

Holy Apostles Orthodox Church

347 Ridge Rd, Lansing, NY 14882

HolyApostlesLansing.org

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JUNE 4, 2017

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 8. Holy Apostles Bartholomew and Barnabas (1st c.). All Saints. Ven. Barnabas, Abbot of Vetluga (1445). Uncovering of the Relics of Ven. Ephraim, Abbot of Novotórgsk (1572). Commemoration of the appearance of the Archangel Gabriel to a monk on Mt. Athos, and the revelation of the hymn, “It is truly meet...” (Axion Estin). Icon of the Most-holy Theotokos, “It is Truly Meet” (“Axion Estin”) (10th c.).

EPISTLE: Hebrews 11:33–12:2: The Saints, a “great cloud of witnesses.”

GOSPELS: Matthew 10:32–33, 37–38, 19:27–30: The demands and the rewards of discipleship.

COFFEE HOUR: This week: Potluck **Next week:** Sign up today!

APOSTLES’ FAST: Tomorrow begins the Apostles’ Fast, also known as the Sts Peter and Paul Fast, which continues until the Feast of Sts Peter and Paul on June 29. This time of increased fasting, prayer, almsgiving, and repentance honors the labors of the great Apostles and reminds us of the need to continue our spiritual struggle after the joys of the Paschal and Pentecost Season. June 30, the day after Sts Peter and Paul, is our parish feast day, the Feast of all the Apostles.

MISSION RETREAT: Fr Jonathan Ivanoff, head of Missions for the Diocese of New York and New Jersey, will be here with us the weekend of July 22–23. This will provide an opportunity to reflect together on our work as a mission parish and its future direction. More details to come.

ARCHPASTORAL LETTER: Copies of Abp Michael’s Archpastoral Letter for Pentecost are still available in the back, on our newly-installed library shelf. Pick one up today, and feel free to take a book while you’re at it!

LOOKING AHEAD: Abp. Michael will be at our church August 19–20, and will ordain Ivan Bazarov to the Holy Diaconate. Our parish will also be hosting the deanery picnic this weekend. Please plan to be here.

KNOW YOUR FAITH: Our “Know Your Faith” class is underway, discussing Serge Verhovskoy’s *The Light of the World*. This book deals especially with the Orthodox understanding of Christ and His Church. It’s not too late to join; our next meeting will be this Tuesday at 7 PM. See Fr Joel for more details.

UPCOMING FUNDRAISER: A sign-up sheet is now available for help with our upcoming chicken barbecue fundraiser on July 8. This is a great opportunity not just to raise funds for the parish, but to make our presence known in Lansing. We’ll also be looking for volunteers to donate some needed items; a list will be available next Sunday. Finally, be sure to spread the word among your friends to help make this fundraiser a success. We’ll have flyers available closer to the time. For more details, see Bill, Paula, or Fr Joel.

WELCOME VISITORS! We warmly welcome all of our visitors! Please know that we are glad to have you here praying with us, and we invite you to stay after the service to enjoy a meal and meet everyone in our community.

PRAYER SCROLL

LIVING:

Apr Timothy H
Apr Herman S
Apr Sergius K
Apr Thomas E
Apr Stephen M
Apr John R
Apr Patrick C
Pr Adam S & Angie
Mother Raphaela
Mother Christophora
Mat Joanna B
Mat Katya
Mat Mary G
Kh Lynn
Mat Rebekah
Pani Amy
Joshua
Brittany
Gretchen
Marianne
Terrence
Helen
Judy
Mary & Susan
John & Carmine

Nathan
Leah
Helen
Lindsey
Elizabeth
Mary
Joe A
Daniel
Andrew & family
Carol
Elizabeth
David
Shirley
Christina
Jim & Kim
Rachel
Constantine & Maria
Gaetan
Christine
Samuel
Lisa
Lyudmila
Nickolay
Anetta
Zachary
Helena

Natasha, Lena, Vera,
Sergei
Caleb
Danielle
Larry, Mark, Katie
Ann
Dorothy
Ronald
Sheryl & Lacey
Alexander, Angela,
Anton
Peter
Gregory & Ann
Raymond
Vincent
Photini
Robert
Steven, Stephanie,
and family
Diana
Elizabeth
John
Felicia
Tom
Martha
Walter

