



## St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

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### VENERABLE ANANIAS THE ICONOGRAPHER / VIRGIN MARTYR FEBRONIA OF NISIBIS

June 25, 2023

#### TROPARION, KONTAKION & PROKEIMENON

##### **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**

O Prophet and Forerunner of the coming of Christ, although we cannot praise thee worthily, we honor thee in love at thy nativity, for by it thou hast ended thy father’s silence and thy mother’s barrenness,// proclaiming to the world the incarnation of the Son of God!

##### **Troparion – Tone 4**

Thy lamb Febronia calls out to Thee, O Jesus, in a loud voice: “I love Thee, my Bridegroom, and in seeking Thee, I endure suffering. In baptism I was crucified so that I might reign in Thee, and I died so that I might live with Thee. Accept me as a pure sacrifice, for I have offered myself in love.”// Through her prayers save our souls, since Thou art merciful!

##### **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 3**

Today the formerly barren woman gives birth to Christ’s Forerunner, who is the fulfillment of every prophecy; for in the Jordan, when he laid his hand on the One foretold by the Prophets,// he was revealed as Prophet, Herald, and Forerunner of God the Word.

##### **Kontakion – Tone 6**

“Most sweet Jesus, my Bridegroom, it is not hard for me to follow Thee,” cried Febronia, “the sweetness of Thy love gives wings of hope to my soul, the beauty of Thy mercy has sweetened my heart; may I drain the cup of sufferings in imitation of Thee, so that Thou mayest count me worthy to be among the wise virgins: those who dance with Thee in Thy bridal chamber.” Therefore, venerable passion-bearer, as we honor the struggles of thy labors, we entreat thee:// “Pray that we not find the doors of the bridal chamber locked to us!”

##### **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.*

## LITURGICAL COMMEMORATION

### Venerable Ananias the Iconographer

Saint Ananias was born in Russia and was tonsured in the monastery of Saint Antony the Roman at Novgorod. God endowed him with a gift for painting icons, and he exercised this talent for the glory of the Lord. The Venerable Ananias painted "marvelous icons of many holy wonderworkers." For thirty-three years, he never went beyond the fence of the monastery. Historical records do not agree about the year of his repose. Some say that he went to the Lord in 1521, 1561, or 1581. His relics are buried in a hidden place at the Monastery. Saint Ananias is commemorated on the third Sunday of Pentecost and on June 17.

### Virgin Martyr Febronia of Nisibis

The Virgin Martyr Febronia suffered during the reign of Diocletian (284-305). She was raised at a monastery in the city of Sivapolis (Assyria). The head of the women's monastery was the abbess Bryaínē, the aunt of Saint Febronia. Being concerned about her niece's salvation, she assigned her a stricter form of life than the other nuns. According to their monastic rule, on Fridays the sisters put aside their other duties and spent the whole day in prayer and the reading of Holy Scripture. The abbess usually assigned the reading to Saint Febronia.

News of her pious life spread throughout the city. The illustrious young widow Hieria, a pagan, began to visit her, and under the influence of her guidance and prayer she accepted holy Baptism, bringing her parents and kinsfolk to the Christian Faith.

Diocletian sent a detachment of soldiers to Assyria under the command of Lysimachus, Selinus, and Primus for the destruction of Christians. Selenus, the uncle of Lysimachus, was noted for his fierce attitude against Christians, but Lysimachus was of a different frame of mind from him, since his mother had sought to inspire love for the Christian faith in her son, and she had died a Christian. Lysimachus had discussed with his kinsman Primus how it would be possible to deliver Christians from the hands of the torturer. When the detachment of soldiers approached the convent, its inhabitants hid. There remained only the abbess Bryaínē, her helper Thomais, and Saint Febronia, who was seriously ill at the time.

It grieved the abbess terribly that her niece might fall into the hands of the torturers, who might defile her. She prayed fervently that the Lord would preserve her and strengthen her in the confession of Christ the Savior. Selinus gave orders to bring him all the nuns of the convent. Primus with the detachment of soldiers found no one, except the two old women and Saint Febronia. He regretted that they had not hidden, and he suggested to the nuns that they flee. But the nuns decided not to leave the place of their labors and they entrusted themselves to the will of the Lord.

Primus told Lysimachus about the particular beauty of Saint Febronia and advised him to take her for himself. Lysimachus said that he would not seduce a virgin dedicated to God, and he asked Primus to hide the other nuns somewhere so that they would not fall into the hands of Selinus. One of the soldiers overheard the conversation and told Selinus. They led Saint Febronia off to the military commander with her hands bound and a chain around her neck. Selinus urged her to deny Christ, promising her honors, rewards, and marriage with Lysimachus. The holy virgin firmly and fearlessly answered that she had an Immortal Bridegroom, and she would not exchange Him for any mortal man. Selinus subjected her to fierce torture. The saint prayed, "My Savior, do not abandon me in this terrible hour!"

