



Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

Sun, June 14, 2020 - All Saints Sunday

The glorification of St. John of Kronstadt, The Prophet Elisha



Hymns for Today

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!

As with fine porphyry and royal purple, Thy Church has been adorned with Thy martyrs' blood shed through-out all the world. She cries to Thee, O Christ God: "Send down Thy bounties on Thy people, // grant peace to Thy habitation and great mercy to our souls!"

The universe offers Thee the God-bearing Martyrs as the first fruits of creation, O Lord and Creator. By their

prayers keep Thy Church, Thy habitation, in abiding peace // through the Theotokos, O most Merciful One!

Epistle Reading - Hebrews 11:33-12:2

... who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented - of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us. Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Gospel Reading - Matt 10:32-33, 37-38, 19:27-30

Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven. He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. Then Peter answered and said to Him,

DEAR GUESTS AND FRIENDS: A most sincere and heartfelt welcome to you from Holy Trinity Orthodox Church. According to the ancient traditions of the Orthodox Church, the Sacrament of Holy Communion is to be administered only to Orthodox Christians who have prepared to receive the Holy Sacrament through prayer and fasting.

“See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?” So Jesus said to them, “Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name’s sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first.

THIS WEEK’S SERVICE SCHEDULE

(Also livestreamed on Facebook)

TODAY: 8:40 AM Hours, Divine Liturgy @ 9:00 AM

WED: 10 AM Bible Study

SAT: 5:00 PM Great Vespers

SUN: 8:40 AM Hours, 9 AM Divine Liturgy

RECENT DONATIONS in Memoriam

In Memory of the departed Dreater & Morosky families

\$100 offered by Paul & Sylvia Dreater

In Memory of Aunt Melania Gulla

*\$700.00 for the door entry monitor system
offered by the Holoviak family*

Next Sunday is Father’s Day

Submit Names for your
living and departed Fathers

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BEGIN ATTENDING REGULAR SERVICES?

An important part of keeping to safety guidelines is knowing how many people will be attending services. When our Sunday service gets full, we may need to start another. Please email or call Fr. Innocent to let him know when you plan to return. If you have already returned, it

will be assumed that you will attend services moving forward.

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Living: Cynthia Dulsky, Theodore & Elenor Sovryda, Valletta Family, Nadine Breisch, Luke Austin, Rosalie Bagenski, Denise Meck, Sonja & Leanne Kay, Stephen & Mary Krill, Anna Hutz Lahr, Madaline, Brian Cawley, Josie Bissett, Lisa Harvey, Daniel & Shannon Bissett, Johnny Soucek, Rebecca King, Ray Zavada, Barbara Clark, Connie Padrezas, Delores Karas, Antonette Terry, Archpriest Daniel & Matushka Myra Kovalak, Mary DeBenedetto, Violet Filipi, Karl Pfeiffenberger, Lisa Vallone, Christopher Polk, Emma St. Romain **Departed:** Chad, Frank Emil Timko Maddox, Janice George, Mitred Archpriest Nicholas Timpko, Thomas Podalak, Martin Taylor, Dimitrios L.

NEW – Altar Boy Schedule

Because of limited space in the altar at this time we are putting altar boys in rotation. We will publish the schedule in the weekly bulletins. If you have questions or won’t be in church the Sunday your son is scheduled, please let Fr. Innocent know. Also, please be patient as we figure out this new system for serving. We know all the boys would like to serve as much as possible!

Sunday, June 14th

Alexander Holoviak, Simeon Clark, Ephraim Neal

Sunday June 21st

Caleb Dutko, Tommy Donlick, Andrew Neal

FROM FR. INNOCENT

Dear Parish Family,

In the joy of the feast! It was so wonderful to be back together last Sunday in person for our parish feast day – Holy Pentecost. The majority of the feedback I received seemed to indicate everyone felt safe at the service. There seemed to be plenty of distance between people in the pews, with room for more. Anyone who did not attend

last Sunday would be welcome. I also would welcome any and all feedback and concerns about how things are being done.

That said, the one area where I did hear we need to work on a little is in the vestibule. Before the pandemic the vestibule was an area where people would congregate and enjoy one another's company before and after the services. We will, God willing, return to this one day. However, in the current situation, the place to do that is now outside the building. Unfortunately at this time the vestibule can only be a place that we all pass through to go into and out of the main church (nave). The only parishioners that should stay in the vestibule are the door people, ushers, and people manning the candle stand. The blessed bread will now be distributed outside. Thanks so much for understanding. Like everyone, I look forward to the day when we can return to a level normalcy.

I look forward to seeing many of you this Sunday. If you are not yet able to come, know that we miss you. Livestreaming on Facebook will continue on Saturday nights and Sunday mornings. For those unable to attend, if you have a need or would like to schedule a time for personal communion please get in touch. I am happy to do this.

