



St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

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Venerable Joannicius the Great

November 4, 2018

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 8

By a flood of tears thou didst make the desert fertile, and thy longing for God hast brought forth fruits in abundance. By the radiance of miracles thou didst illumine the whole universe.// Our Father Joannicius pray to Christ God to save our souls!

Troparion – Tone 4

By sharing in the ways of the Apostles, thou didst become a successor to their throne. Through the practice of virtue, thou didst find the way to divine contemplation, O inspired one of God; by teaching the word of truth without error, thou didst defend the faith, even to the shedding of thy blood.// Hieromartyr Nicander, entreat Christ God to save our souls!

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 4

We, the faithful, gather today to honor thy memory, venerable Joannicius,// and we implore thee to obtain mercy for us from the Lord.

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!

Venerable Joannicius the Great

Saint Joannicius the Great was born in Bithynia in the year 752 in the village of Marikat. His parents were destitute and could not provide him even the basics of an education. From childhood he had to tend the family cattle, their sole wealth. Love for God and prayer completely dominated the soul of the child Joannicius. Often, having shielded the herd with the Sign of the Cross, he went to a secluded place and spent the whole day praying, and neither thieves nor wild beasts came near his herd.

By order of the emperor Leo IV (775-780), a multitude of officials went through the cities and towns to draft young men for military service. Young Joannicius was also drafted into the imperial army. He earned the respect of his fellow soldiers for his good disposition, but he was also a brave soldier who struck fear in the hearts of his enemies. Saint Joannicius served in the imperial army for six years. More than once he was rewarded by his commanders and the emperor. But military service weighed heavily on him; his soul thirsted for spiritual deeds and solitude.

Saint Joannicius, having renounced the world, longed to go at once into the wilderness. However, on the advice of an Elder experienced in monastic life, he spent a further two years at the monastery. Here the saint became accustomed to monastic obedience, to monastic rules and practices. He studied reading and writing, and he learned thirty Psalms of David by heart.

After this, commanded by God to go to a certain mountain, the monk withdrew into the wilderness. For three years he remained in deep solitude in the wilderness, and only once a month a shepherd brought him some bread and water. The ascetic spent day and night in prayer and psalmody. After each verse of singing the Psalms Saint Joannicius made a prayer, which the Orthodox Church keeps to this day in a somewhat altered form, "The Father is my hope, the Son is my refuge, the Holy Spirit is my protection."

By chance, he encountered some of his former companions from military service. The saint fled the wilderness and withdrew to Mount Kountourea to hide himself from everyone. Only after twelve years of ascetic life did the hermit accept monastic tonsure. The saint spent three years in seclusion after being tonsured. Then he went to a place called Chelidon to see the great ascetic Saint George (February 21). The ascetics spent three years together. During this time Saint Joannicius learned the entire Psalter by heart. As he grew older, Saint Joannicius settled in the Antidiev monastery and dwelt there in seclusion until his death.

Saint Joannicius spent seventy years in ascetic deeds and attained to a high degree of spiritual perfection. Through the mercy of God the saint acquired the gift of prophecy, as his disciple Pachomius has related. The Elder also levitated above the ground when he prayed. Once, he crossed a river flooded to overflowing. The saint could make himself invisible for people and make others also hidden from sight.

Once, Saint Joannicius led Greek captives out of prison under the very eyes of the guards. Poison and fire, with which the envious wanted to destroy the saint, did him no harm, and predatory beasts did not touch him. He freed the island of Thasos from a multitude of snakes. Saint Joannicius also saved a young nun who was preparing to leave the monastery to marry; he took upon himself the agonized maiden's suffering of passion, and by fasting and prayer, he overcame the seductive assault of the devil.

Foreseeing his death, Saint Joannicius fell asleep in the Lord on November 4, 846, at the age of 94.

Epistle: Ephesians 2:4-10

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Gospel: Luke 8:41-56

And behold, there came a man named Jairus, and he was a ruler of the synagogue. And he fell down at Jesus' feet and begged Him to come to his house, for he had an only daughter about twelve years of age, and she was dying. But as He went, the multitudes thronged Him. Now a woman, having a flow of blood for twelve years, who had spent all her livelihood on physicians and could not be healed by any, came from behind and touched the border of His garment. And immediately her flow of blood stopped. And Jesus said, "Who touched Me?" When all denied it, Peter and those with him said, "Master, the multitudes throng and press You, and You say, 'Who touched Me?'" But Jesus said, "Somebody touched Me, for I perceived power going out from Me." Now when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling; and falling down before Him, she declared to Him in the presence of all the people the reason she had touched Him and how she was healed immediately. And He said to her, "Daughter, be of good cheer; your faith has made you well. Go in peace." While He was still speaking, someone came from the ruler of the synagogue's house, saying to him, "Your daughter is dead. Do not trouble the Teacher." But when Jesus heard it, He answered him, saying, "Do not be afraid; only believe, and she will be made well." When He came into the house, He permitted no one to go in except Peter, James, and John, and the father and mother of the girl. Now all wept and mourned for her; but He said, "Do not weep; she is not dead, but sleeping." And they ridiculed Him, knowing that she was dead. But He put them all outside, took her by the hand and called, saying, "Little girl, arise." Then her spirit returned, and she arose immediately. And He commanded that she be given something to eat. And her parents were astonished, but He charged them to tell no one what had happened.

Service Schedule for the week of November 4

Today – 9:00 AM Sunday School, 9:20 AM Crismation of Carmen Guagenti, 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall

Saturday November 10 – 5:00 PM Vespers followed by Confession

Sunday November 11 – 9:00 AM Sunday School, 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Turkey Social in Daria Hall

Weekly Giving

October 28 – 61 adults, 22 youth, \$2,038

Parish Announcements

There will be a Parish Council meeting Tuesday November 6 at 7:00 PM.

Bible Study classes will be held every other Wednesday evening at 7:00 PM in the church basement. The next few classes will be held on November 7 and November 28. All are welcome to attend!

Guy Radcliffe will be Chrismated into the Orthodox faith at 9:20 AM on Sunday November 25. Guy has been attending our church for the past several months and we welcome him into the Faith!

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Sunday January 27, 2019. Anyone interested in becoming a member of the Parish Council should see Father Volodymyr by mid-December. Also, current Parish Council members who are interested in re-election should submit their names to Father Volodymyr as well.

The annual Turkey Social will be held next Sunday November 11 starting at 12:30 PM. Food will be sold in lieu of Coffee Hour. We will appreciate dessert donations for the Turkey Social.

The church bake sale will be held on Saturday December 15 and Sunday December 16.

The Sunday School Yolka program will be held on Sunday December 16 during coffee hour.

The children will decorate a Christmas tree in Daria Hall on Sunday November 25 during Coffee Hour. Each child is encouraged to bring in a special ornament to add beauty to the tree!

Parents and children are reminded to please clean up the play area in Daria Hall before leaving. The area has been left messy for others to clean up, and unfortunately if this continues the play area will be dismantled.

There are copies of the latest "Jacobs Well" publication on the table in the back of the church. Please help yourself to a copy.

Starting today through December 2, the Senior R Club will collect funds to sponsor a Seminarian family from St. Vladimir's Seminary for the FOCA's Christmas Wish List Program. The Club will purchase gift cards for the family with the funds collected. Thank you for your generosity in the upcoming season celebrating the Nativity of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. A collection plate is on the small table behind the back pew.