

# Holy Apostles Orthodox Church

347 Ridge Rd, Lansing, NY 14882

HolyApostlesLansing.org

Fr Joel Brady, Rector 570 251 1963

Bill Allard, Senior Warden 607 743 2895

## JULY 9, 2017

**FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 4.** Hieromartyr Pancratius, Bishop of Taormina in Sicily (1st c.). Hieromartyr Cyril, Bishop of Gortyna in Crete (3rd-4th c.). Martyrs Paternuthius, Coprius, and Alexander the Soldier, in Egypt (4th c.). St. Theodore, Bishop of Edessa (9th c.). Ven. Paternuthius and Coprius, Ascetics, of Egypt (4th c.). Ven. Dionysius the Orator of St. Anne Skete (Mt. Athos – 1606). Ven. Metrophanes, disciple of Ven. Dionysius.

**EPISTLE: Romans 10:1–10:** The righteousness of faith.

**GOSPELS: Matthew 8:29–9:1:** Jesus frees two men from demons.

**COFFEE HOUR: This week:** Natalie **Next week:** Marina

**CHICKEN BARBECUE:** Thanks to everyone who helped with our chicken barbecue, whether by coming to help out, contributing supplies, or any other way you may have helped out. May the Lord bless you for your service! We raised about \$500 for the building fund.

**TRAVEL PLANS:** Fr Joel and Mat Meg will be visiting family Monday–Friday, July 10–14. All weekend services will be held as usual, as well as Liturgy on Saturday to commemorate St. Vladimir, Equal-to-the-Apostles and Enlightener of Russia. Matins will be held as a reader's service this Wednesday; the next "Know Your Faith" class, will be held on July 18 rather than July 11.

**MISSION RETREAT POSTPONED:** Unfortunately, Fr. Jonathan Ivanoff has had to change his plans for the weekend of July 22–23, and will not be joining us then. Stay tuned for updates as we try to reschedule!

**PHOTOS NEEDED:** We're looking for a volunteer (or a few) to take some photos so we can update the website with more recent pictures and information. Several people have also expressed interest in an updated directory with pictures, so we'll need a volunteer photographer for that as well. Please see Fr Joel if interested.

**A BIG WEEKEND:** 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 Tuesday, July 18, at 7 PM. See Fr Joel for more details.

**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  
Vladimir  
Lou  
Olga  
Seraphim & Anna  
Joe & Holly  
Micah, Danielle and  
family

Children: Anthony,  
Mia, Isabel, Bear,  
Victoria, Iva Bell,  
Panagiotis, Ada,  
Grace, Elias, Jack,  
Michael  
Seminarians: Rdrs  
Robert & Ivan  
Birthdays: Sam  
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

Stelujta  
Theophan  
Lynda  
Florence  
James  
James R  
Vasily  
Mordecai  
Alexandr  
Ron  
John  
Eleanor  
Harold  
Alfred  
Edward  
Michael  
Mat Julianna  
Mario  
Robert  
James  
Newly Reposed:  
Pr Ronald, Pr  
William, Wilhelmina,  
Barbara, Jeff, Sr  
Theophano, Ivana,  
Pdn Gregory,  
Michael, Walter,  
Mary

**BY THE NUMBERS:** Last Collection: \$780. Building Fund: \$105. Weekly Budget: \$1150. MTD: \$780. Monthly Budget: \$4600

## SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

*Confessions are heard before and after Vespers or by appointment.*

**Sunday, July 9:** 9:10 AM Hours, 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy and Social Hour

**Wednesday, July 12:** 8:30 AM Reader's Matins

**Saturday, July 15:** 9AM Divine Liturgy (St. Vladimir)

6 PM Great Vespers

**Sunday, July 16:** 9:10 AM Hours, 9:30 AM 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.

## ON TODAY'S GOSPEL

by St John Chrysostom

Now, should any one say, "And wherefore did Christ fulfill the devils' request, suffering them to depart into the herd of swine?" this would be our reply, that He did so, not as yielding to them, but as providing for many objects thereby. One, to teach them that are delivered from those wicked tyrants, how great the malice of their insidious enemies: another, that all might learn, how not even against swine are they bold, except He allow them; a third, that they would have treated those men more grievously than the swine, unless even in their calamity they had enjoyed much of God's providential care. For that they hate us more than the brutes is surely evident to every man. So then they that spared not the swine, but in one moment of time cast them all down the precipice, much more would they have done so to the men whom they possessed, leading them towards the desert, and carrying them away, unless even in their very tyranny the guardian care of God had abounded, to curb and check the excess of their violence. Whence it is manifest that there is no one, who doth not enjoy the benefit of God's providence. And if not all alike, nor after one manner, this is itself a very great instance of providence; in that according to each man's profit, the work also of providence is displayed.

