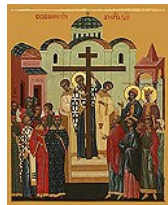


✠Bulletin✠

Week of September 28th to October 4th



Holy Cross Orthodox Church

V. Rev. Fr. Leonid Palceski
2365 South Olga Drive
Fort Myers, Florida 33905
www.HolyCrossFtMyers.org
Phone: 239-265-6562
Cell: 239-699-3119
HolyCrossFtMyers@gmail.com

16th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 7

Ven. Chariton the Confessor, Abbot of Palestine (ca. 350). Synaxis of the Saints of the Kiev Caves (Near Caves). Ven. Kharitón of Syanzhémsk (Vologdá—1509). Ven. Herodion, Abbot, of Iloezérsk (1541). Prophet Baruch (6th c. B.C.). Martyrs Alexander, Alphius, Zosimas, Mark, Nicon, Neon, Heliodorus, and 24 others in Pisidia and Phrygia (4th c.). Martyrdom of St. Wenceslaus (Viachesláv), Prince of the Czechs (935). Schema-monk Cyril and Schema-nun Maria, the parents of Saint Sergius of Radonezh (parents of Ven. Sergius of Rádonezh).

Weekly Liturgical Service Schedule

Sunday September 28, 2025

9:10 am – Hours

9:30 am – Divine Liturgy

Wednesday October 1st – [The Protection of our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary.](#)

8:40 am – Hours

9:00 am – Divine Liturgy

Weekly Schedule

Sunday September 28, 2025

- Choir Practice
- Inquirers & Catechism classes following Divine Liturgy

Obedience and Faith

By Metropolitan Panteleimon of Antinoes

In today's Gospel reading St. Peter with the rest of the holy Apostles were astonished at the catch of fish which they had caught. Christ our Lord had sat in St. Peter's boat and was teaching the people. The Disciples had worked very hard all night long, but they had caught nothing. St. Peter, at the commandment of Christ, let down the net and then God's blessings came, for "they caught a great number of fish" (Luke 5:6).

Obedience to God's Will is man's first and foremost duty. Second most important is to carry out His Divine Commandments. The godly man strives to conform himself to whatever God wishes. Man, through obedience to God, identifies himself with God, and his will with God's Divine Will.

The holy Apostle Peter at the greatest moment of his difficult hours of disappointment and depression, showed obedience to Christ. The result is obvious. God blesses the work of all those who struggle with honesty.

In our daily struggle to survive there are some moments when we feel let down. Many times, despair and dissolution overcome our hearts, when we hope for some things that do not come right.

How many times do we turn to God and not see any results? Did God not hear our prayers? Is He relaxing in His Heavenly Kingdom and does not care for us? No! The answer to these questions lie in that we must not only turn to God, but we must also learn to trust God.

St. Peter not only accepted Christ in his fishing boat but also showed absolute obedience to His commandment. Without a second discussion he threw the nets into the shallow waters of Gennesaret. Because of his obedience God blessed his work.

Now, how many times does it happen in our life that we accept Christ not in our boat, but in our hearts, but we are not obedient to Him? How many times do we say that we believe in the Lord, but yet we have not made the effort to bow and humble ourselves before Him? How many times do we pray to God, but within our hearts we do not learn to trust Him? How many times do we find ourselves in difficult situations and we ask for God's help and assistance, but in reality, we do not believe in His Providence? How many

times do we believe that God will interfere, like magic, to fulfil our wishes? Finally, how many times, when we see no results of Divine intervention, we turn away from God?

St. Peter was blessed because he showed obedience to Christ. God's blessings came as the result of Peter's obedience to His Will. The miracle at Gennesaret came about because of St. Peter's faithfulness. St. Peter knew very well, being an experienced fisherman, that there could be no fish in the shallow waters of Gennesaret. All night long he worked with his collaborators and, yet they caught nothing. But he showed obedience to Christ's word, and he let down the nets. For Christ's sake he did not hesitate. He did not say, that 'We are wasting our time'. He just obeyed and trusted Christ's word.

We all work hard. We all run here and there, and we struggle to build up our businesses. Some even work after hours even at night. We all strive for our daily bread. But how many times do we lack success? One works for so many years and puts in his work so much time and money, but at the end he sees everything collapsing. What is the reason? Is it because there is lack of cleverness? Is it because of lack of interest or concern for one's work? Is it because of evil men sabotaging the work of others? All these reasons are possible. But the main reason is the lack of true faith and trust in God.

