



St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

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MARTYRS GALACTEON AND HIS WIFE, EPISTEMIS, AT EMESA November 5, 2023

TROPARION, KONTAKION & PROKEIMENON

Troparion – Tone 5

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born for our salvation from the Virgin; for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death, and to raise the dead// by His glorious Resurrection.

Troparion – Tone 1

Let us the faithful honor these two betrothed athletes: Galacteon and modest Epistemis. Their ascetic labors blossomed into martyrdom, Therefore we cry to them: “Glory to Him Who has strengthened you! Glory to Him Who has crowned you!// Glory to Him Who through you grants healing to all!”

Kontakion – Tone 5

Thou didst descend into hell, O my Savior, shattering its gates as Almighty, resurrecting the dead as Creator, and destroying the sting of death. Thou hast delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of man,// and we cry to Thee: “O Lord, save us!”

Kontakion – Tone 2

You are numbered among the hosts of martyrs for you were illustrious in mighty contests. Galacteon, together with Epistemis, thy faithful wife and companion in struggle,// unceasingly intercede to the one God for us all!

Prokeimenon – Tone 5

Thou, O Lord, shalt protect us / and preserve us from this generation forever.

V. Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer any that is godly!

LITURGICAL COMMEMORATION

Martyrs Galacteon and his wife, Epistemis, at Emesa

There was a rich and distinguished couple named Kletophon and Leukippe, who lived in the Syrian city of Emesa, and for a long time they were childless. They gave much gold to the pagan priests, but still they remained childless. The city of Emesa was governed by a Syrian named Secundus, put there by the Roman Caesars. He was a merciless and zealous persecutor of Christians, and to intimidate them he ordered that the instruments of torture be displayed on the streets. The slightest suspicion of belonging to “the sect of the Galilean” (as thus Christians were called by the pagans), was enough to get a man arrested and handed over for torture. In spite of this, many Christians voluntarily surrendered themselves into the hands of the executioners, in their desire to suffer for Christ.

A certain old man by the name of Onuphrius concealed his monastic and priestly dignity beneath his beggar’s rags. He walked from house to house in Emesa, begging alms. At the same time, whenever he saw the possibility of turning people away from the pagan error, he preached about Christ. Once, he came to the magnificent house of Leukippe. Accepting alms from her, he sensed that the woman was in sorrow, and he asked what was the cause of this sadness. She told the Elder about her familial misfortune. In consoling her, Onuphrius began to tell her about the one true God, about His omnipotence and mercy, and how He always grants the prayer of those turning to Him with faith. Hope filled the soul of Leukippe. She believed and accepted Holy Baptism. Soon after this it was revealed to her in a dream that she would

give birth to a son, who would be a true follower of Christ. At first, Leukippe concealed her delight from her husband, but after the infant was born, she revealed the secret to her husband and also persuaded him to be baptized. They named the baby Galacteon and his parents raised him in the Christian Faith and provided him a fine education. He could make an illustrious career for himself, but Galacteon sought rather an unsullied monastic life in solitude and prayer.

When Galacteon turned twenty-four, his father resolved to marry him off and they found him a bride, a beautiful and illustrious girl by the name of Episteme. The son did not oppose the will of his father, but by the will of God, the wedding was postponed for a time. Visiting his betrothed, Galacteon gradually revealed his faith to her. Eventually, he converted her to Christ and he secretly baptized her himself. Besides Episteme he baptized also one of her servants, Eutolmius. The newly-illuminated decided on the initiative of Galacteon, to devote themselves to the monastic life. Leaving the city, they hid themselves away on Mount Publion, where there were two monasteries, one for men and the other for women. The new monastics had to take with them all the necessities for physical toil, since the inhabitants of both monasteries were both old and infirm. For several years the monastics struggled in work, fasting and prayer. Once, Episteme had a vision in her sleep: she and Galacteon stood in a wondrous palace before a radiant King, and the King bestowed golden crowns on them. This was a prefiguring of their impending martyrdom.

