



St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

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Martyr Gorazd of Prague, Bohemia and Moravo-Cilezsk

September 4, 2022

Troparion – Tone 3

Let the heavens rejoice! Let the earth be glad! For the Lord has shown strength with His arm. He has trampled down death by death. He has become the first born of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of hell, and has granted to the world// great mercy.

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.// O Hieromartyr Babýlas, entreat Christ God to save our souls!

Troparion – Tone 2

Thou didst ascend to the heights of the virtues, O Prophet Moses; therefore, thou wast deemed worthy to see the glory of God. Having received the grace-filled tablets of the Law, and bearing the grace of the writing within thyself, Thou wast the honorable praise of prophets,// and a great mystery of piety.

Kontakion – Tone 3

On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O Merciful One, leading us from the gates of death. On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices; with the Prophets and Patriarchs// they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy power.

Kontakion – Tone 4

Thou didst guard the mighty works of faith in thy heart, therefore, thou didst not fear the tyrant;// preserve us as well, Hieromartyr Babýlas, good servant of Christ!

Kontakion – Tone 2

The choir of prophets rejoices with Moses and Aaron today, for the fulfillment of their prophecy is in our midst: the Cross, by which Thou hast saved us, shines forth today.// By their prayers, O Christ God, have mercy on us!

Prokeimenon – Tone 3

Sing praises to our God, sing praises! / Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

V. Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

Martyr Gorazd of Prague, Bohemia and Moravo-Cilezsk

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep" [John 10:11].

"O Lord, make this man also, who has been proclaimed a steward of the episcopal grace, to be an imitator of You, the true Shepherd, Who laid down Your life for Your sheep...." [Prayer of Consecration of a Bishop]. On September 25, 1921, these words were prayed over Father Gorazd Pavlik as he was consecrated the Bishop of Moravia and Silesia. It is doubtful that anyone in attendance that day, including the new bishop, expected that he would be called upon to live that prayer in a literal way.

Matthias Pavlik was born in 1879 in the Moravian town of Hrubavrbka in what would later become the Czech Republic. He was born into a Roman Catholic family, completed the Roman Catholic seminary in Olomouc and was ordained a priest. With the end of World War I and the formation of the new nation of Czechoslovakia from the ruins of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the laws requiring observance of the Catholic religion were loosened. Father Matthias, along with thousands of others left the Catholic Church with many seeking a home in the Orthodox Church, which in that region was then under the protection of the Orthodox Church of Serbia. Taking monastic vows, he assumed the name "Gorazd" who was a disciple of Saints Cyril and Methodius and who succeeded Saint Methodius as the bishop of Moravia. At the age of 42, Father Gorazd was consecrated an Orthodox bishop in Belgrade, Serbia by the Serbian Patriarch Dimitri along with the illustrious Metropolitan Anthony Khrapovitsky of Kiev and several other bishops, including Bishop Dositheus of Zagreb. Bishop Dositheus was a key figure in the re-birth of the Orthodox Church among Carpatho-Rusyns and was glorified as a saint of the Orthodox Church in May, 2000.

Bishop Gorazd immediately set to work building up the Orthodox Faith, building eleven churches and two chapels, translating service books into the Czech language. He paid particular attention to the Carpatho-Rusyns in the eastern part of the Czech Republic who were also returning to the Orthodox Faith of their ancestors. In that region, in 1934 he took part in the 20th anniversary commemoration of the Marmarosh-Sigotsky trial. This trial occurred in 1914 when 94 Carpatho-Rusyn Orthodox, together with their priest, Saint Alexis Kabaluk, were tried for treason for renouncing the Greek Catholic Faith and embracing Orthodoxy.

For twenty years, the bishop faithfully cared for his flock as a good shepherd. He remained faithful to the Orthodox Faith despite attempts by many Catholics to persuade him to renounce Orthodoxy. When many Roman Catholic priests rose up against him, the Catholic Bishop Stoian said, "Leave Pavlik alone, you are not worthy to tie his laces, it would be good if everyone were like Pavlik."

