



St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

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SYNAXIS OF THE SAINTS OF NORTH AMERICA JUNE 22, 2025

TROPARION, KONTAKION & PROKEIMENON

Troparion – Tone 1

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: “Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Thy Kingdom!// Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou Who lovest mankind!”

Troparion – Tone 8

As the bountiful harvest of Thy sowing of salvation, the lands of North America offer to Thee, O Lord, all the saints who have shone in them. By their prayers keep the Church and our land in abiding peace// through the Theotokos, O most Merciful One!

Kontakion – Tone 1

As God, Thou didst rise from the tomb in glory, raising the world with Thyself. Human nature praises Thee as God, for death has vanished. Adam exults, O Master! Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage and cries to Thee:// “Thou art the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!”

Kontakion – Tone 3

Today the choir of Saints who were pleasing to God in the lands of North America now stands before us in the Church and invisibly prays to God for us. With them the Angels glorify Him, and all the Saints of the Church of Christ keep festival with them;// and together they all pray for us to the Pre-eternal God.

Prokeimenon – Tone 1

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us / as we have set our hope on Thee!
V. Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just!

Prokeimenon – Tone 7

Precious in the sight of the Lord / is the death of His saints.

LITURGICAL COMMEMORATION

Synaxis of the Saints of North America

On the second Sunday after Pentecost, each local Orthodox Church commemorates all the saints, known and unknown, who have shone forth in its territory. Accordingly, the Orthodox Church in America remembers the saints of North America on this day.

Saints of all times, and in every country are seen as the fulfillment of God’s promise to redeem fallen humanity. Their example encourages us to “lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily besets us” and to “run with patience the race that is set before us” (Hebrews 12:1). The saints of North America also teach us how we should live, and what we must expect to endure as Christians

Although it is a relatively young church, the Orthodox Church in America has produced saints in nearly all of the six major categories of saints: Apostles (and Equals of the Apostles); Martyrs (and Confessors); Prophets; Hierarchs; Monastic Saints; and the Righteous. Prophets, of course, lived in Old Testament times and predicted the coming of Christ.

The first Divine Liturgy in what is now American territory (northern latitude 58 degrees, 14 minutes, western longitude 141 degrees) was celebrated on July 20, 1741, the Feast of the Prophet Elias, aboard the ship Peter under the command of Vitus Bering. Hieromonk Hilarion Trusov and the priest Ignatius Kozirevsky served together on that occasion. Several years later, the Russian merchant Gregory I. Shelikov visited Valaam monastery, suggesting to the abbot that it would be desirable to send missionaries to Russian America.

On September 24, 1794, after a journey of 7,327 miles (the longest missionary journey in Orthodox history) and 293 days, a group of monks from Valaam arrived on Kodiak Island in Alaska. The mission was headed by Archimandrite Joasaph, and included Hieromonks Juvenal, Macarius, and Athanasius, the Hierodeacons Nectarius and Stephen, and the monks Herman and Joasaph. Saint Herman of Alaska (December 13, August 9), the last surviving member of the mission, fell asleep in the Lord in 1837.

Throughout the Church's history, the seeds of faith have always been watered by the blood of the martyrs. The Protomartyr Juvenal was killed near Lake Iliamna by natives in 1799, thus becoming the first Orthodox Christian to shed his blood for Christ in the New World. In 1816, Saint Peter the Aleut was put to death by Spanish missionaries in California when he refused to convert to Roman Catholicism.

Missionary efforts continued in the nineteenth century, with outreach to the native peoples of Alaska. Two of the most prominent laborers in Christ's Vineyard were Saint Innocent Veniaminov (March 31 and October 6) and Saint Jacob Netsvetov (July 26), who translated Orthodox services and books into the native languages. Father Jacob Netsvetov died in Sitka in 1864 after a life of devoted service to the Church. Father John Veniaminov, after his wife's death, received monastic tonsure with the name Innocent. He died in 1879 as the Metropolitan of Moscow.

As the nineteenth century was drawing to a close, an event of enormous significance for the North American Church took place. On March 25, 1891, Bishop Vladimir went to Minneapolis to receive Saint Alexis Toth (May 7) and 361 of his parishioners into the Orthodox Church. This was the beginning of the return of many Uniates to Orthodoxy.

Saint Tikhon (Bellavin), the future Patriarch of Moscow (April 7, October 9), came to America as bishop of the diocese of the Aleutians and Alaska in September 1898. As the only Orthodox bishop on the continent, Saint Tikhon traveled extensively throughout North America in order to minister to his widely scattered and diverse flock. He realized that the local church here could not be a permanent extension of the Russian Church. Therefore, he focused his efforts on giving the American Church a diocesan and parish structure which would help it mature and grow.