They beat the martyr for a long time, and blood flowed from her wounds. In order to intensify the suffering of Saint Febronia, they tied her to a tree and set a fire under it. The tortures were so inhuman, that the people began to demand an end to the torture, since there was no confession of guilt by the girl. Selinus continued to mock and jeer at the martyr, but Saint Febronia became silent. Because of weakness she was unable to utter a word. In a rage Selinus gave orders to tear out her tongue, smash her teeth, and finally, to cut off both hands and feet. The people were unable to bear such a horrid spectacle and they left the scene of the torture, cursing Diocletian and his gods.

Among the crowd was the nun Thomais, who afterwards recorded Saint Febronia's martyrdom in detail, and also her student Hieria. She came forth out of the crowd and in the hearing of all reproached Selinus for his boundless cruelty. He gave orders to arrest her, but learning that Hieria was of illustrious standing whom he could not readily subject to torture, he said, "By your speech you have brought on Febronia even greater torment." Finally, they beheaded the holy Martyr Febronia.

Departing the place of execution, Lysimachus wept and withdrew to his quarters. Selinus made ready to eat, but he was not able to take food, and went off to the quiet of his own chambers. Suddenly, he became like one deranged. Looking up to the heavens, he raved and bellowed like a bull, then fell down and struck his head on a marble column and died. When Lysimachus learned of this, he said, "Great is the God of the Christians, Who has avenged Febronia's blood, so unrighteously shed!" He prepared a coffin, placed the martyr's body in it, and took it to the convent.

Abbess Bryaínë fell senseless, seeing the mutilated remains of Saint Febronia. Later, she recovered her senses and gave orders to open the convent gates so that all would be able to come and venerate the holy martyr and glorify God Who had given her such endurance in suffering for Christ. Lysimachus and Primus renounced their idol worship and accepted both Baptism and monasticism. Hieria gave her wealth to the convent and petitioned Abbess Bryaínë to accept her at the convent in place of Saint Febronia.

Every year, on the day of the martyric death of Saint Febronia, a solemn feast was celebrated at the convent. During the time of the all-night Vigil the nuns always saw Saint Febronia, at her usual place in church. From the relics of Saint Febronia occurred numerous miracles and healings. The Life of Saint Febronia was recorded by the nun Thomais, an eyewitness to her deeds.

In the year 363 the relics of Saint Febronia were transferred to Constantinople. Soon after the death of Saint Febronia, Saint James the Bishop of Nisibis (January 13) built a church and transferred into it a portion of the of the holy martyr's relics.

## **EPISTLE & GOSPEL READINGS**

### **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.

## **SERVICES**

### **Service Schedule for the week of June 25**

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

**Wednesday June 28** – **SS PETER & PAUL** 7:00 PM Vespers with Litya

**Thursday June 29** – **SS PETER & PAUL** 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

**Saturday July 1** – 5:00 PM Vespers followed by Confession

**Sunday July 2** – 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall

## DONATIONS

### Weekly Giving

June 18 – 73 adults, 9 youth, \$2,384

## PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

There will be a FOCA Club meeting today during Coffee Hour. This will be the last FOCA meeting until September.

**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 (**SLIGHTLY REVISED**) parameters. Note that we will be assigning two hosts and a helper each week starting next week. 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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.

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

Marina Dorvil – June 25

Luke Kilgore – June 27

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.

### 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  
**2 gallons water for coffee (1 gallon per host)**  
**Green Salad**  
**Sugar-free dessert/pie**  
**Tortilla chips & salsa**

**NOTE:** For Fasting Coffee Hour:

Bagels (except egg & cheese 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/Tofu cream cheese, butter/margarine, or milk is needed.
4. The church will provide coffee, tea, assorted coffee creamers, peanut butter, jelly, paper products, water bottles, and juice.
5. Host(s) may provide a luncheon for a specific event or holiday (panikhida, birthday, anniversary, holiday) with advance notice. The host(s) will be responsible for all food preparation for such a luncheon.
6. 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 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 Ladies Assumption Altar Society  
Sept. 3 Tahara & Germain Ortiz, Alan & Mimi Berck, Alla Strauss  
Sept. 10 Olga & James Bates, Walter & Tanya Tribbey, 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** Gebrekvistas Amleset, Awet Tesfa  
Dec. 3 **FAST** Nicholas Torrisi, John Honey, Nina Laushell  
Dec. 10 **FAST** Victorya Baranava, 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