

# Holy Apostles Orthodox Church

347 Ridge Rd, Lansing, NY 14882

HolyApostlesLansing.org

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## August 27, 2017

**TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 3. Ven. Pømen the Great (ca. 450).** Hieromartyr Kuksha and Ven. Pimen (Pømen), of the Kiev Caves (Near Caves—12th c.). St. Hosius the Confessor, Bishop of Cordova (359). St. Liberius, Pope of Rome (366). Ven. Pømen of Palestine (ca. 602). Martyr Anthonia. Ven. Sabbas of Benephali. St. Cæsarius, Bishop of Arles (543).

**EPISTLE: 1 Corinthians 15:1–11:** Paul’s witness.

**GOSPEL: Matthew 19:16–26:** The rich young man questions Jesus.

**COFFEE HOUR: This week:** Allard **Next week:** Potluck

**THANK YOU** to everyone who helped make last weekend such a beautiful and joyous celebration, whether by singing, serving, helping with the picnic, or just by your presence. Our guests had a great time, and were able to enjoy the beauty of our Mission community. May the Lord bless and keep you all!

**BEHEADING OF THE FORERUNNER:** This Tuesday we commemorate the beheading of St. John the Forerunner. This commemoration is traditionally kept as a fast day; we’ll have Liturgy Tuesday morning to commemorate St. John and his witness.

**YOUTH EDUCATION:** Beginning on September 10, we will be holding youth education, focused on the Sunday Gospels, for about 15 minutes following Liturgy. There will be a younger and an older group; see Fr Joel or Matushka Meg for more information.

**RUMMAGE SALE:** We’re planning a church rummage sale and bake sale for Saturday, September 16. Smaller items for the sale can be brought beginning September 1; big items such as furniture or appliances will need to be brought for set-up on Friday the 15th. Please let Fr Joel know if you’ll need help bringing large items, or would like to volunteer to help others with this. There’s a sign-up sheet in the back of church. For more information, see Fr Joel, Bernice, or Eileen.

**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 29, 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  
Apr Steven V  
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  
Dianna  
Elizabeth  
John  
Felicia  
Tom  
Vladimir  
Lou  
Seraphim & Anna  
Micah, Danielle, &  
Family  
Gregory & Ashley  
Those impacted by  
Hurricane Harvey  
Children: Anthony,  
Mia, Isabel, Bear,

Victoria, Iva Bell,  
Panagiotis, Ada,  
Grace, Elias, Jack,  
Everett  
Seminarians: Dcn  
Ivan, Rdr Robert  
**Birthdays:**  
**Anniversaries:**  
**Namesdays:**  
  
REPOSED:  
Apr John U  
Priest Matthew  
Priest John  
Apr Alexander  
Priest William  
Dn Mark  
Rdr Gregory  
Daniel  
Ada  
Lillian  
Joseph  
Marie  
Joseph  
Laura  
Martha  
Stanley  
Taissia  
Steluța

Theophan  
Lynda  
Florence  
James  
James R  
Vasily  
Mordecai  
Alexandr  
Ron  
John  
Eleanor  
Harold  
Alfred  
Edward  
Michael  
Mat Julianna  
Mario  
Robert  
James  
Wilhelmina  
Barbara  
Sr Theophano  
**Newly Reposed:**  
Pdn Gregory, Walter,  
Martha, Olga

**BY THE NUMBERS:** Last Collection: \$529. Building Fund: \$130. Weekly Budget: \$1150. MTD: \$4850. Monthly Budget: \$4600

## SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

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

**Sunday, August 27:** 9:10 AM Hours, 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy and Social Hour

**Tuesday, August 29:** 9 AM Divine Liturgy (Beheading of the Forerunner)

7 PM "Know Your Faith" class

**Wednesday, August 30:** 8:30 AM Matins

**Thursday, August 31:** 8:30 AM Morning Prayer

**Friday, September 1:** 8:30 AM Morning Prayer

**Saturday, September 2:** 6 PM Great Vespers

**Sunday, September 3:** 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.

## TROPARION AND KONTAKION for the Beheading of the Forerunner

The memory of the righteous is celebrated with hymns of praise, but the Lord's testimony is sufficient for you, O Forerunner. You were shown in truth to be the most honorable of the Prophets, for you were deemed worthy to baptize in the steams of the Jordan Him Whom they foretold. Therefore, having suffered for the truth with joy, you proclaimed to those in hell God Who appeared in the flesh, Who takes away the sin of the world and grants us great mercy. The glorious beheading of the Forerunner became an act of divine dispensation, for he preached to those in hell the coming of the Savior. Let Herodias lament, for she entreated lawless murder, loving not the Law of God, nor eternal life, but that which is false and temporal.

