



HE BECAME A FRIEND OF CHRIST

In the early days of the Christian Church, professing one's belief in Jesus Christ often meant persecution, torture and death. My, how we take our religious freedom for granted today.

On the cover today, we see the MARTYR ARTEMIOS. He was a man who fearlessly fought in the army of Constantine the Great in the struggle for religious freedom. He was born in the city of Alexandria in Egypt, and would later return to rule his native land. Artemios, a devout Christian, felt compelled to promote the growth of Christianity throughout Egypt. It was largely through his efforts that the Church attracted many converts.

After the death of Constantine the Great, his son Constantius succeeded his father upon the throne. He, too, was a personal friend of Artemios, and it was common for the new Emperor to call on Artemios to carry out tasks that would require diplomatic skills.

The days of suffering for the Church, however, were not quite over. Constantius soon was forced to deal with the evil Julian the Apostate, who wished to overthrow the Emperor. He was a great enemy of the Church, and soon Christian blood began to be shed again throughout the land because of Julian's bitter hatred for followers of Jesus.

Julian had a brother who had been put to death in Egypt. Thirsty for revenge, he attacked the city of Alexandria and immediately arrested Artemios. After severely torturing him, Julian ordered Artemios to be put to death by beheading. Instead of begging for mercy, Artemios had these final words for Julian: "In exchange for this trivial pain that you have brought upon me, I hope to receive eternal rest in the heavenly abode of my Lord, for whom I suffer."

St. Mary's Orthodox Church
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OUR WEBSITE...www.stmarysnativity.org

Rector: V. Rev. James Weremedic
Retired Attached: V. Rev Paul Ropitsky
Reader Hours: Katlyn Dymtrow

Sunday, October 15, 2023

Choir Director: Wash King
Reader Epistle: Michael Ropitsky

19th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Tone 2. Ven. Euthymius the New, of Thessalonica, Monk of Mt. Athos. Martyr Lucian, Presbyter of Antioch. St. John, Bishop of Suzdal'. Hieromartyr Lucian, Presbyter of the Kiev Caves. Martyrs Sarbelius and Bebaia (Barbea) of Edessa. St. Sabinus, Bishop of Catania.

Tone 2 Troparion (Resurrection)

When You descended to death, O Life Immortal,
You slew hell with the splendor of Your Godhead.
And when from the depths You raised the dead,
all the powers of heaven cried out://
"O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You!"

Tone 2 Kontakion (Resurrection)

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

Services:

Sunday, Oct. 15	9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship
Saturday, Oct 21	3:30 PM – Parastas - MEMORIAL SATURDAY & Fr. Andrew Diehl, Michael & Jeanne Harb, Theodore Bogosh, Nancy Lorchak, Michael & Anna Tatusko, Gertrude Tatusko, Eugene Petner, Kim Maymon
Saturday, Oct 21	4:00 PM – Great Vespers & Confessions
Sunday, Oct. 22	9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship
Saturday, Oct 28	4:00 PM – Great Vespers & Confessions
Sunday, Oct. 29	9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship

On November 23, 2023, we will give 'Thanks to God' with a molieben and a Thanksgiving Meal.

On December 24, 2023, we will have our first parish 'Holy Supper' in our church hall with traditional strict fasting foods.

There will be a sign-up sheet at the beginning of the month for each of these for those who will help and for those who wish to attend. Celebrating as a family of St. Mary's is important to give thanks to God and to prepare for the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ!

We welcome all our visitors today! We want to let you know that we are so glad you came to pray with us. Please come again; join us after the Divine Liturgy in the parish hall for fellowship. If you do not have a home church, we invite you to become a part of our parish family. Only those Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared themselves may approach the Chalice and receive Holy Communion.

We express our deepest sympathy to the family of Archbishop MARK (Maymon) in the loss of his sister, Kim, who fell asleep in the Lord on Sunday October 8th! Memory Eternal!

