

Holy Apostles Orthodox Church

347 Ridge Rd Lansing NY

HolyApostlesLansing.org

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SEPTEMBER 13, 2015

15th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 6. Forefeast of the Elevation of the Cross.

Commemoration of the Founding of the Church of the Resurrection (Holy Sepulcher) at Jerusalem (335). Sunday before Elevation. Hieromartyr Cornelius the Centurion (1st c.).

Martyrs Chronides, Leontius and Serapion, of Alexandria (237). Martyrs Seleucus in Scythia, and Stratonicus (3rd c.). Martyrs Macrobius and Gordian at Tomi in Romania (4th c.). Hieromartyr Julian of Galatia (4th c.). Martyrs Elias, Zoticus, Lucian, and Valerian (4th c.). St. Peter of Atroë (9th c.). Greatmartyr Ketevan, Queen of Georgia (1624). Ven. Hierotheus the Younger of Iveron (Mt. Athos—1745).

EPISTLE: GALATIANS 6.11-18 (**SUNDAY BEFORE ELEVATION**): My boast is in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

2 CORINTHIANS 4.6-15 (**RESURRECTION**): The life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh.

HEBREWS 3.1-4 (**DEDICATION**): Every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God.

GOSPEL: JOHN 3.13-17 (**SUNDAY BEFORE ELEVATION**): God sent His Son into the world so that the world through Him might be saved.

MATTHEW 22.35-46 (**RESURRECTION**): Which are the greatest commandments of the Law?

MATTHEW 16.13-18 (**DEDICATION**): Christ will build His church on the rock, and the gates of Hades shall never prevail against it.

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.

PARISH PICNIC: The Annual Parish Picnic will be held on Sunday, September 13 in Myers Park. Please bring your favorite summertime dish to share and something for the grill. Remember to bring play clothes and games for the park. As always, invite and bring a friend!

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.

SILENT AUCTION: The silent auction for the donated icons continues. Please place your best bids today to help make this a successful fundraiser.

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.

KNOW YOUR FAITH: The next series of Adult Ed classes will begin this Tuesday, September 15. This year we will be exploring the lives and writings of the Church Fathers and Mothers. We are slated to have classes every other Tuesday night, as much as we are able to. If you have any concerns about the scheduling, please see Fr James. This week we will begin the Ante-Nicene Fathers with St Polycarp of Smyrna.

DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY: The annual Assembly will be on November 10th in S River, NJ. A delegate is needed. If you would like to attend, please see Fr James.

LIVING:

Apr Timothy H

Apr Herman S

Apr John C

Apr Thomas E

Apr Michael T

Apr Stephen M

Pr Jason

Pr Athanasios

Dn Symeon

Dn Michael

Abess Silouana

Mother Raphaela

Mother Christophora

Mat Cecelia

Mat Katya

Mat Dorothy

Joshua

Brittany & Isaac

Gretchen

Peter

Marriane

Terrence

Helen

Judy

Gretchen

Mary & Susan

John & Carmine

Nathan

Leah

Helen

Lindsey

Susanne H

Elizabeth

Mary

Joe A

Daniel

Andrew & family

Harold

Wilhemina

Elizabeth

David

Madeline

Shirley

Larry

Christina

Jim & Kim

Rachel

Constantine & Maria

Gaetan

Jean

Christine

Samuel

Lisa

Lyudmila

Nickolay

Anetta

James Sr

Jan V.

Zachary

Ron

Iconographer Helena

Catechumens: Elliott,

Micah, Danielle.

Children: Caleb,

Christopher E, Anthony,

Mia and Isabel

Seminarians: Rdr Robert

and Ivan

BIRTHDAYS: Bethany,

Michael Tk, Rdr Bob.

ANNIVS: None.

NAMESDAYS: None.

REPOSED:

Priest Matthew

Priest John

Apr Alexander

Rdr Gregory

Daniel

Ada

Lillian

Joseph

Marie

Joseph

Laura

Martha

Stanley & Helen,

Taissia

Steluta

Theophan

Lynda

Florence

James

James R

Vasily

Modercai

NEWLY REPOSED:

None.

ANNIVERSARIES:

None.

SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

CONFESSIONS ARE HEARD BEFORE AND AFTER VESPERS AND AT ANY OTHER CONVENIENT TIME.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13: 8:40 Hours, 9 AM Divine Liturgy and Social Hour
6 PM Great Vespers for the Feast

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14: 9 AM Divine Liturgy for the Elevation of the Cross

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15: 8:30 Morning Prayers
7 PM Know Your Faith at Unwind Café in Ithaca Mall

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16: 8:30 Daily Matins
7 PM Cornell OCF Meeting in Anabel Taylor Hall

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17: 8:30 Morning Prayers
8 PM Ithaca OCF in Mueller Chapel

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18: 8:30 Morning Prayers
9:15 Cornell OCF Morning Prayers in Anabel Taylor Hall

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19: 6 PM Great Vespers

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20: 8:40 Hours, 9 AM Divine Liturgy

September 18-19: OCF Mid-Atlantic Retreat **October 18:** Iron Kettle Trip

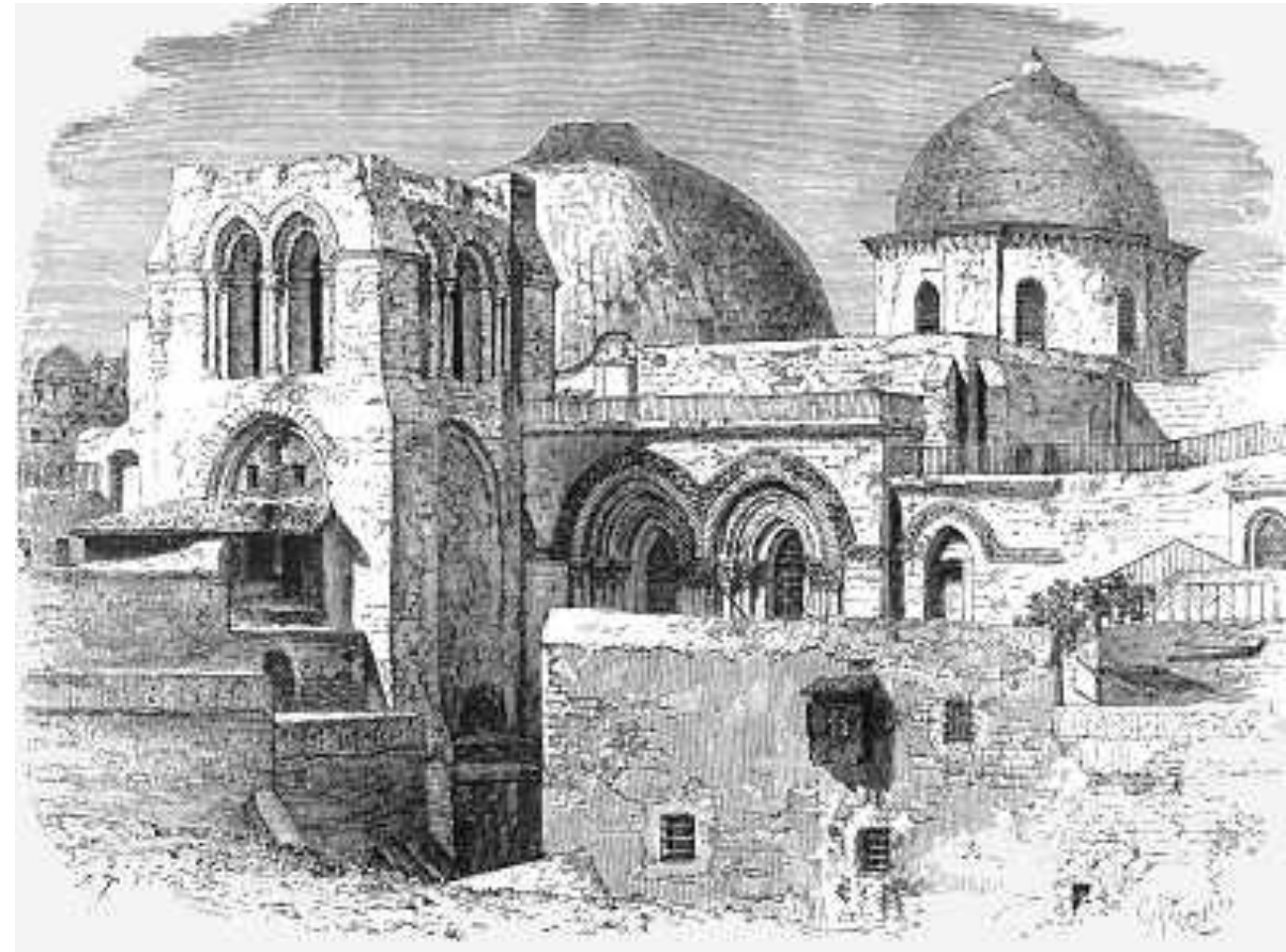
November 10: Diocesan Assembly

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.

