



Weekly Bulletin

Orthodox Church of the Annunciation

All Saints of North America

Troparion of the Resurrection, Tone 2

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Thy Kingdom! Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou who lovest mankind!

Troparion of American Saints, Tone 4

As the bountiful harvest of Your sowing of salvation, the lands of North America offer to You, O Lord, all the saints who have shone in them. By their prayers keep the Church and our land in abiding peace, through the Theotokos, O Most-Merciful One.

Thoughts for the work of the Holy Spirit...

"Creation is a slave; the Spirit sets free. Creation stands in need of life; the Spirit is the Life-Giver. Creation needs instruction; the Spirit is the Teacher. Creation is sanctified; the Spirit is the Sanctifier."

The 2nd Sunday after Pentecost, Tone 1, June 18th, Matt. 4:18-23

On the second Sunday after Pentecost, each local Orthodox Church commemorates all the saints, known and unknown, who have shone forth in its territory. Accordingly, the Orthodox Church in America remembers the saints of North America on this day.

Saints of all times, and in every country are seen as the fulfillment of God's promise to redeem fallen humanity. Their example encourages us to "lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily besets us" and to "run with patience the race that is set before us" (Hebrews 12:1). The saints of North America also teach us how we should live, and what we must expect to endure as Christians. Although it is a relatively young church, the Orthodox Church in America has produced saints in nearly all of the six major categories of saints: Apostles (and Equals of the Apostles); Martyrs (and Confessors); Prophets; Hierarchs; Monastic Saints; and the Righteous. Prophets, of course, lived in Old Testament times and predicted the coming of Christ.

The first Divine Liturgy in what is now American territory (northern latitude 58 degrees, 14 minutes, western longitude 141 degrees) was celebrated on July 20, 1741, the Feast of the Prophet Elias, aboard the ship Peter under the command of Vitus Bering. Hieromonk Hilarion Trusov and the priest Ignatius Kozirevsky served together on that occasion. Several years later, the Russian merchant Gregory I. Shelikov visited Valaam monastery, suggesting to the abbot that it would be desirable to send missionaries to Russian America.

On September 24, 1794, after a journey of 7,327 miles (the longest missionary journey in Orthodox history) and 293 days, a group of monks from Valaam arrived on Kodiak Island in Alaska. The mission was headed by Archimandrite Joasaph, and included Hieromonks Juvenal, Macarius, and Athanasius, the Hierodeacons Nectarius and Stephen, and the monks Herman and Joasaph. Saint Herman of Alaska (December 13, August 9), the last surviving member of the mission, fell asleep in the Lord in 1837.

Throughout the Church's history, the seeds of faith have always been watered by the blood of the martyrs. The Protomartyr Juvenal was killed near Lake Iliamna by natives in 1799, thus becoming the first Orthodox Christian to shed his blood for Christ in the New World. In 1816, Saint Peter the Aleut was put to death by

Announcements and Activities

Great Vespers – Saturday, at 5:30 PM.

Divine Liturgy– Sunday, at 10AM.

Coffee Hour– This week’s Coffee Hour is being sponsored is Coffee and Cookies, as it is Fathers Day. Next week’s Coffee Hour will be our monthly potluck. We are still in the Apostles Fast until June 29th (see below).

The Apostles Fast– lasts until the Thursday, June 29th, with the celebration of the Feast of Ss. Peter and Paul. The fast is slightly less strict than Great Lent, with abstinence from meat and dairy, but more allowance of fish, wine and oil (check your calendars). A blessed effort to all of you.

Church School/Adult Ed– summer recess until October.

Parish Council– met last week. We welcomed Jason Nantze, who has assumed the remainder of Kirk MacLane’s term (6 months), as the elected “alternate” at last year’s Annual Meeting. Jason was confirmed as a council member through his acceptance of the oath of office for council members. Vladyka Benjamin has confirmed Jason. Welcome!. Council accepted Sunday’s Treasurer’s report, thanking the Lord for a surplus of around \$400 in May’s operation, and discussed property upkeep.

Moses the Black Akathist with Discussion—tomorrow, Monday, June 19th, at 6PM, at the Church, with refreshments and discussion to follow in the Hall.