Prayer List*:

Fr. James Weremedic, Matushka Lisa Weremedic

Elizabeth Brennan, Stephanie Chmel, Ilene Devine, Julia Forte, Michael & Julia Harahus, Karen & Rose Harkins, Nancy King, Olga Kushnir, Anna Marie Mantey, Dorothy & Joseph Macenka, Anna Pierson, Melissa Schmitt, Helen Sheers, Olga Sidoriak, Martha Stafiniak, Elizabeth Warcholak, Marie Yurchak

* Names will cycle off approximately every 30 days. You may request to have your name or the name of a loved one placed back on the list at any time by contacting Fr. James directly.

If anyone is in need of a priest, please call Father James Weremedic at 570-645-2772. Visitation of the Sick and Infirm: If you are going into the hospital for any reason, please inform Fr. James at the Rectory. Emergency Calls: Please call the Rectory (570-645-2772) anytime (day or night) in an emergency.

Candles (October 15)

7-day Vigils-Altar... In health of **Martha Stafiniak** offered by Terri Bogosh

Altar Candles... In memory of **Olga Weiss** offered by Stephanie Chmel

Eternal Lamp... In memory of **Andrew & Mary Bybel & family** offered by family members

7-day Vigils-Tetrapod... In memory **Ted Bogosh, Jr.** offered by Bogosh family

Decorated Candles/Tetrapod- In memory of **Mary Harahuess** offered by Sharon Lewis

Vigil Crosses... In memory of **Andrew & Mary Bybel** offered by family members

Flowers/Tetrapod... In memory of **Mary Harahuess** offered by Sharon Lewis

October Birthdays: 3- Fr. James Weremedic, 5- Barbara Teno, 7- Michael Harahus,
19- Ixsaiah Bracero, 20- Martha Stafiniak, 23- Emmanuel Andrades, 27- Fr. Paul Ropitsky

October Anniversaries: 1- Odess & Claire Remington, 3- John & Mary Evetushick

Financials 10/08/2023: Operating Acct: Weekly Envelopes \$509, Non-Envelope \$270,
Candles \$72, Donation \$110, Building Fund \$30

Fellowship Hour Hosts:

October 15 Barb Teno

October 22 Russell King

**If you have any Redner receipts, please call or get them to Helen King.
Please use your Boyer's card when shopping at Boyers; if you need one call Helen King.**

19th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 2. Ven. Euthymius the New, of Thessalonica, Monk of Mt. Athos (889). Martyr Lucian, Presbyter of Antioch (312). St. John, Bishop of Suzdal' (14th c.). Hieromartyr Lucian, Presbyter of the Kiev Caves (Far Caves—1243). Martyrs Sarbelius and Bebaia (Barbea) of Edessa (2nd c.). St. Sabinus, Bishop of Catania (760).

2 Corinthians 11: 31-12:9 (Epistle)

The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying. In Damascus the governor, under Aretas the king, was guarding the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desiring to arrest me; but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped from his hands. It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord: I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago – whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows – such a one was caught up to the third heaven. And I know such a man – whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows – how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. Of such a one I will boast; yet of myself I will not boast, except in my infirmities. For though I might desire to boast, I will not be a fool; for I will speak the truth. But I refrain, lest anyone should think of me above what he sees me to be or hears from me. And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Silent Prayer before the Gospel:

Illumine our hearts, O Master Who lovest mankind, with the pure light of Thy divine knowledge. Open the eyes of our mind to the understanding of Thy gospel teachings. Implant also in us the fear of Thy blessed commandments, that trampling down all carnal desires, we may enter upon a spiritual manner of living, both thinking and doing such things as are well-pleasing unto Thee.

For Thou art the illumination of our souls and bodies, O Christ our God, and unto Thee we ascribe glory, together with Thy Father, Who is from everlasting, and Thine all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Luke 8:5-15 (Gospel)

"A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was trampled down, and the birds of the air devoured it. Some fell on rock; and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it. But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold." When He had said these things He cried, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" Then His disciples asked Him, saying, "What does this parable mean?" And He said, "To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is given in parables, that 'Seeing they may not see, And hearing they may not understand.' Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity. But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.

