

# Holy Apostles Orthodox Church

347 Ridge Rd Lansing NY

HolyApostlesLansing.org

Fr James Worthington, Rector 315-706-6185

Rdr Bob West, Sr Warden SrWarden@HolyApostlesLansing.org

## NOVEMBER 15, 2015

**24th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 7.** Holy Martyrs and Confessors Gurias, Samonas, and Abibus, of Edessa (299-306). Martyrs Elpidius, Marcellus, and Eustochius, who suffered under Julian the Apostate (4th c.). Martyr Demetrius of Thrace (ca. 307). Ven. Paísii (Paisius) Velichkovsky (1794).

**EPISTLE:** EPHESIANS 2.14-22: Christ reconcile the men who are divided to God through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.

**GOSPEL:** LUKE 10.25-37: Love the Lord and neighbor with you whole heart, and you shall inherit the Kingdom of Heaven.

**READERS:** Readers are needed to volunteer for readings at Vespers, for the Hours and the Epistle. If you are interested in doing this, see Fr James.

**COFFEE HOUR:** Vuleta Family. **NEXT WEEK:** Johnson Family.

**ST DIONYSIUS LECTURE:** Bp Alexander of Toledo and the Bulgarian Diocese, sponsored by our parish, will be coming to augment our Know Your Faith class which is studying the Church Fathers. He will be speaking at Anabel Taylor Hall on Tuesday November 17<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM. He is an acclaimed scholar and we are most blessed to have him visit with us.

**DONATIONS:** If you are looking for ways to help out your parish church, consider donating prosphora, incense, wine, charcoal or products for the pantry.

**St Catherine's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:** Our neighbors are celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary over the next few weeks. It is good for brothers to dwell in unity, in the fellowship of the body of Christ.

**November 21:** 4PM Protopresbyter George Dragas will speak

**November 24:** 6 PM Vespers for St Catherine

**November 25:** 8:30 Orthros, 9:30 Divine Liturgy for St Catherine

Fr James' contact information: Cell: 315-706-6185 Email: adelphotheos@gmail.com

**WELCOME!** We warmly welcome all of our visitors! It's good to have you with us! Please know that we are glad that you are here praying with us and invite you to join us after the service for a meal and to meet everyone in our community.

**T-SHIRTS:** The parish t-shirts have arrived! They are a deep red emblazoned with a budded three bar cross, with the name of Holy Apostles Church on it. If you have ordered one, or would like to purchase one now, they are available in the back of the church.

**NATIVITY FLOWERS:** Envelopes are available at the information desk to make a donation toward flowers for the upcoming celebration of the Nativity of Christ.

**DDB:** As the chilly winds of fall and winter arrive, 2015 will soon come to an end. It has been a fruitful year of supporting seminarians, mission parishes, and providing support to revitalize older parishes. This is a reality thanks to the sacrificial financial contributions of our Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors. To date there are 174 individual and organizational DDBs. An invitation is extended for our parish to join them this year.

**MATCHING DONATION:** A very kind donation was given for the Building Fund from a friend of the parish. Before it is deposited, I would like to offer an opportunity to match this donation out of grateful thanksgiving and hope in the building up of our temple.