The pagans became aware of the existence of the monasteries, and a military detachment was sent to apprehend their inhabitants. But the monks and the nuns succeeded in hiding themselves in the hills. Galacteon, however, had no desire to flee and so he remained in his cell, reading Holy Scripture. When Episteme saw that the soldiers were leading Galacteon away in chains, she began to implore the Abbess to permit her to go also, since she wanted to accept torture for Christ together with her fiancé and teacher. The Abbess tearfully blessed Episteme to do so. The saints endured terrible torments, while supplicating and glorifying Christ. Their hands and legs were cut off, their tongues were cut out, and then they were beheaded. Eutolmius, the former servant of Episteme, and who had become her brother in Christ and fellow ascetic in monastic struggles, secretly buried the bodies of the holy martyrs. He later wrote an account of their virtuous life and their glorious martyrdom, for his contemporaries and for posterity.

EPISTLE & GOSPEL READINGS

Epistle: Galatians 6:11-18

See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand! As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

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.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK, CAREGIVERS, AND DECEASED

Dates are when the name was added to the bulletin; names will remain in four bulletins and then removed. To add the name again, please email Darice at daricekeyes@gmail.com.

For the Sick / Caregiver

Alexander (10/15)	Liam (10/29)
Theodore (10/15)	Kelly (10/29)
Nicole (10/15)	His Grace, Bishop Matthias (10/29)
Kathleen (10/15)	Archpriest Andrew (10/29)
Michael (10/15)	Archpriest John (10/29)
Charlotte (10/15)	Vera (11/5)
Natasha (10/15)	Jude (11/5)
Anthony (10/15)	DJ (11/5)
Michael (10/22)	Nancy (11/5)
Lynne (10/22)	Archpriest Paul (11/5)
Melody (10/22)	Matushka Mary (11/5)
Subdeacon Serge (10/22)	Alexandra (11/5)
Claire (10/22)	Haydee (11/5)
Archpriest Andrew (10/29)	

For the Deceased

Eileen (10/15)	Baby Michael (10/29)
Michael (10/15)	Baby George (10/29)
Lenore (10/15)	Baby Alexander (10/29)
Janet (10/15)	
Francis (10/22)	
Ida Marie (10/22)	
Ronald (10/22)	
Robert (10/29)	
Margaret (10/29)	
Terri (10/29)	
Gertrude (10/29)	
Vincentine (10/29)	

SERVICES

Service Schedule for the week of November 5

Sunday November 5 – 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall

Saturday November 11 – 5:00 PM Vespers followed by Confession

Sunday November 12 – 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Turkey Social (Bingo) in Daria Hall. Food will be for sale (no Coffee Hour today).

DONATIONS

Weekly Giving

October 29 – 73 adults, 23 youth, \$2,707

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

The FOCA Club will sell soup today after Divine Liturgy. Containers of soup will be sold outside of church (weather permitting) or in Daria Hall during Coffee Hour if the weather is inclement. Cost is \$5/container.

UPDATE: Homemade baked goods are needed for the Annual Turkey Social (Bingo) church fundraiser which will be held in Daria Hall next Sunday, November 12 after Divine Liturgy. We are also in need of gift card donations; please see the papers on the tables in Daria Hall. Food will be available for sale before the start of the Social, therefore there is no Coffee Hour. If you have questions, please speak with Nina Laushell. Thank you!

The Ladies Altar Society will be selling raffle tickets for two very special items:

Steinbach wooden German Smoker – "The Skier, Utah"

Hand-made Christmas Wreath

Tickets are \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00. Winners will be announced next Sunday at the Turkey Social.

The FOCA Club will be selling Christmas cards (pictures from our church) again this year. The cost is \$15 for 12 cards and envelopes. Sample cards will be available in Daria Hall – if you wish to order a specific number of one or more cards, you may pre-order. Otherwise, there are 3 cards each of 4 different images in a pack. Please see Nina Laushell, Mimi Berck, or Francine Brady to order or ask questions. Cards will be available early December. Thank you!