# HOLY APOSTLES ORTHODOX CHURCH LANSING, NEW YORK



SUNDAY, JULY 9, 2017  
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

# ON THE GADARENE DEMONIACS

by Metropolitan Anthony (Bloom) of Sourozh

In the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost.

How familiar is this story to us. Yet every time we read it we rediscover something in it which touches our heart, or gives a new light to our mind. And to-day I would like to attract your attention to three features of this passage.

The first is the attitude of the devils, of the powers of evil, to their victims. The powers of evil have no other intention or desire than to take possession of a living creature and to make it both a sufferer and one that will fulfil their will. The Fathers of the Church teach us that the devils can have no direct action in this world; all they can do is enslave human beings and through them work the evil within them. So this is what these powers of evil had intended: to enslave these men and to make them instruments of destruction, but at the same time to make them suffer for it.

When Christ commanded them to leave their victims they cried, shall I say, for a place of refuge, a place where they could dwell and work destruction. And Christ allowed them to in-dwell the pigs. Pigs, in the eyes of Jews, were a symbol of impurity; the request to be lodged in their bodies was a sign for all who could understand – and every Jew could – that they were as impure as the impurest of the animals. But what happened next was a demonstration to people of what happens when we allow ourselves to be possessed of evil, when we allow passions to have power over us – hatred, lust, jealousy, and all the passions of body and soul. Being possessed by them we are doomed to destruction, as this herd ended in death.

We should remember this because we do not always realise how much we are in the grip, in the power of those things which rule our life: likes and dislikes, hatreds, resentments and so on. We are not only possessed, but we are also working evil through our subjection to the power of evil. And the warning is clear: if we only allow evil to take possession of us completely, it will mean death; not physical death, but a total, tragic alienation from all that is life: from God, from love, from beauty, from meaning. We cannot fall out of existence but we can be possessed of an existence which is a ghostly one, an existence without life, without content – a shell that is empty, and yet a torment.

And in contrast to this we see the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God become Man. He is the Creator, He is the Lord, He is the Saviour of the whole world; and He forgets everything, as it were, the whole of creation to pay attention to nothing but these two men who are in need of salvation, indeed He is prepared to leave ninety-nine righteous, whole people who do not need Him at that moment alone in order to give all His attention, all His life, indeed all His power to save these two men. In the face of all the need of the world He can see every individual need and respond to it with all His love, all His compassion, all His understanding and all His divine power to save and to heal.

There is a third group of people whom we see in action in this Gospel story; it is the inhabitants of the country. They had known of the desperate condition of these two men; they were told

of what Christ did for them; they were told who their master was, who was their tormentor; should they not have come to give glory to God and thank Him for delivering the two men from the power of evil? NO! All they saw in the act of Christ was that they were deprived of their herd of swine. What mattered to them the wholeness and the life and the salvation of these two men? They were deprived of what was important to them, what mattered to them more than a human life, and they asked Christ to leave their borders, to go because they did not want to risk another miracle that would be costly to them. What a tragic – not monstrous, but just tragic contrast between the attitude of God and the attitude of these people.

Let us give thought and ask ourselves, where do we stand? Of course, the first movement we shall have is to say, 'On God's side' – it is not true. When there is a tragic need, and the cost of helping would be perhaps not a disaster but a pain or loss to us, what would we choose? Let us reflect on this: are we really on the side of Christ Who can forget the whole world because His Heart is pierced, transfixed with compassion, or – do we allow our heart to be moved one moment, and then recalculate the cost and turn away from the need?

Let us reflect – because every one of these stories, every parable, every image, every act of God is challenging us: Where do you stand? Who are you? The person possessed, to whatever extent? A disciple of Christ ready to forget everything for the sake of a desperate need? Or rather one of those who say to Christ: Go, go away – you are disturbing our peace, the harmony of our life and our security?

