



St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

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HIEROMARTYR BLAISE, BISHOP OF SEBASTE

February 11, 2024

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 4

By sharing in the ways of the Apostles, thou didst become a successor to their throne. Through the practice of virtue, thou didst find the way to divine contemplation, O inspired one of God; by teaching the word of truth without error, thou didst defend the Faith, even to the shedding of thy blood.// O Hieromartyr Blaise, entreat Christ 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 2

Godly shoot, unfading flower, most fruitful branch of Christ the Vine, God-bearing Blaise, fill with joy those who in faith honor thy memory// as thou unceasingly intercedest for us all.

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

Hieromartyr Blaise, Bishop of Sebaste

The Hieromartyr Blaise (Blasius), Bishop of Sebaste, was known for his righteous and devout life. Unanimously chosen by the people, he was consecrated Bishop of Sebaste. This occurred during the reign of the Roman emperors Diocletian (284-305) and Licinius (307-324), fierce persecutors of Christians. Saint Blaise encouraged his flock, visited the imprisoned, and gave support to the martyrs.

Many hid themselves from the persecutors by going off to desolate and solitary places. Saint Blaise also hid himself away on Mount Argeos, where he lived in a cave. Wild beasts came up to him and meekly waited until the saint finished his prayer and blessed them. The saint also healed sick animals by laying his hands upon them. The refuge of the saint was discovered by servants of the governor Agrilaus, who had come to capture wild beasts to loose on the Christian martyrs. The servants reported to their master that Christians were hiding on the mountain, and he gave orders to arrest them. But those sent out found there only the Bishop of Sebaste. Glorifying God Who had summoned him to this exploit, Saint Blaise followed the soldiers.

Along the way the saint healed the sick and worked other miracles. Thus, a destitute widow complained to him of her misfortune. A wolf had carried off a small pig, her only possession. The bishop smiled and said to her, “Do not weep, your pig will be returned to you...” To the astonishment of everyone, the wolf came running back and returned his prey

unharmd. Agrilaus, greeting the bishop with words of deceit, called him a companion of the gods. The saint answered the greeting, but he called the gods devils. Then they beat him and led him off to prison.

On the next day, they subjected the saint to tortures again. When they led him back to the prison, seven women followed behind and gathered up the drops of blood. They arrested them and tried to compel them to worship the idols. The women pretended to consent to this and said that first they needed to wash the idols in the waters of a lake. They took the idols and threw them in a very deep part of the lake, and after this the Christians were fiercely tortured. The saints stoically endured the torments, strengthened by the grace of God, their bodies were transformed and became white as snow. One of the women had two young sons, who implored their mother to help them attain the Kingdom of Heaven, and she entrusted them to the care of Saint Blaise. The seven holy women were beheaded.

Saint Blaise was again brought before Agrilaus, and again he unflinchingly confessed his faith in Christ. The governor ordered that the martyr be thrown into a lake. The saint, going down to the water, signed himself with the Sign of the Cross, and he walked on it as though on dry land. Addressing the pagans standing about on shore, he challenged them to come to him while calling on the help of their gods. Sixty-eight men of the governor's retinue entered the water, and immediately drowned. The saint, however, heeding the angel who had appeared to him, returned to shore. Agrilaus was in a rage over losing his finest servants, and he gave orders to behead Saint Blaise, and the two sons of the woman martyr entrusted to him. Before his death, the martyr prayed for the whole world, and especially for those honoring his memory. This occurred in about the year 316.

The relics of the Hieromartyr Blaise were brought to the West during the time of the Crusades, and portions of the relics are preserved in many of the lands of Europe (and his memory traditionally honored there on February 3). We pray to Saint Blaise for the health of domestic animals, and for protection from wild beasts.

EPISTLE & GOSPEL READINGS

Epistle: 1 Timothy 1:15-17

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28

Then Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed." But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, "Send her away, for she cries out after us." But He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, help me!" But He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs." And she said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

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

Michael (1/21)	Alexandra (1/28)
Charlotte (1/21)	Anna (2/4)
Bishop Matthias (1/21)	Nick (2/4)
Hieromonk Silouan (1/21)	Julie (2/4)
Subdeacon Serge (1/21)	Kelly (2/4)
Melody (1/21)	Liam (2/4)
Nancy (1/21)	Dorothy (2/4)
Father Paul (1/28)	Carmine (2/11)
Matushka Mary (1/28)	Marianne (2/11)

For the Deceased

Kurtis (1/21)
Margaret (1/21)
Barbara (1/21)
Gori (1/21)
Dorothy (1/21)
Nina (1/28)
Ivan (1/28)
Igor (2/11)
Haydee (2/11)

SERVICES

Service Schedule for the week of February 11

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

Saturday February 17 – 5:00 PM Vespers followed by Confession

Sunday February 18 – 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall

DONATIONS

Weekly Giving

February 4 – 66 adults, 12 youth, \$3,718

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

There will be a FOCA Club meeting today during Coffee Hour. The FOCA Club is looking for new members so please join us today!

There will be a Parish Council Meeting this Tuesday, February 13 at 7:00 PM in the church basement.

The FOCA Club will have a Breakfast Fundraiser on Meatfare Sunday, March 10. A sign-up sheet is on the table in the back of the church. Please support our church clubs as funds raised support various Orthodox charities throughout the year.

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. All house blessings must be done before the beginning of Great Lent on March 18.

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

Aidan Godun – February 14

Blake Kilgore – February 17

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)

Two gallons spring water for coffee/tea

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. 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, Ramazi Shubitidze
- 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