



St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

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Afterfeast of the Dormition of the Mother of God / Martyrs Florus and Laurus of Illyria August 18, 2019

Troparion – Tone 8

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One! Thou didst accept the three day burial to free us from our sufferings!// O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee!

Troparion – Tone 1

In giving birth thou didst preserve thy virginity. In falling asleep thou didst not forsake the world, O Theotokos. Thou wast translated to life, O Mother of Life,// and by thy prayers thou dost deliver our souls from death.

Troparion – Tone 4

Let us praise as is meet, you faithful, the most comely, radiant and divinely wise martyrs: Most blessed Florus and all venerable Laurus, who proclaimed to all the uncreated Trinity. Suffering unto bloodshed, they were adorned with brilliant crowns.// Entreat Christ our God to save our souls!

Kontakion – Tone 8

By rising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead and resurrected Adam. Eve exults in Thy Resurrection, and the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

Kontakion – Tone 8

Today all the world honors in glory the divinely wise Florus and Laurus as pious martyrs who suffered for Christ. Through their prayers may we receive grace and mercy and be delivered from calamity and temptation, and from wrath and sorrow on the Day of Judgment!

Kontakion – Tone 2

Neither the tomb, nor death, could hold the Theotokos, who is constant in prayer and our firm hope in her intercessions. For being the Mother of Life,// she was translated to life by the One Who dwelt in her virginal womb.

Prokeimenon – Tone 8

Pray and make your vows before the Lord, our God!

v: In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel

Prokeimenon – Tone 3

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

Afterfeast of the Dormition of the Mother of God

On the third day of the Afterfeast of the Dormition, the hymns at Vespers call upon us to “sing the praises of the pure and most holy Virgin.” She did not ascend to heaven in a chariot of fire, as did the Prophet Elias, but “He Who is truly the Sun of Righteousness” received her pure soul.

Martyrs Florus and Laurus of Illyria

The Martyrs Florus and Laurus were brothers by birth not only in flesh but in spirit. They lived in the second century at Byzantium, and afterwards they settled in Illyria [now Yugoslavia]. By occupation they were stone-masons (their teachers in this craft were the Christians Proclus and Maximus, from whom also the brothers learned about life pleasing to God).

The prefect of Illyria, Likaion, sent the brothers to a nearby district for work on the construction of a pagan temple. The saints toiled at the structure, distributing to the poor the money they earned, while they kept strict fast and prayed without ceasing.

Once, the son of the local pagan-priest Mamertin carelessly approached the structure, and a chip of stone hit him in the eye, severely injuring him. Saints Florus and Laurus assured the upset father, that his son would be healed.

They brought the youth to consciousness and told him to have faith in Christ. After this, as the youth confessed Jesus Christ as the true God, the brothers prayed for him, and the eye was healed. In view of such a miracle, even the father of the youth believed in Christ.

When the construction of the temple was completed, the brothers gathered the Christians together, and going through the temple, they smashed the idols. In the eastern part of the temple they set up the holy Cross. They spent all night in prayer, illumined with heavenly light. Having learned of this, the head of the district condemned to burning the former pagan priest Mamertin and his son and 300 Christians.

The martyrs Florus and Laurus, having been sent back to the prefect Likaion, were thrown down an empty well and covered over with earth. After many years, the relics of the holy martyrs were uncovered incorrupt, and transferred to Constantinople. In the year 1200 the Novgorod pilgrim Anthony saw them. Stephen of Novgorod saw the heads of the martyrs in the Pantokrator monastery around the year 1350.

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 3:9-17

For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, you are God’s building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one’s work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is. If anyone’s work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone’s work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.

Gospel: Matthew 14:22-34

Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there. But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary. Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out for fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, “Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid.” And Peter answered Him and said, “Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.” So He said, “Come.” And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, “Lord, save me!” And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?” And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, “Truly You are the Son of God.” When they had crossed over, they came to the land of Gennesaret.

Service Schedule for the week of August 18

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

Saturday August 24 – 5:00 PM Vespers followed by Confession

Sunday August 25 – 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall

Weekly Giving

August 11 – 45 adults, 7 youth, \$1,717

Parish Announcements

Bible Study classes will be held the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at 7:00 PM. The next classes are August 28 and September 11. All are welcome to attend.

Church School will begin Sunday, September 15 and will end June 6, 2020. Classes in Daria Hall start at 9:00 AM every Sunday. If you plan for your child(ren) to attend, please contact either Father Volodymyr, Herman Meyer, or Melody Stavisky by September 1. There will also be a sign-up sheet on the Narthex table.

On Saturday October 19 the Sunday School children will travel to St. Tikhon's Seminary for a day visit. Any adults interested in attending please see Father Volodymyr or Melody Stavisky. We will need parental chaperones as well.