



St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

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SYNAXIS OF THE SAINTS OF NORTH AMERICA

June 18, 2023

TROPARION, KONTAKION & PROKEIMENON

Troparion – Tone 1

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: “Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Thy Kingdom!// Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou Who lovest mankind!”

Troparion – Tone 8

As the bountiful harvest of Thy sowing of salvation, the lands of North America offer to Thee, O Lord, all the saints who have shone in them. By their prayers keep the Church and our land in abiding peace// through the Theotokos, O most Merciful One!

Kontakion – Tone 1

As God, Thou didst rise from the tomb in glory, raising the world with Thyself. Human nature praises Thee as God, for death has vanished. Adam exults, O Master! Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage and cries to Thee:// “Thou art the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!”

Kontakion – Tone 3

Today the choir of Saints who were pleasing to God in the lands of North America now stands before us in the Church and invisibly prays to God for us. With them the Angels glorify Him, and all the Saints of the Church of Christ keep festival with them;// and together they all pray for us to the Pre-eternal God.

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!*

Prokeimenon – Tone 7

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

LITURGICAL COMMEMORATION

Synaxis of the Saints of North America

On the second Sunday after Pentecost, each local Orthodox Church commemorates all the saints, known and unknown, who have shone forth in its territory. Accordingly, the Orthodox Church in America remembers the saints of North America on this day.

Saints of all times, and in every country are seen as the fulfillment of God’s promise to redeem fallen humanity. Their example encourages us to “lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily besets us” and to “run with patience the race that is set before us” (Hebrews 12:1). The saints of North America also teach us how we should live, and what we must expect to endure as Christians. Although it is a relatively young church, the Orthodox Church in America has produced saints in nearly all of the six major categories of saints: Apostles (and Equals of the Apostles); Martyrs (and Confessors); Prophets; Hierarchs; Monastic Saints; and the Righteous. Prophets, of course, lived in Old Testament times and predicted the coming of Christ.

The first Divine Liturgy in what is now American territory (northern latitude 58 degrees, 14 minutes, western longitude 141 degrees) was celebrated on July 20, 1741, the Feast of the Prophet Elias, aboard the ship Peter under the command of Vitus Bering. Hieromonk Hilarion Trusov and the priest Ignatius Kozirevsky served together on that occasion. Several years later, the Russian merchant Gregory I. Shelikov visited Valaam monastery, suggesting to the abbot that it would be desirable to send missionaries to Russian America. On September 24, 1794, after a journey of 7,327 miles (the longest missionary journey in Orthodox history) and 293 days, a group of monks from Valaam arrived on Kodiak Island in Alaska. The mission was headed by Archimandrite Joasaph, and included Hieromonks Juvenal, Macarius, and Athanasius, the Hierodeacons Nectarius and Stephen, and the monks Herman and Joasaph. Saint Herman of Alaska (December 13, August 9), the last surviving member of the mission, fell asleep in the Lord in 1837.

Throughout the Church's history, the seeds of faith have always been watered by the blood of the martyrs. The Protomartyr Juvenal was killed near Lake Iliamna by natives in 1799, thus becoming the first Orthodox Christian to shed his blood for Christ in the New World. In 1816, Saint Peter the Aleut was put to death by Spanish missionaries in California when he refused to convert to Roman Catholicism. Missionary efforts continued in the nineteenth century, with outreach to the native peoples of Alaska. Two of the most prominent laborers in Christ's Vineyard were Saint Innocent Veniaminov (March 31 and October 6) and Saint Jacob Netsvetov (July 26), who translated Orthodox services and books into the native languages. Father Jacob Netsvetev died in Sitka in 1864 after a life of devoted service to the Church. Father John Veniaminov, after his wife's death, received monastic tonsure with the name Innocent. He died in 1879 as the Metropolitan of Moscow.

As the nineteenth century was drawing to a close, an event of enormous significance for the North American Church took place. On March 25, 1891, Bishop Vladimir went to Minneapolis to receive Saint Alexis Toth (May 7) and 361 of his parishioners into the Orthodox Church. This was the beginning of the return of many Uniates to Orthodoxy. Saint Tikhon (Bellavin), the future Patriarch of Moscow (April 7, October 9), came to America as bishop of the diocese of the Aleutians and Alaska in September 1898. As the only Orthodox bishop on the continent, Saint Tikhon traveled extensively throughout North America in order to minister to his widely scattered and diverse flock. He realized that the local church here could not be a permanent extension of the Russian Church. Therefore, he focused his efforts on giving the American Church a diocesan and parish structure which would help it mature and grow.

