



St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

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The Beheading of the Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist John August 29, 2021

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 2

The memory of the righteous is celebrated with hymns of praise, but the Lord’s testimony is sufficient for thee, O Forerunner. Thou wast shown in truth to be the most honorable of the Prophets, for thou wast deemed worthy to baptize in the streams of the Jordan Him Whom they foretold. Therefore, having suffered for the truth with joy, thou didst proclaim to those in hell God Who appeared in the flesh, Who takes away the sin of the world,// and grants us great mercy.

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 5

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.

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

The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord / and shall hope in Him.

The Beheading of the Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist John

The Beheading of the Prophet, Forerunner of the Lord, John the Baptist: The Evangelists Matthew (Mt.14:1-12) and Mark (Mark 6:14-29) provide accounts about the martyric end of John the Baptist in the year 32 after the Birth of Christ.

Following the Baptism of the Lord, Saint John the Baptist was locked up in prison by Herod Antipas, the Tetrarch (ruler of one fourth of the Holy Land) and governor of Galilee. (After the death of king Herod the Great, the Romans divided the territory of Palestine into four parts, and put a governor in charge of each part. Herod Antipas received Galilee from the emperor Augustus).

The prophet of God John openly denounced Herod for having left his lawful wife, the daughter of the Arabian king Aretas, and then instead cohabiting with Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip (Luke 3:19-20). On his birthday, Herod made a feast for dignitaries, the elders and a thousand chief citizens. Salome, the daughter of Herod, danced before the guests and charmed Herod. In gratitude to the girl, he swore to give her whatever she would ask, up to half his kingdom.

The vile girl on the advice of her wicked mother Herodias asked that she be given the head of John the Baptist on a platter. Herod became apprehensive, for he feared the wrath of God for the murder of a prophet, whom earlier he had heeded. He also feared the people, who loved the holy Forerunner. But because of the guests and his careless oath, he gave orders to cut off the head of Saint John and to give it to Salome. According to Tradition, the mouth of the dead preacher of repentance once more opened and proclaimed: "Herod, you should not have the wife of your brother Philip." Salome took the platter with the head of Saint John and gave it to her mother. The frenzied Herodias repeatedly stabbed the tongue of the prophet with a needle and buried his holy head in a unclean place. But the pious Joanna, wife of Herod's steward Chuza, buried the head of John the Baptist in an earthen vessel on the Mount of Olives, where Herod had a parcel of land. (The Uncovering of the Venerable Head is celebrated February 24). The holy body of John the Baptist was taken that night by his disciples and buried at Sebastia, there where the wicked deed had been done.

After the murder of Saint John the Baptist, Herod continued to govern for a certain time. Pontius Pilate, governor of Judea, later sent Jesus Christ to him, Whom he mocked (Luke 23:7-12).

The judgment of God came upon Herod, Herodias and Salome, even during their earthly life. Salome, crossing the River Sikoris in winter, fell through the ice. The ice gave way in such a way that her body was in the water, but her head was trapped above the ice. It was similar to how she once had danced with her feet upon the ground, but now she flailed helplessly in the icy water. Thus she was trapped until that time when the sharp ice cut through her neck. Her corpse was not found, but they brought the head to Herod and Herodias, as once they had brought them the head of Saint John the Baptist. The Arab king Aretas, in revenge for the disrespect shown his daughter, made war against Herod. The defeated Herod suffered the wrath of the Roman emperor Caius Caligula (37-41) and was exiled with Herodias first to Gaul, and then to Spain.

The Beheading of Saint John the Baptist, a Feast day established by the Church, is also a strict fast day because of the grief of Christians at the violent death of the saint. In some Orthodox cultures pious people will not eat food from a flat plate, use a knife, or eat food that is round in shape on this day. Today the Church makes remembrance of Orthodox soldiers killed on the field of battle, as established in 1769 at the time of Russia's war with the Turks and the Poles.

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 4:9-16

For I think that God has displayed us, the apostles, last, as men condemned to death; for we have been made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are distinguished, but we are dishonored! To the present hour we both hunger and thirst, and we are poorly clothed, and beaten, and homeless. And we labor, working with our own hands. Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure; being defamed, we entreat. We have been made as the filth of the world, the offscouring of all things until now. I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved children I warn you. For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Therefore I urge you, imitate me.

Epistle: Acts 13:25-33

And as John was finishing his course, he said, 'Who do you think I am? I am not He. But behold, there comes One after me, the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to loose.' Men and brethren, sons of the family of Abraham, and those among you who fear God, to you the word of this salvation has been sent. For those who dwell in Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they did not know Him, nor even the voices of the Prophets which are read every Sabbath, have fulfilled them in condemning Him. And though they found no cause for death in Him, they asked Pilate that He should be put to death. Now when they had fulfilled all that was written concerning Him, they took Him down from the tree and laid Him in a tomb. But God raised Him from the dead. He was seen for many days by those who came up with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are His witnesses to the people. And we declare to you glad tidings – that promise which was made to the fathers. God has fulfilled

this for us their children, in that He has raised up Jesus. As it is also written in the second Psalm: 'You are My Son, today I have begotten You.'

Gospel: Matthew 17:14-23

And when they had come to the multitude, a man came to Him, kneeling down to Him and saying, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water. So I brought him to Your disciples, but they could not cure him." Then Jesus answered and said, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me." And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting." Now while they were staying in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him, and the third day He will be raised up." And they were exceedingly sorrowful.

