



## St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

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### Hieromartyr Anthimus the Bishop of Nicomedia September 3, 2017

#### **Troparion – Tone 4**

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the joyous message of thy Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the apostles: “Death is overthrown! Christ God is risen,// granting the world great mercy!”

#### **Troparion – Tone 4**

By sharing in the ways of the Apostles, thou didst become a successor to their throne. Through the practice of virtue, thou didst find the way to divine contemplation, O inspired one of God; by teaching the word of truth without error, thou didst defend the Faith, even to the shedding of thy blood. // Hieromartyr Ánthimus, entreat Christ God to save our souls.

#### **Troparion – Tone 8**

By a flood of tears you made the desert fertile, and thy longing for God brought forth fruits in abundance. By the radiance of miracles thou didst illumine the whole universe! Our Father Theoctístus, pray to Christ God to save our souls!

#### **Kontakion – Tone 4**

My Savior and Redeemer as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains. He has shattered the gates of hell, and as Master,// He has risen on the third day!

#### **Kontakion – Tone 4**

Living hon’rably as a priest, thou didst complete the course of martyrdom; thou didst extinguish the worship of idols and didst become a champion of thy flock, O divinely wise one. Therefore, we honor thee, mystically crying out: “Through thy prayers deliver us from calamity, ever-memorable Anthimus.”

#### **Prokeimenon – Tone 4**

O Lord, how manifold are Thy works; in wisdom hast Thou made them all.

*v: Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord, my God, Thou art very great!*

#### **Hieromartyr Anthimus the Bishop of Nicomedia**

The Hieromartyr Anthimus, Bishop of Nicomedia, and those with him suffered during the persecution against Christians under the emperors Diocletian (284-305) and Maximian (305-311). The persecution became particularly intense after a fire at the imperial court at Nicomedia. The pagans accused the Christians of setting the fire and reacted against them with terrible ferocity.

In Nicomedia alone, on the day of the Nativity of Christ, as many as twenty thousand Christians were burned inside a church. However, this monstrous inhumanity did not frighten the Christians, who firmly confessed their faith and endured martyrdom for Christ.

Sts Dorotheus, Mardonius, Migdonius, Peter, Indes and Gorgonius died during this period. One of them was beheaded by the sword, others perished by burning, or being buried alive, or by drowning in the sea. The soldier Zeno boldly denounced the emperor Maximian, for which he was stoned, and then beheaded.

Then the holy Virgin Martyr Domna, a former pagan priestess, perished at the hands of the pagans, and also Saint Euthymius, because of their concern that the bodies of the holy martyrs should be buried. Bishop Anthimus, who headed the Church of Nicomedia, hid himself in a village not far from Nicomedia at the request of his flock. From there he sent letters to the Christians, urging them to cleave firmly to the holy Faith and not to fear tortures.

One of his letters, sent with Deacon Theophilus, was intercepted and given to the emperor Maximian. Theophilus was interrogated and died under torture, without revealing to his torturers the whereabouts of Bishop Anthimus. After a while Maximian managed to learn where Saint Anthimus was, and sent a detachment of soldiers after him.

The bishop met them along the way, but the soldiers did not recognize the saint. He invited them to join him and provided a meal, after which he revealed that he was the one they sought. The soldiers did not know what to do. They wanted to leave him and tell the emperor that they had not found him. Bishop Anthimus was not one to tolerate a lie, and so he would not consent to this.

The soldiers came to believe in Christ and received holy Baptism. The saint ordered them to carry out the emperor's instructions. When Bishop Anthimus was brought before the emperor, the emperor ordered that the instruments of execution be brought out and placed before him. "Do you think, emperor, to frighten me with these tools of execution?" asked the saint. "No indeed, you cannot frighten one who wishes to die for Christ! Execution is frightening only for the cowardly, for whom the present life is most precious." The emperor then directed that the saint be fiercely tortured and beheaded by the sword.

Bishop Anthimus joyfully glorified God with his last breath, and received the crown of martyrdom. (See December 28 for another account of the Nicomedian martyrs.)

### **Epistle: 1 Corinthians 16:13-24**

Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. Let all that you do be done with love. I urge you, brethren – you know the household of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to the ministry of the saints – that you also submit to such, and to everyone who works and labors with us. I am glad about the coming of Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus, for what was lacking on your part they supplied. For they refreshed my spirit and yours. Therefore acknowledge such men. The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house. All the brethren greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. The salutation with my own hand – Paul's. If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. O Lord, come! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

### **Gospel: Matthew 21:33-42**

Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit. And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them. Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.' So they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him. Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers?" They said to Him, "He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons." Jesus

said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes'?"

### **Service Schedule for the week of September 3**

**Today** – 8:45 AM Hours, 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour

**Thursday September 7** – Vespers with Litya, 7:00 PM

**Friday September 8** – Birth of the Theotokos – Divine Liturgy 9:00 AM

**Saturday September 2** – 5:00 PM Vespers followed by Confession

**Sunday September 3** – 8:45 AM Hours, 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

### **Weekly Giving**

August 27 – 44 adults , 5 youth , \$1,628

### **Parish Announcements**

**REMINDER** – Starting next Sunday, September 10, we will revert to our Fall schedule - Church School will begin at 9:00 AM, Hours 9:45 AM, and Divine Liturgy 10:00 PM.

Catechumen/Orthodoxy classes are held every other Saturday unless otherwise announced. The next class will be held in the church on Saturday September 9 at 3:30 PM. Everyone is invited to the classes, but all Catechumens are required to attend.

The annual Parish Picnic will be held on Sunday September 24 at the church picnic grounds in Hamilton. There is an attendance sign-up sheet on the table across from the candle desk. We ask everyone to please sign up so we can properly prepare. There is also a space on the sign-up sheet to indicate what you may be willing to bring as the church will be providing the meats and beverages. The grounds will need some sprucing up prior to the picnic – we will announce the clean-up schedule in a few weeks.

The church website – [www.saintvladimir.org](http://www.saintvladimir.org) -- has recently been updated. Please check it out! If you want to add anything to the website, please see Father Volodymyr or Nancy Mitsos.

Remember you are able to purchase Iconostasis and Altar candles! Please see Ludwig at the candle desk.

On Saturday October 7 at 10:00 AM, Natasha Shynkarenko and Caryl Peck's new baby daughter – Katia – will be baptized, and their daughter – Oksana - will be Chrismated in the Orthodox faith. All are invited to the church services.