



St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

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Righteous Eudocimus of Cappadocia / Forefeast of the Procession of the Honorable and Lifegiving Cross of the Lord July 31, 2022

Troparion – Tone 6

The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb; the guards became as dead men. Mary stood by Thy grave, seeking Thy most pure body. Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it. Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life. O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, // glory to Thee.

Troparion – Tone 1

O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance! Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians over their adversaries; and by virtue of Thy Cross, // preserve Thy habitation!

Troparion – Tone 4

He Who called thee from earth to heaven keeps thy body unharmed after death, holy Eudocimus; for thou didst live a sober and holy life and didst not defile thy flesh; // so with boldness intercede with Christ that we may be saved!

Kontakion – Tone 6

When Christ God, the Giver of Life, raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand, He bestowed resurrection on the human race. // He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all.

Kontakion – Tone 3

Today thine honored memory has assembled us at the holy shrine of thy sacred relics; all then who approach and venerate them are rescued from the evil malice of demons // and are swiftly delivered from various diseases, blessed Eudocimus.

Prokeimenon – Tone 6

O Lord, save Thy people, / and bless Thine inheritance!

V. To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me!

Righteous Eudocimus of Cappadocia

Saint Eudocimus, a native of Cappadocia (Asia Minor), lived during the ninth century during the reign of Emperor Theophilus (829-842). He was the son of the pious Christians Basil and Eudokia, an illustrious family known to the emperor. They raised their son "in discipline and admonition of the Lord" (Eph. 6: 4), planting in his soul a sincere faith and holy virtues.

The righteous life of Saint Eudocimus was devoted to pleasing God and serving his neighbor. Having given a vow to remain unmarried and chaste, he avoided conversation with women and did not look at them. He would speak only with his own

mother, whom he greatly respected. The emperor valued his virtue and talents, so he appointed Saint Eudocimus as governor of Chorziane, Armenia. Fulfilling his duty as a servant of God, Saint Eudocimus governed the people justly and with kindness. He concerned himself with the unfortunate, and with orphans and widows, and he was a defender of the common people. His personal Christian exploits which he did in secret, were known only to God.

Eudocimus pleased God by his blameless life, and the Lord called him at age 33. Lying on his deathbed, Saint Eudocimus gave final instructions to place him in the grave in those clothes in which he would meet death. Then he sent everyone out of the room and entreated the Lord that no one would see his end, just as no one saw his secret efforts during life. His attendants buried him as he had instructed them. Right after the death of Saint Eudocimus miracles took place at his grave. Many sick people were healed, and the news of the miraculous healings spread.

After 18 months, the mother of Saint Eudocimus came from Constantinople to venerate his relics. She gave orders to remove the stone, dig up the ground, and open the grave. Everyone beheld the face of the saint, bright as if alive, altogether untouched by decay. A great fragrance came from him. They took up the coffin with the relics from the earth, and they dressed the saint in new clothes. His mother wanted to take the relics of her son to Constantinople, but the Kharsian people would not clear a path for their holy one. After a certain time the hieromonk Joseph, having lived and served at the grave of the saint, transported the relics of Saint Eudocimus to Constantinople. There they were placed in a silver reliquary in the church of the Most Holy Theotokos, built by the parents of the saint.

Saint Eudocimus is considered by the Russian Church to be one of the special protectors and intercessors before God of the family hearth. He was, as his name implies, truly successful in every virtue.

Forefeast of the Procession of the Honorable and Lifegiving Cross of the Lord

The Eastern Orthodox and Eastern Catholics also commemorate the **Procession of the Precious Wood of the Life-giving Cross of Jesus Christ** on August 1, which is also the first day of the Dormition Fast. The propers of the feast are combined with those of the Holy Maccabean Martyrs, the commemoration of whose endurance is deemed appropriate for the first day of a fast. Unlike the observance on September 14, this commemoration is considered to be a minor feast, but it does have the bringing out of the cross and veneration by the faithful like the September feast.

The history of this feast begins in Constantinople where it was the custom to carry the relic of the True Cross through the streets and squares of the city to ask for God's blessing and for relief from sickness. On the eve of the feast (July 31), observed as a forefeast, it was taken out of the imperial treasury, and laid upon the altar of the "Great Church" (Hagia Sophia) and the following day solemnly placed in the middle of the Great Church for the faithful to venerate. It was taken in procession daily throughout the city, offering it to the people to venerate, until the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos (August 15), when it was returned to the imperial treasury.

In commemoration of this tradition, it is customary to have an outdoor procession with the *Lesser Blessing of Water* on August 1. It is the first of three "Feasts of the Saviour" in the month of August, the other two being the Transfiguration (August 6) and the Icon of Christ "Not Made by Hands" (August 16). Because of the blessing of holy water, this feast is sometimes called "Saviour of the Water." There may also be celebrated on this day the *Rite of Blessing New Honey*, for which reason the day is also referred to as "Saviour of the Honey."

According to Saint Nikolaj Velimirović, this feast was instituted by mutual agreement of the Greeks and Russians to commemorate the simultaneous victories of the Byzantine Emperor Manuel I Komnenos over the Bulgarians and the Russian Prince Andrei Bogolyubsky over the Saracens in the 12th century. In the Russian Orthodox Church, this feast also celebrates the Baptism of Rus, which occurred on August 1, 988.

Epistle: Romans 15:1-7

We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification. For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me." For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God.

Gospel: Matthew 9:27-35

When Jesus departed from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out and saying, "Son of David, have mercy on us!" And when He had come into the house, the blind men came to Him. And Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord." Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith let it be to you." And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them, saying, "See that no one knows it." But when they had departed, they spread the news about Him in all that country. As they went out, behold, they brought to Him a man, mute and demon-possessed. And when the demon was cast out, the mute spoke. And the multitudes marveled, saying, "It was never seen like this in Israel!" But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the ruler of the demons." Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

Service Schedule for the week of July 31

Sunday July 31 – 9:45 AM Hours; 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall

Friday August 5 - **TRANSFIGURATION** 7:00 PM Vespers with Litya

Saturday August 6 – **TRANSFIGURATION** 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy; 5:00 PM Vespers followed by Confession

Sunday August 7 – 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall

Weekly Giving

July 24 – 54 adults, 20 youth, \$2,349

Parish Announcements

The Dormition Fast begins tomorrow, Monday August 1 through Sunday August 14.

The Ladies Altar Society will be selling homemade organic blackberry jam during Coffee Hour today. The cost is \$5.00 per jar. Thank you for your support!

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. The trees will be planted at the picnic grounds in October – date will be announced. 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:

Alex Godun – July 31

Zacharias Cassar – August 5

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 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, Nancy Mitsos

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 Gebrevistos 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, Darice Keyes

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