Sunday, July 23, 2023
7th Sunday of Matthew
St. Phocas the Hieromartyr

Eothinon/Orthros Gospel: Seventh (John 20:1-10)
Mode of the Week: Plagal of the Second/Πλ.του Δευτέρου

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, νίκης τοῖς Βασιλεῦσι κατὰ βαρβάρων δωρούμενος καὶ τὸ σὸν φυλάττων διὰ τοῦ Σταυροῦ σου πολίτευμα.

Our Parish Hymn of the Holy Cross of Christ:

Upcoming Schedule

Today, July 23
9:15am Orthros
10:30am Divine Liturgy on the 7th Sunday of Matthew
Memorial Service for reposed from the Pavlis, Petrick, Phillips, Tsourakis, and Zoumbiris Families at the end of the Divine Liturgy
Coffee Fellowship and Bible Study in the Parish House after Liturgy

Tuesday, July 25
9:30am Orthros
10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Dormition of St. Anna, mother of the Most Holy Theotokos

Wednesday, July 26
5:30pm Divine Liturgy on the Feast Day of St. Paraskevi and honoring St. Panteleimon
7:00pm Parish Council Meeting

Saturday, July 29
5:00pm End of the Summer BBQ at the House of Kathye Patras (all are invited!)

Sunday, July 30
9:15am Orthros
10:30am Divine Liturgy on the 8th Sunday of Matthew
Student/Backpack Blessing for the Beginning of the New School Year at the end of the Divine Liturgy
Coffee Fellowship and Bible Study in the Parish House after Liturgy

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!
O Lord, save Your people, and bless Your inheritance.

Verse: To You, O Lord, I cry; O my God. (Psalm 27)

The reading is from Paul's Letter to the Romans. (15:1-7)

Brethren, we who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves; let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to edify him. For Christ did not please himself; but, as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached thee fell on me." For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. At that time, as Jesus passed on from there, two blind men followed him, crying aloud, "Have mercy on us, Son of David." When he entered the house, the blind men came to him; and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to him, "Yes, Lord." Then he touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith be it done to you." And their eyes were opened.

The Holy Gospel Reading according to St. Matthew (9:27-35)

At that time, as Jesus passed on from there, two blind men followed him, crying aloud, "Have mercy on us, Son of David." When he entered the house, the blind men came to him; and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to him, "Yes, Lord." Then he touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith be it done to you." And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly charged them, "See that no one knows it." But they went away and spread his fame through all that district. As they were going away, behold, a dumb demoniac was brought to him. And when the demon had been cast out, the dumb man spoke; and the crowds marvelled, saying, "Never was anything like this seen in Israel." But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the prince of demons." And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people.
This Week’s Daily Scripture Readings and Fasting Guidance:

**Sunday** (7/23—No Fasting): John 20:11-10; Romans 15:5-7; Matthew 28:17-20

**Monday** (7/24—No Fasting): 1 Corinthians 13:1-18; Matthew 16:13-16

**Tuesday** (7/25—No Fasting): Galatians 4:22-31; Luke 8:19-21

**Wednesday** (7/26—No Fasting): Galatians 3:23-29, 4:1-5; Mark 5:22-34


**Friday** (7/28—Strict Fast): Acts 6:1-7; Matthew 17:10-18

**Saturday** (7/29—No Fasting): Romans 13:1-10; Matthew 13:23-27

**Prayer Requests:**

- Fr. Symeon (mission priest supported by our parish)
- Panteleimon, Michael, Ethelinda, Kassiani, Michael Dimitrios, Georgia, Pavlos, Jill, Betty, David, Chris, Irene, Valerie, Dhania, Keith, Jeanne, Dawn, Kenneth, Samuel, Hernandez, Evgeny, Mary, Kay, Helen, Nikki, Seddy, Mena, Austin, Kiley, Garrett, Andy, Heather, Carolina, Maria, Laurie, Lindsey, Randy, Raymond, Effie, Christine, Ashley, Foster, Peggy, Lynn, Dimitri, Stelanos, Marty, Dena

**Prayers for those recently reposed:**

- Anna (+June 11), Hines (+July 3), Clement (+July 15), Anna (+June 11), Hines (+July 3), Clement (+July 15), Euginia (+July 16)

