



Weekly Bulletin

## **Orthodox Church of the Annunciation**

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Rev. Justin Taylor, *Rector*

V. Rev. Lawrence Russell, *Pastor Emeritus (Retired, Attached)*

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Confessions:

During & after Vespers, before Divine Liturgy, or by Appointment

### **Upcoming Services**

#### **Sunday, June 7**

*(All Saints)*

9:40 am 3rd & 6th Hours

10 am Divine Liturgy

#### **Wednesday, June 10**

6 pm Great Vespers

#### **Thursday, June 11**

*(Sts Bartholemew & Barnabas)*

8:40 am 3rd & 6th Hours

9 am Divine Liturgy

#### **Saturday, June 13**

5:30 pm Great Vespers

#### **Sunday, June 14**

*(All American Saints)*

9:15 am Chrismations

10 am Divine Liturgy

## **Sunday, June 7**

*Tone 8*

*Hebrews 11:33-12:2*

*Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38, 19:27-30*

### **The Synaxis of All Saints**

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.

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 Nikódēmos of the Holy Mountain (July 14) adds the Righteous to Saint Peter's five categories. The list of Saint Nikódēmos is found in his book

\* **Catechesis/Inquirers Class:** ~12:30-2pm after Divine Liturgy on Sunday 6/7. All are welcome!

**Apostles' Fast begins 6/8:** Fish, Wine, & Oil are allowed on Sat/Sun. Fr Justin & Fr Lawrence will be available for Confession during/after Vespers, before Liturgy, or by appointment.

The Fourteen Epistles of Saint 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.

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**Please pray for...**

Archpriest Matthew; Archpriest Lawrence Farley; Joe (Sunday's brother); Thomas; Helen; Marija (cancer); Maria; the nun Paraskeva and her mother Radojka; Ginny; the newborn Sieglinda (for health); Derek (Nektarios) for employment/housing assistance; Miles (Larissa's grandson); Zoi and Valeri (Oxana's parents); Natalia (Nina Slater's sister); Maria Carmen (Joseph Nuno's mother); Carol (Edie's mother); the child Rastko; Vasilije; Sophia; Steve; Alexis; Angelina; Helen (cancer); the child Uriah; Anna (sick); Alexis; Shawn; Claude; Olga (recovery from surgery); Kyle; Virginia (cancer); Lana; Ben, Maggie, Ada, and Stevie; Alexandra (health); Joseb; Seraphima; Tomica; Tina (Joseb's mother); Laura (Roger's wife); the child Stefan...

...Emma Saperstein and the child to be born of her, and Scott; Leanna Marchell and the child to be born of her, Brandon, Elizabeth, and Margaret; Luisa and the newborn child (Fetzko's friend); Nevena and the child to be born of her (Brown's friend); Julie and the newborn Callen (MacLane family); Matushka Rachel and the child to be born of her...

...The newly departed Sonia, Warren, Jimmy