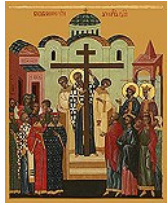


## ✠Bulletin✠

Week of October 27th to November 2nd



## Holy Cross Orthodox Church

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**18th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 1**  
**Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom**

Martyr Nestor of Thessalonica (ca. 306). Ven. Nestor the Chronicler of the Kiev Caves (Far Caves—ca. 1114). Uncovering of the Relics of St. Andrew, Prince of Smolensk (1540). Martyrs Capitolina and Eroteis of Cappadocia (304). Saint Claudia Procula (1st c.). Martyrs Mark, Soterikhos, and Valentine (304).

### Weekly Liturgical Service Schedule

**Sunday October 27th**

9:15 am - Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

**Saturday November 2nd**

5:30 pm – Great Vespers

### Weekly Schedule

**Sunday, October 27th**

- Inquirers & Catechism classes following Liturgy

### FAKE LOVE, OR A CAUTIONARY TALE

About a Demonic Cat

Priest Dimitry Fetisov

The word “sin” in ancient Greek literally means the “missing of the mark.” Indeed, the mass of sins in which modern man is often immersed are by no means direct and defiant transgressions against the Law of God, but rather a blind and hollow-hearted choice of the non-essential over the essential.

Or how about bringing a useful and even healthy idea to the point of absurdity? There are examples galore. Radical feminism, transhumanism, offensively assertive eco-activists, or certain vegetarians who fiercely attack carnivores...

The boundless and cultish love of animals would be one of the most striking examples close to the heart of the average citizen.

No, please don't assume that I don't like “our furry friends!” By the way, the Bible says: *A righteous man regardeth the life of his beast* (Proverbs 12:10).

Besides, our family has a wonderful Border Collie as a pet and I have to tell you in all honesty, that being a dog owner is quite an insightful experience! I sometimes think that if we had the same level of love and devotion for God that a dog has for its owner, I'd be a holy man by now...

But when I see how people, young and old, are busy pampering their tiny well-groomed pooches, their fur trimmed and coiffed nicely at some specialized ultra expensive pet care salon, or when hundreds or thousands of rubles are raised on social media for the medical treatment of animals, while at the same time our charity organizations fail to timely collect the necessary funds for sick children. Or two-thirds of our schoolchildren's essays entitled, “My Good Deed” are written exclusively about rescuing a lonely kitten from a nearby basement, or feeding a stray dog... That's when I begin to realize that it is some kind of a surrogate. It is the same “missed mark” of sin.

It's fake love for a man and, ultimately, for God.

When I think about this, a truly cautionary tale on this subject comes to mind that I once heard from Archimandrite Abel (Makedonov) of blessed memory.

It is a funny story, but also somewhat terrifying. It has to do with our town and the Lenten fasting period.

Before the revolution, a nun in the Kazan convent, which is still located on Zatinaya Street, had a cat. This nun truly adored her kitty. Returning to her cell after a long monastic prayer rule, she'd often spoil it with all kinds of delicacies and hold long conversations with her furry charge.

Once, on a sunny day in March, the cat, sensing the call of awakening nature, trampled all those monastic vows it had frankly never even signed on to, jumped through the open ventilation window and... off it went.

But its owner lost everything: her sleep, her appetite, and even the desire to pray.

She spent practically all of her free time after monastic obedience trying to search for her beloved pet. She worriedly thought of it even when she was at church.

"It will return, that cat of yours. He'll get tired of freedom and come back by the end of the spring! Don't worry so much!", the other sisters consoled her as best they could.

Still, the nun couldn't help but suffer...

The ascetic time of Great Lent arrived. The nuns, stood in the church in silence, like candles. Life in their monastery, despite the abundance of pilgrims, seemed to stand still, as did the time...

But our cat-loving nun still couldn't pull herself together. She was still haunted by thoughts of her helpless little creature whose life had fully depended on her only a short time ago.

Nothing helped—not the entreaties of her strict abbess to come to her senses, nor the gentle admonitions of her father confessor. Not even her sister-nuns' concern for her sanity could help.

All her thoughts were fixed solely on the cat.

