



St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

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AFTERFEAST OF THE MEETING OF OUR LORD IN THE TEMPLE / VENERABLE ISIDORE OF PELUSIUM February 4, 2024

TROPARION, KONTAKION & PROKEIMENON

Troparion – Tone 2

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life immortal, Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead. And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, all the powers of heaven cried out:// “O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!”

Troparion – Tone 1

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Full of Grace! From thee shone the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, enlightening those who sat in darkness. Rejoice and be glad, O righteous Elder, thou didst accept in thine arms the Redeemer of our souls, // Who grants us the Resurrection!

Troparion – Tone 8

The image of God was truly preserved in thee, O Father, for thou didst take up the Cross and follow Christ. By so doing, thou taughtest us to disregard the flesh for it passes away; but to care instead for the soul, for it is immortal. // Therefore thy spirit, venerable Isidore, rejoices with the angels.

Kontakion – Tone 2

Hell became afraid, O almighty Savior, seeing the miracle of Thy Resurrection from the tomb! The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld this and rejoiced with Thee, // and the world, my Savior, praises Thee forever.

Kontakion – Tone 4

Finding thee to be another morning star, O glorious one, the Church is illumined by the brilliance of thy words. // She cries out to thee: “Rejoice, all-blessed and divinely-wise Isidore!”

Kontakion – Tone 1

By Thy Nativity Thou didst sanctify the Virgin’s womb and didst bless Simeon’s hands, O Christ God. Now Thou hast come and saved us through love. Grant peace to all Orthodox Christians, // O only Lover of Man!

Prokeimenon – Tone 2

The Lord is my strength and my song; / He has become my salvation.

V. *The Lord has chastened me sorely, but He has not given me over to death.*

Prokeimenon – Tone 3

My soul doth magnify the Lord, / and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.

LITURGICAL COMMEMORATION

Afterfeast of the Meeting of our Lord in the Temple

The second day of the Afterfeast of the Meeting of the Lord falls on February 4.

Venerable Isidore of Pelusium

Saint Isidore of Pelusium lived during the fourth-fifth centuries. He was a native of Alexandria, and was raised among pious Christians. He was a relative of Theophilus, Archbishop of Alexandria, and of his successor, Saint Cyril (January 18). While still a youth he quit the world and withdrew to Egypt to Mount Pelusium, which became the site of his monastic efforts.

Saint Isidore's spiritual wisdom and strict asceticism, combined with his broad learning and innate knowledge of the human soul, enabled him to win the respect and love of his fellow monks in a short time. They chose him as their head and had him ordained a priest (the earliest sources for his life, however, say nothing of him being an igumen).

Following the example of Saint John Chrysostom, whom he had managed to see and hear during a trip to Constantinople, Saint Isidore devoted himself primarily to Christian preaching, that "practical wisdom" which, in his own words, is both "the foundation of the edifice and the edifice itself", while logic is "its embellishment, and contemplation its crown".

He was a teacher and a willingly provided counsel for anyone who turned to him for spiritual encouragement, whether it was a simple man, a dignitary, a bishop, the Patriarch of Alexandria, or even the emperor. He left behind about 10,000 letters, of which 2,090 have survived. A large portion of these letters reveal profound theological thought and contain morally edifying interpretations of Holy Scripture. Saint Photius (February 6) calls Isidore a model of priestly and ascetical life, and also a master of style.

Saint Isidore's love for Saint John Chrysostom resulted in his support of Saint John when he was persecuted by the empress Eudoxia and Archbishop Theophilus. After the death of Saint John, Saint Isidore persuaded Theophilus' successor Saint Cyril to inscribe the name of Saint John Chrysostom into the Church diptychs as a confessor. Through the initiative of Saint Isidore the Third Ecumenical Council was convened at Ephesus (431), at which the false teaching of Nestorius concerning the person of Jesus Christ was condemned.

Saint Isidore lived into old age and died around the year 436. The Church historian Evagrius (sixth century) writes of Saint Isidore, "his life seemed to everyone the life of an angel upon the earth." Another historian, Nikēphóros Callistus (ninth century), praises Saint Isidore thus: "He was a vital and inspired pillar of monastic rules and divine vision, and as such he presented a very lofty image of most fervent example and spiritual teaching."

EPISTLE & GOSPEL READINGS

Epistle: Colossians 3:12-16

Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, long suffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money. After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them. So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.' His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' He also who had received two talents came and said, 'Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.' His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.' But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather

where I have not scattered seed. So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. Therefore take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents. For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK, CAREGIVERS, AND DECEASED

Dates are when the name was added to the bulletin; names will remain in four bulletins and then removed. To add the name again, please email Darice at daricekeyes@gmail.com.