This Sunday is "All Saints Sunday". Having received the gift of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, the Apostles and disciples of Our Lord became the community of saints that spread the "living" gospel through their personal witness. In other words, the Holy Spirit was given, the gospel was lived, the commandments were kept, and THIS true living belief in Christ produced new life in them. It was because of this that the Christian faith spread, often through martyrdom, and still survives to this day. This is why we celebrate All Saints Sunday. The saints are the living fruit and result of the gift of the Holy Spirit poured out on mankind on Holy Pentecost.

Let us all today, as the saints before us, be inspired to strive to be a communicant of the living God through our sincere effort to be a disciple of Our Lord Jesus Christ. If we do this, the Lord will bless us and our community and give the increase just as he did in the early church and has ever since.

In the joy of the feast,
Fr. Innocent

Why is it All Saints Sunday?

The Sunday following Pentecost is dedicated to All Saints, both those who are known to us, and those who are known only to God. There have been saints at all times, and they have come from every corner of the earth. They were Apostles, Martyrs, Prophets, Hierarchs, Monastics, and Righteous, yet all were perfected by the same Holy Spirit.

The Descent of the Holy Spirit makes it possible for us to rise above our fallen state and to attain sainthood, thereby fulfilling God's directive to "be holy, for I am holy" (Lev. 11:44, 1 Peter 1:16, etc.). Therefore, it is fitting to commemorate All Saints on the first Sunday after Pentecost.

This feast may have originated at an early date, perhaps as a celebration of all martyrs, then it was broadened to include all men and women who had borne witness to Christ by their virtuous lives, even if they did not shed their blood for Him.

Saint Peter of Damascus, in his "Fourth Stage of Contemplation," mentions five categories of saints: Apostles, Martyrs, Prophets, Hierarchs, and Monastic Saints (PHILOKALIA [in English] Vol. 3, p.131). He is actually quoting from the OCTOECHOS, Tone 2 for Saturday Matins, kathisma after the first stichology.

Saint Nicodemus of the Holy Mountain (July 14) adds the Righteous to Saint Peter's five categories. The list of Saint Nicodemus is found in his book THE FOURTEEN EPISTLES OF ST PAUL (Venice, 1819, p. 384) in his discussion of I Corinthians 12:28.

The hymnology for the feast of All Saints also lists six categories: "Rejoice, assembly of the Apostles, Prophets of the Lord, loyal choirs of the Martyrs, divine Hierarchs, Monastic Fathers, and the Righteous...."

Some of the saints are described as Confessors, a category which does not appear in the above lists. Since they are similar in spirit to the martyrs, they are regarded as belonging to the category of Martyrs. They were not put to death as the Martyrs were, but they boldly confessed Christ and came close to being executed

for their faith. Saint Maximus the Confessor (January 21) is such a saint.

The order of these six types of saints seems to be based on their importance to the Church. The Apostles are listed first, because they were the first to spread the Gospel throughout the world.

The Martyrs come next because of their example of courage in professing their faith before the enemies and persecutors of the Church, which encouraged other Christians to remain faithful to Christ even unto death.

Although they come first chronologically, the Prophets are listed after the Apostles and Martyrs. This is because the Old Testament Prophets saw only the shadows of things to come, whereas the Apostles and Martyrs experienced them firsthand. The New Testament also takes precedence over the Old Testament.

The holy Hierarchs comprise the fourth category. They are the leaders of their flocks, teaching them by their word and their example.

The Monastic Saints are those who withdrew from this world to live in monasteries, or in seclusion. They did not do this out of hatred for the world, but in order to devote themselves to unceasing prayer, and to do battle against the power of the demons. Although some people erroneously believe that monks and nuns are useless and unproductive, Saint John Climacus had a high regard for them: “Angels are a light for monks, and the monastic life is a light for all men” (LADDER, Step 26:31).

The last category, the Righteous, are those who attained holiness of life while living “in the world.” Examples include Abraham and his wife Sarah, Job, Saints Joachim and Anna, Saint Joseph the Betrothed, Saint Juliana of Lazarevo, and others.

The feast of All Saints achieved great prominence in the ninth century, in the reign of the Byzantine Emperor Leo VI the Wise (886–911). His wife, the Holy Empress Theophano (December 16) lived in the world, but was not attached to worldly things. She was a great benefactor to the poor, and was generous to the monasteries. She was a true mother to her subjects, caring for widows and orphans, and consoling the sorrowful.

Even before the death of Saint Theophano in 893 or 894, her husband started to build a church, intending to dedicate it to Theophano, but she forbade him to do so. It was this emperor who decreed that the Sunday after Pentecost be dedicated to All Saints. Believing that his wife was one of the righteous, he knew that she would also be honored whenever the Feast of All Saints was celebrated.

