

ICHC NTKRA SAINTS PETER AND PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America
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Before Thy Cross, we bow down in worship, O Master!

September 18, 2011 Sunday	Afterfeast of the Elevation of the Cross	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am
September 24 Saturday		Great Vespers	4:00 pm
September 25 15 th Sunday after Pentecost		Divine Liturgy	9:30 am

Saints of the Day: Venerable Eumenes, Bishop of Gortyna (7 c). Venerable Nun Euphrosyne of Suzdal (1250). Venerable Hilarion of Optina (1873). New Hieromartyrs Priests Alexis and Peter (1918). New Hieromartyrs Amphilius Bishop of Krasnoiarsk, Priests John, Boris, Michael, Vladimir, Benjamin, Constantine and Martyr Sergius (1937). Martyr Ariadne of Phrygia (2 c). Martyrs Sophia and Irene of Egypt (3 c). Martyr Castor of Alexandria. Great-martyr Prince Bidzini and Martyrs Prince Elizbar and Prince Shalva of Ksani, Georgia (1661). Saint Arcadius, Bishop of Novgorod (1162). Saint Higbald, Abbot and Hermit in Lincolnshire.

Please remember in your prayers: Ada, Bishop SERAPHIM, Mother Raphaela, Priest Sergius, Archpriest Jason, Susan, Rea, Daniel, Aaron, Mark, Jennifer, Nina, Nadine, Helen, Anna, Thomas, Archpriest Vincent, John, Ron, Dan, Albert, Michael, Gregory, Emma, Cathy, Mykola, Wayne, Nina, Dan, Isaiah, Robert, Robert, Kevin, Andrew, David, Warren, Michael, Archimandrites Alexander, Athanasy, Isidore, Nectarios, Pachomy.

God Grant Many Years! Prayers for the health of Matushka Mariam Vernak, Matushka Genevieve Glagolev and Archpriest John Shimchick were offered September 11 and for Bishop NIKON today at Liturgy and Moleben at the request of Bishop MICHAEL.

God Grant Many Years! Prayers for the health of Cmdr James Wilkinson were offered September 11 and today at Liturgy and Moleben at the request of Father John Udics.

God Grant Many Years! Prayers for the health of Thomas McCloghry were offered today at Liturgy and Moleben at the request of Father John Udics.

God Grant Many Years! Prayers for the health of newly-married Andrew and Stephanie Shinn were offered today at Liturgy and Moleben at the request of Father John Udics.

+ **Please remember in your prayers** newly-departed Tom, Archbishop DIMITRI, Matushka Pauline Warnecke **Memory Eternal.** Prayers for the repose of the soul of newly-departed Tom Ketzak were offered September 11 and today at Liturgy and Litiya at the request of cousin Father John Udics.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of Ethel Gala, Helen Nichols, Anna Lopushinsky, John Dedla, Walter Jovorosky Jr, Kathryn Chlus, David Sterzin and Steve Bius were offered today at Liturgy and Litiya.

A word from the desert. When Amoun was living as a solitary in Nitria, a child suffering from rabies was brought to him, bound with a chain. For a rabid dog had bitten him and given him the disease. His suffering was so unbearable that his whole body was convulsed by it. When Amoun saw the child's parents coming to entreat him, he said, "Why are you troubling me, my friends, seeking something which is beyond my merits, when the remedy lies in your own hands? Give back to the widow the ox which you have killed surreptitiously, and your child will be restored to you in good health." Their crime having thus been exposed, they happily did what they had been told; and when the father prayed, the child recovered instantly.

Historia Monachorum in Aegypto 12.3-4

Saint Eumenes, Bishop of Gortyna from the time of his youth was noted for his virtuous life. He strove to serve the One God and therefore he shunned worldly temptations. Concerned for the salvation of his soul, he distributed all his substance to the poor. By the blessing of God Saint Eumenes was chosen as Bishop of Gortyna on the island of Crete. The saint, like a compassionate father, comforted his flock in their sorrows, and cared for the orphaned and indigent. His prayers were so strong before God that once, during a drought, he called forth abundant rain upon the earth. Saint Eumenes wisely and zealously defended the Orthodox Faith against the Monophysite heresy. For his opposition to the heresy the saint was banished to the Thebaid, where he died in the seventh century. His body was then transferred and buried in Gortyna.

The Holy Martyr Ariadne was a servant of Tertillos, a city official of Promyssia (Phrygia) during the reign of the emperor Hadrian (117-161). Once, when on the occasion of the birth of a son, the master made a sacrificial offering to the pagan gods, the Christian Ariadne refused to participate in the impious ceremony. They subjected her to beatings and lacerated her body with sharp iron hooks. Then they threw the martyr into prison and for a long while they exhausted her with hunger, demanding that she worship their gods. When they released the saint from prison, she left the city, but Tertillos sent pursuers after her. Seeing that they were chasing her, she ran, calling out to God to defend her from her enemies. Suddenly, through her prayers, a fissure opened in the mountain, and Saint Ariadne hid in it. This miracle brought the pursuers into confusion and fear. In their depravity of mind they began to strike one another with spears.