# HOLY APOSTLES ORTHODOX CHURCH LANSING, NEW YORK



SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 2017  
TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

# ON THE RICH YOUNG MAN

BY METROPOLITAN ANTHONY (BLOOM) OF SOUROZH

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

It is not only awesome, at times it is frightening to preach the Word of God, because the Lord said "By thy words thou shalt be judged." Judged, because if you proclaim God's truth and remain idle and not the doer of what the Lord has commanded, and what you know well enough to proclaim to others – then, how shall you stand before the judgement of God? This does not apply only to the priest, but to every Christian who is called to be a witness, an apostle, one that brings God's word to the people who are in darkness or twilight, who need divine light, and truth and life.

To-day's Gospel challenges us all so sharply. It begins with words that may be interpreted in more than one way: "Good Lord – what shall I do to have eternal life?" And the Lord answers, "Why do you call Me 'good?' Good is only God." He does not say, "You are wrong." He does not deny His right to be called good as God is good; and thereby, to those who have ears to hear, those who have a heart capable of perceiving the surpassing goodness of the Lord Jesus, surpassing all human goodness, all human beauty and truth – it is a testimony: Yes, you are speaking to your God, and it is your God that is to answer your question.

And then Christ gives us two indications. The one is: if you wish to have eternal life, keep the Commandments. The Commandments of God are not only rules of behaviour (although, of course they are such), but as one of the Psalms puts it, should be in our inmost hearts. It should be from the depths of our heart that we accomplish the Commandments: not because we are commanded from outside, but because they have reached us with the ring of truth; not because God has spoken, but because with all our being we have answered "Amen!" This is true, this is life, this is the way into eternal life.

When we hear Christ mentioning these Commandments – where are we? Who of us can say that he was faithful to every word of this short list that indicates that without which we cannot live? Where do we stand? I, who am preaching, you who are hearing, because it is as responsible to hear as it is to speak. How often do we think – as this young man, and with how little reason – that we want perfection. We want perfection without having first trod the road of the Commandments.

But Christ says to us quite clearly: "If you want perfection – give all you possess." It is not only material things which we can give: every one of us has treasures hoarded in his mind and heart, in his soul, things which are more important to him than anything material, that is his wealth. Each of us should turn inward and ask himself, "What is there which is my peculiar treasure? What are those things which I will not give away even for life eternal, for God?"

We do not put things in such a crude manner, but we hug those things which are so precious to us, and still we hope that we will enter the Kingdom of God, we will reach perfection, we will become in all fullness what we are called to be, the kind of persons of whom God dreamed when He created us – and it is not true.

In the Book of Revelation there is a passage that says, "I have only one thing against you – you have forgotten your first love." And this first love, indeed, for each of us, is the Living God, Whom we call in so many ways: we may call Him "Life," we may call Him "Fulfilment," we may call Him "Happiness," we may call Him by all the names that mean that we should reach the fullness of our being. At times we know that only in God it is possible, at times we imagine that we can outgrow ourselves – all the same, this is our first love: to become as great as God has dreamed us, willed us.

And we do not follow the Commandments because we think that we can achieve it in a simpler manner; and we do not give away all we have, that is: the only thing we are not prepared to give away, in a hope that God will accept us, and our burden. Let us reflect on this story. This is not even a parable, it is something that has happened to a young man. It happens to all of us when God says, "Have you been faithful to the way of life which I have described to you in terms of commandments, outlined in these terms as one can outline a road by milestones? Do you want to attain fullness – start at that point." And if you are aware of having been faithful in these things, then ask yourself the further question: what is the treasure which I will not give away, even for eternal life?

The young man heard the words of Christ, and went away sad. He had earthly possessions, but we have so many possessions which are not material and which are our burden, our fetters. And yet, there is in this story one thing that can give us so much hope. Christ did not condemn this young man; Christ let him go without a word of reproach, because what He had said was like seed sown into the mind and heart of this young man. He let him go wounded at the heart, puzzled in his mind, called to be himself by an act of heroic will and surrender, let go of himself, as Christ said, give everything away and follow Him. Where to? Along the road of human life on one hand, on the other hand – into the fullness of life eternal.