Vladimir
Lou
Children: Anthony,
Mia, Isabel, Bear,
Victoria, Iva Bell,
Panagiotis, Ada,
Grace, Elias, Jack
Seminarians: Rdrs
Robert & Ivan
Birthdays:
Anniversaries:
Namesdays:

REPOSED:

Apr John U
Priest Matthew
Priest John
Apr Alexander
Dn Mark
Rdr Gregory
Daniel
Ada
Lillian
Joseph
Marie
Joseph

Laura
Martha
Stanley
Taissia
Stelufa
Theophan
Lynda
Florence
James
James R
Vasily
Mordecai
Alexandr
Ron
John
Eleanor
Harold
Alfred
Edward
Michael
Mat Julianna
Mario
Robert
Newly Reposed:
James, Pr Ronald, Pr
William, Wilhelmina

BY THE NUMBERS: Last Collection: \$1044.00. Building Fund: \$0.00.
Weekly Budget: \$1150. MTD: \$1044.00. Monthly Budget: \$4600

SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

Confessions are heard before and after Vespers or by appointment.

Sunday, June 11: 9:10 AM Hours, 9:30AM Divine Liturgy and Social Hour

Tuesday, June 13: 8:30 AM Morning Prayer with Akathist

7 PM Know your Faith Class

Wednesday, June 14: 8:30 AM Matins

Thursday, June 15: 8:30 AM Morning Prayer with Akathist

Friday, June 16: 8:30 AM Morning Prayer

Saturday, June 17: 6 PM Great Vespers

Sunday, June 18: 9:10 AM Hours, 9:30AM Divine Liturgy and Social Hour

PRAYER FOR CHURCH GROWTH

Again, we pray to Thee, O Lord our God, that Thou wouldst 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.

FROM THE PENTECOSTARION

The Lord has made his Saints wondrous on earth; for they received his marks and sufferings in the flesh, adorned by them and manifestly arrayed in godlike beauties; whom let us hymn as unfading flowers, as unwandering stars of the Church, as willingly offered sacrifices.

Apostles with Prophets, Teachers with Ascetics, all the Just with Martyr Priests and those among women who struggled as Martyrs and lived the ascetic life with love, the multitude of the Saints and the ranks of the Just, let them be praised with sacred songs, as heirs of the kingdom on high and inhabitants of Paradise.

The Martyrs made the earth heaven by the radiance of their virtues, they imitated the death of Christ, they trod the way which brings immortality, they purified the passions of mortals by the surgery of grace, they competed nobly with their whole soul in all the world: let them be praised.

Glory to God for all things!

HOLY APOSTLES ORTHODOX CHURCH LANSING, NEW YORK



SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 2017
ALL SAINTS

A SERMON OF THE SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS

by Metropolitan Anthony (Bloom) of Surozh

In the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. The Mother of God and the Saints whose memory we keep today, those who are known to us because God has revealed them, and because they have been understood and recognised, either by their contemporaries, or years, at times – centuries later, all the Saints are the response of the earth to the love of God. And this response is given by them not only in their own name but in the name of all creation and in our names also; because each of us has the privilege to be called by one name, our Christian name, the name of one of those Saints. And the Saints whose names are ours stand before God and pray that their name should not be made unworthy in the eyes of the Lord. The Saints of God embrace the whole of Creation in their love, in their intercession, in their prayer, in their real, continuous presence. How wonderful it is that we belong to this vast family of men, of women, of children who have understood what the Lord meant when He came, and lived, taught and died for us! They responded with their own heart, they understood with all their mind, and they accepted His message with all their determination, to overcome in themselves all that have been the cause of the crucifixion; because if only one person on earth had strayed, fallen away from God, Christ would have come to save at the cost of His life. This is His own testimony to a Saint of the early centuries who had been praying that the sinners should be confounded; and He appeared to him, and said, Never pray that way! If one sinner have existed, I would have died for him...

