



St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

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VENERABLE PIMEN THE GREAT

August 27, 2023

TROPARION, KONTAKION & PROKEIMENON

Troparion – Tone 3

Let the heavens rejoice! Let the earth be glad! For the Lord has shown strength with His arm. He has trampled down death by death. He has become the first born of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of hell, and has granted to the world// great mercy.

Troparion – Tone 8

By a flood of tears thou didst make 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 holy Father Pimen, pray to Christ our God to save our souls!

Kontakion – Tone 3

On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O Merciful One, leading us from the gates of death. On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices; with the Prophets and Patriarchs// they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy power.

Kontakion – Tone 4

The remembrance of thine illustrious struggles delights the souls of the devout today, // O Pimen, our venerable father, wise in God.

Prokeimenon – Tone 3

Sing praises to our God, sing praises! / Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

V. Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

LITURGICAL COMMEMORATION

Venerable Pimen the Great

Saint Pimen the Great was born about the year 340 in Egypt. He went to one of the Egyptian monasteries with his two brothers, Anoub and Paisius, and all three received monastic tonsure. The brothers were such strict ascetics that when their mother came to the monastery to see her children, they did not come out to her from their cells. The mother stood there for a long time and wept. Then Saint Pimen said to her through the closed door of the cell, “Do you wish to see us now, or in the future life?” Saint Pimen promised that if she would endure the sorrow of not seeing her children in this life, then surely she would see them in the next. The mother was humbled and returned home.

Fame of Saint Pimen’s deeds and virtues spread throughout the land. Once, the governor of the district wanted to see him. Saint Pimen, shunning fame, thought to himself, “If dignitaries start coming to me and show me respect, then many other people will also start coming to me and disturb my quiet, and I shall be deprived of the grace of humility, which I have acquired only with the help of God.” So he refused to see the governor, asking him not to come.

For many of the monks, Saint Pimen was a spiritual guide and instructor. They wrote down his answers to serve for the edification of others besides themselves. A certain monk asked, “If I see my brother sinning, should I conceal his fault?” The Elder answered, “If we reproach the sins of brothers, then God will reproach our sins. If you see a brother sinning, do not believe your eyes. Know that your own sin is like a beam of wood, but the sin of your brother is like a splinter (Mt. 7:3-5), and then you will not enter into distress or temptation.”

Another monk said to the saint, "I have sinned grievously and I want to spend three years at repentance. Is that enough time?" The Elder replied, "That is a long time." The monk continued to ask how long the saint wished him to repent. Perhaps only a year? Saint Pimen said, "That is a long time." The other brethren asked, "Should he repent for forty days?" The Elder answered, "I think that if a man repents from the depths of his heart and has a firm intention not to return to the sin, then God will accept three days of repentance." When asked how to get rid of persistent evil thoughts, the saint replied, "This is like a man who has fire on his left side, and a vessel full of water on his right side. If he starts burning from the fire, he takes water from the vessel and extinguishes the fire. The fire represents the evil thoughts placed in the heart of man by the Enemy of our salvation, which can enkindle sinful desires within man like a spark in a hut. The water is the force of prayer which impels a man toward God."

Saint Pimen was strict in his fasting and sometimes would not partake of food for a week or more. He advised others to eat every day, but without eating their fill. Abba Pimen heard of a certain monk who went for a week without eating, but had lost his temper. The saint lamented that the monk was able to fast for an entire week, but was unable to abstain from anger for even a single day. To the question of whether it is better to speak or be silent, the Elder said, "Whoever speaks on account of God, does well, and whoever is silent on account of God, that one also does well." He also said, "If man seems to be silent, but his heart condemns others, then he is always speaking. There may be a man who talks all day long, but he is actually silent, because he says nothing unprofitable."

The saint said, "It is useful to observe three things: to fear God, to pray often, and to do good for one's neighbor." "Wickedness never eradicates wickedness. If someone does evil to you, do good to them, and your goodness will conquer their wickedness." Once, after Saint Pimen and his disciples arrived at the monastery of Scetis, he learned that the Elder living there was annoyed at his arrival and was also jealous of him, because monks were leaving the Elder to see Abba Pimen.

In order to console the hermit, the saint went to him with his brethren, taking food with them as a present. The Elder refused to receive them, however. Then Saint Pimen said, "We shall not depart from here until we are permitted to see the holy Elder." He remained standing at the door of the cell in the heat. Seeing Saint Pimen's humility and patience, the Elder received him graciously and said, "Not only is what I have heard about you true, but I see that your works are a hundred times greater." He possessed such great humility that he often sighed and said, "I shall be cast down to that place where Satan was cast down!"

Once, a monk from another country came to the saint to receive his guidance. He began to speak about sublime matters difficult to grasp. The saint turned away from him and was silent. They explained to the bewildered monk that the saint did not like to speak of lofty matters. Then the monk began to ask him about the struggle with passions of soul. The saint turned to him with a joyful face, "Now you have spoken well, and I will answer." For a long while he provided instruction on how one ought to struggle with the passions and conquer them.

Saint Pimen died at age 110, about the year 450. Soon after his death, he was acknowledged as a saint pleasing to God. He was called "the Great" as a sign of his great humility, uprightness, ascetic struggles, and self-denying service to God.

EPISTLE & GOSPEL READINGS

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you – unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time. For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. Therefore, whether it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

Gospel: Matthew 19:16-26

Now behold, one came and said to Him, "Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?" So He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the

commandments." He said to Him, "Which ones?" Jesus said, " 'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' " The young man said to Him, "All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. Then Jesus said to His disciples, "Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God. When His disciples heard it, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

SERVICES

Service Schedule for the week of August 27

Sunday August 27 – 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by a Panikhida for the deceased members of the Ladies Altar Society; then Coffee Hour in Daria Hall

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

Sunday September 3 – 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall

DONATIONS

Weekly Giving

August 20 – 62 adults, 23 youth, \$1,802

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you, Father Paul & Father Bohdan, for serving and praying with us this weekend.