When Christ says to us "Follow Me," He does not call us to walk a frightening, dark road; He says, "I have trodden all this road, I know every meander of it – you can safely follow! I am like the good shepherd that walks in front of his sheep, meeting all dangers himself, so that the sheep may be safe."

We all will go home like the young man, perhaps saddened, that neither are we keeping the Commandments, nor are we able to give away our most precious treasure: but remember – we will not go condemned, we will have been faced with an ultimate choice, and as long as we can struggle on earth – there is time.

But let us not be beguiled by the length of time: time flies, time goes – let it not be too late, let us turn to life, let us become all we are capable of being.

The answer to to-day's Gospel is so clear – "Who then can be saved?" – To man it is not possible by our own strength; but to God, all things are possible." That is our hope: God is with us, and nothing is too much for us. Amen.

## WEEKLY HYMNS FOR SUNDAY, AUGUST 27

Troparion, Tone 3 (*Resurrection*)

Let the heavens rejoice!  
Let the earth be glad!  
For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.  
He has trampled down death by death.  
He has become the first born of the dead.  
He has delivered us from the depths of hell,  
and has granted to the world//  
great mercy.

**Troparion, Tone 8** (*Ven Pimen*)

By a flood of tears you made the desert fertile,  
and your longing for God brought forth fruits in abundance.  
By the radiance of miracles you illuminated the whole universe!!  
Our Father Pimen, pray to Christ God to save our souls!

**Kontakion, Tone 3** (*Resurrection*)

On this day You rose from the tomb, O Merciful One,  
leading us from the gates of death.  
On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices;  
with the Prophets and Patriarchs//  
they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Your power.

**Kontakion, Tone 4** (*Ven Pimen*)

The memorial of your illustrious struggles  
delights the souls of the devout today,//  
Pimen, our venerable father, wise in God.

**Prokeimenon, Tone 3**

Sing praises to our God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

v: Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

**Alleluia, Tone 3**

v: In You, O Lord, have I hoped; let me never be put to shame!

v: Be a God of protection for me, a house of refuge in order to save me!

**Communion Hymn**

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

## ST PIMEN THE GREAT

Saint Pimen the Great was born about the year 340 in Egypt. He went to one of the Egyptian monasteries with his two brothers, Anoub and Paisius, and all three received monastic tonsure. The brothers were such strict ascetics that when their mother came to the monastery to see her children, they did not come out to her from their cells. The mother stood there for a long time and wept. Then Saint Pimen said to her through the closed door of the cell, "Do you wish to see us now, or in the future life?" Saint Pimen promised that if she would endure the sorrow of not seeing her children in this life, then surely she would see them in the next. The mother was humbled and returned home...

For many of the monks, Saint Pimen was a spiritual guide and instructor...

To the question of whether it is better to speak or be silent, the Elder said, "Whoever speaks on account of God, does well, and whoever is silent on account of God, that one also does well."

He also said, "If man seems to be silent, but his heart condemns others, then he is always speaking. There may be a man who talks all day long, but he is actually silent, because he says nothing unprofitable."

The saint said, "It is useful to observe three things: to fear God, to pray often, and to do good for one's neighbor."

"Wickedness never eradicates wickedness. If someone does evil to you, do good to them, and your goodness will conquer their wickedness."

Once, after Saint Pimen and his disciples arrived at the monastery of Scetis, he learned that the Elder living there was annoyed at his arrival and was also jealous of him, because monks were leaving the Elder to see Abba Pimen.

In order to console the hermit, the saint went to him with his brethren, taking food with them as a present. The Elder refused to receive them, however. Then Saint Pimen said, "We shall not depart from here until we are permitted to see the holy Elder." He remained standing at the door of the cell in the heat. Seeing Saint Pimen's humility and patience, the Elder received him graciously and said, "Not only is what I have heard about you true, but I see that your works are a hundred times greater..."

Once, a monk from another country came to the saint to receive his guidance. He began to speak about sublime matters difficult to grasp. The saint turned away from him and was silent. They explained to the bewildered monk that the saint did not like to speak of lofty matters. Then the monk began to ask him about the struggle with passions of soul. The saint turned to him with a joyful face, "Now you have spoken well, and I will answer." For a long while he provided instruction on how one ought to struggle with the passions and conquer them.

Saint Pimen died at age 110, about the year 450. Soon after his death, he was acknowledged as a saint pleasing to God. He was called "the Great" as a sign of his great humility, uprightness, ascetic struggles, and self-denying service to God.

*Source: oca.org*

*Pimen is also spelled Pæmen, and means "shepherd."*