



## St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

812 Grand Street, Trenton, NJ 08610

(609) 393-1234

Website: [saintvladimir.org](http://saintvladimir.org)

Facebook: [facebook.com/St-Vladimir-Orthodox-Church-Trenton-NJ-454092552035666](https://www.facebook.com/St-Vladimir-Orthodox-Church-Trenton-NJ-454092552035666)

### Afterfeast of the Theophany of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ / Martyr Polyeuktos of Melitene in Armenia January 9, 2022

#### **Troparion – Tone 4**

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the joyous message of Thy 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 1**

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest. For the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee, and called Thee His beloved Son; and the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the truthfulness of His word. O Christ our God, Who hast revealed Thyself// and hast enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

#### **Troparion – Tone 4**

Thy holy martyr Polyeuctus, O Lord, through his sufferings has received an incorruptible crown from Thee, our God. For having Thy strength, he laid low his adversaries, and shattered the powerless boldness of demons.// Through his intercession, save our souls!

#### **Kontakion – Tone 4**

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**

When the Savior bowed His head in the Jordan, the heads of the dragons were crushed;// when Polyeuctus was beheaded, the deceiver was put to shame.

#### **Kontakion – Tone 4**

Today Thou hast shone forth to the world, O Lord, and the light of Thy countenance has been marked on us. Knowing Thee, we sing Thy praises: “Thou hast come and revealed Thyself,// O unapproachable Light.”

#### **Prokeimenon – Tone 1**

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us / as we have set our hope on Thee!

*V. Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just!*

## **Afterfeast of the Theophany of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**

The third day of the Afterfeast of Theophany falls on January 9. The hymns of this period invite us to purify our minds in order to see Christ.

### **Martyr Polyeuktos of Melitene in Armenia**

Saint Polyeuktos was the first to be martyred for Christ in the Armenian city of Melitēné. He was a soldier during the reign of Emperor Decius (249-251), and he later suffered martyrdom in the reign of Valerian (253-259). He was a friend of Néarkhos (Νέαρχος) a fellow-soldier and a firm Christian. Polyeuktos, however, although he led a virtuous life, he remained a pagan.

When the persecution against Christians began, Néarkhos said to Polyeuktos, "Friend, soon we shall be separated, for they will take me to torture, and you, alas, will renounce your friendship with me." Polyeuktos told him that he had seen Christ in a dream. The Savior took his soiled military cloak from him and dressed him in a radiant garment. "Now," he said, "I am prepared to serve the Lord Jesus Christ."

Enflamed with zeal, Saint Polyeuktos went to the city square, and tore up the edict of Decius which required everyone to worship the idols. A few moments later, he met a procession carrying twelve idols through the streets of the city. Dashing the idols to the ground, he trampled them underfoot.

His father-in-law, the magistrate Felix, who was responsible for enforcing the imperial edict, was horrified at what Saint Polyeuktos had done and advised him to obey the imperial edict. Polyeuktos told him that we must obey God rather than men. Felix declared that Polyeuktos must die for this. "Go then, bid farewell to your wife and children," he said. Paulina wept and urged her husband to renounce Christ. Felix also wept, but Saint Polyeuktos remained steadfast in his resolve to suffer for Christ.

Bowing his head beneath the executioner's sword, he was baptized in his own blood. In the reign of Saint Constantine the Great, when the Church of Christ had triumphed throughout the Roman Empire, a church was built at Melitēné in honor of Saint Polyeuktos. Many miracles were worked through his intercession. In that same church, the parents of Saint Euthymios the Great (January 20) prayed fervently for a son. The birth of this great luminary of Orthodoxy occurred in the year 376, through the prayers of the Holy Martyr Polyeuktos.

Saint Polyeuktos was also venerated by Saint Akakios, the Bishop of Melitēné (March 31), who participated in the Third Ecumenical Council, and was a great proponent of Orthodoxy. In the East, as well as in the West, the Holy Martyr Polyeuktos is venerated as the patron Saint of vows and treaties.

The Polyeucte Overture of French composer Paul Dukas is only one of many pieces of classical music inspired by the Saints. It premiered in January of 1892. The French dramatist Pierre Corneille has also written a play, "Polyeucte" (1642), based on the Martyr's life. The name Polyeuktos means much-desired.

### **Epistle: Ephesians 4:7-13**

But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men." (Now this, "He ascended" – what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

### **Gospel: Matthew 4:12-17**

Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee. And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, by the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles: The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death Light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

## **Service Schedule for the week of January 9**

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

**Saturday January 15** – 5:00 PM Vespers followed by Confession

**Sunday January 16** – 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall

***Father Volodymyr will be blessing homes this year. A sign-up sheet is on the back table in church.***

## **Weekly Giving**

January 2 – 45 adults, 14 youth, \$3,055

## **Parish Announcements**

There will be a Parish Council Meeting this Tuesday, January 11 at 7:00 PM.

The Ladies Altar Society has a “Home Goods” annex set up in Daria Hall. Items to fix up, freshen up, or decorate your homes will be for sale during the month of January. All proceeds are dedicated back to the church. Thank you for your support!

The FOCA Club will be selling chicken parm sandwiches on Sunday February 6. All sandwiches will be to-go. Cost is \$7 each. A sign-up sheet is on the table in the back of the church. Thank you for your support!

## **UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK:**

Phyllis Eck – January 9

Noah Meyer – January 9

Sebastian Godun – January 13

Tahara Ortiz – January 13

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

## **COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE – Coffee Hour Preparation Instructions are available in the Daria Hall kitchen**

Jan. 9	Aftan Chowansky
Jan. 16	Dottie Kish & Philip Moldovan
Jan. 23	Blake & Jessica Kilgore
Jan. 30	Francine Brady & Herman Meyer
Feb. 6	Anna & Leon Brasowski
Feb. 13	Guy Radcliffe
Feb. 20	Alex & Rebeca Medina
Feb. 27	Valeria & Timothy Srock
Mar. 6	Walter & Tanya Tribbey
Mar. 13	<b>FAST DAY</b> Betty Kavchok
Mar. 20	<b>FAST DAY</b> Awet Tesfa & Nebiat Tesfa
Mar. 27	<b>FAST DAY</b> Madeleine Sekulich & Mark McDevitt
April 3	<b>FAST DAY</b> John Cassar
April 10	<b>FAST DAY</b> Christine Waite, Alla & Perry Strauss
April 17	<b>FAST DAY</b> Fiyori Habatesilasse
April 24	<b>PASCHA</b> – No coffee hour
May 1	Anne Cheslock