There will be a Panikhida today after Divine Liturgy for the deceased members of the Ladies Altar Society.

Father Volodymyr will be returning from vacation this Thursday, August 31, later in the day. Father's cell phone is working if you need to contact him for an emergency.

Church School will begin September 17, and the last day will be June 2, 2024. Two classes will be available – pre-school children ages 4 through 6, and elementary school children ages 7 through 12. A sign-up sheet is on the table across from the candle desk. **NOTE:** Father Volodymyr will say prayers after Divine Liturgy for the commencement of Sunday School, so the children should remain in church on September 17.

There is a sign-up sheet across from the candle desk for items needed for our annual Parish Picnic, which will be held on Sunday September 24 at the church picnic grounds in Hamilton, NJ. All items except fresh foods (salads, vegetables, desserts, etc.) should be brought to Daria Hall by Friday Sept. 22. The fresh foods should be brought directly by the donor to the Picnic, which will start around 12:30 PM. Set up for the picnic will be held on Saturday morning, September 23.

Spring water used to make coffee and tea is needed for Coffee Hour. Please donate a few gallons!

A Parish "Directory" with photos and identifying names of all parishioners is in the works. This will help us all with "putting a face to the name"! When you are at Daria Hall for Coffee Hour, please see Awet Tesfa to get your picture taken.

The Ladies Altar Society is creating and publishing the first Parish Cookbook – with your help! **We are interested in your favorite recipes**, ethnic recipes, recipes from your grandparents, parents, children, relatives and friends, and Lenten recipes. They can include Appetizers, Main Meals, Side Dishes, Soup, Salad, Dessert, and Beverages. In addition to recipes, the Cookbook will include a Helpful Hints section. In order for the Cookbook to be a success, we will need many recipes! Each recipe should include your name, who you may have received the recipe from, and your phone number (phone number is only if we have questions and will not be published in the Cookbook). Please give your recipes to Alla Strauss, Melody Stavisky, or Nancy Mitsos. Thank you!

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Paula Koerte – September 2

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

COFFEE HOUR

Please remember the Coffee Hour Helpers do not bring any refreshments for Coffee Hour, but are there to assist in setting up for Coffee Hour. Hosts are responsible for: Providing the refreshments, setting up in Daria Hall at 9:00 AM with guidance from the Helper, cleaning up after Coffee Hour including washing and drying dishes, and taking out the trash. If you have any questions, please contact Melody Stavisky, Alla Strauss, or the Helper assigned to your Coffee Hour date.

COFFEE HOUR PARAMETERS:

1. Plan on providing refreshments for 50 people.
2. Food items are limited to: 4 doz. Bagels/breads (2 doz. per host)
4 doz. Donuts/pastries (2 doz. per host)
Fruit
2 gallons water for coffee (1 gallon per host)
Green Salad
Sugar-free dessert/pie
Tortilla chips & salsa

NOTE: For Fasting Coffee Hour:

Bagels (except egg & cheese bagels) and some breads (rye) are non-dairy.

Oreos and most apple pies are non-dairy.

Hosts may provide homemade non-dairy breads and/or desserts.

3. Hosts will be informed in advance if cream cheese/Tofu cream cheese, butter/margarine, or milk is needed.
4. The church will provide coffee, tea, assorted coffee creamers, peanut butter, jelly, paper products, water bottles, and juice.
5. Hosts may provide a luncheon for a specific event or holiday (panikhida, birthday, anniversary, holiday) with advance notice. The hosts will be responsible for all food preparation for such a luncheon.
6. Hosts take home or give away ALL leftover refreshments so the freezer and refrigerator do not get clogged with unused food.

(The last name listed is the Coffee Hour Helper)

- Aug. 27 Ladies Assumption Altar Society
Sept. 3 Tahara & Germain Ortiz, Alan & Mimi Berck, Alla Strauss
Sept. 10 Olga & James Bates, Walter & Tanya Tribbey, Darice Keyes
Sept. 17 Jessica & Blake Kilgore, Svetlana Sosodov, Nina Laushell
Sept. 24 ANNUAL PARISH PICNIC
Oct. 1 Vera Pschenyczny, Paul & Patti Denko, Francine Meyer
Oct. 8 John Cassar, Christina DiDonato, Alla Strauss
Oct. 15 Ramazi Shubitidze, Ilonica & Corneliu Balasa, Nancy Mitsos
Oct. 22 Tony Vashkevich, Manny & Lourdes Montiel, Awet Tesfa
Oct. 29 Nina Laushell, Alex Godun, Darice Keyes
Nov. 5 Tamara Karkusova, Ekaterina & Stanislav Uritsky, Francine Meyer
Nov. 12 Natalia Kolomatskaia, Matthew & Kris Bohush, Alla Strauss
Nov. 19 **FAST** Sophie Dumas, Melissa Braun, Darice Keyes
Nov. 26 **FAST** Gebrekvistos Amleset, Awet Tesfa
Dec. 3 **FAST** Nicholas Torrisi, Nina Laushell
Dec. 10 **FAST** Victorya Baranava, Madeleine Sekulich & Mark McDevitt, Nancy Mitsos
Dec. 17 **FAST** Paula & Ludwig Koerte, Melody Stavisky, Darice Keyes
Dec. 24 **FAST** Father Volodymyr & Matushka Oksana, Carmen & Cezar Mateiescu, Alla Strauss
Dec. 31 Nebiat Tesfa, Luwam Tesfa, Francine Meyer