For the Sick / Caregiver

Carmine (1/14)

Marianne (1/14)

Bill (1/14)

Anthony (1/14)

Michael (1/21)

Charlotte (1/21)

Bishop Matthias (1/21)

Hieromonk Silouan (1/21)

Subdeacon Serge (1/21)

Melody (1/21)

Nancy (1/21)

Father Paul (1/28)

Matushka Mary (1/28)

Alexandra (1/28)

Anna (2/4)

Nick (2/4)

Julie (2/4)

Kelly (2/4)

Liam (2/4)

Dottie (2/4)

For the Deceased

Michael (1/14)

Katherine (1/14)

Olga (1/14)

Pauline (1/14)

Kyra (1/14)

Kurtis (1/21)

Margaret (1/21)

Barbara (1/21)

Gori (1/21)

Dorothy (1/21)

Nina (1/28)

Ivan (1/28)

SERVICES

Service Schedule for the week of February 4

Sunday February 4 – 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall

Saturday February 10 – 5:00 PM Vespers followed by Confession

Sunday February 11 – 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall

DONATIONS

Weekly Giving

January 28 – 75 adults, 23 youth, \$2,054

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

The FOCA Club is looking for new members! We usually meet on the 3rd Sunday of the month during Coffee Hour. Please read the attached flyer for an explanation of what FOCA is. Our various fundraisers throughout the year allow us to donate collected funds to various Orthodox charities, such as Alaska Diocese, helping a Seminarian family while in Seminary, Gifts of Love, St. Andrew's Fund, helping our church where needed, etc.

The Ladies Assumption Altar Society will hold a bazaar/flea market in Daria Hall in late spring/early summer. Please bring gently used items and clothing to be sold; electric items must work; no rust or damaged items please. The items may be placed in the coat room or on the left side only of the stage in Daria Hall. Large empty boxes, newspaper, bubble wrap, and tissue paper are also needed. See Alla with any questions.

Summer Camp for parish children will be held the last week of June (June 24-28). Ages 4 through 12 may attend, however children ages 4-6 are required to have a parent/guardian attend with them. There is no charge for camp. Please let Father Volodymyr know if you are interested in having your child(ren) attend; we will need several children to commit in order to have the camp.

Your donations are needed to sustain Coffee Hour. Very little is being donated every Sunday, so please remember to put some money in the basket on the food table so we can continue to have Coffee Hour. Thank you!

A sign-up sheet for House Blessing is on the table in the back of the church. Please sign up and Father Volodymyr will contact you to set up a time.

Coffee Hour Support Persons are needed. If you would like to volunteer to assist once or twice a month, please see Alla Strauss, Melody Stavisky, or Father Volodymyr. We encourage everyone to get involved in this weekly parish event.

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

Emily DeJesus – February 5

Adriano DiDonato – February 6

Sophia Cassar – February 8

Luwam Tesfa – February 10

Catarina Kasmer – February 10

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

COFFEE HOUR

Hosts are responsible for providing and setting up the refreshments in Daria Hall at 9:00 AM and after Holy Communion, cleaning up after Coffee Hour including washing, drying and putting away dishes, taking out the trash, and cleaning up the Coffee Room including turning off and cleaning the coffee and tea pots. Hosts will be informed in advance if cream cheese, butter, or milk is needed. If you have any questions, please contact Melody Stavisky or Alla Strauss.

SUGGESTED MENU:

Bagels / Breads

Donuts / Pastries

Frozen desserts are available to use from the two freezers in Daria Hall

Fruit

Salads

Tortilla chips & Salsa

Hummus

Sugar-free dessert

Oreos (non-dairy)

NOTE: Hosts may provide a luncheon for a specific event or holiday (panikhida, birthday, anniversary, holiday) with advance notice to reserve the specific date to host the event. The hosts will be responsible for all food preparation for such a luncheon.

