

# Holy Apostles Orthodox Church

347 Ridge Rd, Lansing, NY 14882

HolyApostlesLansing.org

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## September 3, 2017

**THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 4.** Hieromartyr Anthimus, Bishop of Nicomedia, and those with him: Martyrs Theophilus – Deacon; Dorotheus, Mardonius, Migdonius, Peter, Indes, Gorgonius, Zeno; the Virgin Domna, and Euthymius (302). Ven. Theoctistus, fellow ascetic with Ven. Euthymius the Great (467). Blessed John “the Hairy”, Fool-for-Christ at Rostov (1580). St. Phœbe, Deaconess at Cenchræ near Corinth (1st c.). Martyr Basilissa of Nicomedia (309). Martyr Aristion, Bishop of Alexandria (2nd c.). St. Joannicius, Archbishop of Serbia (1349).

**EPISTLE: 1 Corinthians 16:13–24:** Greetings to the Church.

**GOSPEL: Matthew 19:16–26:** The parable of the tenants.

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

**CHURCH NEW YEAR:** The month of September begins the liturgical year of the Church, and includes two Great Feasts: the Nativity of the Mother of God on September 8, and the Exaltation of the Cross on September 14. We start the year off with the Mother of God, whose acceptance of His will brought Our Lord into the world, and with the Cross of Christ, that central reality of our faith in God’s self-giving love for us. We’ll have Vespers and Liturgy for both feasts; please come if you’re able!

**CLERGY CONFERENCE:** Fr Joel will be at a Diocesan Clergy Conference in Wappingers Falls, NY this coming Tuesday and Wednesday, returning late Wednesday night. He will still be available by phone if needed.

**MOTHERS’ GROUP:** Several of our parish mothers will be having informal gatherings at the church on Wednesday mornings following Matins, to discuss Christian family life and the liturgical year. Please see Danielle if interested.

**HURRICANE RELIEF:** International Orthodox Christian Charities has been actively working to address the damages of the recent hurricane in Texas; those wishing to contribute to their efforts can visit [iocc.org](http://iocc.org).

**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, September 12, 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 Michael M  
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  
Petruta  
Katherine

Those impacted by  
Hurricane Harvey  
Children: Anthony,  
Mia, Isabel, Bear,  
Victoria, Iva Bell,  
Panagiotis, Ada,  
Grace, Elias, Jack,  
Everett  
Seminarists: Dcn  
Ivan, Rdr Robert  
Birthdays: Darlene,  
Krista  
Anniversaries:  
Namesdays:

### REPOSED:

Apr John U  
Priest Matthew  
Priest John  
Apr Alexander  
Priest William  
Pdn Gregory  
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  
Wilhelmina  
Barbara  
Sr Theophano  
Newly Reposed:  
Walter, Martha, Olga

**BY THE NUMBERS:** Last Collection: \$926. Building Fund: \$0. Weekly Budget: \$1150. August Total: \$5776. Monthly Budget: \$4600

## SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

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

**Sunday, September 3:** 9:10 AM Hours, 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy and Social Hour

**Tuesday, September 5:** 8:30 AM Reader's Matins

**Wednesday, September 6:** 8:30 AM Reader's Matins

**Thursday, September 7:** 8:30 AM Morning Prayer

6 PM Vespers

**Friday, September 8:** 9 AM Divine Liturgy (Nativity of the Mother of God)

**Saturday, September 9:** 6 PM Great Vespers

**Sunday, September 10:** 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.

## FOR THE NATIVITY OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

She who was preordained to be the Queen of all and habitation of God, has come forth today from the barren womb of joyful Ann. She is the divine sanctuary of the eternal Essence; through her cruel hell has been trampled under foot, and Eve with all her line is established secure in life. It is meet and right that we should cry aloud to her: "Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb."

On this solemn day of our feast let us strike the spiritual harp: for today is born in the city of David the Mother of Life, who destroys the darkness. She is the restoration of Adam and the recall of Eve, the fountain of incorruption and the release from corruption: through her we have been made godlike and delivered from death. Let us, the faithful cry aloud with Gabriel: "Hail, thou that art full of grace: the Lord is with thee, through thee granting us great mercy." This is the day of the Lord: rejoice, ye people. For lo, the Bridal Chamber of the Light, the book of the Word of Life, awaits the entrance of the Great Priest. She alone brings into the world the one and only Christ, for the salvation of our souls.

