



Weekly Bulletin

Orthodox Church of the Annunciation

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Confessions:

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

Upcoming Services

Sunday, August 2

9:40 am 3rd & 6th Hours

10 am Divine Liturgy

1 pm Catechesis & Inquirers Class

Wednesday, August 5

6 pm Great Vespers (w/ Litya)

Thursday, August 6

(Feast of Transfiguration)

8:40 am 3rd & 6th Hours

9 am Divine Liturgy (w/ blessing of fruit)

Saturday, August 9

5:30 pm Great Vespers

Sunday, August 10

9:40 am 3rd & 6th Hours

10 am Divine Liturgy

* Grapes/Fruit will be blessed after Liturgy on 8/6.

* **Young Adult Retreat @ St Timothy's on Sat 8/8. 9 am Divine Liturgy w/ Lunch, Spiritual Talk & Hike after.**

* **The Dormition Fast** through 8/15. Confessions before/during/after Vespers or by appointment.

Many Years! 8/3: Lana Clemens (Birthday); 8/6: Jerry Howe (Birthday)

Sunday, August 2nd

9th Sunday After Pentecost (Tone 8)

1 Corinthians 3:9-17

Matthew 14:22-34

The holy apostle Peter, with the Lord's permission, gets down from the ship and walks on the water; then he yields to the movement of fear and begins to drown. The fact that he decided upon such an unusual act, hoping in the Lord, is nothing deserving of reprimand—otherwise the Lord would not have allowed him to do this.

The reprimand comes because he did not sustain the original state of his soul. He was filled with inspired hope in the Lord's ability to do anything, and this gave him the boldness to entrust himself to the waves. Several steps were already made along this new path—it was necessary only to stand more firmly in hope, gazing at the Lord Who is near, and at the experience of walking in His strength.

Instead, gave himself over to human thoughts: "The wind is strong, the waves are great, the water is not firm;" and this shook loose and weakened his firmness of faith and hope. Because of this he broke away from the Lord's hands, and, left to the operation of nature's laws, began to drown. The Lord rebuked him: O ye of little faith! Why did you doubt? showing that in this lay the entire reason for the misfortune. Behold a lesson for all who undertake something, great or small, with the aim of pleasing the Lord! Keep your first state of faith

and hope, from which a great virtue is born—patience in doing good, which serves as the basis for a God-pleasing life.

As long as these dispositions are maintained, inspiration for labouring on the path begun does not go away; and obstacles, no matter how great they may be, are not noticed. When these dispositions weaken, the soul is filled with human reasoning about human methods of preserving one's life and conducting the affairs which one has begun. But since this reasoning always turns out to be powerless, fear of how one should be enters the soul; from this comes wavering—wondering whether or not to continue—and in the end comes a complete return.

You must do it this way; if you begin, keep it up—chase away troubling thoughts, and be bold in the Lord, Who is nearby.

From *Thoughts for Each Day of the Year According to the Daily Church Readings from the Word of God*, by St. Theophan the Recluse

Translation of the relics of the Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen from Jerusalem to Constantinople

The Transfer of the Relics of the Holy Protomartyr Stephen from Jerusalem to Constantinople took place about the year 428.

After the holy Protomartyr Archdeacon Stephen was stoned by the Jews, they left his holy body unburied to be devoured by the beasts and birds. After a day and a night the renowned Jewish teacher of the Law, Gamaliel sent people to take up the body of the Protomartyr. Gamaliel buried him on his own property, in his own tomb, not far from Jerusalem.

When Lord's secret disciple Nikódēmos died, Gamaliel also buried him near the grave of Saint Stephen. Afterwards Gamaliel himself, who had been baptized with his son Abibas, was buried near the grave of the Protomartyr Stephen and Saint Nikódēmos.

In the year 415 the relics of the saint were uncovered in a miraculous manner and solemnly transferred to Jerusalem by Bishop John and the bishops Eutonius of Sebaste and Eleutherius of Jericho. From that time healings took place from the relics.

Afterwards, during the reign of holy Emperor Theodosius the Younger (408-450), the relics of the holy Protomartyr Stephen were transferred from Jerusalem to Constantinople and placed in the church of the holy deacon Laurence (August 10). When a church dedicated to the Protomartyr Stephen was built, the relics were transferred there on August 2. Saint Stephen's right hand is preserved in the Serapionov chamber of the Trinity-Sergius Lavra.

Please pray for...

Archpriest Matthew Tate; 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; 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; Hannah; Jonah; Lydia; Alexandra (recovery from surgery); Luci (recovery from surgery); John (Alzheimer's) and his wife Eileen; Marion (sick); Timothy (cancer); Ken (cancer); Ethne; Daniel; Iskra

Leanna Marchell and the newborn child; Julie and the newborn Callen (MacLane family); Luisa and the newborn Jonah

Pregnancies: Emma Saperstein, Nevena (Brown's friend), Matushka Rachel, Michelle Millar

The newly departed Helen (Donna Wheatley); George (Lana Clemen's cousin); Ralph; Manwa Fadel (Samir's aunt); Archpriest John, Mary, Walter.