



## St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

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### NEW MARTYRS AND CONFESSORS OF RUSSIA / VENERABLE XENOPHON, HIS WIFE MARIA, AND THEIR TWO SONS ARCADIUS AND JOHN OF CONSTANTINOPE JANUARY 26, 2025

#### TROPARION, KONTAKION & PROKEIMENON

##### **Troparion – Tone 6**

The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb; the guards became as dead men. Mary stood by Thy grave, seeking Thy most pure body. Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it. Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life. O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, // glory to Thee.

##### **Troparion – Tone 4**

Today the Church of Russia forms a chorus in joy, praising her new martyrs and confessors; hierarchs and priests, royal passion-bearers, right-believing princes and princesses, venerable men and women, and all Orthodox Christians. Having laid down their life for faith in Christ during the days of godless persecution, they preserved the truth by the shedding of blood. // By their protection, O long-suffering Lord, preserve our land in Orthodoxy till the end of the age.

##### **Kontakion – Tone 6**

When Christ God, the Giver of Life, raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand, He bestowed resurrection on the human race. // He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all.

##### **Kontakion – Tone 3**

Today the new martyrs of Rus' stand in white robes before the Lamb of God, and with the angels they sing to God the hymn of victory: "Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and praise, and honor, and power, and strength be to our God // unto the ages of ages. Amen."

##### **Prokeimenon – Tone 6**

O Lord, save Thy people, / and bless Thine inheritance!  
V. To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me!

##### **Prokeimenon – Tone 7**

God is our refuge and strength, / a help in afflictions that severely befall us.

#### LITURGICAL COMMEMORATION

##### **New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia**

On the Sunday closest to January 25, the Church commemorates the Synaxis of the Holy New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia, remembering all those Orthodox Christians who suffered for Christ at the hands of the godless Soviets during the years of persecution. These include the royal Passion Bearers Tsar Nicholas II and his family, and the Grand Duchess Elizabeth. Countless thousands of martyrs, both clergy and laity also suffered, some of whose names are known, as well as millions of simple believers whose names have been lost to history.

It is estimated that the number of the New Martyrs of Russia, who were glorified by the Russian Orthodox Church at the Jubilee Council of 2000, far exceeds that of all the martyrs who died for Christ during the first three centuries of Christianity. The Russian Church lost millions of its sons and daughters, not only at the hands of external enemies, but also those of their own country. Among those who were murdered and tortured in the years of persecution were countless Orthodox: laity, monks, priests, and bishops, whose only “crime” was their unshakable faith in God.

In the long history of the world, never have so many new heavenly intercessors been glorified by the Church in such a way (more than one thousand New Martyrs were numbered among the saints). Among those who suffered for their faith were some who labored in America before the Russian Revolution: St. Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia (April 7); St. Alexander Hotovitzky (Dec. 4); St. John Kochurov (Oct. 31).

### **Venerable Xenophon, his wife Maria, and their two sons Arcadius and John of Constantinople**

Saint Xenophon, his wife Maria, and their sons Arcadius and John, were noted citizens of Constantinople and lived in the fifth century. Despite their riches and position, they distinguished themselves by their simplicity of soul and goodness of heart. Wishing to give their sons John and Arcadius a more complete education, they sent them off to the Phoenician city of Beirut.

By divine Providence the ship on which both brothers sailed was wrecked. The waves tossed the brothers ashore at different places. Grieved at being separated, the brothers dedicated themselves to God and became monks. For a long time the parents had no news of their children and presumed them to be dead.

Xenophon, however, already quite old, maintained a firm hope in the Lord and consoled his wife Maria, telling her not to be sad, but to believe that the Lord watched over their children. After several years the couple made a pilgrimage to the holy places, and at Jerusalem they met their sons, living in asceticism at different monasteries. The joyful parents gave thanks to the Lord for reuniting the family.

Saints Xenophon and Maria went to separate monasteries and dedicated themselves to God. The monks Arcadius and John, having taken leave of their parents, went out into the wilderness, where after long ascetic toil they were glorified by gifts of wonderworking and discernment. Saints Xenophon and Maria, laboring in silence and strict fasting, also received from God the gift of wonderworking.