*From The Festal Menaion, Translated by Jallistos Ware and Mother Mary and published by St Tikhon's Seminary Press.*

# HOLY APOSTLES ORTHODOX CHURCH LANSING, NEW YORK



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2017  
THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

# ON THE CHURCH NEW YEAR

Do you know why the first day of September marks the beginning of the Church year? We are accustomed to think of January 1st as the beginning of the year. But the tradition of computing the start of a new year with autumn was common to the lands of the Bible and to all the lands around the Mediterranean. The summer harvest was at an end, the crops were stored, and people prepared for a new agricultural cycle. It was an appropriate time to begin a new year. Many of the hymns for the first day of the Church year state that the coming year is God's to give and God's to bless – A YEAR OF THE LORD! These hymns take their theme from Psalm 65 (64 in the Greek Septuagint), a psalm of praise to the Creator Who is awesome as the Holy Lord but who richly sustains the earth with His abundant goodness.

“Bless, O Lord, the crown (that is, the beginning) of the year with Your goodness!” The goodness of the Lord is His love, mercy and grace, The Church's prayer is that the coming year will be a year of grace, a year blessed by God. Each year can be a year of grace, a year blessed by God.

The prayers and hymns of the Orthodox Church not only recite the wonderful works of God in creation and history for our salvation but also frequently offer guidance about how to make each year a year of grace, a year of the Lord. For example, the very first hymn of the new liturgical year, chanted at Vespers in the joyful first tone, reminds us that prayerful daily dependence on God is the basic attitude of the Christian and Christian life. This hymn is also interesting because it refers to another key passage in the Bible and addresses all the Orthodox faithful.

O faithful, having learned true prayer from the very words and divine teachings of Christ, let us cry out to the Creator each day: Our Father, who dwells in heaven, give us always daily bread, and forgive us our transgressions. (*Vesper Hymn, September 1st*)

Of course this hymn is making reference to the Lord's Prayer, the “Our Father...” Both the above Vesper hymn and the Lord's Prayer set down three anchors, three great principles, necessary to make the coming year a year of the Lord, a year of grace.

- The teachings of Christ are the source of truth for our lives.
- Our Father in heaven is a personal God who provides for all our material and spiritual needs as we ask Him by faith.
- Daily prayer is the way of ongoing communication and a vital relationship with God.

Prayerful daily dependence on God sanctifies every moment of the day, whether we are at work, at play, at rest or in difficulty; it fills it with the presence of God and makes it God's moment.

Christ our Lord, You who provide the rains and fruitful seasons, and hear the prayers of those who humbly seek You, accept also our requests about our needs and concerns and deliver us from worry, danger and sin. Your mercies are as abundant as Your works. Bless all our activities, direct our steps by Your Holy Spirit, and forgive our

shortcomings. Lord, bless the year with Your goodness and make it a year of grace for all of us. Amen. (*Matin Hymn, September 1st*)

O Lord, Creator of all things, who by Your authority have established times and seasons, bless the beginning of our Church year with Your goodness; preserve Your people in peace, and through the intercessions of the Theotokos, save us. Amen. (*Dismissal Hymn, September 1st*)

... The main Bible reading from the Divine Liturgy of September 1st is Lk. 4:16-22, a passage which marks the beginning of Jesus' public ministry in St. Luke's Gospel. In this reading we see the beginning of Jesus' ministry. He reads from the Book of Isaiah in the synagogue and proclaims to the world that Isaiah's prophecy is fulfilled in Him.

See how the beginning of Jesus' ministry and the beginning of the Church year converge... the Church has Jesus speaking to us today just as He did to His contemporaries in the synagogue at Nazareth. Will we reject Him or accept Him? Will we rebel against His Word actively, will we ignore it, or will we respond to it positively?

Christ's good news demands our faithful response of mind, heart, soul and body. The unconditional love of God, shown by the most precious gift of His Son who shed His blood on the Cross for our salvation, requires a total response on our part. St. Symeon the Stylite, whose feastday is observed on the first day of the Church year, is an example of unwavering devotion. St. Symeon for many years lived on top of a pillar (*stylos*, therefore he is called the “stylite”) in prayer, sustained by the power of God and little else. His ascetic witness was not only a radical denial of all earthly things but also a provocative pointer to the kingdom of God. His vigil for Christ had a powerful impact upon generations of Christians in the Orthodox tradition who were moved to commit their lives to the Lord. A martyr dies once. St. Symeon was a martyr for Christ for a period of forty years until his death (d. 459 A.D.)!

