elevation, Leavetaking Elevation Icon "The Healer" St. Eumenes, Bishop of Gortyna 9:40 Hours 10:00 Divine Liturgy / Social	19 Lucan Jump Martyrs Trophimus, Sabbatius & Dorymedon	20 Greatmartyr Eustathius Placidus, & his wife Martyr Theopistes 7:00-8:00pm The Grey Book Study NA Grp Mtg.	21 Wine & Oil 8 Sept. O.S. Nativity Theotokos Apostle Quadratus of the 70 St. Dimitry, Metr. Of Rostov	22 Hieromartyr Phocas Prophet Jonah	23 Fish, Wine & Oil CONCEPTION OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST 8:00-9:15pm Living Clean NA Group Mtg.	24 Mirozh & Myrtle Tree Icons HOLY NEW MARTYRS OF ALASKA 6:30pm Vespers
25 REPOSE OF VEN. SERGIUS OF RADONEZH 9:40am Hours 10:00am Divine Liturgy/ Social 12:15pm Council Mtg.	26 REPOSE OF ST. JOHN THE THEOLOGIAN	27 14 Sept. O.S. Elevation of Cross Martyr Callistratus & His 49 Companions 7:00-8:00pm The Grey Book Study NA Grp Mtg.	28 Ven. Charition the Confessor Martyrdom of Prince Wenceslaus	29 Ven. Cyriacus, Hermit of Palestine	30 Hieromartyr Gregory, Bishop of Armenia	

When have I been most aware that I will die and that my life and the life of all those around me is total gift? What does awareness of mortality In this way make possible? What keeps me from seeking to be aware of this in my daily life more often? How many pairs of shoes are in my closet? Pants? Shirts? Dresses? Televisions? What effect do many possessions have on rendering my heart unselfish and ready to share with Christ? Do I become less greedy the more I have? When I have met and served persons whose poverty and need have revealed my spiritual poverty and the hunger and thirst hidden behind all my obvious satisfactions and privilege? What changes did I make as a result of this? – Dn. Stephen Muse, "Being bread."

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church offers the Fall 2016 Discussion Series on the following dates:

September 21
September 28
October 05
October 26
November 02

The Discussion Series will address the following topics:

- Coping with Stress and Depression
- Raising Children in Today’s World
- Supporting Sick Relatives and Friends
- Coping with the Loss of a Loved one
- Getting along with Parishioners and Co-Workers

The discussions will be held on Wednesday evenings, at 7.00pm in Father George’s reception room. We hope to see you there. If you have any further questions or would like more information, please contact me at

ekramvis@comcast.net

Parish Administrator, Lisa Mitoulis at 609 653-8092 ext. 5 or Father George, ext. 4

Holy Trinity Adult Bible Study 2016

We hope you are all well and have enjoyed a wonderful summer. With the new Ecclesiastical year, beginning in September, adult Bible Study begins again. We will continue to study the Gospel of John. We are happy to announce the dates for September and October 2016:

Bible Study dates: September 20; September 27; October 04; October 11.

There will be no Bible Study: October 18 and October 25.

Father George Liacopulos, our Parish Priest, leads the Adult Bible Study Class, held in his Reception Room. It is open to anyone who wishes to join us.

**Tuesday evenings at 7.00pm
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
7004 Ridge Road, Egg Harbor Township, N.J. 08234**

Please note: Classes are scheduled on every Tuesday, from September to June, each year. Some Tuesdays are not scheduled, due to Father George’s other commitments. For this reason, we ask you to either check for Bible Study confirmation and cancellation in our Weekly Bulletin posted for each Sunday, on our website

<http://holytrinityeggharbor.com/>

or contact: Lisa at 609 653-8092 ext.5

Father George at 609 653-8092 ext. 4

On behalf of Father George and our Holy Trinity Parishioners, we look forward to welcoming you.

Eugenia Kramvis
Outreach Ministry
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
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Egg Harbor Township, NJ
609 344-2967
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Please join us as we share and learn at our

Fall 2016

Discussion Series

2016 topics:

- Coping with Stress & Depression
- Raising Children in Today’s World
- Supporting Sick Relatives & Friends
- Coping with the Loss of a Loved One
- Getting Along with Parishioners & Co-workers

A series of discussions will be led by Father George Liacopulos, Parish Priest.

September 21, September 28, October 5, October 26, and November 2

Classes are on Wednesdays from 7-8 pm, in Father George’s office.

Please contact Ginny Kramvis at 609-653-8092 ext. 5 or ekramvis@comcast.net