Saint Tikhon returned to Russia in 1907, and was elected as Patriarch of Moscow ten years later. He died in 1925, and for many years his exact burial place remained unknown. Saint Tikhon's grave was discovered on February 22, 1992 in the smaller cathedral of Our Lady of the Don in the Don Monastery when a fire made renovation of the church necessary.

Saint Raphael of Brooklyn (February 27) was the first Orthodox bishop to be consecrated in North America. Archimandrite Raphael Hawaweeny was consecrated by Bishop Tikhon and Bishop Innocent (Pustynsky) at Saint Nicholas Cathedral in New York on March 13, 1904. As Bishop of Brooklyn, Saint Raphael was a trusted and capable assistant to Saint Tikhon in his archpastoral ministry. Saint Raphael reposed on February 27, 1915.

The first All American Council took place March 5-7, 1907 at Mayfield, PA, and the main topic was "How to expand the mission." Guidelines and directions for missionary activity, and statutes for the administrative structure of parishes were also set forth.

In the twentieth century, in the aftermath of the Russian Revolution, countless men, women, and children received the crown of martyrdom rather than renounce Christ. Saints John Kochurov (October 31) and Alexander Hotovitzky (December 4 and August 7) both served the Church in North America before going back to Russia. Saint John became the

first clergyman to be martyred in Russia on October 31, 1917 in Saint Petersburg. Saint Alexander Hotovitzky, who served in America until 1914, was killed in 1937.

In addition to the saints listed above, we also honor those saints who are known only to God, and have not been recognized officially by the Church. As we contemplate the lives of these saints, let us remember that we are also called by God to a life of holiness.

EPISTLE & GOSPEL READINGS

Epistle: Romans 2:10-16

But glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For there is no partiality with God. For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law (for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified; for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them) in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.

Epistle: Hebrews 11:33-12:2

Who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented – of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us. Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Gospel: Matthew 4:18-23

And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. Then He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” They immediately left their nets and followed Him. Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. He called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him. And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.

Gospel: Matthew 4:25-5:12

Great multitudes followed Him – from Galilee, and from Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan. And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK, CAREGIVERS, AND DECEASED (To add a name, please email daricekeyes@gmail.com)

For the Sick / Caregiver

Carmine (6/1)	Betty (6/15)
Marianne (6/1)	Liam (6/15)
Michael (6/8)	Kelly (6/15)
Charlotte (6/8)	Alexandra (6/15)
Subdeacon Sergius (6/8)	Father Paul (6/15)
Melody (6/8)	Deborah (6/15)
Lynne (6/8)	Alla (6/22)
Bill (6/15)	Anatole (6/22)
Dorothy (6/15)	

For the Deceased

Bishop Matthias (6/1)
Rev. Justin (6/1)
Kurtis (6/1)
Matushka Mary (6/15)

SERVICES

Service Schedule for the Week of June 22

Sunday June 22 – 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall

Saturday June 28 – 5:00 PM Vespers followed by Confession and Catechumen class in the church basement

Sunday June 29 – SS. Peter & Paul 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall

DONATIONS

Weekly Giving

June 15 – 99 adults, 24 youth, \$2,148

ORTHODOXY 101

Preparation is important to a joyful and spiritually rewarding participation in Divine Liturgy

Every Saturday evening before the next day's Divine Liturgy, Great Vespers is celebrated in the church. This is an evening prayer service which helps to orient our minds and hearts to that which we will be doing the next morning. It contains many prayers that direct our hearts to the feast or saint that we will be commemorating at the Divine Liturgy. It helps us to think about the wonderful and awesome mystery that we will be participating in, especially if we intend to receive Holy Communion the next morning. We continue our preparation for Holy Communion by fasting from all food and drink from the night before, at least from midnight on. If a physical condition prevents such, then we fast as best we can within our physical limitations. Also, we examine our conscience to be sure it is free from serious sin. If it is not, then we must not receive the Body and Blood of Christ until we have received absolution through the Mystery of Confession. Our preparation for attendance at Divine Liturgy continues the next morning. We rise with sufficient time to arrive at the church on time, which is before the Divine Liturgy starts. Likewise selecting what to wear to church is a necessary part of preparation.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you Father Bohdan for serving Vespers and Divine Liturgy with us. We always welcome you to join us in worship!

The SS. Peter & Paul Fast continues this week through Saturday.

The winner of the Ladies Assumption Altar Society Patriotic Ensemble was Anna Chaikivska. Congratulations Anna! The Ladies Altar Society thanks everyone for their ongoing support of our events. Your support allows the group to sponsor gifts to the church, such as the recently purchased beautiful gold Altar Server robes.

