



St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

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Translation of the relics of the Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen from Jerusalem to Constantinople August 2, 2020

Troparion – Tone 7

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death. To the thief Thou didst open Paradise. For the Myrrhbearers Thou didst change weeping into joy, and Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God, to proclaim that Thou art risen,// granting the world great mercy.

Troparion – Tone 4

Thy relics have risen from the depths of the earth, like a treasury for the immortal life of all creation. The Church, rejoicing in the grace that she receives from them, duteously honors thee, O Protomartyr Stephen.// Preserve us from error and heresy by thy intercession!

Kontakion – Tone 7

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive, for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers. Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and cry: “The Savior has come to those in faith;// enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!”

Kontakion – Tone 6

Thou wast the first to be sown on the earth by the Heavenly Husbandman, O all-praised one, and wast the first to shed thy blood on the earth for Christ, O blessed one. Thou wast the first to receive the crown of victory from Him in heaven,// O Stephen, first of the suffering God-crowned martyrs.

Prokeimenon – Tone 7

O The Lord shall give strength to His people. / The Lord shall bless His people with peace.

v: Offer to the Lord, O you sons of God! Offer young rams to the Lord!

Translation of the relics of the Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen from Jerusalem to Constantinople

The Transfer of the Relics of the Holy Protomartyr Stephen from Jerusalem to Constantinople took place about the year 428.

After the holy Protomartyr Archdeacon Stephen was stoned by the Jews, they left his holy body unburied to be devoured by the beasts and birds. After a day and a night the renowned Jewish teacher of the Law, Gamaliel sent people to take up the body of the Protomartyr. Gamaliel buried him on his own property, in his own tomb, not far from Jerusalem.

When Lord's secret disciple Nikodemos died, Gamaliel also buried him near the grave of Saint Stephen. Afterwards Gamaliel himself, who had been baptized with his son Abibas, was buried near the grave of the Protomartyr Stephen and Saint Nikodemos.

In the year 415 the relics of the saint were uncovered in a miraculous manner and solemnly transferred to Jerusalem by Bishop John and the bishops Eutonius of Sebaste and Eleutherius of Jericho. From that time healings took place from the relics.

Afterwards, during the reign of holy Emperor Theodosius the Younger (408-450), the relics of the holy Protomartyr Stephen were transferred from Jerusalem to Constantinople and placed in the church of the holy deacon Laurence (August 10). When a church dedicated to the Protomartyr Stephen was built, the relics were transferred there on August 2. Saint Stephen's right hand is preserved in the Serapionov chamber of the Trinity-Sergius Lavra.

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe's household, that there are contentions among you. Now I say this, that each of you says, "I am of Paul," or "I am of Apollos," or "I am of Cephas," or "I am of Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, lest anyone should say that I had baptized in my own name. Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas. Besides, I do not know whether I baptized any other. For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect. For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Gospel: Matthew 14:14-22

And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick. When it was evening, His disciples came to Him, saying, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is already late. Send the multitudes away, that they may go into the villages and buy themselves food." But Jesus said to them, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat." And they said to Him, "We have here only five loaves and two fish." He said, "Bring them here to Me." Then He commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass. And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitudes. So they all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments that remained. Now those who had eaten were about five thousand men, besides women and children. Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away.

Service Schedule for the week of August 2 – services will be streamed live

Today – 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by blessing of the new church bells donated by Stanley Winowicz in memory of his parents. Then a Panikhida will be held for Paul & Martha Matzko, parents of Kris Bohush.

Wednesday August 5 – 7:00 PM Vespers with Litya **TRANSFIGURATION**

Thursday August 6 – 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy **TRANSFIGURATION MASKS REQUIRED**

Saturday August 8 – 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy **MASKS REQUIRED** and 5:00 PM Vespers

Sunday August 9 – 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Weekly Giving

– adults, youth, \$

Parish Announcements

Upcoming service schedule (Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM):

Saturday August 1 – Masks not required

Sunday August 2 – Masks required

Saturday August 8 – Masks required

Sunday August 9 – Masks not required

Saturday August 15 – Masks not required

Sunday August 16 – Masks required

Saturday August 22 – Masks required
Sunday August 23 – Masks not required

Saturday August 29 – Masks not required
Sunday August 30 – Masks required

Saturday September 5 – Masks required
Sunday September 6 – Masks not required

Saturday September 12 – Masks not required
Sunday September 13 – Masks required

Saturday September 19 – Masks required
Sunday September 20 – Masks not required

Blessing of Graves: Blessing of the graves at the Parish Cemeteries will be held on Sunday, August 16 at noon. This was delayed from St. Thomas Sunday in April due to the Covid pandemic.

When venerating the icons, please only bow your head and refrain from kissing the icons in order to avoid the spreading of germs, which may transmit to a fellow parishioner and cause illness.

Receiving of Holy Communion:

Please keep your social distance while waiting to approach the Chalice.
Father will tilt the spoon into your mouth so there is no contact with your lips.
Do not wipe your mouth on the cloth.
Do not kiss the Chalice but you may bow your head.

The church has been set up for appropriate social distance seating. However, if you are feeling ill, please stay home. Also, those age 65 and over are still considered high risk and should make careful decisions about attending services. Father Volodymyr will continue to stream live Vespers and Sunday Divine Liturgy.

Thank you to everyone for their ongoing donations – please continue to send them to Father Volodymyr on a regular basis if you will not be attending services.

We pray for everyone's continued health and well-being.