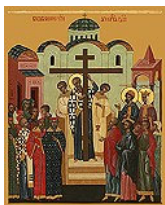


✠Bulletin✠

Week of June 15th to June 21st



Holy Cross Orthodox Church

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Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

1st SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 8

All Saints

"Seven Arrows" Icon of the Mother of God

Prophet Amos (8th c. B.C.). St. Jonah, Metropolitan of Moscow (1461). Martyrs Modestus, Crescentia, and Vitus, at Lucania (ca. 303). Martyr Dulas of Cilicia (4th c.). St. Dulas, Passionbearer of Egypt. St. Jerome (Hieronymus) of Stridon (420). Translation of the Relics of St. Theodore the Sykeote (ca. 9th c.). Rt. Blv. Lazarus, Prince of Serbia (1389). St. Ephraim, Patriarch of Serbia (14th c.). Bl. Augustine, Bishop of Hippo (430). "Marianica" Icon of the Mother of God. St. Theophanes of the Roslavl Forests (Russia—1819).

Weekly Liturgical Service Schedule

Sunday June 15, 2025

9:10 am - Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

Weekly Schedule

Sunday June 15, 2025

- Inquirers & Catechism classes following Divine Liturgy
- Choir Practice

Homily for the Sunday of All Saints

By St. John of Kronstadt

"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).

Now we celebrate the memory of all the saints who fought the good fight of faith and virtue on earth and moved on to heaven - to eternal peace and joy. The annual return to us of the present feast commemorating all saints is, brethren, nothing other than the many times repeated appeal of the departed saints to us, living on earth and struggling with the enemies of salvation for the sake of the future incorruptible kingdom, an appeal to follow in their footsteps. They tell us: "You, our younger brethren, strive without laziness for the future kingdom, just as we strived; let no obstacles stop you on the path to salvation, just as nothing stopped us; be courageous and firm in the fight against your lazy and sinful flesh, against the lures of a deceptive, fleeting light, against the machinations of the invisible enemy the devil, remember constantly that the kingdom of heaven is acquired through effort and only strong seekers will inherit it (Matthew 11:12), that it behooves you to enter into it through many tribulations (cf. Acts 14:22). We struggled much, endured much, and for this we now rest in eternal and indestructible peace. You will also endure much struggle: eternal rest will come to you also. Living on earth, we heard the words of our Savior and Rest-Giver: "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest," and with faith and hope hastened to His call, came to Him, endured all things for Him, and now have received from Him the promised rest; do likewise follow: He will give you rest in the bosom of His eternal love.

But what? While the Master Himself and all the saints unanimously call us to eternal rest, we barely or completely pay no attention to their unanimous invitation and become attached to the earth with all our might; – we become attached to covetousness, carnal pleasures, and the search for temporary honors. How few people there are who would always have the future life in their thoughts and strive for it with all the strength of their souls! The primordial enemy has entangled Christians in his net because of their addiction to the blessings of the earth and extreme inattention to the benefits of their souls - having bound their minds, imagination and hearts, so that they would no longer think or imagine or desire future blessings "which eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor entered in the heart of man" (so they are superior to all that is subject to the senses), "the things which God has prepared for those who love Him" (1 Cor. 2:9). Thus, he closed heaven from

them and turned them completely to earth: on earth they seek all possible pleasure and bliss and all good things, and not in heaven, for which they were created and redeemed by the most pureblood of Jesus Christ. But there is no rest for the heart on earth: after a short period of bodily pleasure, the heart becomes empty, dull, languid – and this is because it was created for life in God and for the enjoyment of the pure, spiritual joys of the kingdom of heaven, and not for the earth and the enjoyment of earthly, perishing blessings. “In Me you may have peace” (John 16:33), says the Lord, i.e. apart from the Lord, there is no true peace of heart anywhere on earth. Let us not forget, brethren, to more often recall the end of the holy confession (symbol) of our faith: “We await the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the age to come” and to kindle in our hearts the faith that the general resurrection of the dead will certainly take place and reward for each person’s deeds will follow immediately. “Behold, I am coming quickly,” says the Lord, “and My reward will be with Me, to reward everyone according to his work. Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city, i.e. to the heavenly city of Jerusalem” (Rev. 22:12, 14).

Brethren! “Whoever wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God” (James 4:4), says the Apostle James. Therefore, “do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world — the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life — is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever” (1 John 2:15–17).

Cling your heart not to what is visible, but to what is invisible: “what is visible is temporary, but what is invisible is eternal” (2 Cor. 4:18). Amen.

**Reflection for the Sunday of All Saints
By St. Theophan the Recluse**

The Holy Church commemorates Saints every day. But because there have been God-pleasers who struggled in obscurity and were not revealed to the Holy Church, the Church has set a day on which we praise all those who have pleased God throughout the ages, that they all might be glorified by the Church. The Church instituted this commemoration immediately after the descent of the Holy Spirit, because all saints have been made and are being made saints by the grace of the Holy Spirit. The grace of the Holy Spirit brings repentance and the forgiveness of sins; it leads one into battle with the

passions and lusts, and crowns this labor with purity and passionlessness. And thus a new creature appears, fit for a new heaven and new earth. Let us be zealous to follow the Saints of God. Today’s Gospel reading teaches us how to do this: it demands fearless confession of faith in the Lord, particular love toward Him, raising the cross of self-denial, and heartfelt renunciation of everything. Let us make a beginning according to these instructions.