Saint Tikhon returned to Russia in 1907, and was elected as Patriarch of Moscow ten years later. He died in 1925, and for many years his exact burial place remained unknown. Saint Tikhon's grave was discovered on February 22, 1992 in the smaller cathedral of Our Lady of the Don in the Don Monastery when a fire made renovation of the church necessary. Saint Raphael of Brooklyn (February 27) was the first Orthodox bishop to be consecrated in North America. Archimandrite Raphael Hawaweeny was consecrated by Bishop Tikhon and Bishop Innocent (Pustynsky) at Saint Nicholas Cathedral in New York on March 13, 1904. As Bishop of Brooklyn, Saint Raphael was a trusted and capable assistant to Saint Tikhon in his archpastoral ministry. Saint Raphael reposed on February 27, 1915.

The first All American Council took place March 5-7, 1907 at Mayfield, PA, and the main topic was "How to expand the mission." Guidelines and directions for missionary activity, and statutes for the administrative structure of parishes were also set forth. In the twentieth century, in the aftermath of the Russian Revolution, countless men, women, and children received the crown of martyrdom rather than renounce Christ. Saints John Kochurov (October 31) and Alexander Hotovitzky (December 4 and August 7) both served the Church in North America before going back to Russia. Saint John became the first clergyman to be martyred in Russia on October 31, 1917 in Saint Petersburg. Saint Alexander Hotovitzky, who served in America until 1914, was killed in 1937.

In addition to the saints listed above, we also honor those saints who are known only to God, and have not been recognized officially by the Church. As we contemplate the lives of these saints, let us remember that we are also called by God to a life of holiness.

EPISTLE & GOSPEL READINGS

Epistle: Romans 2:10-16

But glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For there is no partiality with God. For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law (for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified; for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing

witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them) in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.

Epistle: Hebrews 11:33-12:2

Who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to fight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented – of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us. Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Gospel: Matthew 4:18-23

And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. Then He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” They immediately left their nets and followed Him. Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. He called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him. And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.

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.

SERVICES

Service Schedule for the week of June 18

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

Saturday June 24 – 5:00 PM Vespers followed by Confession

Sunday June 25 – 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall

PREPARATION FOR DIVINE LITURGY

Following are practices which can lead to a deeper faith, hope, and love. Everyone should prepare for Divine Liturgy, not as a matter of habit, but as a deliberate practice week after week.

FAMILIARIZE oneself with the commemoration for the day, Troparia, Kontakia, and the Epistle and Gospel readings.

GO to bed early enough so that you have enough rest to rise and get to Church in an unhurried manner. In order to partake of Holy Communion, you must be in church prior to the reading of the Holy Gospel.

DRESS in a manner that is respectful and modest. While there is no single style that is required/acceptable, there are certain ones that are not.

HEAD COVERINGS FOR WOMEN: The primary reason Christian women choose to wear head coverings during worship is to adhere to the Holy Tradition of the Church. After all, women covering their heads during worship is an ancient practice in the Christian Church, one that has fallen into disuse, especially in the West. Note that there may be other secondary reasons why women choose to wear head coverings and that these differ from person to person. For example, some women wear them to help themselves or others focus more on prayer – in other words, they dress a certain way out of modesty. Others may decide to wear them to express their respect for a sacred space and their desire to be different from the secular world around them. Naturally, women can express all of these things without wearing a head covering or veil. But many Christian women choose to express these things through the very wearing of a head covering. Ultimately, in America, most jurisdictions in the Orthodox Church leave the woman to decide whether to cover her head. Over the last several years, many more women in Orthodox (and even Catholic and Protestant) churches have started covering their heads during worship. In a world that insists on tossing Christianity and its treasured values by the wayside, we are eager to connect with the ancient roots of the Church in every way possible.

PREVIOUS:

PRE-COMMUNION PRAYERS – Again, there are different traditions of practice in the Orthodox Church, but minimally it should include Prayers Before Holy Communion. These are found in most Orthodox prayer books.