A word from the desert. An old man said, "Practice silence, be anxious for nothing, give heed to your meditation, lie down and get up in the fear of God, and you will not need to fear the assaults of the impious."

The Martyrs Bidzini (Cholokashvili), Shalva, and Elizbar of Xana were Georgian princes who liberated Kakheti (Eastern Georgia) from the Persians. At the request of Shah Abbas II, all three were handed over to him, with the connivance of the Georgian emperor Vakhtang V (1658-1675), who had accepted Islam and became known under the name Shah Navaza. When they brought the holy captives before the shah, they said that they were Christians. No one was able to force the martyrs to change their minds, standing firm as they did in their confession of faith in Christ. Shah Abbas, trying every which way, including promises, threats and tortures, sent Bidzini, Elizbar, and Shalva to the former ruler of Kakheti, the sultan of Aldaran, who lived then at Ispagana. The sultan, seeing their steadfastness, gave orders that after fierce tortures the heads of Elizbar and Shalva be cut off, and that this be done before the eyes of Bidzini. Bidzini he ordered as a sign of shame to be dressed in prostitute's attire and led through the city on a donkey. When even after this Bidzini did not waver in the Faith, they subjected him to new lacerations and torments. His body was broken at the joints, and finally, his venerable head was cut off. This took place on September 18, 1660 (by other accounts, the martyrs suffered under Shah Sefi, son of Abbas II, in the year 1664). The bodies of the holy martyrs were thrown out in burial pits outside the city. By night a light shone over them, streaming down from the heavens. Seeing this, local Armenians removed and hid the holy relics in their church. After a certain time, the relics were transferred to Kartali, and with reverence buried in the Ikhort Monastery near the city of Hora.

A word from the desert. One of the elders said to the brethren at Kellia, "Nothing is greater than God; nothing is equal to Him; nothing is only a little inferior to Him. What then is stronger or more blessed than someone who has the help of God?" And again: "Let us gather together the cures of the soul: piety, righteousness, humility, submission. The greatest physician of souls, Christ our God, is near to us and is willing to heal us: let us not underestimate Him." John Moschus, *The Spiritual Meadow*, 144. 7th century

REFLECTION by Saint Nikolai of Zhicha

The Lord said: Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me (Matthew 25:40). Similar things happen in almsgiving and in Holy Communion. In Holy Communion we receive the Living Lord Christ Himself, in the form of bread and wine; in almsgiving we give to the Living Lord Christ Himself, in the form of the poor and needy. A certain man in Constantinople was unusually merciful. Walking along the streets of the city, he would press his gift into the hands of the poor and hurry onward, so he would not hear their gratitude or be recognized. When a friend of his asked how he had become so merciful, he replied: "Once in church I heard a priest say that whoever gives to the poor, gives into the hands of Christ Himself. I didn't believe it, for I thought, 'How can this be, when Christ is in heaven?' However, I was on my way home one day and I saw a poor man begging, and the face of Christ shone above his head! Just then a passerby gave the beggar a piece of bread, and I saw the Lord extend His hand, take the bread, and bless the donor. From then on, I have always seen Christ's face shining above the beggars. Therefore, with great fear I perform as much charity as I can."

Saint Higbald of Lincolnshire, Abbot, died c. 690. Saint Higbald was abbot of a monastery at Bardney, Lincolnshire, England. He is mentioned by the Venerable Bede as a friend of Saint Chad. In later life he lived as a hermit. His relics are at Hibaldstowe, Lincolnshire. Some churches, the village of Hibaldstowe, and other locations are named in his honour.

FOR YOUR CALENDARS!

September 18: Parish Council Meeting (Third Sunday of the Month)

October 1: **Bazaar** (November 19): **Perogie making** starting at 9:00: potatoes

October 3: **Bazaar** (November 19): **Perogie making** starting at 9:00: pinching

October 13: **Cookie making** starting at 9:00

October 15: **Bazaar** (November 19): **Perogie making** starting at 9:00: potatoes

October 16: Parish Council Meeting (Third Sunday of the Month)

October 17: **Bazaar** (November 19): **Perogie making** starting at 9:00: pinching

October 22, Saturday: **Harvest Dinner**: set up tables and food prep starting at 9:00

October 23, Sunday: **Harvest Dinner** menu: pork roast, veggies, mashed potatoes, kielbasa and sauerkraut, salad along with dessert.

October 29: **Bazaar** (November 19): **Perogie making** starting at 9:00: potatoes

October 31: **Bazaar** (November 19): **Perogie making** starting at 9:00: pinching

November 12: **Bazaar** (November 19): **Perogie making** starting at 9:00: potatoes

November 14: **Bazaar** (November 19): **Perogie making** starting at 9:00: pinching

November 17, Thursday: Please bring the cookies you baked to Church.

November 18, Friday: Trays will be assembled

November 19, Saturday: **Bazaar** starting at 11

November 20: Parish Council Meeting (Third Sunday of the Month)

A word from the desert. The mouth which is continuously giving thanks receives blessings from God. In the heart that always shows gratitude, grace abides. Saint Isaac the Syrian, 7th century