Gospel: Mark 6:14-30

Now King Herod heard of Him, for His name had become well known. And he said, "John the Baptist is risen from the dead, and therefore these powers are at work in him." Others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is the Prophet, or like one of the prophets." But when Herod heard, he said, "This is John, whom I beheaded; he has been raised from the dead!" For Herod himself had sent and laid hold of John, and bound him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife; for he had married her. Because John had said to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." Therefore Herodias held it against him and wanted to kill him, but she could not; for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a just and holy man, and he protected him. And when he heard him, he did many things, and heard him gladly. Then an opportune day came when Herod on his birthday gave a feast for his nobles, the high officers, and the chief men of Galilee. And when Herodias' daughter herself came in and danced, and pleased Herod and those who sat with him, the king said to the girl, "Ask me whatever you want, and I will give it to you." He also swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, up to half my kingdom." So she went out and said to her mother, "What shall I ask?" And she said, "The head of John the Baptist!" Immediately she came in with haste to the king and asked, saying, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." And the king was exceedingly sorry; yet, because of the oaths and because of those who sat with him, he did not want to refuse her. Immediately the king sent an executioner and commanded his head to be brought. And he went and beheaded him in prison, brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl; and the girl gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard of it, they came and took away his corpse and laid it in a tomb. Then the apostles gathered to Jesus and told Him all things, both what they had done and what they had taught.

Service Schedule for the week of August 29

Today – BEHADING OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall

Saturday September 4 – 5:00 PM Vespers followed by Confession

Sunday September 5 – 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Weekly Giving

August 22 – 46 adults, 11 youth, \$1,307

Parish Announcements

Welcome to all new parishioners and visitors! Please join us after Divine Liturgy for Coffee Hour next door in Daria Hall.

Today is the last Sunday to make a donation to support St. Andrews Summer Camp in Jewell, NY. The collection basket is on the table behind the last pew. Thank you for supporting the camp, which provides a wonderful camping experience for Orthodox children!

Next Sunday, September 5, will be the last day to enroll your child/ren in church Sunday School. Children must be 7 years or older to attend. The sign-up sheet is in the back of the church. Thank you.

COFFEE HOUR STEWARDSHIP UPDATE:

The Parish Council is asking our parish family to become involved in the stewardship of the parish by participating at least once or twice a year in hosting Coffee Hour. Melody and Michael have taken care of Coffee Hour for all of us week after week for many years as we sit back and enjoy as they work – it is time for all of us to pitch in and help!

Every family/individual will be assigned a Sunday to host Coffee Hour starting Sunday, September 5. The list of names and dates for the remainder of 2021 are posted below and will be posted in the back of the church, in Daria Hall, and in the weekly church bulletin. Coffee Hour, as it used to be when it was first started many years ago, can be as simple as donuts, rolls, and/or bagels. Some parishioners choose to provide additional items, such as salads, fruit, pasta, pizza, etc. which is also fine. We do not want anyone to feel they need to provide more than what they are comfortable with providing. The host will need to be aware of fasting dates so as not to provide meats or dairy products when it is not permitted.

If you are assigned a date that you cannot accommodate, contact someone on the list and switch dates. Or, if you are planning a special event on a particular Sunday and wish to be assigned that date, contact the person assigned to that date to switch, **and update the schedule posted in Daria Hall**. Coffee hour hosting guidelines and instructions will be available in Daria Hall.

If you have questions, reach out to Melody, Father Volodymyr, Darice, Francine, or Herman who can assist. Thank you all for your participation, cooperation, and stewardship for your parish family!

COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2021

Sept. 5 Francine Brady & Herman Meyer
Sept. 12 Melody Stavisky
Sept. 19 ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC – NO COFFEE HOUR
Sept. 26 Father & Matushka
Oct. 3 Olga & James Bates
Oct. 10 Bill & Margie DiCicco
Oct. 17 Alex Godun
Oct. 24 Chris Kasmer
Oct. 31 Paula Koerte
Nov. 7 Alex & Brittani Brasowski
Nov. 14 TURKEY SOCIAL – NO COFFEE HOUR
Nov. 21 **FAST DAY** Germain & Tahara Ortiz
Nov. 28 **FAST DAY** Darice Keyes
Dec. 5 **FAST DAY** Lynne Sheedy
Dec. 12 **FAST DAY** Blake & Jessica Kilgore
Dec. 19 **FAST DAY** Sophie Dumas
Dec. 26 Phyllis Eck

CHARITABLE OUTREACH PROGRAM UPDATE: In the next few weeks a list of items needed for our charitable food boxes for the community will be available. Non-perishable food donations that will be outlined on the list or monetary donations to purchase non-perishable food items will be much appreciated. Our goal is to provide non-perishable food items to our local community for those in need, and supply these items at least on a quarterly basis. We will appreciate everyone's support in helping our neighbors.

ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC: As you know, the annual church picnic will be held on Sunday September 19 at the church picnic grounds on Rt. 33 in Hamilton. There are sign-up sheets in the back of the church for items we will need. The church will provide the meats. Thank you and we look forward to seeing everyone at the picnic!

MOSAIC ICON: We are getting closer to our fundraising goal! Donation envelopes for the mosaic icon are available at the candle desk. Please write "Mosaic Icon" in the memo portion of your check and turn in your donation envelope at the candle desk, or you may send a check directly to Father Volodymyr at the rectory. If you have any questions please see Father Volodymyr or a member of the Parish Council. Thank you for your continued involvement in the beautification of our church!

Please see a member of the FOCA Club if you are interested in purchasing a mural block (Daria Hall); funds will be used for Daria Hall improvements. Donors will have a brass nameplate added to the commemoration boards on the sides of the mural – either "Donated By" or "In Memory Of", with the names inscribed as designated by the donor.