The FOCA Club is looking for new members! FOCA (Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America) meets monthly during Coffee Hour. We are a Club in the Colonial District of the National FOCA organization – the other clubs in our District include Baltimore (St. Andrew's) and NE Phila. (St. Stephen's). Our goal is not only fellowship, but also fundraising events to support various Orthodox charities throughout the year, such as Gifts of Love, St. Andrew's Fund, St. Nicholas Christmas Wish List (Christmas gifts for a Seminarian family), annual donation to Archbishop Michael's Distinguished

Diocesan Benefactors Fund, and monetary assistance to a Seminarian family during the school year. Our clubs also host a District bowling day, a Religious Education Day, and the Annual District Convention. If you are interested, please see a FOCA Club member, or join us at our next meeting during Coffee Hour on November 19.

Upcoming Events for the Parish Children:

November 19 – Parish children will decorate the Christmas tree in Daria Hall during Coffee Hour. Children will also prepare Christmas cards for parishioners who are unable to attend services.

December 10 – Children's Yolka program during Coffee Hour

NOTE: Yolka practices will be starting soon – dates to be announced. If you wish your child(ren) to participate, please make sure they are in attendance on the announced dates.

Check out our Book Garden in Daria Hall! There are many books available, most regarding Orthodoxy and religion. Take a look and sign out any books you may want to borrow – there is a sign-up sheet on the bookshelf.

There will be five openings for the Parish Council in 2024. Voting will take place at our Annual Parish Meeting, which will be held on Sunday January 28, 2024. If you are interested in running for Parish Council, please speak with Father Volodymyr.

Spring water used to make coffee and tea is needed for Coffee Hour. Please donate a few gallons!

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. ***It is important to get your picture taken soon!***

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

Matthias Brasowski – November 5

Margie DiCicco – November 5

Nicholas Chaikivskyi – November 5

Kinfe Manna – November 11

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

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, and taking out the trash. If you have any questions, please contact Melody Stavisky, Alla Strauss, or the Helper assigned to your 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. Hosts may provide a luncheon for a specific event or holiday (panikhida, birthday, anniversary, holiday) with advance notice. The hosts 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 third name listed is the Coffee Hour Helper)

- Nov. 5 Tamara Karkusova, Ekaterina & Stanislav Uritsky, Awet Tesfa
Nov. 12 **NO COFFEE HOUR DUE TO TURKEY SOCIAL**
Nov. 19 **FAST** Sophie Dumas, Melissa Braun, Nina Laushell
Nov. 26 **FAST** Gebrekvistos Amleset, Jessica & Blake Kilgore, Francine Meyer
Dec. 3 **FAST** Nicholas Torrisi, Lynne Sheedy, Darice Keyes
Dec. 10 **FAST** Victoryia 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
Jan. 7 James & Monia Pitra, Anne Cheslock, Awet Tesfa
Jan. 14 Darice Keyes, Valeria & Timothy Srock
Jan. 21 Olga & James Bates, Walter & Tanya Tribbey, Nancy Mitsos
Jan. 28 **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** - Bill & Margie DiCicco, Chris Kasmer, Nina Laushell
Feb. 4 Aftan Chowansky, Matthew & Nana Barrett, Melody Stavisky
Feb. 11 Eleni & Tom Sowanick, Sami Bachir, Darice Keyes
Feb. 18 Nour Ragab, Tyler Burger, Francine Brady
Feb. 25 Nancy Mitsos, Matthew & Kris Bohush
Mar. 3 Karina Kotelnicki, Gabriela Plesa, Alla Strauss
Mar. 10 Blake & Jessica Kilgore, Alex & Rebeca Medina, Nina Laushell
Mar. 17 **NO MEAT** Fiyori Habtesilasse, Gebrekvistos Amleset, Awet Tesfa
Mar. 24 **FAST** Christine Waite, Alla & Perry Strauss
Mar. 31 **FAST** Svetlana Sosedov, Guy Radcliffe, Melody Stavisky
Apr. 7 **FAST** Germain & Tahara Ortiz, Vera Pschenyczny, Darice Keyes
Apr. 14 **FAST** Corneliu & Florica Balasa, Viktoryia Baranava, Francine Meyer
Apr. 21 **FAST** Alan & Mimi Berck, Paul & Patti Denko, Nancy Mitsos
Apr. 28 **FAST** Alex & Brittani Brasowski, Anna & Leon Brasowski, Nina Laushell
May 5 **PASCHA – NO COFFEE HOUR**
May 12 Nina Schmidt, Alla & Perry Strauss