Feb. 4 Aftan Chowansky, Trudy Ellmore

Feb. 11 Eleni & Tom Sowanick, Sami Bachir

Feb. 18 Nour Ragab, Tyler Burger

Feb. 25 Mihaela & Tiberiu Milosav, Matthew & Kris Bohush

Mar. 3 Karina Kotelnicki, Gabriela Plesa

Mar. 10 FOCA Club Breakfast Fundraiser

Mar. 17 **NO MEAT** Fiyori Habtesilasse, Gebrekvistos Amleset

Mar. 24 **FAST** Christine Waite, Alla & Perry Strauss

Mar. 31 **FAST** Svetlana Sosedov, Guy Radcliffe

Apr. 7 **FAST** Germain & Tahara Ortiz, Vera Pschenyczny

Apr. 14 **FAST** Corneliu & Florica Balasa, Viktoryia Baranava

Apr. 21 **FAST** Alan & Mimi Berck, Paul & Patti Denko

Apr. 28 **FAST** Alex & Brittani Brasowski, Anna & Leon Brasowski

May 5 **PASCHA – NO COFFEE HOUR**

May 12 Nina Schmidt, Alla & Perry Strauss

May 19 Carmen & Cezar Mateiescu, Valeria & Timothy Srock

May 26 Christina DiDonato, John Cassar
June 2 Alex & Rebeca Medina, Edwin Correa Robles
June 9 Manuel & Lourdes Montiel, Cole Johnson
June 16 Sophie Dumas, Melissa Braun
June 23 Nina Laushell, Lynne Sheedy & Bill Hazelton
June 30 Ludwig & Paula Koerte, Nina Shafran
July 7 Madeleine Sekulich & Mark McDevitt, RamaziShubitidze
July 14 Melody Stavisky, Awet Tesfa
July 21 Nicholas & Samantha Torrisi, Herman & Francine Meyer
July 28 Tamara Karkusova, Ekaterina & Stanislav Uritsky
Aug. 4 **FAST** Luwam Tesfa, Nebiat Tesfa
Aug. 11 **FAST** Nancy Mitsos, Darice Keyes
Aug. 18 Tony & Chris Villabon, Alan & Mimi Berck
Aug. 25 Alex Godun, Blake & Jessica Kilgore



FELLOWSHIP OF ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS IN AMERICA

Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America (FOCA) is an official organization of the Orthodox Church in America (OCA), and our Mission is to proclaim, share, and reveal our Orthodox Christian Faith through service, fellowship, and example. We strive to accomplish this by:

- Studying the beliefs of our Faith
- Supporting and encouraging Orthodox Youth Ministries
- Supporting and encouraging missionary growth of our church
- Encouraging and promoting unity among all Orthodox jurisdictions
- Establishing practical means for Orthodox Christians to engage in lasting friendships on local and national levels through networking
- Providing educational cultural, social, and athletic activities for the people of our Orthodox Faith

FOCA Motto: Pray, Study, Toil, and be Temperate

FOCA History:

Federated Russian Orthodox Clubs (FROC) was founded in 1927 as a national youth and young adult movement, with a goal to organize the faithful, produce English language church materials, and to promote the religious work of the Church. During its 90+ year history, the organization (renamed FOCA) has expanded its mission with the goal of witnessing our Orthodox Christian faith by charitable works through fellowship. Our membership is a national network of senior (adult) and junior (ages 10-18) chapters which, through a variety of religious, educational, cultural, social, and athletic activities, provides an ideal way to meet others within the faith beyond the boundaries of the local parish.

On National and District levels, FOCA sponsors a number of annual events and activities, including: Religious activities and services, Outreach and service events and fundraisers, National and District Conventions, Youth camping programs, Sports tournaments, and a Youth creative arts contest.

1920's, 1930's & 1940's

In 1927, the FROC was founded by Fr. Vladimir Prislopsky as a means to assist in the work of the Church, and to provide an ideal way to meet others within the faith beyond the boundaries of the local parish. By mid-1929 over 44 Chapters (Clubs) had been established.

1950's & 1960's

An active period in the life of the FROC as athletic competition increased at both the District and National levels. Also, the need for "Sunday School" materials and programs became a priority of the organization. In 1962, with 282 participants, the FROC sponsored the first National Church School Teacher's Conference.

1970's

On September 23, 1970 the beloved founder of the FROC, Fr. Vladimir Prislopsky, fell asleep in the Lord. Soon after, the newly constructed FROC National Headquarters in Wilkes-Barre, PA was named in his blessed memory. In 1976, the 50th Anniversary National Convention was held at the Waldorf Astoria in New York City. His Beatitude, Metropolitan Theodosius, an active FROC member and scholarship recipient, was elected Primate of the OCA in 1977.

1980's

The organization established a Mission Hotline whose purpose was to match used liturgical items, donated by established parishes, to small or mission parishes in need. A renewed interest in membership growth by youth and young adults saw increased attendance at annual FROC events, such as the National Basketball, Bowling, and Summer Sports tournaments, as well as "Junior Olympics". At the 1988 National Convention in Orlando, FL, more than 1,500 room nights were booked!

1990's

In 1994, the convention body of the FROC petitioned the Holy Synod of Bishops to be officially recognized by the Orthodox Church in America. In the spring of 1995, the Holy Synod blessed this request. At the 1999 National Convention in Albany, NY, delegates approved the organization's name change to "Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America" (FOCA).

2000's & Today

There are currently 38 FOCA Chapters and 550 members. FOCA strengthened our relationship with St. Vladimir and St. Tikhon Seminaries, identifying new ways to help serve each of them. Since 2002, the "Adopt a Seminarian" project has provided financial assistance to needy married Seminary students and their families. From 2010-2015, FOCA pledged \$300,000 towards the Married Student Housing Project at St. Tikhon Seminary, the largest pledge in our organization's history. Additionally, Clubs donate annually to the St. Andrew's Fund and the Gifts of Love Fund; each year a different Orthodox organization is chosen to receive the FOCA donations. FOCA Clubs fundraise in various ways at their respective parishes in order to be able to monetarily donate to the above-named Funds as well as to other Orthodox recipients.