There is a **raffle table of small baskets** set up near the bookstore in Daria Hall. The baskets contain Velika homemade Lutenitza, which is a delicious vegetable spread made from grilled peeled red peppers, tomato paste, grilled peeled eggplant, sunflower oil, sugar, salt, and spices. **The raffle is a fundraiser for St. Justin Academy (Orthodox Christian Education for grades K-12)** where Boryana Dorvil's children attend school. Raffle tickets are \$5 each, 3 for \$10, and 10 for \$20. Tickets will be on sale every Sunday through July 6 after which a winner will be chosen for each basket. Please see Boryana or a member of the FOCA Club to buy tickets. Thank you for your support of this Orthodox school.

Pierogies are for sale in Daria Hall – see a member of the FOCA Club!

There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the church for food donations needed for the upcoming St. Vladimir Celebration on Sunday July 13. We welcome all donations, which will need to be dropped off in Daria Hall the morning of July 13.

Father Volodymyr and his family will be returning from vacation on Friday evening June 27. If you are in need of a priest, please contact Father Bohdan, cell phone 732-486-9460.

Remember to mark your calendars for the parish's 110th Anniversary Celebration on October 18 and 19. Metropolitan Tikhon and Archbishop Michael will be in attendance. Vespers will be celebrated Saturday evening, and a hierarchical liturgy will be celebrated Sunday morning followed by a catered celebration banquet in Daria Hall. Information will be provided soon for banquet ticket purchases, as well as a solicitation to place an ad in the celebration booklet.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Darice Keyes – June 23

Marina Dorvil – June 25

Luke Kilgore – June 27

Have a blessed birthday and may God grant you many years!

COFFEE HOUR

** If you are unable to accommodate your hosting date, please advise Darice as soon as possible so changes can be made.*

Hosts are responsible for providing and setting up the refreshments in Daria Hall at 9:00 AM and after Holy Communion, cleaning up after Coffee Hour including washing, drying and putting away dishes, taking out the trash, wiping down the tables, and cleaning up the Coffee Room including turning off and cleaning the coffee and tea pots. Hosts will be informed in advance if cream cheese, butter, or milk is needed. PLEASE NOTE: Your assigned Coffee Hour Support Person will provide guidance, however, the Support Person will leave Daria Hall at 9:55 AM to attend church services. If you have arrived late or are not finished, you will be provided the key to lock the Hall when you are leaving for church services. If you have any questions, please contact Alla Strauss.

SUGGESTED MENU:

Bagels / Breads

Donuts / Pastries

Desserts - let Alla know ahead of time if you will need desserts so they can be thawed on Saturday

Fruit

Salad

Tortilla Chips & Salsa

Hummus & Pita

Sugar-free dessert

Oreos (they are all non-dairy)

If serving pork, please provide an alternative for those who do not eat pork.

NOTE: Hosts may provide a luncheon for a specific event or holiday (Panikhida, birthday, anniversary, holiday) with advance notice to reserve the specific date to host the event. The hosts will be responsible for all food preparation for such a luncheon.

June 22 **FAST** Matthew Anderson, Ramazi & Kahtuna Shubitidze

June 29 Awet Tesfa, Iryna Romaniuk

July 6 Fiyori Habtesilasse, Lemlem Woldearegay

July 13 **St. Vladimir Feast Day Celebration**

July 20 Helene Hopkins, Mary Ellen Jones

July 27 Ludwin Lopez, Fr. Volodymyr & Matushka Oksana

Aug. 3 **FAST** Trudy Ellmore, Eleni Athanatos & Tom Sowanick

Aug. 10 **FAST** Karina Kotelnicki, Nancy Mitsos

Aug. 17 **Ladies Assumption Altar Society**

Aug. 24 Olga & James Bates, Walter & Tanya Tribbey

Aug. 31 Amleset Gebrekvistas, Paula & Ludwig Koerte

Sept. 7 Luwam Tesfa, Nebiat Tesfa

Sept. 14 **FAST** Svetlana Sosedov, Natalia Kolomatskaia
Sept. 21 **Annual Church Picnic**
Sept. 28 Germain & Tahara Ortiz, Juan Garcia
Oct. 5 Blake & Jessica Kilgore, Nana & Matthew Barrett
Oct. 12 Melissa Braun, Sophie Dumas
Oct. 19 **110th Parish Anniversary**
Oct. 26 Melody Stavisky, Guy Radcliffe
Nov. 2 Peter & Mary Abdallah, Jim Galcik

Have a blessed week!