<u>LIVING:</u>			
Apr Timothy H	Mary & Susan	Samuel	Daniel
Apr Herman S	John & Carmine	Lisa	Ada
Apr John C	Nathan	Lyudmila	Lillian
Apr Thomas E	Leah	Nickolay	Joseph
Apr Michael T	Helen	Anetta	Marie
Apr Stephen M	Lindsey	James Sr	Joseph
Pr Jason	Susanne H	Jan V.	Laura
Pr Athanasios	Elizabeth	Zachary	Martha
Dn Symeon	Mary	Iconographer Helena	Stanley & Helen,
Dn Michael	Joe A	Natasha, Lena, Vera, &	Taissia
Abbess Silouana	Daniel	Sergei	Steluta
Mother Raphaela	Andrew & family	<u>Catechumens:</u> Elliott,	Theophan
Mother Christophora	Harold	Micah, Danielle.	Lynda
Mat Cecelia	Wilhemina	<u>Children:</u> Caleb,	Florence
Mat Katya	Elizabeth	Christopher E, Anthony,	James
Mat Dorothy	David	Mia and Isabel	James R
Joshua	Madeline	<u>Seminarians:</u> Rdr Robert	Vasily
Brittany & Isaac	Shirley	and Ivan	Modercai
Gretchen	Larry	<b>BIRTHDAYS:</b> None.	Alexandr
Peter	Christina	<b>ANNIVS:</b> None.	<b>NEWLY REPOSED:</b>
Marriane	Jim & Kim	<b>NAMESDAYS:</b> John S.	Ron, Dn Mark, John.
Terrence	Rachel	<b>REPOSED:</b>	<b>ANNIVERSARIES:</b>
Helen	Constantine & Maria	Priest Matthew	None.
Judy	Gaetan	Priest John	
Gretchen	Jean	Apr Alexander	
	Christine	Rdr Gregory	

## SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15:** 8:40 Hours, 9 AM Divine Liturgy, Social Hour, Parish Council

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17:** 7 PM St Dionysius: An Ancient Voice for Modern Times: A Lecture at Cornell University for the Know Your Faith Series  
8 PM Ithaca College OCF in Mueller Chapel

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18:** 8:30 AM Readers Matins

7 PM Cornell OCF Meeting in Anabel Taylor Hall

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19:** 8:30 Morning Prayers

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20:** 8:30 Morning Prayers

9:15 Cornell OCF Morning Prayers in Anabel Taylor Hall

7 PM Great Vespers for the Feast

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21:** 9 AM Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

4 PM Anniversary Address at St Catherine's Orthodox Church, Ithaca

6 PM Great Vespers

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22:** 8:40 Hours, 9 AM Divine Liturgy, Social Hour.

**NOVEMBER 24:** Lansing Community Thanksgiving Service

**NOVEMBER 25:** Thanksgiving Akathist

## PRAYER FOR CHURCH GROWTH

Again, we pray to Thee, O Lord our God, that you would renew us and this parish by the Power of the Holy Spirit. Fill us with love and longing for Thee. Grant that we would seek not our own will but to do Thy will in all things and to be willing to lay down our lives out of love for Thee and for our neighbor. Draw thirsty souls to this place and remove their spiritual blindness, granting them through Thy grace to see the beauty of Thy Holy Glory in this place. Fill this community with new life, spiritual vigor and an insatiable desire to live godly and holy lives. Forgive us all of our sins as we fall down before Thee. Bring us all to a greater repentance and to an amendment of our lives as we look to Thee, the only Merciful and loving Lord Who calls all to salvation. We beg Thee, our merciful Lord, hear us, grant all of these petitions and all of our requests unto salvation: We pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

