

# Holy Apostles Orthodox Church

347 Ridge Rd, Lansing, NY 14882

HolyApostlesLansing.org

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**October 22, 2017**

**TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 3.** Holy Equal-to-the-Apostles Abercius, Bishop and Wonderworker of Hieropolis (ca. 167). The Holy Seven Youths (“Seven Sleepers”) of Ephesus: Maximilian, Jamblicus, Martinian, John, Dionysius, Exacustodian (Constantine), and Antonius (ca. 250). Martyrs Alexander the Bishop, Heraclius, Anna, Elizabeth, Theodota, and Glyceria (Glykéria), at Adrianopolis (2<sup>nd</sup>–3<sup>rd</sup> c.). The “Kazan” Icon of the Most-holy Theotokos (commemorating the deliverance of Moscow and Russia from the Poles in 1612).

**EPISTLES: Galatians 1:11-19:** Paul’s conversion.

**GOSPELS: Luke 16:19-31:** The rich man and Lazarus.

**COFFEE HOUR: This week:** John’s Brithday Cookout! **Next week:** Olympia and family

**PARISH COOKOUT:** We’ll be holding a parish cookout after Liturgy on the church lawn (weather permitting) in honor of John’s 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Please plan to come if you’re able.

**FALL OUTING:** Weather permitting, we’ll hold our annual fall outing to Iron Kettle Farm for kids, families, and whoever else wants to join. those going will meet there at 3 PM. Please see Dcn Ivan for more details.

**PARISH EDUCATION:** During the Nativity Fast we’ll have a series of classes on the Divine Liturgy (focusing on the spiritual significance of liturgical actions) and on the liturgical cycles of the Church. More details to come; let Fr Joel know if you’re interested.

**PARISH FINANCIAL UPDATE:** At the request of several parishioners, we’ll be giving an update on parish finances and considerations for next year on Sunday, Oct 29, after Liturgy. This is not the annual meeting, which will be held early next year, and it is not a meeting to decide the budget. It’s for those who are interested to review where we stand and what we’ll need to consider moving forward. Please come if you’re able.

**MISSION RETREAT:** Fr Jonathan Ivanoff’s visit to talk to us about life as a mission parish has been rescheduled for Friday and Saturday, November 3 and 4. Detailed schedule to come.

**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 Seraphim  
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  
Ivan  
Elizabeth  
Anastasia  
Galina  
Children: Anthony,  
Mia, Isabel, Bear,

Victoria, Iva Bell,  
Panagiotis, Ada,  
Grace, Elias, Jack,  
Everett  
Seminarians: Dcn  
Ivan, Rdr Robert  
Birthdays: John  
Anniversaries:  
Namesdays:  
Demetrius

### 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  
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  
Walter  
Martha  
Olga  
Hilarion  
Newly Reposed:  
Priscilla

**BY THE NUMBERS:** Last Collection: \$1854.13. Building Fund: \$0. Weekly Budget: \$1150. MTD: \$3326.13. Monthly Budget: \$4600.

## SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

*Confessions are heard before and after Vespers, after Morning Prayers  
Tuesday–Thursday, or by appointment.*

Sunday, October 22: 9:10 AM Hours, 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy and Social Hour

Tuesday, October 24: 8:30 AM Morning Prayer

Wednesday, October 25: 8:30 AM Matins

Thursday, October 26: 9 AM Divine Liturgy (Saint Demetrius)

Friday, October 27: 8:30 AM Morning Prayer

Saturday, October 28: 6 PM Great Vespers

Sunday, October 29: 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.

# HOLY APOSTLES ORTHODOX CHURCH LANSING, NEW YORK



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2017  
TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*Glory to God for all things!*

## ON THE PARABLE OF THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS by Metropolitan Anthony (Bloom) of Sourozh

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

As every of Christ's parables of the judgement today's parable has got a very simple aspect and at the same time should be reflected on a deeper level.

The simple aspect is this: you have had on earth all that was good, Lazarus has had nothing; he therefore receives in eternity all the goods which he has lacked on earth and you are deprived of it. But this is not the real and deeper meaning of it.

Who is this rich man? It is a man who not only possessed all that the earth could give him: wealth, a good name, a status among his fellow-citizens; it is a man who craved for nothing else. All he wanted, all he needed was material wealth, a good standing among men, reverence, admiration, a slavish obedience of those who were under him.

Lazarus possessed nothing; but from the parable we see that he did not complain, he received what the rich man needed not; he ate the crumbs from his table. But — he had a living soul; perhaps did he crave for more: who doesn't want to have a roof, who doesn't want to have the security of food? But he received what was given with gratitude.

And when they died, what did they take with them? The rich man had nothing to take because he had never had any concern for anything that the earth couldn't give. Lazarus had always longed for more than the earth could give: for justice, for peace, for love, for compassion, for human brotherhood — for all those things which make the human being human. The rich man was in condition which is described in one of the prophecies: Israel has grown fat with wealth and has forgotten God... The poor man could do no such thing; he was too poor to be rooted into the earth — he was free.