**Prayers for expecting mothers:**

- Aubriana Butchko, Kyle Glotzbach, Robert Ice, Aaron Vrahiotes, Aleksander Zajac

**Prayers for Military Personnel and Their Families:**

- Aubriana Butchko, Kyle Glotzbach, Robert Ice, Aaron Vrahiotes, Aleksander Zajac

**Prayers for our Catechumens and Inquirers into the Orthodox Church:**

- John Apostolou, Cleo Bennette, Peggy, Lynn, Dimitri, Stelanos, Marty, Dena

**Weekly Wisdom of the Fathers:**

- St. Silouan the Athonite speaks to us of spiritual discernment: ‘The heart-stirrings of a good man are good; those of a wicked person are wicked; but everyone must learn how to combat intrusive thoughts, and turn the bad into good. This is the mark of the soul that is well versed. How do we know when it is good to do or when it is evil? Be sure to be on guard against bad thoughts. If you are found to be weak in your inner life, pray for those who are seeking Christ and His Church!’

**Weekly Wisdom of the Saints:**

- St. Silouan the Athonite speaks to us of spiritual discernment: ‘The heart-stirrings of a good man are good; those of a wicked person are wicked; but everyone must learn how to combat intrusive thoughts, and turn the bad into good. This is the mark of the soul that is well versed. How do we know when it is good to do or when it is evil? Be sure to be on guard against bad thoughts. If you are found to be weak in your inner life, pray for those who are seeking Christ and His Church!’

**Guidance, Prayer Requests, and Announcements:**

- **Prayer Requests:**
  - For those that are interested in learning more about the Orthodox faith, we are conducting our Intro to Orthodoxy/Catechumen classes (usually) online by Zoom meeting (next meeting is planned for July 22, 2023). Please contact Fr. Theodore for more information.

- **Greek Festival:** Please mark your calendars for this year’s festival: October 20-22. Also, please save the date for October 19 for set-up! Also, please refer to the bulletin for more information on dates and links.

- **Youth:** Sunday, July 30 at the end of Divine Liturgy is the blessing of students for the new school year (backpack blessing)! Please plan on attending!

- **Be sure to Save the Date for the 2nd Annual Cross Dive which will be taking place on the afternoon of Saturday, September 9!**

**Announcements:**

- *Shut-ins*: If you know of anyone who is unable to come to the Church because of illness, age, or another reason, please contact Fr. Theodore so that he can visit them, pray with them, and administer to them the Sacraments as needed.

**Upcoming Celebrations This Week**

- **Name Days—Chronia Polla, Many Years!**
  - July 24: Christine Sprouse
  - July 25: Hanna Kostakis
  - July 27: Vivi Lakovides
  - July 27: Hazel Dunbar, Pete Nicholas

**Birthdays—Happy Birthday!**

- July 24: Eleini Adams

**Anniversaries—Congratulations!**

None in the records.

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**Today’s Holy Orthodox Church commemorations:ICTURE**

+ The Holy Hieromartyr Phocas (+102)
  This saint was known for the many miracles he worked and for his courage and zeal in shepherding the flock of St. George. He contested for the Faith during the reign of Emperor Trajan, in the year 102, when he was burned to death in a bath-house. A homily in his honour was composed by Saint John Chrysostom. The translation of his holy relics is celebrated on July 23.

+ The Holy Prophet Ezekiel (+6th Century BC)
  The Prophet Ezekiel (“God is strong”) was the son of Buzai and a priest by rank. He was taken captive and brought to Babylon during the reign of Jehoiachin. In the fifth year of this captivity, about 594 or 593 B.C., he began to prophesy. Having prophesied for about twenty-eight years, he was murdered, it is said, by the tribe of Gad, because he reproached them for not ignoring the voices of our prayers. O good Lady, we beseeching Him to save our souls.

+ The Holy Hieromartyr Phocas
  The Holy Hieromartyr Phocas (+314) is ranked third among the greater Prophets. It is said, by the tribe of Gad, because he reproached them for not ignoring the voices of our prayers. O good Lady, we beseeching Him to save our souls.

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