**Happy Father’s Day!
God grant you many blessed years!**



**For our fathers who
have gone before us:
Memory Eternal**

Prayer Requests

Carolyn – Robert & Debra’s Forster’s daughter
Anne and Scott Peatross
Annette Bartos – David Bartos’ sister
Robert (John) Forster
Robert Kozera
Megan – David & Phyllis Bartos’ daughter
Rosemary – Friend of David & Phyllis Bartos

Please pray for our families in Ukraine

Leonid, Nadiia, Andrii, Halyna,
Volodymyr, Maryna, Dmytro, Bohdan,
Nadiia, Oleksandr, Tetiana,
Roman, Mykola
Anatoly, Olga, Maria, Andrei

Please let us know if there is anyone you would like to add to the Prayer Lists.

Inquirers & Catechism Class

Classes will be on Sundays following Divine Liturgy. For those new to understanding orthodoxy or for those who want to expand your foundation, please join us for our classes. Please check the schedule for changes.

God grant you many blessed years, Luke!



Congratulations on your high school graduation!

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The Divine Liturgy

Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Variable Hymns and Readings

Tone 8 Troparion (Resurrection)

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!

Tone 4 Troparion (All Saints)

As with fine porphyry and royal purple,

Thy Church has been adorned with Thy martyrs' blood shed throughout 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!”

Tone 8 Kontakion (All Saints)

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!

Tone 8 Prokeimenon (Resurrection)

Pray and make your vows / before the Lord, our God! (Ps. 75:10a)

V. In Judah God is known; His Name is great in Israel. (Ps. 75:1)

Tone 4 Prokeimenon (All Saints)

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

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.

Tone 14

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

V. The righteous cried and the Lord heard them, and delivered them out of all their troubles. (Ps. 33:17)

V. Many are the afflictions of the righteous; the Lord will deliver them out of them all. (Ps. 33:19)

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.

Explanation of Today's Gospel Reading

By Blessed Theophylact

Archbishop of Ochrid and Bulgaria

32-33. 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 exhorts them to bear witness even unto martyrdom. For belief only within one's soul does not suffice; He desires also the belief confessed with the tongue. He did not say, "Whosoever shall confess Me," but "in Me," that is, in My strength. For he who confesses does so aided by the grace which is from above. But as for him who denies, Christ did not say "in Me," but "whosoever shall deny Me," showing that he denies because he does not have the aid from above. Therefore, everyone who confesses that Christ is God will find Christ giving confession of him to the Father, that he is a true servant. But those who deny will hear the words "I do not know you."

37. He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. Do you see when it is that we must hate our parents and children? When they want us to love them more than Christ. And why should I speak of father, mother, and children? Hear what is even greater than this:

38. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. Whoever, He says, does not renounce this present life and give himself over to shameful death, for this is what the cross signified to the ancients, is not worthy of Me. But since there are many who are crucified, such as robbers and thieves, He added, "and follows after Me," that is, live according to My laws.

19:27. Then Peter answered and said to Him, "See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?" Even though it seems that Peter had not forsaken very much, as he was poor, understand that in actuality he, too, forsook much. For the fewer possessions we humans have,

the greater the attachment. But Peter also rejected every worldly pleasure, even natural affection for his parents. For these passions¹ war against the poor as well as the rich. What then does the Lord answer?

¹ Natural affection for one's family becomes a passion when it is placed before love of God.

28. 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. Surely they will not be seated? Of course not, but He indicated by means of a throne the great honor they will enjoy. Will Judas also be seated? No; for Christ said, "which have followed Me," that is, "followed Me to the end," but Judas did not follow to the end. By a different interpretation, God often promises good things to those who are worthy. But if they should change and become unworthy, as Judas did, those good things are denied. Similarly with more menacing things, He often threatens but does not carry out the threat, because we have repented. By "regeneration" understand the resurrection of the dead at the Last Judgment.

29. 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. So that no one would think that what was said applied only to the disciples, Christ broadened the promise to include everyone who does likewise. For they will have, instead of family of the flesh, intimacy and brotherhood with God; instead of lands, Paradise; instead of houses of stone, the heavenly Jerusalem; instead of a mother, the venerable mothers in the Church; instead of a father, the priests; instead of a wife, all the faithful women, not in marriage - far from it! - but in affection and spiritual relation and compassionate care for them. The Lord does not bid us simply to separate from our families, but only when they impede our piety. In the same manner, He bids us to despise even our own life and body, but not with the result that we slay ourselves. See how good God is: He not only gives us these good things but adds to them eternal life. You, then, O reader, hasten to sell your possessions and give to the poor. Possessions are, to the wrathful person, his anger; to the fornicator, his disposition for debauchery; to the resentful person, his remembrance of wrongs. Sell these things and give them to the poor demons who are in want of every good thing. Return the passions to the creators of the passions, and then you will have treasure, which is Christ, in your heaven, that is, in your mind which has been exalted above this world. For he who becomes like the heavenly One has heaven within himself.

30. But many who are first will be last, and the last first. Christ is suggesting here the Jews and the Gentiles. For the Jews, who were first, became last, while the Gentiles, who were last, were put first.

Communion Hymn

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. 32:1)*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!