The Saints are people who responded to love by love, people who realised that if someone can die for them, their only response of gratitude is to become such that he should not have died in vain. To take up our cross means exactly this: to turn away from all those things which are Christ's death and crucifixion, from all those things which surrounded Christ with hatred and lack of understanding. We are all free to do this, more than those who lived in His time because they could be mistaken in Him in those days; but in our days, after two thousand years, when we can read the Gospels, and see emerging from the story the stature, the Person of Christ, when we have got millions of witnesses that tell us that He truly gave His life for us, and that the only response we can give is to give our lives for one another in His name – how can't we respond?

Let us therefore, on this day make a new resolve: to listen in the way in which they listened, with all their heart, all their mind, all their will, all their self to see what happened, to hear what He said, to respond by gratitude and by determination. And then, if we offer this little to God – our gratitude and our good will – the strength, the power for us also to grow into the stature which God has willed, dreamt for us, – the power will be of God; as He had said, My strength deploys itself in weakness, My grace sufficeth... And Paul, who knew that, added, in another passage, All things are possible unto us in the power of Christ Who sustains us... There is no doubt: we can, if we only will allow God to save, to carry us from earth to heaven. Let us make a new start, so that the Saints whose names we wear should rejoice in us, so that the Mother of God Who gave Her Son unto death that we may respond, that we may

understand, that we may be saved should rejoice, and that Christ should see that it is not in vain that He lived, taught, and died. Let us be His glory, a light; it may be a small light, just like a small candle, it may be a bright light as one of the great Saints – but let us be a light that lights the world and makes it less dark! Let us be joy so that others may learn to rejoice in the Lord. Amen!

ON TODAY'S EPISTLE

by St. John Chrysostom

What is the recompense [of the Saints]?

They have not yet received it, but are still waiting; and after thus dying in so great tribulation, they have not yet received it. They gained their victory so many ages ago, and have not yet received [their reward]. And you who are yet in the conflict, are you vexed?

Do you also consider what a thing it is, and how great, that Abraham should be sitting, and the Apostle Paul, waiting till thou hast been perfected, that then they may be able to receive their reward. For the Saviour has told them before that unless we also are present, He will not give it them. As an affectionate father might say to sons who were well approved, and had accomplished their work, that he would not give them to eat, unless their brethren came. And art thou vexed, that thou hast not yet received the reward? What then shall Abel do, who was victor before all, and is sitting uncrowned? And what Noah? And what, they who lived in those [early] times: seeing that they wait for thee and those after thee?

Dost thou see that we have the advantage of them? For "God" (he says) "has provided some better thing for us." In order that they might not seem to have the advantage of us from being crowned before us, He appointed one time of crowning for all; and he that gained the victory so many years before, receives his crown with thee. Seest thou His tender carefulness?

And he did not say, "that they without us might not be crowned," but "that they without us might not be made perfect"; so that at that time they appear perfect also. They were before us as regards the conflicts, but are not before us as regards the crowns. He wronged not them, but He honored us. For they also wait for the brethren. For if we are "all one body," the pleasure becomes greater to this body, when it is crowned altogether, and not part by part. For the righteous are also worthy of admiration in this, that they rejoice in the welfare of their brethren, as in their own. So that for themselves also, this is according to their wish, to be crowned along with their own members. To be glorified all together, is a great delight.

"Wherefore" (he says) "we also being compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses." In many places the Scripture derives its consolation in evils from corresponding things. As when the prophet says, "From burning heat, and from storm, and rain" (Isa. 4:6.). This at least he says here also, that the memory of those holy men, reestablishes and recovers the soul which had been weighed down by woes, as a cloud does him who is burnt by the too hot rays [of the sun].

And he did not say, "lifted on high above us," but, "compassing us about," which was more than the other; so that we are in greater security.

WEEKLY HYMNS FOR SUNDAY, MAY 28

Troparion, Tone 8 (*Resurrection*)

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One!

Thou didst accept the three day burial

to free us from our sufferings!//

O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to thee!

Troparion, Tone 4 (*All Saints*)

As with fine porphyry and royal purple,

Thy Church has been adorned with Thy martyrs' blood shed throughout all the world.

She cries to Thee, O Christ God:

"Send down Thy bounties on Thy people,//

grant peace to Thy habitation and great mercy to our souls!"

