



St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

812 Grand Street, Trenton, NJ 08610

(609) 393-1234

Website: saintvladimir.org

Facebook: facebook.com/St-Vladimir-Orthodox-Church-Trenton-NJ-454092552035666

Venerable Anthony of the Kiev Far Caves, Founder of Monasticism in Russia July 10, 2022

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

Having left the turmoil of the world, thou didst renounce the world to follow Christ in accordance with the Gospel. Living a life equal to the Angels, thou didst reach the quiet haven of the Holy Mountain of Athos. With the blessing of the Athonite fathers, thou didst come to the hills of Kiev, where thou didst labor with love and didst illumine thy homeland. There thou leddest a multitude of monastics to Christ showing them the path that leads to the Kingdom of Heaven.// Venerable Anthony, pray to Him that our souls may be saved!

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 8

Having loved God above all from thy childhood, O ven'erable one, thou didst surrender thyself to Him and follow Him with all thy soul. Despising the material things of this world, thou didst make a cave in the earth, where thou didst fight the good fight against the invisible Enemy. Like a brilliant sun thou didst illumine all the ends of the earth, and with rejoicing thou didst pass into the heavenly chambers. Now as thou dost stand with the Angels before the Throne of the Master, remember us who honor thy memory as we cry to thee:// "Rejoice, our Fa-ther Anthony!"

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!

Prokeimenon – Tone 7

Precious in the sight of the Lord / is the death of His saints.

Venerable Anthony of the Kiev Far Caves, Founder of Monasticism in Russia

Saint Anthony of the Kiev Caves was born in the year 983 at Liubech, not far from Chernigov, and was named Antipas in Baptism. Possessing the fear of God from his youth, he desired to be clothed in the monastic schema. When he reached a mature age, he wandered until he arrived on Mt. Athos, burning with the desire to emulate the deeds of its holy inhabitants. Here he received monastic tonsure, and the young monk pleased God in every aspect of his spiritual struggles on the path of virtue. He particularly excelled in humility and obedience, so that all the monks rejoiced to see his holy life.

The igumen saw in Saint Anthony the great future ascetic, and inspired by God, he sent him back to his native land, saying, "Anthony, it is time for you to guide others in holiness. Return to your own Russian land, and be an example for others. May the blessing of the Holy Mountain be with you." Returning to the land of Rus, Anthony began to make the rounds of the monasteries about Kiev, but nowhere did he find that strict life which had drawn him to Mt. Athos.

Through the Providence of God, Anthony came to the hills of Kiev by the banks of the River Dnieper. The forested area near the village of Berestovo reminded him of his beloved Athos. There he found a cave which had been dug out by the Priest Hilarion, who later became Metropolitan of Kiev (October 21). Since he liked the spot, Anthony prayed with tears, "Lord, let the blessing of Mt. Athos be upon this spot, and strengthen me to remain here." He began to struggle in prayer, fasting, vigil and physical labor. Every other day, or every third day, he would eat only dry bread and a little water. Sometimes he did not eat for a week. People began to come to the ascetic for his blessing and counsel, and some decided to remain with the saint. Among Anthony's first disciples was Saint Nikon (March 23), who tonsured Saint Theodosius of the Caves (May 3) at the monastery in the year 1032.

The virtuous life of Saint Anthony illumined the Russian land with the beauty of monasticism. Saint Anthony lovingly received those who yearned for the monastic life. After instructing them how to follow Christ, he asked Saint Nikon to tonsure them. When twelve disciples had gathered about Saint Anthony, the brethren dug a large cave and built a church and cells for the monks within it. After he appointed Abbot Barlaam to guide the brethren, Saint Anthony withdrew from the monastery. He dug a new cave for himself, then hid himself within it. There too, monks began to settle around him. Afterwards, the saint built a small wooden church in honor of the Dormition of the Mother of God over the Far Caves.

At the insistence of Prince Izyaslav, the igumen Barlaam withdrew to the Dimitriev monastery. With the blessing of Saint Anthony and with the general agreement of the brethren, the meek and humble Theodosius was chosen as igumen. By this time, the number of brethren had already reached a hundred men. The Kiev Great Prince Izyaslav (+ 1078) gave the monks the hill on which the large church and cells were built, with a palisade all around. Thus, the renowned monastery over the caves was established. Describing this, the chronicler remarks that while many monasteries were built by emperors and nobles, they could not compare with those which are built with holy prayers and tears, and by fasting and vigil. Although Saint Anthony had no gold, he built a monastery which became the first spiritual center of Rus.

For his holiness of life, God glorified Saint Anthony with the gift of clairvoyance and wonderworking. One example of this occurred during the construction of the Great Caves church. The Most Holy Theotokos Herself stood before him and Saint Theodosius in the Blachernae church in Constantinople, where they had been miraculously transported without leaving their own monastery. Actually, two angels appeared in Constantinople in their forms (See May 3, the account of the Kiev Caves Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos). Having received gold from the Mother of God, the saints commissioned master architects, who came from Constantinople to the Russian land on the command of the Queen of Heaven to build the church at the Monastery of the Caves. During this appearance, the Mother of God foretold the impending death of Saint Anthony, which occurred on July 10, 1073. Through Divine Providence, the relics of Saint Anthony remain hidden.