ATTEND VESPERS, MATINS, OR VIGIL AS AVAILABLE: The reason for this is that our liturgical celebration is not limited to one service, but Vespers, Matins, and Divine Liturgy form a triptych in which they build upon each other and fulfill and complete one another. Work schedules or commitments may limit our ability to do so at all times, but it is good to make an effort to attend services on week days and/or Saturdays.

HOLY MYSTERY OF CONFESSION – For adults as well as children age 7 and older. Regular attendance at Divine Liturgy with the presumption of Holy Communion should also include regular participation in the Holy Mystery of Confession. The OCA policy on this, since 1972, is that regular Communion requires monthly confession, unless more frequently called for. Much more can be said on this topic as there are different traditions in the practice of the Church.

FASTING – For adults as well as children age 7 and older. Fasting the evening prior to Divine Liturgy from midnight, at least from food and drink and sexual relations the entire night. Fasting traditionally began with the end of Vigil/Vespers. The OCA requires the midnight fast period but does not prohibit the fast from beginning earlier in the day. This presumes we will partake of Holy Communion at the Divine Liturgy, which has historically been the presumption of the Church from the beginning. None of us is worthy; God makes us so. But we should all be prepared, and that is up to us.

DONATIONS

Weekly Giving

June 11 – 63 adults, 8 youth, \$1,677

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy Father's Day to all Fathers, Stepfathers, Godfathers, Grandfathers, Uncles, and men of the parish! Memory Eternal for those who have fallen asleep in the Lord.

There will be a FOCA Club meeting next Sunday, June 25 during Coffee Hour. This will be the last FOCA meeting until September.

The SS Peter and Paul Fast began this week and lasts through June 28. Please be mindful of this fasting period.

The Parish Council has come up with new parameters for Coffee Hour. When originally started several decades ago in the church basement, Coffee Hour was simple (coffee, tea, bagels, rolls, donuts) and gathered the parish family together for fellowship and friendship. Lately Coffee Hour has advanced to a level of serving a full meal, which is not only costly and stressful to prepare, but is taking away from attendance at church services. Please refer to the COFFEE HOUR section at the end of the bulletin to review the new parameters. Note that we will be assigning two hosts and a helper each week starting in July. This will allow the refreshment costs will be shared by the two hosts and won't be too expensive for one host. Please review the schedule below, and if there is a conflict with your assigned date please let Darice know as soon as possible; many changes to the Schedule have been made. Thank you for your understanding, participation, and the wonderful fellowship that has been built during Coffee Hour!

Sign-up sheets for our upcoming St. Vladimir Feast Day celebration July 15-16 are in the back of the church. Archbishop Michael will be attending that weekend to celebrate with us. We are anticipating approx. 150 people will be attending services and the banquet.

1. Sign up to attend the banquet after Hierarchical Liturgy on Sunday July 16. We need to know by July 9th how many people will be attending so we can properly prepare. Deacon Bohdan Chaikivskyi will also be ordained to the holy priesthood on July 16, so the parish will celebrate this occasion as well!
2. Sign up for the potluck supper after Vespers on Saturday July 15.
3. There is a list of items needed for the banquet on July 16. Please sign up next to the item(s) you can bring.

The FOCA Club has scheduled an upcoming fundraiser of making and selling pierogies. If you want to learn or help, we will be making the filling on Friday July 21, and rolling out and filling the dough on Saturday July 22; we will advise when the dough will be made. We need some men with muscles to help roll out the dough as it can be a bit stubborn! Pierogies will be sold on July 22 when we are finished making them, as well as on Sunday July 23 until we are sold out. More details will be forthcoming.

The church is in need of a person who is willing to handle a lot of the Maintenance issues for the church, and the little Maintenance that needs to be done at the church picnic grounds. In the past, parishioners Paul Kavchok, Tom Roshetar, and David Sichik filled the role. Some examples: making sure the annual fire extinguisher inspection and tagging is completed by the vendor, changing air conditioner filters, identifying roof leaks, fixing leaky faucets, cleaning the Daria Hall kitchen grease trap, changing lightbulbs, making sure the heating systems are serviced as needed by the vendor, arranging for the handicap lift annual inspection, painting. Some of these tasks involve climbing a ladder. Father Volodymyr is going to make up a list of items that he is aware of, many of which he has been taking care of himself. If you are interested in this role, or perhaps a portion of this role, please speak to Father or a member of the Parish Council. Thank you!

A Parish "Directory" with photos and identifying names of all parishioners is in the works. This will help us all with "putting a face to the name"! When you are at Daria Hall for Coffee Hour, please see Awet Tesfa to get your picture taken.