In our times, man has learned not to trust God or anyone else, but only himself. We have not surrendered ourselves completely to God's Divine Providence or we lack true faith. This is one of the main reasons why many Christians do not come every Sunday to Church.

Lack of faith is the spiritual illness of today's society. Lack of faith has as its result that we do not pray every day or even if we do so, then our hearts are not turned to God, but wonder here and there. Lack of faith is the reason why we do not obey God's Commandments, and we do not trust ourselves in His Will. Lack of faith is the reason why man does not believe in God and His Teachings. Lack of faith is the reason why man turns to evil deeds and is disobedient to God's Word.

If we wish to have God's blessings in our homes, our works and our lives, then we have to turn to Him, bow before Him and trust ourselves to His Divine Providence. Let us imitate St. Peter's example. Let us show trust and faith in Christ, our Lord and Savior. Let us practice God's Commandments. Let us be obedient to His Divine Will. This way of life will bring upon us God's blessings.

This is the way for our salvation, to be before God and surrender ourselves to Him.

God grant you many years!

Birthdays

Laura (Seraphima) Gordon 10/01

John Pound 10/04

Michele White 10/04

David Bartos 10/05

Vladyslov Yaremenko 10/06

Paisha (Patricia)Holland 10/06

Maximus Graham 10/06

Phyllis Bartos 10/07

Antoinette Ramos Rodriguez 10/07

Alair (Mary) Holland 10/08

Natasha Kukuy 10/13

Veronica Mocaivu 10/15

Robert Ramos 10/17

Sergius Casey 10/28

Anniversaries

John/Juliana Pound 10/05

Nani Sergiu/Veronica Mocaivu 10/16

2025 Monthly Donations for Church Votive Candles

The church uses 12-hour 51% Beeswax votives, which are a cleaner burning candle and protect the church walls from soot. The approximate monthly cost of these votives for weekend Vespers & Divine Liturgy is \$100.00 per month. If you would like to donate (as a memorial, thanksgiving, or just to donate), please see David Bartos. Thank you!

October - Open

November – Open

December – Open

December Feast Days – Open

tithe.ly.com

Another way to "donate". This app can be downloaded to your phone and Holy Cross can be accessed via this app. Also, tithe.ly can be accessed through the church website www.HolyCrossFtMyers.org

Prayer Requests

Carolyn – Robert & Debra's Forster's daughter
Anne and Scott Peatross
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 of 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.

The Divine Liturgy

Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom
Variable Hymns and Readings

Tone 7 Troparion (Resurrection)

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death.
To the thief Thou didst open Paradise.
For the Myrrhbearers Thou didst change weeping into joy,
and Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God,
to proclaim that Thou art risen,//
granting the world great mercy.

Tone 8 Troparion (Ven. Chariton)

By a flood of tears you made the desert fertile,
and your longing for God brought forth fruits in abundance.
By the radiance of miracles you illuminated the whole universe.//
Our holy Father Chariton, pray to Christ our God to save our souls!

Tone 7 Kontakion (Resurrection)

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive,
for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers.
Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and cry:
“The Savior has come to those in faith;//
enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!”

Tone 2 Kontakion (Ven. Chariton)

You delighted in the monastic life, divinely-wise one,
and conquered the bodily passions;
you increased in faith, blossoming as the Tree of Life in the midst of Paradise,//
most blessed and holy Chariton.

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 7 Prokeimenon (Resurrection)

The Lord shall give strength to His people. / The Lord shall bless His people
with peace. (Ps. 28:11)

*V. Offer to the Lord, O you sons of God! Offer young rams to the
Lord! (Ps. 28:1a)*

Tone 7 Prokeimenon (Ven. Chariton)

Let the saints exult in glory, / let them sing for joy on their couches!
(Ps. 149:5)

2 Corinthians 6:1-10 (Epistle)

We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the
grace of God in vain. For He says: “In an acceptable time I have heard You,
and in the day of salvation I have helped You.” Behold, now is the accepted
time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We give no offense in anything, that
our ministry may not be blamed. But in all things we commend ourselves as
ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses, in
stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings;

by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love, by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and yet true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as chastened, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

2 Corinthians 4:6-15 (Epistle, Saint)

For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed – always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So then death is working in us, but life in you. And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed and therefore I spoke," we also believe and therefore speak, knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will present us with you. For all things are for your sakes, that grace, having spread through the many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God.