When the German Nazis invaded and conquered Czechoslovakia in 1938, the Orthodox Church was placed under the Orthodox metropolitan of Berlin, Germany, Metropolitan Seraphim (Liade). The German ruler of Czechoslovakia, Reinhard Heydrich, was assassinated on May 27, 1942 by a group of Czech resistance fighters who then were allowed to hide in the crypt of Saints Cyril and Methodius Orthodox Cathedral. When Bishop Gorazd learned of this he realized what great danger he and his flock were in if the Nazis uncovered this hiding place. Before leaving for Berlin to take part in the consecration of Father Philip Gardner as a bishop, he insisted that the resistance fighters leave the Cathedral and find another place of refuge. But on June 18, the hiding place was revealed after a betrayal and torture, and all members of the group were killed.

The Nazis immediately began massive reprisals. The two Cathedral priests and senior lay officials were arrested. Bishop Gorazd, trying to save his people and his church from destruction, wrote letters to the Nazi authorities taking the blame for the actions in the Cathedral, in which he stated, "I am giving myself up to the authorities and am prepared to face any punishment, including death."

Bishop Gorazd was arrested on June 27, 1942, tortured and executed by firing squad at the Kobylisz Shooting Range on September 4. He was 63 years old. The two Cathedral priests were also shot. Along with the priests and bishop, a total of 550 people were executed by the Nazis in reprisal for the assassination. In one particularly heinous act, the entire village of Lidice was exterminated. All of the men were executed, the women and children placed in labor camps, and all village dwellings destroyed. Following the martyrdom of the bishop, the Orthodox Church in Bohemia and Moravia was suppressed and all churches closed. Orthodox priests were exiled to forced labor camps in Germany.

Because Bishop Gorazd willingly laid down his life in order to protect his flock, he was recognized by the Orthodox Church of Serbia as a new martyr on May 4, 1961. On August 24, 1987 he was glorified in the Cathedral of Saint Gorazd in Olomouc, Moravia. His feast day is observed on the day of his martyrdom, September 4. Today, at the site of his martyrdom at the

Kobylisz Shooting Range, a monument has been erected in his memory and those others who suffered at the hands of the Nazis.

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you – unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time. For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. Therefore, whether it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

Gospel: Matthew 19:16-26

Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them. When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen.”

Service Schedule for the week of September 4

Sunday September 4 – 9:45 AM Hours; 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall

Wednesday September 7 – NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS 7:00 PM Vespers with Litya

Thursday September 8 – NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

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

Sunday September 11 – 9:45 AM Hours; 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by prayers for the Sunday School children

Holy Day Service Schedule for 2022

Tuesday September 13 – ELEVATION OF THE CROSS 7:00 PM Vespers with Litya

Wednesday September 14 – ELEVATION OF THE CROSS 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

November 21 – ENTRY OF THE THEOTOKOS IN THE TEMPLE 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

December – to be announced

Weekly Giving

August 28 – 56 adults, 17 youth, \$2,082

Parish Announcements

St. Tikhon Seminary has asked parishes to have a special collection for the next few weeks to collect funds to help offset the cost of the newly constructed addition to the Monastery building for the monks. We will collect all donations and send one check to St. Tikhon's, so if you will be donating by check please make it payable to St Vladimir Orthodox Church. Thank you for your generosity.

A prayer service for the Sunday School children will be held next Sunday September 11 after Divine Liturgy. If you have not yet done so, please sign up your child(ren) ages 4 and above for Sunday School classes – the sign-up sheet is in the back of the church. **All classes will begin on Sunday September 18 after Communion.**

The Annual Parish Picnic will be held at the parish picnic grounds on Sunday September 25 after Divine Liturgy. As usual, the church will provide the meats (roasted pig, hamburgers, cheeseburgers, hot dogs) and we ask those attending to bring other needed items. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the back of the church – please sign up to let us know what you can bring. Cleaning and set up will take place on Saturday September 24. Thank you!

The annual Turkey Social (Bingo) will be held in Daria Hall on Sunday November 13 after Divine Liturgy. Sheets will soon be available on the tables in Daria Hall indicating what donations will be needed. As usual, we will need volunteers – please let Nina or Darice know if you can help!