### **EPISTLE & GOSPEL READINGS**

#### **Epistle: 1 Timothy 1:15-17**

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first, Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

#### **Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28**

Then Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, “Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed.” But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, “Send her away, for she cries out after us.” But He answered and said, “I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, “Lord, help me!” But He answered and said, “It is not good to take the children’s bread and throw it to the little dogs.” And she said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters’ table.” Then Jesus answered and said to her, “O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire.” And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

## PRAYERS FOR THE SICK, CAREGIVERS, AND DECEASED (To add a name, please email daricekeyes@gmail.com)

### **For the Sick / Caregiver**

Margo (1/5)	Melody (1/19)
Anthony (1/12)	Liam (1/26)
Carmine (1/12)	Kelly (1/26)
Marianne (1/12)	Alexandra (1/26)
Dorothy (1/19)	Father Paul (1/26)
Michael (1/19)	Matushka Mary (1/26)
Charlotte (1/19)	Deborah (1/26)
Subdeacon Serge (1/19)	

### **For the Deceased**

Michael (1/5)  
Matushka Eugenia (1/5)

## SERVICES

### **Service Schedule for the Week of January 26**

**Sunday January 26** – 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by the Annual Parish Meeting, the FOCA Chili Cook-Off, and Coffee Hour

**Saturday February 1** – **MEETING OF THE LORD IN THE TEMPLE** 5:00 PM Vespers with Litya followed by Confession

**Sunday February 2** – **MEETING OF THE LORD IN THE TEMPLE** 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall

## DONATIONS

### **Weekly Giving**

January 19 – 92 adults, 12 youth, \$1,961

## ORTHODOXY 101

### **Proskomedie**

Before every Divine Liturgy, the priest prepares gifts of bread and wine to be used during the Eucharist. The preparation ritual is called the Liturgy of Preparation, or proskomedie. The meaning in Greek is “offering”, indicating that it is our offering to God. God has blessed us with wheat and grapes, and we transform it into bread and wine, offering it back to God in thanksgiving. God then consecrates the bread and wine during the Divine Liturgy, returning it to us transformed. The bread that is offered in the Eucharist is called prosphora... It has a square seal on the top with the Greek letters IC XC (an abbreviation in Greek for Jesus Christ) and NIKA (meaning “conquers”). During the proskomedie, a portion of the loaf is cut out into a cube, and it is this inner part of the loaf, called the lamb, that is consecrated during the Divine Liturgy and, together with the red wine, will become the Body and Blood of Christ.



The Liturgy of Preparation includes blessing the prosphoron, cutting it on four sides to form a cube, piercing it with a spear, and reciting two verses from St. John’s Gospel (John 19:34-35). The wine is mixed with water in a chalice and blessed by the priest. The priest then cuts triangular particles from a second prosphoron in commemoration of the Theotokos, from a third prosphoron to commemorate the ranks of saints, from a fourth prosphoron for the living, and from a fifth prosphoron for the departed.

(information gathered from the OCA Essential Orthodox Christian Beliefs)

## **PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held today during Coffee Hour in Daria Hall. It is important for all parishioners to attend this meeting for updates on the status of the parish.

The FOCA Club will have a chili cook-off prior to the Annual Parish Meeting today. Samples of six different chilis will be sold, and then we will vote on our favorite spicy and non-spicy chilis! Cost is \$5 for all 6 samples or \$1 per sample. The winners (spicy and non-spicy) will receive a \$25 gift card. After the samples are sold, remaining chili will be sold for \$5 per bowl or take-out container.

Thanks to everyone who attended the presentation last Sunday on the pro-life organization called "Legacy of Life", and to those who donated diapers and clothes. We will continue collecting items and funds this week and next week, with hopes of meeting our fundraising goal of \$500. Baby bottles are available in Daria Hall to take home for your loose change, and we ask that they be brought back next week, February 2.

Reminder to please clean up Christmas decorations at the parish cemeteries. Per the Cemetery By-Laws, all decorations are to be removed three weeks after the holiday. There is no trash collection at the cemeteries, so please take your items home with you. Thank you.

On Sunday February 9, the FOCA Club will have a soup sale fundraiser. Containers of soup, with a roll, will be sold for \$5 outside of the church – weather permitting. Otherwise, the soup will be sold in Daria Hall during Coffee Hour.