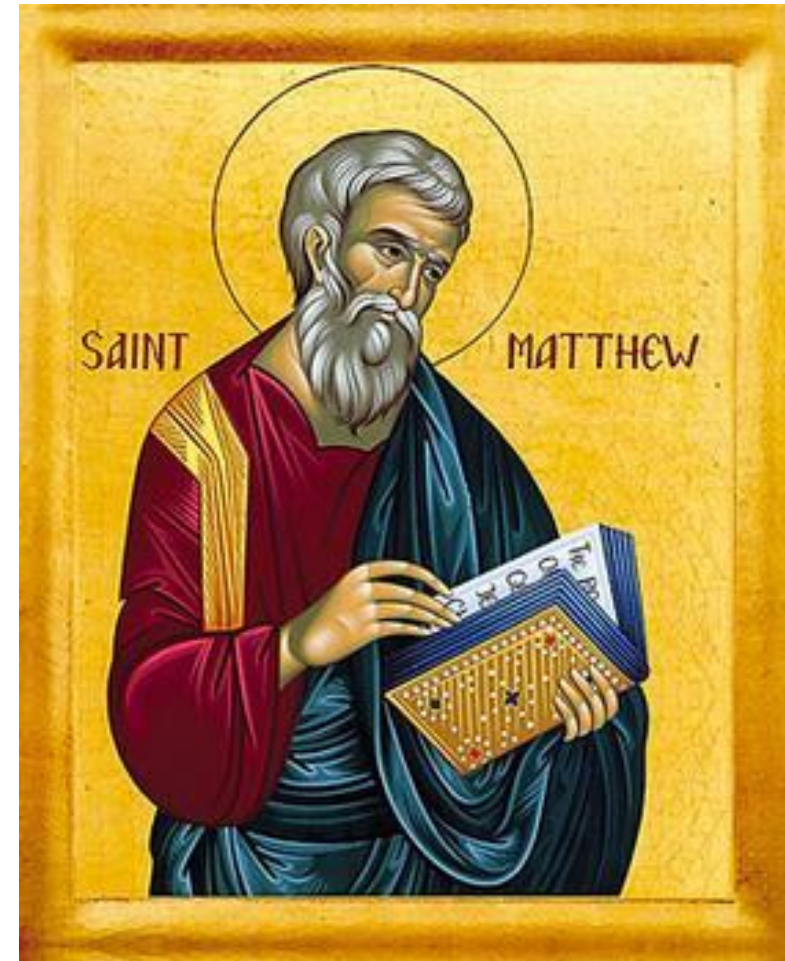
## TO ST GENEVIÈVE

Awed by the purity of thy virginity and greatness of thine ascetic feats, marveling, we cry out to thee, O Geneviève: By thine entreaties deliver us from the dangers that beset us in these perilous times, for vile heresies abound that threaten our souls, and we are hard pressed to evade them; but come thou do our aid, O venerable mother. -Ode III Sessional Hymn

St George and St Genevieve, pray to God for us!

# Holy Apostles Orthodox Church

Lansing, New York SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2015



24<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
BEGINNING OF THE NATIVITY FAST

# SUNDAY HYMNS FOR NOVEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup>

## Troparion Tone 7 (Resurrection)

By Your Cross You destroyed death.  
To the thief You opened Paradise.  
For the Myrrhbearers You changed weeping into joy.  
And You commanded Your disciples, O Christ God,  
to proclaim that You are risen,//  
granting the world great mercy.

## Troparion Tone 5 (for the Martyrs)

Christ our God, You have granted us the miracles of Your holy martyrs  
Gúrias, Samónas, and Abíbas,  
as a stronghold and protection.  
Through their prayers, strengthen those in authority in ev'ry good deed,//  
for You alone are merciful and the Lover of mankind!

## Kontakion Tone 7 (Resurrection)

The dominion of death can no longer hold mankind 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!"

## Kontakion Tone 2 (for the Martyrs)

You received grace from on high, O all-praised martyrs,  
and you intercede for those in the midst of temptations.  
Therefore, holy ones, you freed a young woman from bitter death.//  
You are indeed the glory of Edessa and the joy of the world.

## Prokeimenon Tone 7

The Lord shall give strength to His people. The Lord shall bless His people with peace. (Ps 28/29:11)  
v: Offer to the Lord, O you sons of God! Offer young rams to the Lord! (Ps 28/29:1)

## Alleluia Verses Tone 7

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

v: It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Your Name, O Most High. (Ps 91/92:1)

v: To declare Your mercy in the morning, and Your truth by night. (Ps 91/92:2)

## Communion Hymn

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

## APOSTLE MATTHEW'S APOSTOLIC WORK & MARTYRDOM

The holy Apostle brought the Gospel of Christ to Syria, Media, Persia, Parthia, and finishing his preaching in Ethiopia with a martyr's death. This land was inhabited by tribes of cannibals with primitive customs and beliefs. The holy Apostle Matthew converted some of the idol-worshippers to faith in Christ. He founded the Church and built a temple in the city of Mirmena, establishing there his companion Platon as bishop.