Holy Apostles Orthodox Church

Lansing, New York



Sunday, September 13th, 2015

15th Sunday after Pentecost

Commemoration of Founding of Church of the Holy Sepulcher

SUNDAY HYMNS FOR SEPTEMBER 13

Troparion Tone 6 *(Resurrection)*

The Angelic Powers were at Your tomb;
the guards became as dead men.

Mary stood by Your grave,
seeking Your most pure body.

You took hell captive,//
not being tempted by it.

You came to the Virgin, granting life.//

O Lord, Who rose from the dead, glory to You.

Troparion Tone 4 *(Dedication)*

You have revealed the beauty of the holy dwelling place of Your glory on earth
to be like the splendor of the heavenly firmament, O Lord.

Through the prayers of the Theotokos,
strengthen it for ever and ever

and accept our supplication

which we ceaselessly offer to You therein,
the life and resurrection of all!

Troparion Tone 4 *(Forefeast of the Elevation of the Cross)*

We offer in supplication

the life-creating Cross of Your goodness, O Lord,

which You have granted to us

although we are unworthy.

Through the Theotokos, save all Orthodox Christians, O only Lover of mankind!

Kontakion Tone 6 *(Resurrection)*

When Christ God the Giver of Life,

raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand,

He bestowed resurrection on the human race.//

He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all.

Kontakion Tone 4 *(Dedication)*

The Church has been revealed to be a heaven filled with light,
which enlightens all the faithful.

Standing within it we cry: "Establish this house, O Lord!"

Prokeimenon Tone 6

O Lord, save Your people, and bless Your inheritance! (*Ps 27/28:9*)

v: To You, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me! (Ps 27/28:1)

Tone 4: Holiness befits Your house, O Lord, forevermore. (*Ps 92/93:5b*)

Alleluia Verses Tone 1

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! *I have exalted one chosen out of My people. (Ps 88/89:20)*

v: For My hand shall defend him, and My arm shall strengthen him. (Ps 88/89:22)

Tone 2: *v: The foundations are in the holy mountains; the Lord loves the gates of Jerusalem. (Ps 86/87:1-2)*

Communion Hymns

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest! (*Ps 148:1*)

I have loved the beauty of Your house, O Lord, and the place where Your glory dwells. (*Ps 25/26:8*) Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

9/11: IN PRAYERFUL REMEMBRANCE

SYOSSET, NY: Today marks the 14th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorists attacks on New York City, Shanksville, PA, and Arlington, VA.

The day—and indeed the weekend ahead—remains one of particular prayer and reflection. Surely there is much upon which we might reflect and about which we might pray — the ongoing conflicts and sorrows being experienced across the globe, especially the tens of thousands of migrants from the Middle East now suffering as they seek new homes and opportunities in Europe and beyond; discerning appropriate responses despite the ever-changing political landscape; the suffering of countless Christians in so many corners of our world; the challenge to maintain focus on “our true home,” the Kingdom of God, wondrously in our midst yet all-too-often overshadowed by this fallen world; and ultimately, the need to acknowledge that great gift of repentance, the very heart of the Gospel, to which all mankind has been called to embrace in faith and love.

On this day and throughout the coming weekend, let us pray for those who lost their lives in the 9/11 attacks, as well as for their families and friends who continue to mourn the loss of those with whom, just one day earlier, they had walked and talked; for those who so selflessly reached out to victims and survivors alike on that tragic day; for those brave first responders—fire fighters and physicians, police and military personnel and officials, clergy and counselors and coworkers—who risked their “all” to bring comfort and hope to friend and stranger alike; and for everyone still struggling to “make sense” of that which, by nature, is senseless.

Let us especially remember our brothers and sisters in Christ, asking the One Who is our very Life and Resurrection to grant them eternal rest with the saints, that “they may shine like the stars of heaven” in the Kingdom of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit—the very Kingdom to which we all aspire.

Question on Tithing from OCA.org

Why is 10% tithing being pushed by the OCA and some other church leaders?

