



Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church

OUR SUNDAY BULLETIN

SUNDAY JUNE 14, 2009

Feast of All Saints



Protection of the Virgin Mary

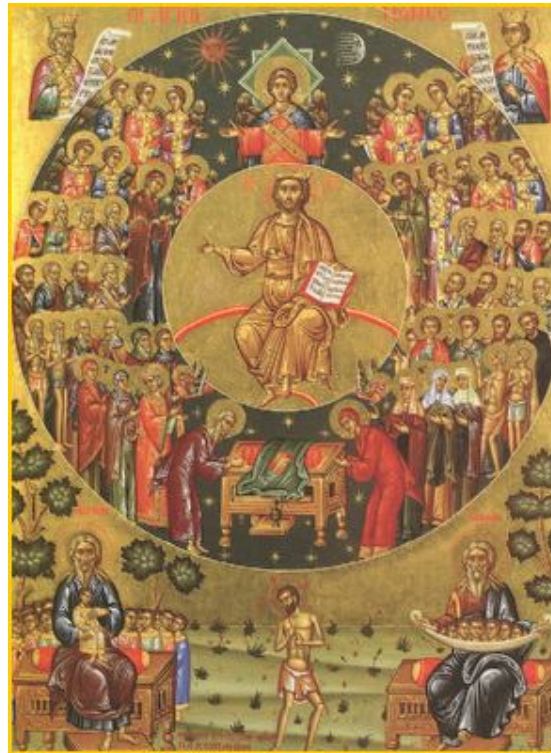
8600 Grand Blvd.
Merrillville, IN 46410
(219) 947-4748 (Church)
(219) 730-4698 (Hall Rental)

Great Vespers
Saturday - 4 PM
Feast Days - 7 PM
Divine Liturgy
Sunday - 9:45 AM
Feast Days - 9 AM
Sunday Adult class 9Am
Children's classes after liturgy

Fr. Peter Bodnar, Rector

Fr. Christopher Sarafin

All services in English
A parish of the
Orthodox Church in America
www.ptvm.com



SUNDAY JUNE
14, 2009

1st Sunday after
Pentecost..

Tone 8 Feast of
all Saints.

Elisha the
Prophet,
Methodios the
Confessor

Tone 8 Troparion (Resurrection)

You descended from on high, O Merciful One!
You accepted the three day burial to free us from our
sufferings!//
O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to You!

Tone 4 Troparion (from the Pentecostarion)

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

Tone 8 Kontakion (from the Pentecostarion)

The universe offers You the God-bearing Martyrs
as the first fruits of creation, O Lord and Creator.
By their prayers keep Your Church, Your habitation, in
abiding peace//
through the Theotokos, O most Merciful One!

Tone 8 Prokeimenon (Resurrection)

Pray and make your vows before the Lord, our
God! (Ps 75/76:11)
*v: In Judah God is known; His name is great in
Israel. (Ps 75/76:1)*

Tone 4 Prokeimenon (Saints)

God is wonderful in His saints, the God of
Israel. (Ps 67/68:35)

Tone 4 Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*v. The righteous cried and the Lord heard them
and delivered them out of all their troubles. (Ps
33/34:18)*
*v. Many are the afflictions of the righteous; the
Lord will deliver them out of them all. (Ps
33/34:20)*

Communion Hymns

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in
the highest! (Ps 148:1)
Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous; praise
befits the just! (Ps 32/33:1)
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Readings for Sunday June 14th 2009

Hebrews 11:33-12:2 (Epistle)

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.

Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38; 19:27-30 (Gospel)

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, "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.

Commemorated on June 14About the feast day.....

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.

St 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.

St Nicodemus of the Holy Mountain (July 14) adds the Righteous to St Peter's five categories. The list of St 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. St 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, St 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, Sts Joachim and Anna, St Joseph the Betrothed, St 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 St 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY.....June 14, 2009

SUNDAY 14 9am Adult class 9:45 3RD HOURS
10am Divine Liturgy

TUESDAY 16 Evening Prayer Service 6pm
Parish Council Meeting

SATURDAY 20 4pm Great Vespers

The book of Acts records the calling of the
1st Apostolic Council
This first council was held in what city?

- A ROME
- B JERUSALEM B
- C ANTIOCH
- D EPHESUS

- E CLEVELAND OHIO

Next Sunday June 21st is Fathers day

The idea for creating a day for children to honor their fathers began in Spokane, Washington. A woman by the name of Sonora Smart Dodd thought of the idea for Father's Day while listening to a Mother's Day sermon in 1909.

Having been raised by her father, William Jackson Smart, after her mother died, Sonora wanted her father to know how special he was to her. It was her father that made all the parental sacrifices and was, in the eyes of his daughter, a courageous, selfless, and loving man. Sonora's father was born in June, so she chose to hold the first Father's Day celebration in **Spokane, Washington on the 19th of June, 1910.**

Mission Trip

In 1989, Olga Atzhorn of our parish, volunteered for a mission trip to Alaska through the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC).

Twenty years later, I am following Olga's footsteps and will be leaving on an OCMC mission trip to Alaska on June 16 for two weeks.

Please keep me and my fellow Team members in your prayers.
We will be renovating an Orthodox church by day, and teaching catechism by night.

Please pray for physical and spiritual strength, endurance, the right words with which to glorify Christ our God, and a safe return.

We are in name the following: John Sedor, Andrew Stoiko, Keith & Pam Collins, Rob Mott, Blake DiLullo and Monica Kostron.

For those who have made financial contributions to make this trip possible, Thank You!!

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!
In Christ,
Monica