Tone 7

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

V. It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Thy Name, O Most High. (Ps. 91:1)

V. To declare Thy mercy in the morning, and Thy truth by night. (Ps. 91:3)

Tone 6

V. Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in His commandments. (Ps. 111:1)

Luke 5:1-11 (Gospel)

So it was, as the multitude pressed about Him to hear the word of God, that He stood by the Lake of Gennesaret, and saw two boats standing by the lake; but the fishermen had gone from them and were washing their nets. Then He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat. When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net." And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!" For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men." So when they had brought their boats to land, they forsook all and followed Him.

Luke 6:17-23 (Gospel, Saint)

And He came down with them and stood on a level place with a crowd of His disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem, and from the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear Him and be healed of their diseases, as well as those who were tormented with unclean spirits. And they were healed. And the whole multitude sought to touch Him, for power went out from Him and healed them all. Then He lifted up His eyes toward His disciples, and said: "Blessed are you poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who hunger now, for you shall be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh. Blessed are you when men hate you, and when they exclude you, and revile you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of Man's sake. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy! For indeed your reward is great in heaven, for in like manner their fathers did to the prophets.

Explanation of Today's Gospel Reading

By Blessed Theophylact
Archbishop of Ochrid and Bulgaria
Luke 5:1-11

The Lord flees glory, which all the more pursues Him. When the crowd pressed against Him, He entered the boat, so that from the boat He could teach those standing on the shore, and everyone would be in front of Him, rather than some coming towards Him from behind. And when He had finished teaching the people, He did not leave the owner of the boat without payment but gave him a two-fold benefit: He bestowed on him an abundance of fish, and He made him His disciple. Marvel at how wisely the Lord arranges our salvation, drawing to Himself each one by means of the things that are his own and with which he is familiar. As He had attracted the Magi with a star, so now He draws the fishermen by means of fish. See the gentleness of Christ, how He does not command, but requests that Peter put out from land. See also the obedience of Peter, how he welcomes into his boat a man whom he did not know and obeys Him in everything. When the Lord tells him to launch out into the deep, Peter does not become exasperated and leave Him, nor does he reply, "I have toiled the whole night and gained nothing, and now I should obey You and do it all again?" Peter said nothing like this, but instead, *At Your word I will let down the net*. Such was the warmth of his trust even before he had faith. And he caught so great a number of fish that he was not able to haul them in, and he beckoned to his companions in the other boat. He calls them with a signal, because his astonishment at the catch was so great that he could not even speak. Out of great reverence for Jesus, Peter begs Him not to remain in the boat and calls himself a sinner who is not worthy to be with Him. You may also understand these things in a spiritual sense. The boat is the synagogue of the Jews. Peter represents the teachers of the law. For the teachers of the law also toiled the whole night before Christ came (the time before Christ's sojourning on earth was indeed night) and took in nothing. But when Christ came, and it became day, the teachers of the law were replaced by the apostles who, at His word, that is, at His command, let down the net of the Gospel in which they caught so great a number of men that the apostles could not haul in the catch by themselves. And so, they beckon to their partners and companions and together they pull in the net. These are the pastors and teachers of the Church in every generation who teach and interpret the words of the apostles, laboring with the apostles to catch mankind. Consider also the words, *Let down the net*. The net is the Gospel; like the fisherman's net, which is a lowly and commonplace thing, the Gospel is composed of humble, everyday words

which reach down and condescend to the simplicity of the people. This is why it is said that the net is let down. And if anyone should say that letting down the net also indicates the depth of meaning of the Gospel, neither would he be off the mark. Therefore, the words of the prophet have also been fulfilled, *Behold, I will send many fishermen, saith the Lord, and they shall fish for them; and afterward I will send many hunters, and they shall hunt for them.* (Jer 16:16) The fisherman are the holy apostles, and the hunters are the leaders and teachers of the church in each generation.

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! *(Ps. 148:1)*
The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not fear evil
tidings. *(Ps. 111:6)*
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!