



# Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross

Fr. John Shimechick, Rector (856) 665-2491

[www.holycrossmedford.org](http://www.holycrossmedford.org)

## Sunday, January 16, 2022

**Gospel:** Luke: 18:18-27

**Epistle:** Colossians:

### 30th Sunday after Pentecost

Veneration of the Precious Chains of the Holy and All glorious Apostle Peter. Bl. Martyrs Specsippus, Eleusippus, and Meleusippus, brothers, their grandmother, Leonilla, and with them Neon, Turbo, and the women, Jonilla, in Cappadocia. Martyr Danax the Reader, in Macedonia. St. Honoratus, Archbishop of Arles and founder of the Abbey in Lerins. Maxim of Tot'ma, Fool-for-Christ. Hieromartyr Damascene of Chilandari (Mt. Athos)

### Liturgical and Events Schedule

- *All services are Live Streamed unless otherwise noted.*
- *Masks are mandatory.*

### Sunday, January 16

10:00 am: Divine Liturgy & Sunday School

### Wednesday, January 19

7:00 pm: Evening Prayers by Zoom

### Thursday, January 20

7:00 pm: St. Helena's Guild meeting by Zoom

### Saturday, January 22

5:00 pm: Great Vespers

### Veneration of the Precious Chains of the Holy and All-Glorious Apostle Peter

#### Troparion — Tone 4

You came to us without leaving Rome / through the precious chains that you wore. / First-enthroned of the apostles, / we bow down to them in faith and pray: / "Through your prayers to God grant us great mercy."

#### Kontakion — Tone 2

Christ the Rock radiantly glorifies the Rock of Faith, / the first-enthroned of the disciples; / He calls us to honor the miracles wrought through Peter's chains, / so that He may grant us forgiveness of our sins.

All our current Parish Council Officers have reached their term limits. The following positions are open:



Warden

Asst. Warden

Treasurer

Asst. Treasurer

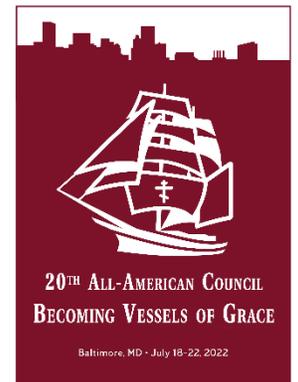
Secretary

Job descriptions, training and support are available for those considering this important service to our parish. Please speak to Fr. John as soon as possible.

### Online Registration for 20th AAC Delegates Begins

BALTIMORE, MD [OCA]:

Online registration is now open for clergy and lay delegates and observers to the 20th All-American Council of the Orthodox Church in America. Registration may be found on the AAC website (<https://www.oca.org/aac/>).



The 20th All-American Council will be held in Baltimore, MD on July 18-22, 2022. Hotel registration is at Baltimore Hilton Hotel and must be completed separately by the delegates. The registration deadline for both the AAC and Hotel is Monday, June 27, 2022

Remember when you shop (Church of the Holy Cross)



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## Veneration of the Precious Chains of the Holy and All-Glorious Apostle Peter

*Commemorated on January 16*

The Veneration of the Honorable Chains of the Holy and All-Praised Apostle Peter: In about the year 42, on the orders of Herod Agrippa, the Apostle Peter was thrown into prison for preaching about Christ the Savior. In prison he was held secure by two iron chains. During the night before his trial, an angel of the Lord removed these chains from the Apostle Peter and led him out from the prison (Acts 12:1-11).



Christians who learned of the miracle took the chains and kept them as precious keepsakes. For three centuries the chains were kept in Jerusalem, and those who were afflicted with illness and approached them with faith received healing. Patriarch Juvenal (July 2) presented the chains to Eudokia, wife of the emperor Theodosius the Younger, and she in turn transferred them from Jerusalem to Constantinople in either the year 437 or 439.

Eudokia sent one chain to Rome to her daughter Eudoxia (the wife of Valentinian), who built a church on the Esquiline hill dedicated to the Apostle Peter and placed the chain in it. There were other chains in Rome, with which the Apostle Peter was shackled before his martyrdom under the emperor Nero. These were also placed in the church.

On January 16, the chains of Saint Peter are brought out for public veneration.

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### Prayer Must Be to Us a Consuming Fire

God loves us and desires that we come to the knowledge of the Truth and inherit His Kingdom. When we've

acquired a peaceful and contrite heart, we will seek to keep God's commandments, and love Him with all our heart. Then we will have a relationship with Him that is based on love rather than infantile bargaining, which can be a form of blackmail.

The best prayer of all is simply to say, "Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me a sinner", knowing that union with Him is the ultimate goal. Having good health, money, things, or even earthly happiness, must not be the focus of our prayer life.

Prayer, if it is not to be in vain, must be to us a consuming fire. Keeping God's commandments is necessary, since our passions must be consumed by this fire. "For the word of God is living, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart (Hebrews 4:12).

With love in Christ, Abbot Tryphon

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Our continual mistake is that we do not concentrate upon the present day, the actual hour of our life; we live in the past or in the future; we are continually expecting the coming of some special hour when our life shall unfold itself in its full significance. And we do not observe that life is flowing like water through our fingers, sifting like precious grain from a loosely fastened bag.

Constantly, each day, each hour, God is sending us people, circumstances, affairs, which should mark the beginning of our renewal; yet we give them no attention, and thus we resist God's will concerning us. Indeed, how can God help us? Only by sending us in our daily life certain people, and certain coincidences of circumstance. If we accepted every hour of our life as the hour of God's will concerning us, as the decisive, most important hour of our life - what sources of joy, love, strength, as yet hidden from us, would spring from the depths of our soul!

Fr. Alexander Elchaninov, Diary of a Russian Priest