The reason I ask this is that although 10% is required in Old Testament times, so is stoning for adultery and other rules we don't follow now. How do we tell what is valid today and what is not?

Answer

Tithing, as you correctly observe, is the Old Testament injunction to set aside 10% of all one possesses for the work of the Lord. Many Christians, Orthodox and non-Orthodox alike, strive to achieve this level of giving, even though its origin is in the Old Testament and there are those who would say that the New Testament maxim would be to recognize that all we possess is in fact the Lord's and that we should return to Him all that we have, or at least the first portion of our treasures.

Two observations on your comments:

While there are numerous parishes and dioceses which encourage individuals to tithe, the OCA has never issued an official decree in this regard. There have been a number of stewardship education materials that have been published which mention the tithe as a method of giving, but these materials primarily encourage people to set aside the "first portion" of their resources for the work of the Lord.

Even though tithing is from the Old Testament, it should not be seen as something that should not be practiced, such as stoning. Would one also recommend that Christians ignore the 10 Commandments because they are found in the Old rather than New Testament? Jesus Christ came to fulfill the law, not to abolish it. That which was worth saving from the Old Covenant was incorporated into the New.

In looking at the reality of some of our parishes—especially those with 50 members or less—tithing might be a reasonable means of keeping the parishes properly funded and, in some cases, alive. The "I'll give a buck a week" attitude in a small parish will ensure that there are not enough funds to keep the doors open, much less support a priest.

The thing that is critical is not the percentage—or the origin of the maxim—but, rather, that one is giving the first and the best of one's resources to the work of the Church—in honesty and out of a sense of thanksgiving to God for His many blessings. Remember—the widow who only gave two coins was blessed because she gave everything she had to God. She overshot the tithe by 90%!

CHURCH OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE

The site of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem is the place both of the crucifixion and the tomb of Jesus of Nazareth. The Roman emperor Constantine I, a convert to Christianity, had the temple of Venus in Jerusalem demolished to make way for a church. In the course of the demolition a tomb was discovered that was thought to be the tomb of Jesus.

The whole complex was richly decorated, as we know from the description by Constantine's biographer Eusebius of Caesarea. In 326, Constantine's mother, St Helen, made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, where she discovered the relic of the cross.

In 614, a Persian army destroyed the church and the True Cross was taken away, but in 631 the Byzantine emperor Heraclius negotiated its return. The Arab conquest in 638 was initially less disruptive, as Christians were treated with tolerance, but 300 years later the entrance to the basilica was converted into a mosque, and in 966 the dome was destroyed by fire during anti-Christian riots. In 1009, the fanatical Fatimid caliph al-Hakim ordered the destruction of the church. The Byzantine emperor Constantine IX Monomachus (1042–1055) funded its rebuilding, but on a different plan, with the entrance on the south side.

It was only after the capture of the city by the Seljuk Turks in 1077 that rumors began to circulate that Christian pilgrims were being ill treated and denied access to the church. The liberation of the holy places, the foremost of which was the Holy Sepulchre, was an important motivation for the First Crusade between 1096 and 1099. After the capture of the city by the crusaders in 1099, eyewitnesses tell how the survivors of the expedition prayed in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, which struck them as unusual because it was open to the sky. During the next half-century, the church of Constantine IX Monomachus was largely reconstructed. Although the building's footprint was preserved, the church acquired the attributes of a cathedral on the Western model. The holy garden became the basilica of the crusaders' church, and the rock of Golgotha was given its own chapel. The church of the crusaders is essentially the church that is to be seen today. The crusaders' church attracted enormous numbers of pilgrims, whose entry and circulation had to be controlled: the twin doorways can still be seen, although the elaborately carved lintels under which the pilgrims passed were removed after the earthquake of 1927 and are now in the Rockefeller Museum in Jerusalem.

The right-hand door was blocked up after the Muslim reconquest of the city in 1187. However, even during periods of Muslim occupation, pilgrims continued to be admitted to the site, and indeed Western leaders were anxious to negotiate rights of entry. As 12th-century maps reveal, the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem was the spiritual focus of Christendom and its most important pilgrimage center. The church was laid out to enable pilgrims to move from chapel to chapel, their visit culminating in the Holy Sepulchre itself. The Holy Sepulchre remains a fascinating complex of structures and is of key importance for several phases of medieval architectural history, 'imitations' being built all over Europe. Today, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre is one of Jerusalem's main landmarks and continues to draw many pilgrims and visitors.