There is a sign-up sheet on the credenza in the back of the church for house blessings. Please sign up if you would like your house blessed, and Father Volodymyr will contact you to schedule a time.

Pierogies are for sale! Please see a member of the FOCA Club during Coffee Hour to purchase.

## **BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK**

Sewheat Manna – January 30

Nina Shafran – January 30

Michael Toth – January 31

Isaiah Maldonado – February 1

Have a blessed birthday and may God grant you many years!

## **COFFEE HOUR**

***\* If you are unable to accommodate your hosting date, please advise Darice as soon as possible so changes can be made.***

Hosts are responsible for providing and setting up the refreshments in Daria Hall at 9:00 AM and after Holy Communion, cleaning up after Coffee Hour including washing, drying and putting away dishes, taking out the trash, wiping down the tables, and cleaning up the Coffee Room including turning off and cleaning the coffee and tea pots. Hosts will be informed in advance if cream cheese, butter, or milk is needed. **PLEASE NOTE:** Your assigned Coffee Hour Support Person will provide guidance, however, the Support Person will leave Daria Hall at 9:55 AM to attend church services. If you have arrived late or are not finished, you will be provided the key to lock the Hall when you are leaving for church services. If you have any questions, please contact Alla Strauss.

### **SUGGESTED MENU:**

Bagels / Breads

Donuts / Pastries

Desserts are available to use from the two freezers in Daria Hall -

Let Alla know ahead of time if you will need desserts so they can be thawed on Saturday

Fruit

Salads

Tortilla Chips & Salsa

Hummus

Sugar-free dessert

Oreos (they are all non-dairy)

*If your menu includes a pork dish, please keep in mind that several of our parishioners do not eat pork, so please provide an alternative for them.*

NOTE: Hosts may provide a luncheon for a specific event or holiday (panikhida, birthday, anniversary, holiday) with advance notice to reserve the specific date to host the event. The hosts will be responsible for all food preparation for such a luncheon.

- Jan. 26 **Annual Parish Meeting, FOCA Chili Cook-Off**
- Feb. 2 Anna, Leon, & Simeon Brasowski, Brittani & Alex Brasowski
- Feb. 9 Corneliu & Florica Balasa, Stefania Balasa
- Feb. 16 Karina Kotelnicki, Paul & Patty Denko
- Feb. 23 Paula & Ludwig Koerte, Manny & Lourdes Montiel
- Mar. 2 **NO MEAT** Tony & Chris Villabon, Cole Johnson
- Mar. 9 **FAST** John Cassar, Christina DiDonato
- Mar. 16 **FAST** Viktoryia Baranava, Tamara Karkusova
- Mar. 23 **FAST** Chris Kasmer, Nina Laushell
- Mar. 30 **FAST** Herman & Francine Meyer, Madeleine Sekulich & Mark McDevitt
- Apr. 6 **FAST** Christine Waite, Alla Strauss
- Apr. 13 **FAST** Alex Godun, Melody Stavisky
- Apr. 20 **PASCHA – No Coffee Hour**
- Apr. 27 Alan & Mimi Berck, Isaiah Maldonado
- May 4 James & Olga Bates, Walter & Tanya Tribbey
- May 11 Nina Schmidt, Monia & Jim Pitra
- May 18 Anne Cheslock, Darice Keyes
- May 25 Inna Lebedeva, Mihaela & Tiberiu Milosav
- June 1 Blake & Jessica Kilgore, Alex & Rebeca Medina
- June 8 Grace Ramus, Virgiliu & Gabriela Plesa
- June 15 Sami Bachir, Tyler Burger
- June 22 **FAST** Matthew Anderson, Ramazi Shubitidze
- June 29 Nancy Mitsos, Ekaterina & Stanislav Uritsky
- July 6 Fiyori Habtesilasse, Lemlem Woldearegay
- July 13 **FOCA Club & Ladies Altar Society** – Enhanced Coffee Hour for St. Vladimir Feast Day Celebration
- July 20 Helene Hopkins, Mary Ellen Jones
- July 27 Amber Touch, Eleni Athanatos & Tom Sowanick

*Have a healthy, blessed week!*