

Holy Apostles Orthodox Church

347 Ridge Rd, Lansing, NY 14882

HolyApostlesLansing.org

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JULY 23, 2017

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 6. Martyrs Trophimus, Theophilus, and 13 others in Lycia (4th c.). Hieromartyr Apollinaris, Bishop of Ravenna (ca. 75). Commemoration of the Miraculous Appearance of the Pochaev Icon of the Mother of God, which saved the Monastery from the assault of the Tatars and Turks (1675). Icon of the Most-holy Theotokos, “The Joy of All Who Sorrow” (with coins) in St. Petersburg (1888).

EPISTLE: Romans 15:1–7: Bear with the failings of the weak.

GOSPEL: Matthew 9:27–35: Jesus heals two blind men.

COFFEE HOUR: This week: Darlene **Next week:** Olympia & Family

NEW ICON: As you will have seen, our new icon of the Holy Apostles is here, and is now mounted on the iconostasis. We extend sincere thanks to Helena Clemente, the iconographer, for her ongoing work for the beautification of the church, and pray that God will grant her many years. Thanks also to Ivan for installing the icon.

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. Also, if you have pictures from church events this year, please send them to Fr Joel.

BISHOP’S VISIT: 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. Also note that Fr Joel has been selected to participate in the oca “Mission School” in Huntington, NY Aug 21–25, and will be driving there after the picnic. All weekend services will be held as usual.

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, August 1, 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
Vladimir
Lou
Olga
Seraphim & Anna
Micah, Danielle, &
Family
Children: Anthony,
Mia, Isabel, Bear,

Victoria, Iva Bell,
Panagiotis, Ada,
Grace, Elias, Jack,
Everett
Seminarians: Rdrs
Robert & Ivan
Birthdays:
Anniversaries:
Namesdays:
Olympia

REPOSED:

Apr John U
Priest Matthew
Priest John
Apr Alexander
Dn Mark
Rdr Gregory
Daniel
Ada
Lillian
Joseph
Marie
Joseph
Laura
Martha
Stanley
Taissia

Steluja
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, Walter,
Martha

BY THE NUMBERS: Last Collection: \$1449. Building Fund: \$0. Weekly Budget: \$1150. MTD: \$3408. Monthly Budget: \$4600

SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

Confessions are heard before and after Vespers or by appointment.

Sunday, July 23: 9:10 AM Hours, 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy and Social Hour

Tuesday, July 25: 8:30 AM Morning Prayer with Akathist

Wednesday, July 26: 9 AM Divine Liturgy (St Jacob of Alaska)

Thursday, July 27: 8:30 AM Morning Prayer

Friday, July 28: 8:30 AM Morning Prayer

Saturday, July 29: 6 PM Great Vespers

Sunday, July 30: 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.

FROM THE OCTOËCHOS

Let us, the faithful, praise and venerate the tomb of the Giver of Life. For You, O Immortal One, have as almighty God bound hades, by raising up the dead with Yourself, destroying death and shattering the gates of hades. Therefore we who dwell on earth glorify You with love, for You are risen, overthrowing the might of the all-destroying enemy, raising all who have put their faith in You, and delivering the world from the sting of the serpent. You have saved us from the deceit of the enemy, O almighty One. Therefore we sing the praises of Your Resurrection, through which You have saved us, *the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all!*

HOLY APOSTLES ORTHODOX CHURCH LANSING, NEW YORK



SUNDAY, JULY 23, 2017
SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

ON THE TWO BLIND MEN

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ!

In today's Gospel reading about the two blind men (Mat.9, 27-35) the path towards faith is depicted: we are shown how from a state of blindness one can be transformed to a state of seeing, how one can receive what one asks. Sin makes man blind, for the devil does not wish man to see God—his Creator. Spiritual blindness might be acknowledged only by admitting one's sinfulness. Furthermore, it is essential to follow Christ – that is to fulfill His commandments, God's will, and patiently carry one's cross. Also, one must "Shout" – in other words, pray strongly with zeal. When our prayer is not answered right away, Christ is testing our faith.

When Christ entered a house, the blind followed Him. Misfortune has brought the blind together, and they became friends – they functioned as one. We must be in one place with Christ. Where Christ is, there is God's temple. The blind approach Christ in the house. The objective of following Christ – is to catch up with Him and be joined with Him. Jesus asks them: "Do you believe, that I can do this and have mercy on you?" The blind answer: "Yes, Lord!" They acknowledge Jesus as Lord and God, because only God can give them that which they do not have: in this case – eyesight! Being physically blind, they had already matured spiritually; with eyes of faith they saw in Jesus Almighty God, their Creator. Christ touched their eyes and said: "You shall receive according to your faith". When their eyes opened, Christ strictly told them: "Tell no one; do not extol that God helped you!" We ought not to pride ourselves that we were in the temple and communed of the Holy Gifts. It is, probably, on account of this forbidding of Christ that Christian preachers seldom talk about this wonderful healing in their sermons.

