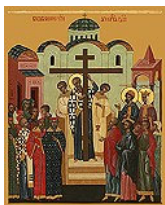


✠Bulletin✠

Week of June 22nd to June 28th



Holy Cross Orthodox Church

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Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

2nd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 1

All Saints of America (All Saints of Russia)

Hieromartyr Eusebius, Bishop of Samosata (380). Martyrs Zeno and his servant, Zenas, of Philadelphia (304). Martyrs Galacteon, Juliana, and Saturninus, of Constantinople. St. Alban, Protomartyr of Britain (ca. 287). Hieromartyr Nikéttas of Remesiana (414-420). Martyr Nikéttas the Dacian (370-372). St. Grigorie Dascalu, Metropolitan of Wallachia (Romania).

Weekly Liturgical Service Schedule

Sunday June 22nd, 2025

9:10 am - Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

Saturday June 28th

5:30 pm – Vespers with Litya for Saints Peter & Paul

Weekly Schedule

Sunday June 22, 2025

- Inquirers & Catechism classes following Divine Liturgy
- Choir Practice

Homily One for the Second Sunday of Matthew

By St. John of Kronstadt

“And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. Then He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” They immediately left their nets and followed Him. (Matthew 4:18-20)

The Gospel reading, my beloved brethren in Christ, speaks about the calling by Jesus Christ to the apostolic rank of two brothers Peter and Andrew, and two other brothers, James and John, later called by Jesus Christ the Sons of Thunder, for their unquestioning following of the Savior; and about how the Lord walked throughout the entire country of Galilee preaching about the Kingdom of Heaven, “healing every disease and every infirmity among the people” (Matthew 4:23).

My brethren, the Lord calls to the apostleship two like-minded brothers of the same blood, to depict the character of His future followers: Christians, who should all be brothers in Christ in the spirit of mutual love- “you are all brothers” (Matthew 23:8), says Jesus Christ to His followers. He calls upon simple and unlearned people to the lofty and greatest feat of apostleship, firstly, for their simplicity and credulity, for their humble, low minded and gentle disposition, for their hard work and patience, and secondly, in order to show that the planting of faith and the Church of Christ in the world was not a matter of human wisdom and strength, but the work of God, and so that “no flesh should boast before God” (1 Cor. 1:29), so that no man can boast that the Christian faith is indebted to his own wisdom, patience and labors. God Himself performed the greatest miracle on them: He made them wise from ignorant; from timid and fearful to courageous and undaunted, from carnal to spiritual, from the earthly to the heavenly, from vessels of sin to vessels of righteousness and temples of the Holy Spirit.

Likewise, the Lord can transform us from sinners into righteous people if we have living faith in the Lord and firmly decide to love righteousness and hate lawlessness. Thus, the Lord can make a drunkard or a glutton abstinent, a money-lover merciful and God-loving, a depraved person chaste, and in general can deliver us easily and quickly from our sinful habits and passions, if only we ourselves, like the fisherman now mentioned in the Gospel, have faith in the Lord and a firm, unchanging determination not to follow one’s

lawless will, but to follow the wise, holy and saving commandments of God. There are many examples of this in the lives of saints. These are: the example of the prudent thief who repented on the cross and inherited paradise, Mary of Egypt, Peter the Publican and many other examples. Thus, the Lord called ordinary people to the apostolic feat, and not the wise and reasonable of this age. The Holy Apostle Paul says: "God has chosen the foolish things of the world," that is, simple and unlearned people, "to confound the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world, to confound the strong; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence; so that it may be as it is written: 'He who boasts, let him boast in the Lord'" (1 Cor. 1:27-29, 31). The same Apostle cites in his Epistle to the Corinthians the words of the Lord from the Prophet Isaiah about the high-minded and erroneous wisdom of the earthly sages: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise and reject the understanding of the prudent" (Is.29:14). "Where is the sage? Where is the scribe? Where is the questioner of this age? Did not God turn the wisdom of this world into foolishness" (Is. 33:18, 1 Cor. 1:19–20). In fact, the wise men of this age often despise the holy, immaculate faith of Christ and its guardian, the Holy Church of Christ. What could one expect from them for the faith and the Church? If they do not humble their obstinate mind and do not subjugate it to Christ, they can only destroy faith and not build and spread it. It is extremely surprising that learned people, the so-called intelligent people today, are infected with unbelief, which amounts to madness, insanity, just as Scripture says that "the wisdom of this world is foolishness before God" (1 Cor.3:19); their unbelief comes from their pride, learned ignorance, which knows much that is empty and does not know what is most necessary. "God opposes the proud" (James 4:6).