Then came the Bright Resurrection of Christ. The soul of the nun of the Kazan Convent grew warmer. Still, it wasn't like it was before, when she would share all her joys and sorrows with her beloved pet.

But then, one day, as the Bright Week of Pascha was drawing to its end, the nun was on her way back from church—and lo and behold, she saw her cat!

The animal, serenely basking in the rays of the spring sun, was sitting next to the flowerbed, and as if oblivious to its owner, was looking the other way.

The nun felt her legs wobble, her heart was pierced with unspeakable joy...

"My kitty! Kittyyy! Christ Is Risen!" she screamed, impulsively stepping into the flowerbed and clutching her precious charge in her arms.

"No! Woe unto us that He Is Risen!" the cat bellowed violently in a bass voice and, leaping from the hands of its horror-stricken owner, scampered off on its feline business.

"Thus," concluded Father Abel, "an animal, deliriously glorified by this unfortunate woman, became possessed. That's how the Lord showed her what is undesirable to Him—when instead of love for God and neighbor there is such a deceitful substitution."

By the way, Fr. Abel himself actually loved animals...

### **Tempting Trials**

If we are to avoid the pit of "self-love" that leads to depression, it is imperative that we focused on loving God and neighbor. This state of despondency is often referred to as the demon of noonday and must not be allowed to distract us from the love that flows forth from God.

Challenges confront our soul every day. Those moments when a family member or coworker makes a remark that is meant to anger you, are those times you need to guard your heart. When those around you are gossiping about someone, that is an opportunity for you to keep silent. The driver who's just cut you off on the freeway; the woman who pushes her way in front of you in the checkout line; the rude neighbor; all are moments in time when you can take control and grow stronger spiritually.

Trials and temptations, when confronted with a peaceful heart, bring forth healing and make the soul that much stronger and healthier. Reacting does nothing but bring forth paralysis of the soul, binding us to our fallen nature. Receiving all these temptations with a peaceful heart and not reacting to outside negative stimuli helps strengthen you for the next round of trial and temptation. Little by little, you will find that the Peace of Christ fills your every waking moment, bringing on a joyful spirit and a peaceful heart.

With love in Christ, Abbot Tryphon

**55 Maxims of the Christian Life**  
**6-10 of 55**  
**Fr. Thomas Hopko**

In 2008, Father Thomas Hopko was asked to summarize the essentials of Christian life, and he compiled these 55 maxims in response. At a college retreat once, he said, "People ask, 'How do I know God is real?' If you put these maxims consistently into practice over the course of a year—beginning with just one for a week, then adding a second, a third, and so on—by the end of that year, I promise you: you will know God is real."

6. Make some prostrations when you pray.
7. Eat good foods in moderation and fast on fasting days.
8. Practice silence, inner and outer.
9. Sit in silence 20 to 30 minutes each day.
10. Do acts of mercy in secret.

**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.

**Prayer Requests for illness and/or suffering**

Anne and Scott Peatross  
Annette Bartos – David Bartos' sister  
Svitlana Canko  
Robert (John) Beeson  
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 4 Troparion**      *(St. Nestor)*

Thy holy martyr Nestor, O Lord,  
through his sufferings has received an incorruptible crown from Thee, our  
God.  
For having Thy strength, he laid low his adversaries,  
and shattered the powerless boldness of demons.//  
Through his intercession, save our souls!

**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 2 Kontakion**      *(St. Nestor)*

Having fought the good fight,  
you won immortal glory, O Nestor.  
You became a perfect soldier for the Master  
through the prayers of the martyr Demetrius.//  
Together with him you are praying unceasingly to Christ God for us all.

