



## St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

812 Grand Street, Trenton, NJ 08610

(609) 393-1234 website: <http://saintvladimir.org/>

### Martyrs Adrian and Natalia of Nicomedia August 26, 2018

#### **Troparion – Tone 4** *(Resurrection)*

When the women Disciples of the Lord learned from the Angel the joyous message of the 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** *(for the Martyrs)*

Your holy martyrs Adrian and Natalia, O Lord, through their sufferings have received incorruptible crowns from You, our God. For having Your strength, they laid low their adversaries, and shattered the powerless boldness of demons. // Through their intercessions, save our souls!

#### **Kontakion – Tone 4** *(Resurrection)*

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** *(Holy Martyrs)*

Martyr of Christ, Adrian, you kept the words of your godly and devoted wife Natalia in your heart. // With her you accepted every kind of suffering and obtained the crown of victory!

#### **Prokeimenon – Tone 4**

O Lord, how manifold are Your works; in wisdom have You made them all. *(Ps 103/104:24)*

*v: Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord, my God, You are very great! (Ps 103/104:1)*

#### **Martyrs Adrian and Natalia of Nicomedia**

The Martyrs Adrian and Natalia were married in their youth for one year prior to their martyrdom, and lived in Nicomedia during the time of the emperor Maximian (305-311). The emperor promised a reward to whomever would inform on Christians to bring them to trial. Then the denunciations began, and twenty-three Christians were captured in a cave near Nicomedia.

They were tortured, urged to worship idols, and then brought before the Praetor, in order to record their names and responses. Adrian, the head of the praetorium, watched as these people suffered with such courage for their faith. Seeing how firmly and fearlessly they confessed Christ, asked: “What rewards do you expect from your God for your suffering?” The martyrs replied: “Such rewards as we are not able to describe, nor can your mind comprehend.” Saint Adrian told the scribes, “Write my name down also, for I am a Christian and I die gladly for Christ God.”

The scribes reported this to the emperor, who summoned Saint Adrian and asked: "Really, have you gone mad, that you want to die? Come, cross out your name from the lists and offer sacrifice to the gods, asking their forgiveness."

Saint Adrian answered: "I have not lost my mind, but rather have I found it." Maximian then ordered Adrian to be thrown into prison. His wife, Saint Natalia, knowing that her husband was to suffer for Christ, rejoiced, since she herself was secretly a Christian.

She hastened to the prison and encouraged her husband saying: "You are blessed, my lord, because you have believed in Christ. You have obtained a great treasure. Do not regret anything earthly, neither beauty, nor youth (Adrian was then 28 years of age), nor riches. Everything worldly is dust and ashes. Only faith and good deeds are pleasing to God."

On the pledge of the other martyrs, they released Saint Adrian from prison to tell his wife about the day of his execution. At first Saint Natalia thought that he had renounced Christ and thus had been set free, and she did not want to let him into the house. The saint persuaded his wife that he had not fled from martyrdom, but rather had come to give her the news of the day of his execution.

They tortured Saint Adrian cruelly. The emperor advised the saint to have pity on himself and call on the gods, but the martyr answered: "Let your gods say what blessings they promise me, and then I shall worship them, but if they cannot do this, then why should I worship them?" Saint Natalia did not cease to encourage her husband. She asked him also to pray to God for her, that they would not force her into marriage with a pagan after his death.

The executioner ordered the hands and the legs of the saints to be broken on the anvil. Saint Natalia, fearing that her husband would hesitate on seeing the sufferings of the other martyrs, asked the executioner to begin with him, and permit her to put his hands and legs on the anvil herself.

They wanted to burn the bodies of the saints, but a storm arose and the fire went out. Many of the executioners even were struck by lightning. Saint Natalia took the hand of her husband and kept it at home. Soon an army commander asked the emperor's approval to wed Saint Natalia, who was both young and rich. But she hid herself away in Byzantium. Saint Adrian appeared to her in a dream and said that she would soon be at rest in the Lord. The martyr, worn out by her former sufferings, in fact soon fell asleep in the Lord.

### **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 August 26**

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

**Saturday September 1** – 5:00 PM Vespers followed by Confession

**Sunday September 2** – 8:45 AM Hours, 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall

## **Weekly Giving**

August 19 – 47 adults, 12 youth, \$1,652

## **Parish Announcements**

Divine Liturgy will return to regular hours (Hours 9:45 AM, Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM) on Sunday September 9.

Sunday School will start on Sunday September 9 at 9:00 AM in Daria Hall. Please contact Melody Stavisky or Herman Meyer to register your child(ren).

St. Vladimir Website – Did you lose your church bulletin? Did you miss Father’s sermon? Did you forget what time services are during the week? Then check our website – [www.saintvladimir.org](http://www.saintvladimir.org)! Among other items, Bulletins can be found under “Parish Life” and Sermons are under “Media”. The Services calendar is also updated on a regular basis and can be found at the bottom of the Home page. If you would like to add anything to the website, please contact Nancy Mitsos who does a wonderful job in keeping the site updated!

There are two sign-up sheets on the table across from the Candle desk:

1. Picnic – Sunday September 23 – sign up your attendance and what you can bring
2. Bible Study – we are trying to pick a day and time of day most convenient for those who are interested

Pierogies will be made in October (date not yet picked) to be sold on November 4 and 11. Nadja Nowicki will purchase the ingredients and would appreciate cash donations to help with the cost.

The annual Turkey Social will be held on Sunday November 11 – mark your calendars! More information at a later date.