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

Matushka Oksana – June 18

Betaneya Tsegay – June 21

Perry Strauss – June 21

Darice Keyes – June 23

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

If you do not see your birthday listed above during your birthday week, please let Darice know and she will add it to the schedule!

COFFEE HOUR

Please remember the Coffee Hour Helpers do not bring any refreshments for Coffee Hour, but are there to assist in setting up for Coffee Hour. Hosts are responsible for: Providing the refreshments, Setting up in Daria Hall at 9:00 AM with guidance from the Helper, Cleaning up after Coffee Hour including washing and drying dishes, Taking out the trash. If you have any questions please contact Melody Stavisky, Alla Strauss, or the Helper assigned to your Coffee Hour date. (continued)

COFFEE HOUR PARAMETERS:

1. Plan on providing refreshments for 50 people.
 2. Food items are limited to: 4 doz. Bagels/breads (2 doz. per host)
4 doz. Donuts/pastries (2 doz. per host)
Fruit
- NOTE:** For Fasting Coffee Hour:
Bagels (except egg bagels) and some breads (rye) are non-dairy.
Oreos and most apple pies are non-dairy.
Hosts may provide homemade non-dairy breads and/or desserts.
3. Hosts will be informed in advance if cream cheese, butter/margarine, or milk is needed.
 4. The church will provide coffee, tea, assorted coffee creamers, peanut butter, jelly, paper products, and juice.
 5. Hosts take home or give away ALL leftover refreshments so the freezer and refrigerator do not get clogged with unused food.

(The last name listed is the Coffee Hour Helper)

June 18 **FAST** Timothy & Valeria Srock, Awet Tesfa
June 25 **FAST** Alla & Perry Strauss, Christine Waite
July 2 Alex & Brittani Brasowski, Anna & Leon Brasowski, Melody Stavisky
July 9 Nancy Mitsos, Karina Kotelnicki, Darice Keyes
July 16 ST. VLADIMIR FEAST DAY BANQUET
July 23 Tyler Burger, Sami Bachir, Nina Laushell
July 30 Nour Ragab, Eleni Athanatos, Francine Meyer
Aug. 6 **FAST** Mihaela & Tiberiu Milosav, Gabriella Plesa, Alla Strauss
Aug. 13 **FAST** Trudy Ellmore, Herman & Francine Meyer
Aug. 20 Alex & Rebeca Medina, Vera Pschenyczny, Awet Tesfa
Aug. 27 Olga & James Bates, Walter & Tanya Tribbey, Darice Keyes
Sept. 3 Tahara & Germain Ortiz, Alan & Mimi Berck, Alla Strauss
Sept. 10 Monia & James Pitra, Lynne Sheedy, Darice Keyes
Sept. 17 Jessica & Blake Kilgore, Svetlana Sosedov, Nina Laushell
Sept. 24 ANNUAL PARISH PICNIC
Oct. 1 Guy Radcliffe, Paul & Patti Denko, Francine Meyer
Oct. 8 John Cassar, Christina DiDonato, Alla Strauss
Oct. 15 Ramazi Shubitidze, Ilonica & Corneliu Balasa, Nancy Mitsos
Oct. 22 Tony Vashkevich, Manny & Lourdes Montiel, Awet Tesfa
Oct. 29 Nina Laushell, Alex Godun, Darice Keyes
Nov. 5 Tamara Karkusova, Ekaterina & Stanislav Uritsky, Francine Meyer
Nov. 12 Natalia Kolomatskaia, Matthew & Kris Bohush, Alla Strauss
Nov. 19 **FAST** Sophie Dumas, Melissa Braun, Darice Keyes
Nov. 26 **FAST** Gebrekvistos Amleset, Awet Tesfa
Dec. 3 **FAST** Nicholas Torrisi, John Honey, Nina Laushell
Dec. 10 **FAST** Victoryia Baranova, Madeleine Sekulich & Mark McDevitt, Nancy Mitsos
Dec. 17 **FAST** Paula & Ludwig Koerte, Melody Stavisky, Darice Keyes
Dec. 24 **FAST** Father Volodymyr & Matushka Oksana, Carmen & Cezar Mateiescu, Alla Strauss
Dec. 31 Nebiat Tesfa, Luwam Tesfa, Francine Meyer