



## St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

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### Lives of the Saints

June 17, 2018

#### **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 4**

Thy holy martyrs Manuel, Sabel, and Ismael, O Lord, through their sufferings have received incorruptible crowns from Thee, our God. For having Thy strength, they laid low their adversaries, and shattered the powerless boldness of demons:// Through their intercessions, save our souls!

#### **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 2**

Because of your perfect faith in Christ, all-blessed martyrs, Ye drank the cup of His sufferings with generous hearts. Ye renounced the idols of Persia, and, yourselves three in number, proclaimed your belief in the Holy Trinity:// We ever beseech you to pray for us all.

#### **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.*

#### **Lives of the Saints: Martyrs Manuel, Sabel, and Ismael of Persia**

The Holy Martyrs Manuel, Sabel and Ismael, brothers by birth, were descended from an illustrious Persian family. Their father was a pagan, but their mother was a Christian, who baptized the children and raised them with firm faith in Christ the Savior.

When they reached adulthood, the brothers entered military service. Speaking on behalf of the Persian emperor Alamundar, they were his emissaries in concluding a peace treaty with the emperor Julian the Apostate (361-363). Julian received them with due honor and showed them his favor. But when the brothers refused to take part in a pagan sacrifice, Julian became angry. He annulled the treaty and incarcerated the ambassadors of a foreign country like common criminals.

At the interrogation he told them that if they scorned the gods he worshipped, it would be impossible to reach any peace or accord between the two sides. The holy brothers answered that they were sent as emissaries of their emperor on matters of state, and not to argue about “gods.” Seeing their firmness of faith, the emperor ordered the brothers to be tortured.

They beat the holy martyrs, then nailed their hands and feet to trees. Later, they drove iron spikes into their heads, and wedged sharp splinters under their fingernails and toenails. During this time of torment the saints glorified God and prayed as if they did not feel the tortures.

Finally, the holy martyrs were beheaded. Julian ordered their bodies to be burned, and suddenly there was an earthquake. The ground opened up and the bodies of the holy martyrs disappeared into the abyss. After two days of fervent prayer by the Christians, the earth returned the bodies of the holy brothers, from which a sweet fragrance issued forth. Many pagans, witnessing the miracle, came to believe in Christ and were baptized.

Christians reverently buried the bodies of the holy martyrs Manuel, Sabel and Ismael in the year 362. Since that time the relics of the holy passion-bearers have been glorified with miracles.

When he heard about the murder of his emissaries, and that Julian was marching against him with a vast army, the Persian emperor Alamundar mustered his army and started off toward the border of his domain. The Persians vanquished the Greeks in a great battle, and Julian the Apostate was killed by the holy Great Martyr Mercurius (November 24).

Thirty years later the pious emperor Theodosius the Great (+ 397) built at Constantinople a church in honor of the holy martyrs, and Saint Germanus, Patriarch of Constantinople (May 12), then still a hieromonk, wrote a Canon in memory and in praise of the holy brothers.

### **Epistle: Romans 5:1-10**

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

### **Gospel: Matthew 6:22-33**

The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness! No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

### **Service Schedule for the week of June 17**

**Today** – 8:45 AM Hours, 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall.

**Saturday June 23** – 5:00 PM Vespers followed by Confession

**Sunday June 24** – 8:45 AM Hours, 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall.

## **Weekly Giving**

June 10 – 37 adults, 7 youth, \$1,692

## **Parish Announcements**

Happy Father's Day to all the men of the Parish! In celebration, the Senior R Club will be giving away some goodies during Coffee Hour.

Kyra Laushell will give a presentation on Covenant House today during Coffee Hour.

St. Andrew's Camp in Jewell, NY will start their camping program on July 9. The cost is approx. \$350/week all-inclusive. If any parents or children are interested in more information about the camp, please see Father Volodymyr.

Sign-up sheets are in the back of the church for the Potluck Reception on Saturday July 14 after Vespers and our St. Vladimir Day banquet on Sunday July 15. Archbishop Michael will be in attendance both Saturday and Sunday.

There are brochures available in the back of the church about what it means to be a "Distinguished Diocesan Benefactor". All funds donated as a DDB are given to various Orthodox charities. For the last several years our Parish, the Church School, the Ladies Altar Society, and the Senior R Club have all made DDB donations, which are given to Archbishop Michael when he joins us for our St. Vladimir Day celebration. Starting today, we will have a collection basket in the back of the church for three weeks for anyone who may be interested in making a donation. All monies collected will given to Archbishop Michael on July 15<sup>th</sup>. Or, you may choose to donate directly (please refer to the brochure for further information). If you have any questions please see Father Volodymyr. Thank you!