



St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

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Afterfeast of the Meeting of our Lord in the Temple / Saint Parthenius, Bishop of Lampsacus on the Hellespont February 7, 2021

Troparion – Tone 2

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life immortal, Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead. And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, all the powers of heaven cried out:// “O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!”

Troparion – Tone 1

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Full of Grace! From thee shone the Sun of Righteousness, ^Christ our God, enlightening those who sat in darkness. Rejoice and be glad, O righteous Elder, thou didst accept in thine arms the ^Redeemer of our souls,// Who grants us the Resurrection!

Troparion – Tone 4

In truth thou wast revealed to thy flock as a rule of faith, an image of humility and a teacher of abstinence; thy humility exalted thee; and thy poverty enriched thee. O Hierarch Father Parthenius, entreat Christ our God// that our souls may be saved!

Kontakion – Tone 2

Hell became afraid, O almighty Savior, seeing the miracle of Thy Resurrection from the tomb! The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld this and rejoiced with Thee,// and the world, my Savior, praises Thee forever.

Kontakion – Tone 3

Thou didst receive divine grace to work miracles/ wise and holy God-bearing wonderworker Parthenius. Thou didst cleanse the passions of all the faithful and didst drive out evil spirits// Therefore, we praise thee as a great initiate of the grace of God.

Kontakion – Tone 1

By Thy Nativity Thou didst sanctify the Virgin's womb and didst bless Simeon's hands, O Christ God. Now Thou hast come and saved us through love. Grant peace to all Orthodox Christians// O only Lover of Man!

Prokeimenon – Tone 2

The Lord is my strength and my song; / He has become my salvation.

V. The Lord has chastened me sorely, but He has not given me over to death.

Prokeimenon – Tone 3

My soul doth magnify the Lord, / and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.

Afterfeast of the Meeting of our Lord in the Temple

The fifth day of the Afterfeast of the Meeting of the Lord falls on February 7.

Saint Parthenius, Bishop of Lampsacus on the Hellespont

Saint Parthenius, Bishop of Lampsacus, was a native of the city of Melitoupolis (in northwestern Asia Minor), where his father Christopher served as deacon. The youth did not receive adequate schooling, but he learned the Holy Scripture by attending church services. He had a good heart, and distributed to the poor the money he earned working as a fisherman. Filled with the grace of God, Saint Parthenius from age eighteen healed the sick in the name of Christ, cast out demons and worked other miracles. Learning of the young man's virtuous life, Bishop Philetus of Melitoupolis educated him and ordained him presbyter.

In 325, during the reign of Constantine the Great, Archbishop Achilles of Cyzicus made him bishop of the city of Lampsacus (Asia Minor). In the city were many pagans, and the saint fervently began to spread the faith in Christ, confirming it through many miracles and by healing the sick.

The people began to turn from their pagan beliefs, and the saint went to the emperor Constantine the Great seeking permission to tear down the pagan temple and build a Christian church in its place. The emperor received the saint with honor, gave him a decree authorizing the destruction of the pagan temple, and provided him with the means to build a church. Returning to Lampsacus, Saint Parthenius had the pagan temple torn down, and built a beautiful church of God in the city. In one of the razed temples, he found a large marble slab which he thought would be very suitable as an altar. The saint ordered work to begin on the stone, and to move it to the church. Through the malice of the devil, who became enraged at the removal of the stone from the pagan temple, the cart overturned and killed the driver Eutychian. Saint Parthenius restored him to life by his prayer and shamed the devil, who wanted to frustrate the work of God.

The saint was so kind that he refused healing to no one who came to him, or who chanced to meet him by the wayside, whether he suffered from bodily illnesses or was tormented by unclean spirits. People even stopped going to physicians, since Saint Parthenius healed all the sick for free. With the great power of the name of Christ, the saint banished a host of demons from people, from their homes, and from the waters of the sea. Once, the saint prepared to cast out a devil from a certain man, who had been possessed by it since childhood. The demon began to implore the saint not to do so. Saint Parthenius promised to give the evil spirit another man in whom he could dwell. The demon asked, "Who is that man?" The saint replied, "You may dwell in me, if you wish." The demon fled as if stung by fire, crying out, "If the mere sight of you is a torment to me, how can I dare to enter into you?" An unclean spirit, cast out of the house where the imperial purple dye was prepared, said that a divine fire was pursuing him with the fire of Gehenna.

Having shown people the great power of faith in Christ, the saint converted a multitude of idol-worshippers to the true God. Saint Parthenius died peacefully and was solemnly buried beside the cathedral church of Lampsacus, which he built.

Epistle: 1 Timothy 1:15-17

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28

Then Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed." But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, "Send her away, for she cries out after us." But He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, help me!" But He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs." And she said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

Service Schedule for the week of February 7 – services will be streamed live

Today – MASKS NOT REQUIRED 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour

Saturday February 13 – MASKS NOT REQUIRED 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy and 5:00 PM Vespers

Sunday February 14 – MASKS REQUIRED 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour and the FOCA Club chicken parmigiana sandwich sale in Daria Hall

Weekly Giving

January 23 & 24 – 51 adults, 18 youth, \$2,776

January 30 & 31 – 42 adults, 5 youth, \$3,051

Parish Announcements

Masks will be required at all Holy Day services. Masks may be worn during any service, even those indicating No Mask.

Upcoming service schedule (Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM):

Saturday February 6 – Masks required

Sunday February 7 – Masks not required

Saturday February 13 – Masks not required

Sunday February 14 – Masks required

Saturday February 20 – Masks required

Sunday February 21 – Masks not required

Saturday February 27 – Masks not required

Sunday February 28 – Masks required

Saturday March 6 – Masks required

Sunday March 7 – Masks not required

Saturday March 13 – Masks not required

Sunday March 14 – Masks required

There will be a Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday February 9 at 7:00 PM in Daria Hall.

Indoor gathering in New Jersey has been increased to 35% instead of 25%, therefore it is permissible for approx. 73 persons to be in attendance at services. Again, we must remember to maintain proper social distancing and wearing of masks.

Due to the predicted snow, St. Vladimir FOCA Club (formerly called the Senior R Club) has postponed the chicken parm sandwich sale until next Sunday February 14.

The FOCA Club's next fundraiser on March 7 will be a platter of kielbasa, sauerkraut, and potatoes. All orders will be packaged to go. The cost is \$7/order and a sign-up sheet is on the table in the back of the church. Again, the Club appreciates your support as we fundraise funds for our church and various Orthodox ministries.

In order to properly social distance, we ask that parishioners **fill the front pews as well as all pews in the church before congregating in the back. Individuals should attempt to sit in a pew (one at each end) with another individual in order to free up pews for families. If your family is in need of a pew, please ask the person at the candle desk for assistance to see if individuals can be moved to open up a pew.** The choir loft is also available for a family. We must be vigilant in trying to prevent the spread of germs, so please do not attend church services if you have a fever, sniffles, cough, cold, sore throat, loss of smell or taste, etc. If individuals who attended church services are diagnosed with Covid, the church may need to shut down for a period of time. Father Volodymyr live streams Saturday Vespers and Sunday Divine Liturgy every weekend, so if you are home you may still participate in the services on line. Thank you for your consideration and cooperation!

During the pandemic we are grateful that our parishioners have continued to contribute every week so the church can remain operational. Please continue to pray for everyone's health and well-being!