We do not know the names of these two blind men, who were blind from their birth and whom Christ healed. But, we do know from the book of 'Acts of the Apostles' and from our history about two other blind men, who also were healed by our Lord. Christ miraculously healed the temporary blindness of the persecutor of the first Christians, 'Saul' (later Apostle Paul), and the blindness of Prince Vladimir of Kiev. They were granted sight only as a result of a miracle through their encounter with Christ and their acceptance of Baptism. Christ opened the eyes of their souls and also removed their physical blindness. In the year 998 Prince Vladimir was baptized and given the name of 'Vasili' (Basil). According to legend, Prince Vladimir had been blind for a while before being baptized, and as he was emerging from the baptismal font, he regained sight and proclaimed: "Now I know the true God!" Through these healing from blindness of Saul, the persecutor, and Prince Vladimir of Kiev, God shows all those, who are blind, that they should also accept this medicine with joy.

The best example of effectiveness and power of any medicine, is the healing of the sick. God shows us the power of faith. Of all the miracles, which happen because of faith in Christ, the most beneficial to the soul is the transfiguration of a sinner into a righteous person. As a confirmation of such a miracle of man's transfiguration we have Saint Vladimir, who says to each one of us: "I was like night changed into day". He asks us: "Who were you before being

baptized? Whom did you become after being baptized? How do you view the spiritual world? Do you see Christ with you?"

Let us think on what answers we can give to these questions. Amen.

Source: <http://www.orthodox-canada.com/sermon-about-two-blind-men/>

ON PRAYER

by Fr Savas of Philotheou

Your mind, your nous is a coffee cup, from which your heart drinks and is filled. If the cup has good stuff in it, the heart will drink of good. If the cup is not full and pours into the heart continually, the heart will thirst.

If there is room left in the cup—if it is not filled with good to drink, the enemy will come and pour poison into your cup, as much as is space for it. A little drop of poison is just a bitter taste in the heart—a whole lot of poison, like something that sours the stomach, is nearly deadly for the heart.

So why drink poison? Fill the cup to the rim, or better—keep it overflowing with the good drink that is spiritual thoughts, sobering joys of Christ's mercy, of death, of the Church, of the Panagia, of the Saints, etc. When you see poison has been added to your cup, start dripping in, pouring in, much good stuff. Open the Scriptures, the Psalms, or best of all the dripping faucet of "Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me".

Then the enemy will rage helplessly, for without any room to add poison to your cup, he will not be able to reach your heart and wound it. This is the "secret" of watchfulness and continual prayer—a FULL cup of divine good. Keep the cup full of good, and keep that drink flowing into your thirsty heart, to quench its thirst and to edify it constantly.

May you overthrow the enemy, by the Name of Christ, by His grace, and by His Cross, the invincible weapon, unto the salvation of your souls, and that we may share the glory of His Dominion, now and forever!

WEEKLY HYMNS FOR SUNDAY, JULY 23

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 (*Martyrs*)

Your holy martyr Trophimus and his companions, O Lord,
Through their sufferings have received incorruptible crowns from You, our God.

For having Your strength, they laid low their adversaries,
and shattered the powerless boldness of demons.

Through their intercessions, save our souls!

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 8 (*Martyrs*)

You have appeared as bright lamps, O holy martyrs!

Illumine the whole creation with the brightness of your miracles.

Deliver it from infirmity and drive away the deep darkness.//

always interceding before Christ God for us all.

Prokeimenon, Tone 6

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

v: To You, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me!

Alleluia, Tone 6

v: He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the heavenly God.

v: He will say to the Lord: "My Protector and my Refuge; my God, in Whom I trust."

Communion Hymn

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

ON CONSTANT PRAYER

by St Gregory Palamas

Let no one think, my brother Christians, that it is the duty only of priests and monks to pray without ceasing, and not of laymen.

No, no; it is the duty of all of us Christians to remain always in prayer... At first it may appear very difficult to you, but be assured, as it were from Almighty God, that this very name of our Lord Jesus Christ, constantly invoked by you, will help you to overcome all difficulties, and in the course of time you will become used to this practice and will taste how sweet is the name of the Lord...

Moreover, bear in mind the method of prayer – how it is possible to pray without ceasing, namely by praying in the mind. And this we can always do if we so wish. For when we sit down to work with our hands, when we walk, when we eat, when we drink we can always pray mentally and practice this mental prayer – the true prayer pleasing to God. Let us work with the body and pray with the soul. Let our outer man perform his bodily tasks, and let the inner man be entirely dedicated to the service of God, never abandoning this spiritual practice of mental prayer, as Jesus, God and Man, commanded us, saying: "But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret" (Matthew 6:6).

The closet of the soul is the body; our doors are the five bodily senses. The soul enters its closet when the mind does not wander hither and thither, roaming among things and affairs of the world, but stays within, in our heart. Our senses become closed and remain closed when we do not let them be attached to external sensory things, and in this way our mind remains free from every worldly attachment, and by secret mental prayer unites with God its Father. "And thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly," adds the Lord. God who knows all secret things sees mental prayer and rewards it openly with great gifts. For that prayer is true and perfect which fills the soul with Divine grace and spiritual gifts. As chrisms perfumes the jar the more strongly the tighter it is closed, so prayer, the more fast it is imprisoned in the heart, abounds the more in Divine grace...

So, brother, when you enter your closet and close your door, that is, when your mind is not darting hither and thither but enters within your heart, and your senses are confined and barred against things of this world, and when you pray thus always, you too are then like the holy angels, and your Father, Who sees your prayer in secret, which you bring Him in the hidden depths of your heart, will reward you openly by great spiritual gifts.

But what other and greater rewards can you wish from this when, as I said, you are mentally always before the face of God and are constantly conversing with Him – conversing with God, without Whom no man can ever be blessed either here or in another life?