REGARDING COFFEE HOUR HOSTING:

Please remember that when you are hosting Coffee Hour someone will be there to assist and guide you, but you are responsible for setting up and running the Coffee Hour. You should plan on arriving at Daria Hall at 9:00-9:15 AM to start setting up - please do not drop off your food and leave unless you have obligations for the church services. Hosting includes leaving church with the assistant after Communion to put out food and start the coffee, and then refilling the coffee pots as needed during Coffee Hour, cleaning up after Coffee Hour, taking the trash out the kitchen door to the trash cans, etc. We appreciate how willing everyone has been to host! And remember, Coffee Hour is whatever you want it to be! When we first started having Coffee Hour in the church basement decades ago, it was simply rolls and butter, bagels, donuts, coffee and tea – and fellowship as we have today in Daria Hall. As the years progressed and we outgrew the church basement, people started adding foods (cold and hot) to the selection. The intent of Coffee Hour is to socialize with our parish family, to get to know each other, and have a bite to eat while doing this. Thank you all for your participation!

REGARDING COFFEE HOUR:

If you are participating in Coffee Hour and not hosting, please remember to make a donation in the donation basket. The donations are used to purchase the cups, cup sleeves, coffee filters, stirrers, plates, paper towels, napkins, plasticware, trash bags, sugar, creamer, coffee, tea, juice, etc. And, as we are all aware, prices continue to go up for everything. We appreciate your generosity! P.S. Don't forget – donations of spring water for making the coffee are appreciated!

Youth and adults of the parish are invited to Bible Study classes during Coffee Hour. The classes are taught by Alan Berck.

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK:

Matthew Ortiz – September 4

Leonardo DiDonato – September 4

Dottie Kish – September 6

Christine Waite – September 7

Francine Brady – September 9

Mark Ortiz – September 9

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

COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE – Coffee Hour Preparation Instructions are available in the Daria Hall kitchen

Sept. 4 Vera Pschenyczny, Alla Strauss
Sept. 11 Karina Kotelnicki, Darice Keyes
Sept. 18 Ekaterina & Stanislav Uritsky, Nancy Mitsos
Sept. 25 ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC – no Coffee Hour
Oct. 2 Gebrekvistas Amleset, Alla Strauss
Oct. 9 Bill & Margie DiCicco, Chris Kasmer, Nina Laushell
Oct. 16 Ramazi Shubitidze, Herman Meyer, Francine Brady
Oct. 23 Alex Godun, Awet Tesfa
Oct. 30 Phyllis Eck, Darice Keyes
Nov. 6 Paula & Ludwig Koerte, Awet Tesfa
Nov. 13 TURKEY SOCIAL – no Coffee Hour
Nov. 20 **FAST DAY** Alex & Brittani Brasowski, Darice Keyes
Nov. 27 **FAST DAY** Germain & Tahara Ortiz, Nina Laushell
Dec. 4 **FAST DAY** Paul Denko, Francine Brady, Herman Meyer
Dec. 11 **FAST DAY** Olga & James Bates, Alla Strauss
Dec. 18 **FAST DAY** Father Volodymyr & Matushka Oksana, Darice Keyes
Dec. 25 CHRISTMAS – no Coffee Hour
Jan. 1 Matthew & Kris Bohush, Awet Tesfa

continued

ON-LINE GIVING

We have exciting news! St. Vladimir Orthodox Church is now offering our parishioners and friends of the parish online giving services through our website!

We are providing this option in addition to the traditional envelope, cash, or check donations. Of course, you may still donate to the church through these traditional methods, but now you also have the option to set up recurring or one-time donations online with a credit/debit card or electronic check. This program is beneficial so that you do not need to worry about remembering your donation envelope or donation every Sunday!

To give on-line through our new platform, visit our website: saintvladimir.org. Scroll down the home page and in the Donation section there are two blue buttons. The LEARN HOW button takes you to a tutorial about the online giving process. The PLEASE DONATE! button gives you the "Give Now" or "Sign In" selection at the top of the page under the heading.

"Give Now" is for a one-time donation.

"Sign In" is where you set up your account, and the system takes care of donating for you with the recurring donation option. To set up your account, scroll towards the bottom of the screen and click on the blue "Create One" – this is where you enter your information. You do not need to re-enter your information if you need to change anything in your account. If you need to make a change after your account is set up, you simply log in to your account by entering your email address and the password you previously created.

The ParishSoft system will credit your account with every online donation you make! Year-end financial statements will still be available regardless of how you choose to donate to the church.

We are very pleased that our new ParishSoft Accounting System has made this electronic option available to our parish! Members of the Parish Council are available to answer any of your questions.