Now, this applies to all of us; because all of us we possess within ourselves both the rich man and Lazarus. On the one hand, how much we have, how rich we are, how secure, how opulent. On the other hand, if we are here, it means that there is another dimension within our soul that longs for something else. But the question is to be asked: if we had to choose — what we would choose? What is what we really treasure? Is it security which the earth so far has given us — or is it the vastness, the depth of understanding, communion with God, love of our neighbour, compassion — so many other things which the Gospel has taught us? And this is where the parable refers not only to two men of the past, or to others than we are, it refers to us personally: who am I, — or if you prefer, which is more fair — who predominates in me? Am I more like the rich man, so rooted into the earth that the things of God, the things of the spirit, the things of eternity, or simply, what is truly human comes secondly — or am I one of those for whom what to be human matters more than anything?

And then, there is another thing in the parable. The rich man, seeing himself devoid of all, of every thing turns to Abraham and says, Send Lazarus to my brothers who are still on earth to give them a warning, that they may not come to this place of torment... And Christ says, Even if one came back from the dead, if they have not listened to what has been revealed in the past, they will not believe, they will perish in their sin...

How, that echoes in a tragic way with the situation in which people were when they stood as a milling crowd around the Cross on which Christ was dying. Some were believers, His own people — but where were they? They had fled. Some were His disciples faithful at the core of their being, faithful with their hearts, the women who had followed Him — they stood at a distance; only the Mother of God and John stood by the Cross.

But in the crowd there were such who, together with the High Priest, the Pharisees who had condemned Christ, were saying: Descend now from the Cross — and we shall believe... How many thought: If He only did that, we could believe without taking any risk, believe with security, safely; believe and follow One Who had already won His victory; but can we, can we possibly believe and follow One Who now, defeated, reviled, rejected hangs on the Cross between two criminals? We can't... That is what the parable says; and which is shown in the life of so many.

Where do we stand? Are we prepared to believe Christ's word? Are we prepared, captured by the beauty, the ineffable, the unutterable beauty of Christ's personality to follow Him at all risk? And risk, we know, is great: we will be reviled, we will be laughed at, we will be strangers, people will think that we are tramps on earth, not that we are pilgrims of Heaven; but are we prepared to do this?

We must give thought to these two aspects of the parable; because otherwise it is irrelevant, it has nothing to do with us — and yet, so much it has!

Let us think of it, deeply, standing judgement before it. God does not judge us in order to condemn. God presents us with reality and asks of us only one thing: Respond to reality! Do not accept a world which is a mirage! Do not accept yourself while you remain a mirage: be real, and then you will be children of the Kingdom.

And what can be greater: brothers and sisters of Christ, sons and daughters of the Living God; and messengers — messengers of God on earth. Can we hope for anything greater? And yet — this is what is offered to each and all of us! What a wonder, what a joy! How can we turn away from this? Amen.

# WEEKLY HYMNS FOR SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22

**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 5** (*Saint Abercius*)

You emulated the zeal of the Apostles  
and shone forth like a morning star,  
and your works showed your God-given power:  
you guided the erring to God,//  
O hierarch Abercius.

**Troparion, Tone 4** (*Holy Seven Youths*)

Your seven holy martyrs, 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 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 8** (*Saint Abercius*)

The whole Church honors you as a great hierarch  
and as a companion to the Apostles.//  
By your prayers keep the Church unconquered and unshaken by heresy, glorious Abercius.

**Kontakion, Tone 4** (*Holy Seven Youths*)

The Seven Holy Youths renounced the perishing comfords of this world,  
preferring the eternal things of Heaven.  
They were incorrupt after death and rose from the dead  
and buried the snares of the devils!//  
O Faithful, let us then honor them, singing a hymn of praise to Christ!

**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.

## A HYMN OF PRAISE TO SAINT ABERCIUS FROM *The Prologue of Ochrid* BY ST NIKOLAI (VELIMIROVIĆ)

St. Abercius, a model of meekness,  
Is a most beautiful example of Christian zeal.  
He zealously toppled the dumb idols  
And joyfully exposed himself to death.  
But God protects the servant who strives for Him,  
And shields him from evil with His right hand.  
Against the Saint, demons and men rose up,  
But became shamefully silent before the power of the Cross.  
What the saint desired, the Lord granted,  
And though he was much in sorrow, he gladdened many.  
St. Abercius was a fiery pillar,  
A light and an enlightener of men.  
He preached Christ to many peoples—  
From powerful emperors to the poor—  
And witnessed Christ through many miracles.  
He poured miracles out like living water;  
By the life-creating word he assuaged the thirsty,  
And with the teaching of Christ he assuaged the hungry.  
St. Abercius, a model of meekness,  
Gave himself to God in venerable old age,  
And was crowned with eternal youth in Paradise,  
surrounded by the joy and glory of heaven.  
O wonderful holy one, strive yet a little more:  
Protect the remaining flock on earth,  
Implore Christ's mercy on us through prayer,  
That the Church will boast in you to the end.

*St Abercius was a Christian bishop in the pagan city of Hieropolis in Phrygia, who wept and prayed fervently for the conversion and salvation of the people in his city. One day, overcome with zeal, he toppled the idols in a pagan temple. The pagans were enraged by this, but many of them accepted Christ when they saw the miraculous healings brought about through the Saint. After this, he traveled extensively, proclaiming the Gospel and earning his title "Equal to the Apostles."*