Morning Prayers

TO THE HOLY TRINITY:

Having arisen from sleep, we fall down before Thee, O Blessed One, and sing to Thee, O Mighty One, the angelic hymn: Holy! Holy! Holy! art Thou, O God; through the Theotokos, have mercy on us.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Do Thou, O Lord, Who hast raised me from my bed and from sleep, enlighten my mind and heart, and open my lips that I may praise Thee, O Holy Trinity: Holy! Holy! Holy! art Thou, O God; through the Theotokos, have mercy on us.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

The Judge will come suddenly and the acts of every man will be revealed; but with fear we cry in the middle of the night: Holy! Holy! Holy! art Thou, O God; through the Theotokos, have mercy on us.

(Continued from 1st page insert)

TO THE FATHER:

O Lord Almighty, God of hosts and of all flesh, dwelling in the highest, caring for the humble, searching the reins and the heart, and clearly discerning the hidden things of men - O unoriginate and ever-existing Light, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change, do Thou, O immortal King, accept our prayers which we offer to Thee at this present time from our soiled lips, trusting in the multitude of Thy bounties - forgive us our transgressions which we have committed knowingly or unknowingly, whether in word or deed or thought; cleanse us from all stain of body and soul. Grant us to pass through all the night of this present life with vigilant heart and sober thought, awaiting the coming of the radiant and manifest Day of Thy only-begotten Son, our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ, on which the judgment of all men shall come with glory, when to each man shall be given the reward of his deeds. May we not fall and become lazy, but instead have courage that, being roused to action, we may be found ready to enter into the joy and the divine bride-chamber of His glory, where the voice of those who feast is unceasing, and the gladness of those who behold the goodness of Thy countenance is unending. For Thou art the True light Who enlightenest and sanctifiest all things, and all creation sings Thy praise forever. Amen.

TO THE THEOTOKOS:

I sing the praises of your grace, O Lady, entreating you to enrich my mind with grace! Teach me to walk uprightly, in the way of Christ's commandments. Strengthen my vigilance in song and prayer, which drive away the despair of sleep. Free me by your entreaties, O Bride of God, who am bound by sinful garments. Protect me in the night and in the day, delivering me from the enemies who contend against me. Give life to me who have been deadened by passion, you that gave birth to the life-giving God. Enlighten my blinded soul, you that gave birth to the never-ending light. O wonderful Palace of the Master, make me a house of the Divine Spirit. You that gave birth to the Physician, make well the passions of my soul. Lead me who am bestormed by life to the ways of repentance. Deliver me from the eternal flames. Do not show me to be the joy of demons because of my many sins. Establish me anew who have been made senseless by transgressions, O Blameless One. Show me a stranger to every torment, and entreat the Master of All. Enable me to attain to the gladness of Heaven together with all the saints. O most Holy Virgin, hear the voice of your unprofitable servant. Grant me a stream of tears, O Most Pure One, to wash away the defilement of my soul. I bring to you the groaning of my heart unceasingly; beseech the Master to listen. Accept my prayerful service and bear it to the compassionate God! You that are higher than the angels, make me to be above the gloominess of the world. O light-bearing Cloud of Heaven, establish spiritual grace in me. Although stained by sin, I raise my hands and open my lips in praise of you! Deliver me from soul-corrupting wounds, entreating Christ fervently. To Him honor and worship are due, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

TO THE GUARDIAN ANGEL:

O Holy Angel, keeping guard over my wretched soul and my passionate life, do not forsake me, a sinner, nor depart from me because of my incontinence. Do not give the evil enemy room to overcome me by force of this mortal body. Strengthen my weak and feeble hand, and set me on the way of salvation. Yea, O Holy Angel of God, guardian and protector of my wretched soul and body, forgive me everything by which I have offended you all the days of my life, and even what I have done this past night; protect me during this day, and guard me from every temptation of the enemy, that I may not anger God by any sin. Pray to the Lord for me, that He may confirm me in His fear and prove me a worthy servant of His goodness. Amen.

TO ONE'S PATRON SAINT:

Pray to God for me, O Saint _____ well-pleasing to God. I fervently entreat you who are the sure help and intercessor for my soul.