It is also surprising that simple, uneducated people, but with common sense and a kind, simple heart, turnout to be much smarter than the wise men of this world and pleasing to God, because in the simplicity of their hearts, without philosophizing deceitfully, they believe in the faith of God, in the word of God, accepting with a kind and simple heart, trying to fulfill it according to their strength, with the help of grace. Look, brethren, I will tell you in the words of the Apostle, you who have come to this temple: not many of you are wise in the flesh (i.e. learned), not many strong (i.e. mighty of the world, noble and rich), not many noble; and the majority are all simple, uneducated, semi-literate or only literate. Therefore, my brethren, like the fishermen now mentioned in the Gospel, believe with all your heart in the Lord and in His Gospel, accept with all your heart the word of eternal life,

justify with your whole life that you are Christians, Christ's disciples and followers; do not abandon church gatherings and worship services; read, listen to the word of God more often, gain wisdom and be saved. The Gospel of Christ is now accessible to everyone. God! Enlighten the minds of all with the light of reason of Your holy Gospel, teach us to do Your will, save us and bring us into Your Heavenly Kingdom. Amen.

Quotes

-St. Theophan the Recluse

If you examine your life well, you will find many instances when God showed His unmistakable mercy to you. Trouble was brewing, but it passed you by for some reason. God delivered you. Acknowledge these and thank God, Who loves you.

-St. Nectarios of Optina

Just Pray: "Lord, grant me Thy grace", for when there is a cloud of griefs over you & you Pray: "Lord, grant me Thy grace", the Lord will carry you past the storm.

-St. Paisios

The person that is struggling to the best of his abilities, who has no desire to live a disorderly life, but who, in the course of the struggle for faith & life, falls & rises again & again, God will never abandon. And if he has the slightest will not to grieve God, he will go to Paradise with his shoes on. The Benevolent God will, surprisingly, push him into Paradise. God will ensure that he takes him at this best, in repentance. He may have to struggle all his life, but God will not abandon him; He will take him at the best possible time.

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.

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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.

The Divine Liturgy

Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom
Variable Hymns and Readings

Tone 1 Troparion *(Resurrection)*

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!"

Tone 8 Troparion *(All Saints of America)*

As the bountiful harvest of Thy sowing of salvation,
the lands of North America offer to Thee, 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!

Tone 1 Kontakion *(Resurrection)*

As God, Thou didst rise from the tomb in glory,
raising the world with Thyself.
Human nature praises Thee as God, for death has vanished.
Adam exults, O Master!
Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage and cries to Thee://
"Thou art the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!"

Tone 3 Kontakion *(All Saints of America)*

Today the choir of Saints who were pleasing to God in the lands of North
America
now stands before us in the Church and invisibly prays to God for us.
With them the Angels glorify Him,
and all the Saints of the Church of Christ keep festival with them;//
and together they all pray for us to the Pre-eternal God.

Tone 6 *(Steadfast Protectress....)*

Steadfast Protectress of Christians,
constant Advocate before the Creator:
do not despise the cry of us sinners,
but in your goodness come speedily to help us
who call on you in faith. Hasten to hear our petition and to intercede for us,
O Theotokos, for you always protect those who honor you.

Tone 1 Prokeimenon *(Resurrection)*

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us / as we have set our hope on Thee!
(Ps. 32:22)

V. Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just!
(Ps. 32:1)

Tone 7 Prokeimenon *(All Saints of America)*

Precious in the sight of the Lord / is the death of His saints.
(Ps. 115:6)

Romans 2:10-16 (Epistle)

but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For there is no partiality with God. For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law (for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified; for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these,

although not having the law, are a law to themselves, who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them) in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.

Hebrews 11:33-12:2 (Epistle, Saints)

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 1

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

*V. God gives vengeance unto me, and subdues people under me.
(Ps. 17:48)*

V. He magnifies the salvation of the King and deals mercifully with David, His anointed, and his seed forever. (Ps. 17:51)

Tone 1

V. Rejoice in the Lord and be glad, O you righteous! (Ps. 31:11a)

Matthew 4:18-23 (Gospel)

And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. Then He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” They immediately left their nets and followed Him. Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. He called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him. And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.

Matthew 4:25-5:12 (Gospel, Saints)

Great multitudes followed Him – from Galilee, and from Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan. And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Explanation of Today’s Gospel Reading

By Blessed Theophylact

Archbishop of Ochrid and Bulgaria

18. And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. Then He said to them, These two had been disciples of John, and while John was still living they had approached Christ. But when they saw John arrested, they returned again to their fishing, and so Christ comes, fishing for them, and says:

19-20. “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” They immediately left their nets and followed Him. Behold obedient men, who followed Him immediately. From this it is clear that this is the second time that He called them. For they had been taught by Christ on a previous occasion, (John 1:35-42) then left Him, and when they saw Him again followed Him readily.

21. Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father. It is the greatest of virtues to care for one’s father in his old age, and for the father to be supported by the just labors of his sons. **Mending their nets.** They were poor and as they were unable to buy new nets, they were stitching together their old ones.

22. He called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him. It appears that Zebedee did not believe, and it is for this reason that they left him. Do you see when it becomes necessary to leave one’s father? When the father becomes an impediment to virtue and reverence for God. When James and John saw the first two follow Christ, they rightly followed Christ as well, imitating their good example.

23. And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom. Jesus enters the synagogues of the Hebrews to show that He is not opposed to the law. **And healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.** He begins with miracles, to give credibility to what He teaches. By “disease” is meant chronic illness, and by “infirmary”, a temporary bodily disorder.

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!