Epistle: Romans 6:18-23

And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness. For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Epistle: Galatians 5:22-6:2

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another. Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

Gospel: Matthew 8:5-13

Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented." And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him." The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel! And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you." And his servant was healed that same hour.

Gospel: Matthew 4:25-5:12

Great multitudes followed Him – from Galilee, and from Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan. And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Service Schedule for the week of July 3

Sunday July 10 – 9:45 AM Hours; 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall

Thursday July 14 – **ST. VLADIMIR FEAST DAY** 7:00 PM Vespers with Litya followed by potuck supper in Daria Hall

Friday July 15 – **ST VLADIMIR FEAST DAY** 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy with Archbishop Michael

Saturday July 16 – 5:00 PM Vespers followed by Confession

Sunday July 17 – 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall

Weekly Giving

July 3 – 39 adults, 18 youth, \$2,812

Parish Announcements

THANK YOU! Fr. Paul and his family sincerely thank His Eminence Archbishop Michael, Fr. Volodymyr, all the other clergy and altar servers, the choir director and singers, all who offered warm and thoughtful remembrances at the luncheon — all who attended and brought their love and prayers for Fr. Paul's Centennial birthday celebration on Saturday, July 2d. We also sincerely thank those who donated to the church in Fr. Paul's honor. Finally, we express our gratitude to those who helped decorate Daria Hall and helped with logistics the day of the event — Nancy Mitsos, Dorothy Kish, Awet Tesfa Manna, Nina Laushell, Anne Cheslock, Darice Keyes, and Herman Meyer — and anyone else who helped whose name we might have missed. We are deeply grateful to *everyone* who participated, with us in person or from afar, in this glorious joyful day!

There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the back of the church for Potluck Supper after Vespers this Thursday July 14 for St. Vladimir Feast Day. This is not a fast day – any food will be acceptable. Archbishop Michael will be here to celebrate our patron saint's Feast Day on July 14 and July 15.

There will be a Parish Council Meeting this Tuesday, July 12, at 7:00 PM in the church basement.

The Ladies Altar Society will be selling homemade cupcakes during Coffee Hour next Sunday, July 17 - 2 for \$1. Please support this parish club fundraiser!

For the balance of the year, Coffee Hour helpers have been assigned to assist the host/hostess every Sunday. Please refer to the revised Coffee Hour Schedule below. The Helper, or Melody, will contact the host/hostess early in the week to answer any questions and advise what regular supplies may be needed (usually milk, butter). We thank Melody and Mike for their many years of taking care of Coffee Hour for all of us!

Everyone - please purchase a few gallons of spring water to be used for Coffee Hour in Daria Hall. If you are not going over to Daria Hall, please leave the water on the table in the back of the church. Thank you!

Please consider a cash donation to purchase a fruit tree for our parish picnic grounds. The cost per tree is approx. \$75-\$100. When enough cash is available, several trees will be purchased and a planting day at the picnic grounds will be scheduled. Thank you!

Youth and adults of the parish are invited to Bible Study classes during Coffee Hour. The classes are taught by Alan Berck.

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK:

Herman Meyer – July 10

Christopher Kasmer – July 10

Leah Tesfahune – July 13

Rebeca Medina – July 14

Nina Laushell – July 15

David Sichik – July 16

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

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

July 10 Darice Keyes, Alla Strauss
July 17 Alla Strauss, Francine Brady, Nancy Mitsos
July 24 Boryana Dorvil, Nancy Mitsos
July 31 Lynne Sheedy, Alla Strauss
Aug. 7 **FAST DAY** Mary Reiling, Nina Laushell
Aug. 14 **FAST DAY** Corneliu & Ilonica Balosa, Nancy Mitsos
Aug. 21 Viktorya Baranova, Darice Keyes
Aug. 28 Nana & Matthew Barrett, Herman Meyer, Francine Brady
Sept. 4 Vera Pschenyczny, Alla Strauss
Sept. 11 Karina Kotelnicki, Darice Keyes
Sept. 18 Ekaterina & Stanislav Uritsky, Nancy Mitsos
Sept. 25 ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC – no Coffee Hour
Oct. 2 Gebrekvistas Amleset, Alla Strauss
Oct. 9 Bill & Margie DiCicco, Chris Kasmer, Nina Laushell
Oct. 16 Ramazi Shubitidze, Herman Meyer, Francine Brady
Oct. 23 Alex Godun, Awet Tesfa
Oct. 30 Phyllis Eck, Nancy Mitsos
Nov. 6 Paula & Ludwig Koerte, Awet Tesfa
Nov. 13 TURKEY SOCIAL – no Coffee Hour
Nov. 20 **FAST DAY** Alex & Brittani Brasowski, Darice Keyes
Nov. 27 **FAST DAY** Germain & Tahara Ortiz, Nina Laushell
Dec. 4 **FAST DAY** Paul Denko, Francine Brady, Herman Meyer
Dec. 11 **FAST DAY** Olga & James Bates, Alla Strauss
Dec. 18 **FAST DAY** Father Volodymyr & Matushka Oksana, Darice Keyes
Dec. 25 CHRISTMAS – no Coffee Hour
Jan. 1 Matthew & Kris Bohush, Awet Tesfa