**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)*

**2 Corinthians 9:6-11 (Epistle)**

But this I say: "He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully." So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. As it is written: "He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever." Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness, while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to 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)*

**Luke 8:26-39 (Gospel)**

Then they sailed to the country of the Gadarenes, which is opposite Galilee. And when He stepped out on the land, there met Him a certain man from the city who had demons for a long time. And he wore no clothes, nor did he live in a house but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out, fell down before Him, and with a loud voice said, "What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me!" For He had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For it had often seized him, and he was kept under guard, bound with chains and shackles; and he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the wilderness. Jesus asked him, saying, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion," because many demons had entered him. And they begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss. Now a herd of many swine was feeding there on the mountain. So they begged Him that He would permit them to enter them. And He permitted them. Then the demons went out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the lake and drowned. When those who fed them saw what had happened, they fled and told it in the city and in the country. Then they went out to see what had happened, and came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. They also who had seen it told them by what means he who had been demon-possessed was healed. Then the whole multitude of the surrounding region of the Gadarenes asked Him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear. And He got into the boat and returned. Now the man from whom the demons had departed begged Him that he might be with Him. But Jesus sent him away, saying, "Return to your own house, and tell what great things God has done for you." And he went his way and proclaimed throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him.

## Explanation of Today's Gospel Reading

By Blessed Theophylact  
Archbishop of Ochrid and Bulgaria

**26-33.** Then they sailed to the country of the Gadarenes, which is opposite Galilee. And when He stepped out on the land, there met Him a certain man from the city who had demons for a long time. And he wore no clothes, nor did he live in a house but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out, fell down before Him, and with a loud voice said, "What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me!" For He had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For it had often seized him, and he was kept under guard, bound with chains and shackles; and he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the wilderness. Jesus asked him, saying, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion," because many demons had entered him. And they begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss. Now a herd of many swine was feeding there on the mountain. So they begged Him that He would permit them to enter them. And He permitted them. Then the demons went out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the lake and drowned. See how the demon is torn between two wicked passions: impudence and fear. When he says, *What have I to do with You?* he shows the impudence of a shameless slave; when he says, *I beg You*, he shows, his fear. He was dwelling among the tombs because he wanted to instill in men the false suspicion that the souls of those who have died become demons. The demons ask not to be cast into the abyss, but that they be permitted to remain a while longer upon the earth. The Lord permits them to remain upon the earth in order that they might fight and contend with men and thus make men tested veterans. For if man had no adversaries, there would be no struggles and contests, and if there were no contests, there would be no crowns of victory. There is a more spiritual sense which you should learn as well: the man who has *demons* within him and wears no garment and makes his home outside the *house*, is anyone who does evil and demonic deeds, and who has stripped himself of his baptismal robe, and who dwells outside the Church. Such a man is not worthy to enter into the Church, but instead he lives in the tombs of dead and rotting deeds, for example, in brothels and in the chambers of publicans and graft. These indeed are tombs of iniquity.

**34-39.** When those who fed them saw what had happened, they fled and told it in the city and in the country. Then they went out to see what had happened, and came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. They also who had seen it told them by what means he who had been demon-possessed was healed. Then the whole multitude of the surrounding region of the Gadarenes asked Him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear. And He got into the boat and returned. Now the man from whom the demons had departed begged Him that he might be with Him. But Jesus sent him away, saying, "Return to your own house, and tell what great things God has done for you." And he went his way and proclaimed throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him. When those who had been feeding the swine fled into the city, it became an opportunity for salvation for the Gadarenes, but they did not understand. They ought to have marveled at the Savior's power and to have believed in Him. The Evangelist says that they *asked Him to depart from them*, instead of calling upon Him in supplication. They did this out of fear that they would suffer another loss like that of the swine. But the man who had been healed shows indisputable proof of his healing. That he had been healed in his mind is shown by the fact that he now both recognizes Jesus and begs His permission to be with Him. For he was afraid, it would seem, that the demons would again easily assault him when he was separated from Jesus. But the Lord shows him that even if he is not with Jesus, the Lord's grace can shelter him from demonic attack. The Lord says to him, *Return to your own house, and tell what great things God has done for you*. By not saying, "what great things I have done unto you," the Lord gives us an example of humility and teaches us that we should attribute all our accomplishments to God. And even though the Lord had commanded him to tell what things God had done for him, he told instead what things Jesus had done for him, so great was his gratitude. Therefore, when you do something good for someone do not desire it to become public knowledge; but he who is the beneficiary of that good deed ought to be moved by gratitude to tell others, even though you do not want him to do so.

### Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (*Ps. 148:1*)  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!