When the holy apostle was fervently entreating God for the conversion of the Ethiopians the Lord Himself appeared to him in the form of a youth. He gave him a staff, and commanded him to plant it at the doors of the church. The Lord said that a tree would grow from this staff and it would bear fruit, and from its roots would flow a stream of water. When the Ethiopians washed themselves in the water and ate the fruit, they lost their wild ways and became gentle and good.

When the holy apostle carried the staff towards the church, he was met by the wife and son of the ruler of the land, Fulvian, who were afflicted by unclean spirits. In the Name of Christ he healed them. This miracle converted a number of the pagans to the Lord. But the ruler did not want his subjects to become Christians and cease worshiping the pagan gods. He accused the apostle of sorcery and gave orders to execute him. They put St Matthew head downwards, piled up brushwood and ignited it. When the fire flared up, everyone saw that the fire did not harm him. Then Fulvian gave orders to add more wood to the fire, and frenzied with boldness, he commanded to set up twelve idols around the fire. But the flames melted the idols and flared up toward Fulvian. The frightened Ethiopian turned to the saint with an entreaty for mercy, and by the prayer of the martyr the flame went out. The body of the holy apostle remained unharmed, and he departed to the Lord.

The ruler Fulvian deeply repented of his deed, but still he had doubts. By his command, they put the body of St Matthew into an iron coffin and threw it into the sea. That night the Apostle Matthew appeared to Bishop Platon in a dream, and commanded him to go with clergy to the shore of the sea and to find his body there. The righteous Fulvian and his retinue went with the bishop to the shore of the sea. The coffin carried by the waves was taken to the church built by the apostle. Then Fulvian begged forgiveness of the holy Apostle Matthew, after which Bishop Platon baptized him, giving him the name Matthew in obedience to a command of God.

## ON THE WRITINGS OF ST DIONYSIUS THE AREOPAGITE, PART II

The book *On the Celestial Hierarchies* was written actually in one of the countries of Western Europe, where St Dionysius was preaching. In it he speaks of the Christian teaching about the angelic world. The angelic (or Celestial-Heavenly) hierarchy comprises the nine angelic Ranks. The purpose of the divinely-established Angelic Hierarchy is the ascent towards godliness through purification, enlightenment and perfection.

The book *On the Ecclesiastical Hierarchies* is a continuation of his previous book. The Church of Christ, like the Angelic ranks, in its universal service is set upon the foundation of priestly principles established by God.

In the earthly world, for the children of the Church, divine grace comes down indescribably in the holy Mysteries of the Church, which are spiritual in nature, though perceptible to the senses in form. Few, even among the holy ascetics, were able to behold with their earthly eyes the fiery vision of the Holy Mysteries of God. But outside of the Church's sacraments, outside of Baptism and the Eucharist, the light-bearing saving grace of God is not found, neither is divine knowledge nor theosis (deification).

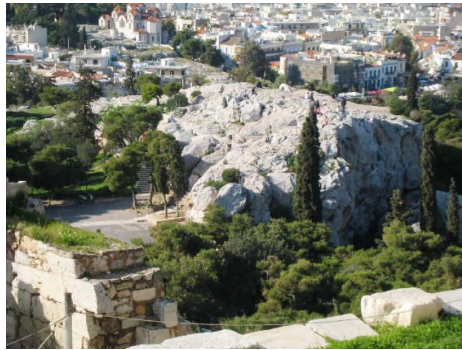
The book *On the Names of God* expounds upon the way of divine knowledge through a progression of the Divine Names.

St Dionysius' book *On Mystical Theology* also sets forth the teaching about divine knowledge. The theology of the Orthodox Church is totally based upon experience of divine knowledge. In order to know God it is necessary to be

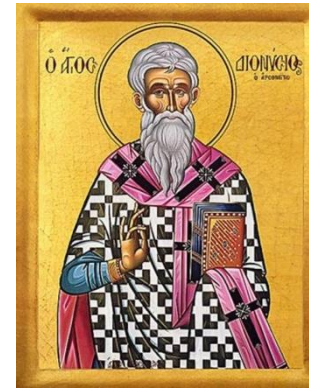
in proximity to Him, to have come near to Him in some measure, so as to attain communion with God and deification (theosis). This condition is accomplished through prayer. This is not because prayer in itself brings us close to the incomprehensible God, but rather that the purity of heart in true prayer brings us closer to God.