Pray for... Sarah, the daughter of Fr. Lawrence’s godfather, health issues. **Youseff and Jimmy**– who are ill. **Matushka Ann Hopko**, reposed. **Jonathan**– ill. **Reposed Barbara Ranjo**. **Fr. And Matushka’s Granddaughter Annabella is past her illness, but still needs prayer for the return all body parts to normal.** **Laure-battling Cancer.** **Paul**– ill **Ralph**–ill **Archpriest Lawrence**, from Canada, progressive eye disease. **Tsige Roman**– our beloved Tsige reposed on December 3rd. Please keep praying for her homeland of Ethiopia. **Brian**– ill. **Jonathan**– ill. **Katia** – sister of Shkbarra’s **Grace**, Heather’s goddaughter. **Reposed Priest, James. Reposed Hierarch Tikhon . Diane**– surgery. **Rufin**– soldier in Ukraine. **Elise**, ill. **Sally**, surgery, **Reposed Patrick**, **Reposed Jim**, **Reposed Alex**; **Christian**, prayers. **Chris**, reposed. **Galina**, reposed. **Patrick**, reposed. **Clint Arsenios**– reposed. **Heather Mary**– uncommon fatigue **Lou Mendez**

Spanish missionaries in California when he refused to convert to Roman Catholicism. Missionary efforts continued in the nineteenth century, with outreach to the native peoples of Alaska. Two of the most prominent laborers in Christ’s Vineyard were Saint Innocent Veniaminov (March 31 and October 6) and Saint Jacob Netsvetov (July 26), who translated Orthodox services and books into the native languages. Father Jacob Netsvetev died in Sitka in 1864 after a life of devoted service to the Church. Father John Veniaminov, after his wife’s death, received monastic tonsure with the name Innocent. He died in 1879 as the Metropolitan of Moscow.

As the nineteenth century was drawing to a close, an event of enormous significance for the North American Church took place. On March 25, 1891, Bishop Vladimir went to Minneapolis to receive Saint Alexis Toth (May 7) and 361 of his parishioners into the Orthodox Church. This was the beginning of the return of many Uniates to Orthodoxy.

Saint Tikhon (Bellavin), the future Patriarch of Moscow (April 7, October 9), came to America as bishop of the diocese of the Aleutians and Alaska in September 1898. As the only Orthodox bishop on the continent, Saint Tikhon traveled extensively throughout North America in order to minister to his widely scattered and diverse flock. He realized that the local church here could not be a permanent extension of the Russian Church. Therefore, he focused his efforts on giving the American Church a diocesan and parish structure which would help it mature and grow.

Saint Tikhon returned to Russia in 1907, and was elected as Patriarch of Moscow ten years later. He died in 1925, and for many years his exact burial place remained unknown. Saint Tikhon’s grave was discovered on February 22, 1992 in the smaller cathedral of Our Lady of the Don in the Don Monastery when a fire made renovation of the church necessary.

Saint Raphael of Brooklyn (February 27) was the first Orthodox bishop to be consecrated in North America. Archimandrite Raphael Hawaweeny was consecrated by Bishop Tikhon and Bishop Innocent (Pustynsky) at Saint Nicholas Cathedral in New York on March 13, 1904. As Bishop of Brooklyn, Saint Raphael was a trusted and capable assistant to Saint Tikhon in his archpastoral ministry. Saint Raphael reposed on February 27, 1915.

The first All American Council took place March 5-7, 1907 at Mayfield, PA, and the main topic was “How to expand the mission.” Guidelines and directions for missionary activity, and statutes for the administrative structure of parishes were also set forth.

In the twentieth century, in the aftermath of the Russian Revolution, countless men, women, and children received the crown of martyrdom rather than renounce Christ. Saints John Kochurov (October 31) and Alexander Hotovitzky (December 4 and August 7) both served the Church in North America before going back to Russia. Saint John became the first clergyman to be martyred in Russia on October 31, 1917 in Saint Petersburg. Saint Alexander Hotovitzky, who served in America until 1914, was killed in 1937.

In addition to the saints listed above, we also honor those saints who are known only to God, and have not been recognized officially by the Church. As we contemplate the lives of these saints, let us remember that we are also called by God to a life of holiness.

(Taken from the OCA Website, All Saints of North America)

“There do not exist many or few, nor small or great problems. The only problem is the absence of Christ from our lives” (From the life and teachings of Elder Epiphanius Theodoropoulos)