Kontakion, Tone 8 (*All Saints*)

The universe offers Thee the God-bearing Martyrs

as the first fruits of creation, O Lord and Creator.

By their prayers keep Thy Church, Thy habitation, in abiding peace//

through the Theotokos, O most Merciful One!

Prokeimenon, Tone 8

Pray and make your vows before the Lord our God!

v: In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel.

Another, Tone 4: God is wonderful in His saints, the God of Israel.

Alleluia, Tone 4

v. The righteous cried and the Lord heard them and delivered them out of all their troubles.

v. Many are the afflictions of the righteous; the Lord will deliver them out of them all.

Communion Hymns

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!

Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous; praise befits the just!

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

FROM THE PENTECOSTARION

Our most godlike Fathers decreed that we should celebrate the present feast after the descent of the All-holy Spirit, as showing in a certain way that the coming of the All-holy Spirit acted through the Apostles like this: sanctifying and making wise human beings taken from our mortal clay and, for the completion of that fallen angelic order, restoring them and through Christ sending them to God, some by the witness of martyrdom and blood, others by their virtuous conduct and way of life; and things beyond nature are achieved. For the Spirit descends in the form of fire, whose natural momentum is upwards; while dust, whose natural momentum is downwards, ascends on high, that dust which forms our mortal clay, the flesh added to and made divine by God the Word, which a short time before, had been exalted and taken its seat at the right hand of the Father's glory. But he now also draws all those who wish, according to the promise, just as God the Word had manifested the works of reconciliation and what was

the end, most suitable to its purpose, of his coming to us through flesh and of his dispensation, namely that he brings those who were rejected before to union and friendship with God — human nature offering to God the ungrateful people from the nations like first fruits — those who were outstandingly well-pleasing to him. This is one reason that we celebrate the feast of All Saints.

A second reason is because, though many people have been well-pleasing to God, they were through outstanding virtue unknown to humanity by name, or for some human reason or other, but nevertheless have great glory in God's sight. Or again, because there are many who have lived following Christ in India, Egypt, Arabia, Mesopotamia and Phrygia and in the lands beyond the Black Sea, even as far as the British Isles themselves; in short, in both East and West, but it was not easy to honour them all properly because of their vast numbers, in the way that ecclesiastical custom has been received. And therefore, so that we may attract the help of them all, wherever on earth they were well-pleasing to God, and generally for those who would later become Saints, the most godly Fathers ordained that we should celebrate the feast of All Saints, honouring the earlier and later ones, the unknown and the known — all those in whom the Holy Spirit has dwelt he has made holy.

A third reason is this. It was necessary for the Saints who are celebrated individually day by day to be gathered together on one day, in order to demonstrate that, as they struggled for the one Christ and all ran the race in the same stadium of virtue, so they were all fittingly crowned as servants of one God and sustained the Church, having filled the world on high. They stir us also to accomplish the same struggle in its different and many forms, to the degree of power that each of us has to press onwards with all eagerness.

For all these Saints from every age the revered and wise Emperor Leo erected and vast and very beautiful church. This is very near the church of the holy Apostles, within the city of Constantine. He built it originally, it is said, for his first wife Theophano, who was outstandingly well-pleasing to God, which was indeed a marvel in the midst of turmoil and in royal palaces. When he informed the Church of his idea, he did not succeed in making it agree with his wishes.

The most wise Emperor, with the approval of the whole Church, dedicated to all the Saints everywhere in the world the building that had been erected, observing that "Since Theophano is a Saint, let her be numbered with the rest."

Note that we are celebrating everything that the Holy Spirit, in giving good things, has made holy. I mean the highest and sanctifying Minds, that is to say the Nine Orders; the Ancestors and Patriarchs; the Prophets and sacred Apostles; the Martyrs and Hierarchs; the Priest Martyrs and Ascetic Martyrs; the Ascetics and the Just and all the choirs of holy women and all the other anonymous Saints, with them let there be all who will come afterwards. But before all, in all and with all, the Saint of Saints, the most holy and quite incomparably mightier than the angelic Orders, our Lady and Sovereign, Mary, Ever-Virgin.

At the prayers of your all-pure Mother, Christ God, and of all your Saints from every age, have mercy and save us, for you alone are good and love mankind. Amen.