The written works of St Dionysius the Areopagite are of extraordinary significance in the theology of the Orthodox Church, and also for late Medieval Western theology. For almost four centuries, until the beginning of the sixth century, the works of this holy Father of the Church were preserved in an obscure manuscript tradition, primarily by theologians of the Alexandrian Church. The concepts in these works were known and utilized by Clement of Alexandria, Origen, Dionysius the Great, pre-eminent figures of the catechetical school in Alexandria, and also by St Gregory the Theologian. St Dionysius of Alexandria wrote to St Gregory the Theologian a *Commentary on the "Areopagitum."* The works of St Dionysius the Areopagite received general Church recognition during the sixth-seventh centuries.

Particularly relevant are the *Commentaries* written by St Maximus the Confessor (January 21). Many scholars suggest that the "Areopagitum" was actually written by an anonymous 6<sup>th</sup> century figure who employed the common ancient device of piously borrowing an illustrious name, this in no way diminishes the profound theological significance of the works.)



## ON THE WRITINGS OF ST DIONYSIUS THE AREOPAGITE, PART I



St Dionysius lived originally in the city of Athens. He was raised there and received a classical Greek education. He then went to Egypt, where he studied astronomy at the city of Heliopolis. It was in Heliopolis, along with his friend Apolophonos where he witnessed the solar eclipse that occurred at the moment of the death of the Lord Jesus Christ by Crucifixion. "Either the Creator of all the world now suffers, or this visible world is coming to an end," Dionysius said. Upon his return to Athens from Egypt, he was chosen to be a member of the Areopagus Council (Athenian high court).

When the holy Apostle Paul preached at the place on the Hill of Ares (Acts 17:16-34), Dionysius accepted his salvific proclamation and became a Christian. For three years St Dionysius remained a companion of the holy Apostle Paul in preaching the Word of God. Later on, the Apostle Paul selected him as bishop of the city of Athens. And in the year 57 St Dionysius was present at the repose of the Most Holy Theotokos.

During the lifetime of the Mother of God, St Dionysius had journeyed from Athens to Jerusalem to meet Her. He wrote to his teacher the Apostle Paul: "I witness by God, that besides the very God Himself, there is nothing else filled with such divine power and grace. No one can fully comprehend what I saw. I confess before God: when I was with John, who shone among the Apostles like the sun in the sky, when I was brought before the countenance of the Most Holy Virgin, I experienced an inexpressible sensation. Before me gleamed a sort of divine radiance which transfixed my spirit. I perceived the fragrance of indescribable aromas and was filled with such delight that my very body became faint, and my spirit could hardly endure these signs and marks of eternal majesty and heavenly power. The grace from her overwhelmed my heart and shook my very spirit. If I did not have in mind your instruction, I should have mistaken Her for the very God. It is impossible to stand before greater blessedness than this which I beheld."

After the death of the Apostle Paul, St Dionysius wanted to continue with his work, and therefore went off preaching in the West, accompanied by the Presbyter Rusticus and Deacon Eleutherius. They converted many to Christ at Rome, and then in Germany, and then in Spain. In Gaul, during a persecution against Christians by the pagan authorities, all three confessors were arrested and thrown into prison. By night St Dionysius celebrated the Divine Liturgy with angels of the Lord. In the morning the martyrs were beheaded. According to an old tradition, St Dionysius took up his head, proceeded with it to the church and fell down dead there. A pious woman named Catulla buried the relics of the saint.

The writings of St Dionysius the Areopagite hold great significance for the Orthodox Church. Four books of his have survived to the present day: *On the Celestial Hierarchy*, *On the Ecclesiastical Hierarchy*, *On the Names of God*, and *On Mystical Theology*. In addition, there are ten letters to various people.