One of the hymns for the Feastday of St. Symeon compares the Saint with Christ Himself:

O holy Father, imitating your own Lord, you ascended on a pillar as if on a cross by the power of the Holy Spirit. The Lord wiped away the ancient sentence against us whereas you destroyed the rebellion of corruptive passions; He became as a lamb and you as a victim; He ascended a cross and you a pillar. Holy Symeon, intercede with Him for the salvation of our soul. (*Vesper Hymn, Feastday of St. Symeon the Stylite*)

By putting before us St. Symeon's example of extreme asceticism at the beginning of the liturgical year, the church shows how seriously it takes the priority of Christ and how uncompromising our faith is about worldly values.

There is no merrymaking or party revelry on the eve of the beginning of the new Church year. It is an eve which does not call for wine and song but for contemplation, reflection and prayer. It is a time to pause and refresh the spirit and meditate on the new year before us. It is also a suitable time for us as Orthodox Christians to recommit our lives to Christ our God.

source: <http://www.orthodoxa.org/GB/orthodoxy/feasts/indictionGB.htm>

## WEEKLY HYMNS FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

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 Anthimus*)

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 Anthimus, entreat Christ God to save our souls.

**Troparion, Tone 8** (*Venerable Theoctistus*)

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 Theoctistus, pray to 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 Anthimus*)

Living hon'rably as a priest,  
you completed the course of martyrdom;  
you extinguished the worship of idols  
and became a champion of your flock, O divinely wise one.  
Therefore, we honor you,  
mystically crying out://  
“Through your prayers deliver us from calamity, ever-memorable Anthimus.”

**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.

## ON THE BIRTH OF THE MOTHER OF GOD by Metropolitan Anthony (Bloom) of Sourozh

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

I should like to say a few words about the greatness of this feast. When a man surveys this world in which we live, which is so vast, seemingly boundless, and looks at himself in it, he feels very small and insignificant. And if he adds to this the hardness and coldness of men, he may sometimes feel extremely vulnerable, helpless and unprotected both before people and before the terrifying vastness of the world. Yet at the same time if a man looks at himself not in relation to his surroundings, but goes deep into himself, he will there discover such an expanse, such depths, that the whole created world is too small to fill it. Man sees the beauty of the world – and the vision does not completely satisfy him; he learns an enormous amount about God’s creation – and the knowledge does not fill him to the brim. Neither human joy nor even human sorrow can completely fill a man, because in him is a depth that exceeds everything created; because God made man so vast, so deep, so limitless in his spiritual being, that nothing in the world can finally satisfy him except God Himself.

Today’s feast of the Mother of God demonstrates this fact with particular beauty and splendour. She so believed in God, She gave herself to Him with such a pure mind and pure heart, with an unwavering will, with the purity of Her virginity and life such that She was granted to say the Name of God perfectly, with such love that the Word became flesh and God was made man in Her.

Through this we are shown that not only is the soul, the inner being and spirit of man, so created by God that it can contain the mystery of a meeting with the living God, but that even the body is so made that in an unfathomable way it can be united with the living God. Indeed, according to St. Peter we are called to become partakers of the divine nature; according to St. Paul our vocation is to become temples of the Holy Spirit. The whole of the New Testament teaches us that we are the Body, the living tremulous Body of Christ, through baptism and through Holy Communion. How wonderful this is, and therefore with what reverence must we regard not only our immortal soul, but this body of ours which is called to rise again, to enter the Kingdom of God and be glorified, like the body of Christ.

In the XI century St. Simeon the New Theologian wrote one day when he had returned to his humble cell after receiving Holy Communion, words to this effect, “I look upon this corruptible body, upon this frail flesh, and I tremble, because by partaking of the Holy Mysteries it has been permeated by God, it has been united with Christ, it is overflowing with the Holy Spirit... these powerless hands have become the hands of God, this body has become a body that God has taken possession of.”

Consider what has been given us not only by our faith, but by the sacraments of the Church. The immersion in the blessed waters of Baptism makes us particles, living members of Christ’s Body, the Anointing with Holy Chrism is not only the visible seal of the Holy Spirit, but makes us the temples in which He dwells. When the bread and wine which are offered by our faith and love to God are consecrated, they become incomprehensibly and mysteriously the Body and Blood of Christ, and this created matter partakes of Christ and imparts to us, who are incapable of soaring to God in spirit, the divinity of Christ, which saves and transfigures us in soul and body.

This feast of Nativity of the Mother of God is the time when we remember the birth of the One who for the sake of us all, for the whole human race, was able to show such faith, to surrender so absolutely to God, that He could become Man through Her, and bring us these manifold, unfathomable gifts. Glory to Her humility, glory to Her faith, glory to Her love, glory to God Who was incarnate and to the Virgin Mother of God, the worthy vessel of the incarnation of the Son of God, Christ our God! Amen.