HOLY CROSS
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
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Sunday, June 25, 2023
3rd Sunday of Matthew
The Holy Martyr Fevronia
Eothinon/Orthros Gospel: Third (Mark 16:9-20)
Mode of the Week: Second/Δεύτερος

Our Parish Hymn of the Holy Cross of Christ:
Save, O Lord, save your people and bless Your inheritance. Give victory to those who battle evil and protect us all by Your Holy Cross.

Σῶσον Κύριε τὸν λαόν σου καὶ εὐλόγησον τὴν κληρονομίαν σου, νίκας τοῖς Βασιλεῦσι κατὰ βαρβάρων δωρούμενος καὶ τὸ σὸν φυλάττων διὰ τοῦ Σταυροῦ σου πολίτευμα.

To our Visitors and Guests: We extend a warm welcome to all worshiping with us today! While Holy Communion, following ancient practice, is reserved for Orthodox Christians, non-Orthodox may receive the blessed bread (antidoron) offered at the conclusion of the service.

Please join us in the Parish House after the Divine Liturgy for Coffee Fellowship!

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Epistle Reading

The Lord is my strength and my song, and He became my salvation.

Brethren, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in our hope of sharing the glory of God. More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we are now justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

The Holy Gospel Reading according to St. Matthew (6:22-33)

The Lord said, "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is sound, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is not sound, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than many sparrows? Therefore do not be anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, yet I tell you, even the Gentiles seek all these things; and your heavenly Father knows these things; and your heavenly Father knows these things. But seek the kingdom of God, and these things shall be yours as well."
This Week’s Daily Scripture Readings and Fasting Guidance:

Sunday (6/25—Fish, Wine, Oil): Romans 12:1-12
Sunday (6/26—Fish, Wine, Oil): Romans 12:13-21
Monday (6/27—Fish, Wine, Oil): Romans 13:1-7
Tuesday (6/28—Strict Fast): Romans 13:8-14
Thursday (6/30—Synaxis of the 12 Apostles—Wine, Oil): Romans 13:15-20
Saturday (7/1—No Fasting): 1 Corinthians 13:1-13
Saturday (7/1—No Fasting): Romans 13:21-25

Prayer Requests:

Metropolitan Alexios, Fr. Symeon (mission priest supported by our parish), Panteleimon, Michael, Dimitrios, Georgia, Pavlos, Jill, Betty, David, Chris, Irene, Valerie, Chris, Dianna, Keith, Jeannie, Dawn, Kenneth, Samuel, Hermione, Emmanuel, Mary, Kay, Helen, Nikki, Sedky, Mena, Austin, Kiley, Garrett, Andy, Heather, Carolina, Maria, Laura, Lindsey, Randy, Raymond, Marina, Effie, Christina, Ashley, Foster, Peggy, Lynn

Prayers for those recently reposed:

Adrienne (+May 31, Anna (+June 11)

Prayers for expecting mothers:

Katina B., Maggie B.

Prayers for Military Personnel and Their Families:

Aubriana Butchko, John Church, Robert Ice, Aaron Vrahlotes, Aleksander Zajac

Prayers for our Catechumens and Inquirers into the Orthodox Church:

Bobbie, Chad, CJ, Jace, Nate and pray for those who are seeking Christ and His Church!

Weekly Wisdom of the Fathers:

This week, we celebrate the feast day of Saints Peter and Paul—Eusebius of Cesarea (+339) wrote the following concerning the two great luminaries of the Church: “Publicly announcing himself as the first among the enemies of God, he [Nero] was led on to the slaughter of the Apostles. It is recorded that in his days Paul was beheaded in the city of Rome and that Peter, also, was crucified. This story is supported by the fact that the names of Peter and Paul are preserved in the cemeteries of that place even to the present day ... For if you would go to the Vatican, or to the Ostian Way, you would find their trophies [monuments]” (cf. Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History II, 25)

Guidance, Prayer Requests, and Announcements

Upcoming Celebrations This Week

Name Days—Chronia Polla, Many Years! June 29: Lee (Pavlos) Hornbaker

Birthdays—Happy Birthday! June 25: Lori Crouse

Anniversaries—Congratulations! June 25: Maria and Tim Murphy

June 26: Chrisy and Tom Ztrakas

June 28: Mina and Richard Stewart

If you have a celebration that did not make it into the bulletin, please e-mail Fr. Theodore!

Announcements:

* Shut-Ins: If you know of anyone who is unable to come to the Church because of illness, age, or any other reason, please contact Fr. Theodore so that he can visit with them, pray with them, and administer to them the Holy Mysteries.

* END OF SUMMER BBQ FELLOWSHIP will be held on Saturday, July 29th at the home of Kathy Patras. An email link will be sent this coming week so that you can RSVP before mid-July!

* For those that are interested in learning more about the Orthodox Christian faith, we are conducting our Intro to Orthodoxy/Catechumen classes (usually) online by Zoom meeting every other week (next meeting is planned for Thursday, June 29 at 7:00pm at the Church). Please contact Fr. Theodore for more information!

* The Apostles Fast continues through the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul (this week, on June 29). As the ancient canon says—“And you after celebrating Pentecost, feast one week, then start fasting, because it is necessary that we rejoice with the gift granted to us from God (the Holy Spirit), to fast after rejoicing.”

* GREEK FESTIVAL: We will be preparing Pastitsio on Friday, July 21st and Saturday, July 22nd. If you are able to help, please contact Natalia. Please be sure to also read the email that was sent this past week regarding other preparations that are beginning (in particular, regarding sponsorships!)

* Bible Study has resumed on Sundays towards the end of coffee fellowship. Everyone is welcome! We have begun to study St. Paul’s Epistle to the Romans.