



St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

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Hieromartyr Hierotheus, Bishop of Athens / Uncovering of the relics of Saint Gurias, first Archbishop of Kazan, and Saint Barsanuphius, Bishop of Tver October 4, 2020

Troparion – Tone 8

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One! Thou didst accept the three day burial to free us from our sufferings!//
O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee!

Troparion – Tone 1

We the faithful all praise Hierotheus, the disciple of Paul, Hierarch of Athens, the world's teacher and a preacher of the Faith, who revealed to us Christ's Mysteries and poured forth streams of godly doctrine.// His life was well-pleasing to God, Who is greatly merciful.

Kontakion – Tone 8

By rising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead and resurrect Adam. Eve exults in Thy Resurrection,// and the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

Kontakion – Tone 8

Hierarch of Athens, we praise thee for thou hast instructed us in awesome and ineffable things, and thou wast revealed to be a divinely-inspired writer of hymns. Pray that we be delivered from every kind of sin, so that we may cry to thee:// Rejoice, divinely-wise Father Hierotheus!

Prokeimenon – Tone 8

Pray and make your vows / before the Lord, our God!

v: In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel.

Hieromartyr Hierotheus, Bishop of Athens

The Hieromartyr Hierotheus, the first Bishop of Athens, was a member of the Athenian Areopagos and was converted to Christ by the Apostle Paul together with Saint Dionysius the Areopagite (October 3).

The saint was consecrated by the Apostle Paul to the rank of bishop. According to Tradition, Bishop Hierotheus was present with Saint Dionysius at the funeral of the Most Holy Theotokos.

Saint Hierotheus died a martyr's death in the first century.

Uncovering of the relics of Saint Gurias, first Archbishop of Kazan, and Saint Barsanuphius, Bishop of Tver

The Uncovering of the relics of Saint Gurias, First Archbishop of Kazan, and Saint Barsanuphius, Bishop of Tver, occurred at Kazan in the year 1595. During the construction of a new stone church in honor of the Transfiguration of the Lord at the Savior-Transfiguration monastery, which had been founded by Saint Barsanuphius, graves with the bodies of the holy hierarchs in the altar-wall were uncovered beneath the former wooden church. The unusual aspect of incorrupt graves filled Saint Hermogenes (February 17) with a pious desire to open the graves before a large crowd of the people.

Saint Hermogenes described this event, “We beheld a marvel we had not hoped for. The coffin of the saint was full of fragrant myrrh, like pure water, and the relics of Saint Gurias were above the myrrh, like a sponge. God gave his venerable and hard-working body incorruption, as is now seen by all. Decay touched only very little of the upper lip, his other limbs were whole, and nothing has disappeared. We touched his burial robe and it held up very firm. Then we opened up the coffin of Saint Barsanuphius and we looked upon the relics of Saint Barsanuphius which were blessed by God with little corruption. Decay had touched the feet of the monk, however the bones were not destroyed, and held up quite well. There was no other sign of corruption in the condition of the rest of his relics, the same was for the relics of Saint Gurias. The burial robe of both saints was strong and like new.”

Many sick were healed, having been anointed with the holy myrrh flowing from the relics of Saint Gurias.

There is a description of the saints in the Iconographer’s Manual under October 4: “In appearance Gurias is grey and bearded, like Basil of Caesarea, with a mitre, omophorion, holding a Gospel in his hands, and dressed in the robes of a hierarch. Barsanuphius is grey and bearded like Gurias, but his is parted at the end. He wears a mitre, the robes of a hierarch, an omophorion and carries the Gospel.”

The Life Saint Gurias is found on December 5; and the Life of Saint Barsanuphius on April 11.

In the correspondence from a report of the Archbishop of Cheboksarsk and Chuvash Benjamin (Novitsky), + 14 October 1976, His Holiness Pimen, Patriarch of Moscow gave a blessing to commemorate the Synaxis of all the Kazan hierarchs on the first Sunday after October 4th.

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1

And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: “I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people.” Therefore “Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you.” “I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty.” Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Gospel: Luke 6:31-36

And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise. But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.

Service Schedule for the week of October 4 – services will be streamed live

Today – 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Saturday October 10 – 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy and 5:00 PM Vespers

Sunday October 11 – MASKS REQUIRED 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Weekly Giving

September 19 & 20 – 48 adults, 14 youth, \$2,877

September 26 & 27 - 50 adults, 7 youth, \$2,909

Parish Announcements

Upcoming service schedule (Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM):

Saturday October 3 – Masks required

Sunday October 4 – Masks not required

Saturday October 10 – Masks not required

Sunday October 11 – Masks required

Saturday October 17 – Masks required

Sunday October 18 – Masks not required

Saturday October 24 – Masks not required

Sunday October 25 – Masks required

Saturday October 31 – Masks required

Sunday November 1 – Masks not required

Saturday November 7 – Masks not required

Sunday November 8 – Masks required

Saturday November 14 – Masks required

Sunday November 15 – Masks not required

Saturday November 21 – Masks not required

Sunday November 22 – Masks required

In order to prevent the spread of germs, the Communion prosphora and prosphora after Divine Liturgy will be handed out by an Altar server. We ask that you receive the prosphora in your hand and not reach for the prosphora on the tray or bowl.

The church has been set up for appropriate social distance seating. However, if you are feeling ill, please stay home. Also, those age 65 and over are still considered high risk and should make careful decisions about attending services. Father Volodymyr will continue to stream live Vespers and Sunday Divine Liturgy.

The Senior R Club is looking for new members! The “Senior” in Senior R Club does not designate the club is only for seniors age 65+! Years ago there was a Junior R Club for youth (ages 12-21) and a Senior R Club for adults - the “R” designating Russian - both under the auspices of FOCA (Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America). Unfortunately, there have not been enough youth to sustain the Junior R Club so that is why we do not currently have one. The Senior R Club is part of the Colonial District, which includes clubs from Phila., Washington DC, and Maryland. We fundraise to support our church, and also help struggling Seminarian families with monetary donations through the Colonial District, donate to the FOCA Gifts of Love and St. Andrews Fund which support Orthodox Seminaries and Orthodox Charities, and the St. Nicholas Wish List where we send Christmas gifts to a Seminarian family assigned by FOCA. There are three annual Colonial District events that the Senior R Club either hosts or attends – bowling (in the Spring before Paschal Lent), District Convention (early Fall), and Religious Education Day (Fall/early Winter). The Colonial District also hosts the annual Novogodny Ball every January, which is a night of fellowship including dinner (optional) and dancing (including traditional Russian dances). If you are interested in joining the Club, please see Father Volodymyr or a member of the Senior R Club.

Reminder to please clean up your family gravesites at the Parish Cemeteries, and take your trash with you as we do not have trash collection at the cemetery. Thank you.

During the pandemic we are grateful that our parishioners have continued to contribute every week so the church can remain operational. We also thank Father Volodymyr for the extra services and Matushka Oksana for stepping in as the choir and Reader when needed. We all continue to pray for everyone’s health and well-being!