Let us reflect deeply; but not only reflect, take a decision and act. Amen.

## FROM THE OCTOËCHOS

Risen, O Savior, from the dead as immortal, Thou hast raised up the world in Thyself by Thy resurrection, O Christ our God. Thou hast broken in pieces the dominion of death and shown the Resurrection unto all, O merciful; and we, therefore, glorify Thee, Who alone lovest mankind.

Gabriel came down from the heights above and approached the stone where lay the Stone of Life, and he, all in white, cried aloud to the mourners: "cease your weeping and wailing now that you have mercy with you for ever. Be bold for He whom you seek is truly awake. Call out then to the Apostles that the Lord is risen."

All the choirs of angels were struck with wonder at the mystery of thy fearful conceiving, O pure Virgin. How was it that He, who through one movement of His hand holds all things fast, was held as a mortal man in thine arms and that He, the One who was before the ages, took birth, and He who feeds all that hath breath was fed on milk? And they, as they praised Him, glorify thee, as being truly the Mother of God.



## WEEKLY HYMNS FOR SUNDAY, JULY 9

### Troparion, Tone 4 (Resurrection)

When the women Disciples of the Lord  
learned from the Angel the joyous message of the Resurrection,  
they cast away the ancestral curse  
and elatedly told the Apostles:  
“Death is overthrown!  
Christ God is risen,//  
granting the world great mercy!”

### Troparion, Tone 4 (Hieromartyr Pancratius)

By sharing in the ways of the Apostles,  
you became a successor to their throne.  
Through the practice of virtue, you found the way to divine contemplation, O inspired one of  
God;  
by teaching the word of truth without error, you defended the Faith, even to the shedding of  
your blood.//  
Hieromartyr Pancratius, entreat Christ God to save our souls!

### Kontakion, Tone 4 (Resurrection)

My Savior and Redeemer  
as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains.  
He has shattered the gates of hell,  
and as Master,//  
He has risen on the third day!

### Kontakion, Tone 4 (Hieromartyr Pancratius)

Pancratius, you were revealed as a brilliant star for the people of Taormina.  
You were also shown to be a sufferer for Christ.//  
Since you now stand before Him, O blessed one, pray for those who honor you.

### Prokeimenon, Tone 4

O Lord, how manifold are Your works; in wisdom have You made them all.  
v: Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord, my God, You are very great!

### Alleluia, Tone 4

v: Go forth, prosper and reign, for the sake of meekness, righteousness and truth!  
v: For You love righteousness, and hate iniquity.

### Communion Hymn

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

## THE HOLY HIEROMARTYR PANCRATIUS

The Hieromartyr Pancratius, Bishop of Taormina, was born when our Lord Jesus Christ yet lived upon the earth. The parents of Pancratius were natives of Antioch. Hearing the good news of Jesus Christ, Pancratius' father took his young son with him and went to Jerusalem in order to see the great Teacher for himself. The miracles astonished him, and when he heard the divine teaching, he then believed in Christ as the Son of God. He became close with the disciples of the Lord, especially with the holy Apostle Peter. It was during this period that young Pancratius got to know the holy Apostle Peter.

After the Ascension of the Savior, one of the Apostles came to Antioch and baptized the parents of Pancratius together with all their household. When the parents of Pancratius died, he left behind his inherited possessions and went to Pontus and began to live in a cave, spending his days in prayer and deep spiritual contemplation. The holy Apostle Peter, while passing through those parts, visited Pancratius at Pontus. He took him along to Antioch, and then to Sicily, where the holy Apostle Paul then was. There the holy Apostles Peter and Paul made Saint Pancratius Bishop of Taormina in Sicily. Saint Pancratius toiled zealously for the Christian enlightenment of the people. In a single month he built a church where he celebrated divine services. The number of believers quickly grew, and soon almost all the people of Taormina and the surrounding cities accepted the Christian Faith. Saint Pancratius governed his flock peacefully for many years. However, pagans plotted against the saint, and seizing an appropriate moment, they fell upon him and stoned him. Thus, Saint Pancratius ended his life as a martyr. The saint's relics are in the church named for him in Rome. He is also commemorated on February 9.

