

# ICHC NTKA SAINTS PETER AND PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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## GOD Has Gone Up With A Shout! The LORD —With the Sound of a Trumpet!

June 16, 2013	Sunday of the Fathers of the First Œcumenical Council	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am
June 22	Saturday	Great Vespers	4:00 pm
June 23	Pentecost: The Feast of the Holy Trinity	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am

**Saints of the Day:** Saint Tychon, Bishop of Amathus in Cyprus (425). Venerable Tikhon of Kaluga or Medin (1492). Venerable Tikhon of Lukhov (1503). Venerable Moses of Optina, founder of the Optina Skete (1862). New Martyr Hermogenes (Germogen), Bishop of Tobolsk, Priests Euphremius, Michael and Peter and Martyr Constantine (1918). Translation of the relics (2002) of Saint Theophan the Recluse, Bishop of Tambov (1894). Martyrs Tigrius and Eutropius of Constantinople (404). Venerable Tikhon of Krestogorsk (Vologda). Saint Mark the Just of Apollonias, nephew of the Apostle Barnabas. Five Martyrs of Nicomedia. Forty Martyrs of Rome. Saint Kaikhosro the Georgian (1612). Saint Cettin, Bishop of Oran (5<sup>th</sup> c.). Saint Colman McRoi, Deacon, Abbot and Founder of Reachrain (6<sup>th</sup> c.). Saint Curig, Bishop of Llanbadarn, Wales (6<sup>th</sup> c.). Saint Ismael, Bishop of Menevia, Wales (6<sup>th</sup> c.)

**Please remember in your prayers:** Bishop JOHN, Bishop PAUL. Archimandrites Alexander, Athanasy, Isidore, Nectarios, Pachomy. Archpriests Jason, John, Vincent. Priests Bohdan, Sergius, Jacobus, Andrij, Vasil, Vasil. Deacons Mark, Philip. Mother Raphaela, Sister Deborah. Daniel, Catherine, Helen, Anna, Peter, Helen, Michael, Stephanie, Zara, Nolan, Emelie, Connie, Michael, Ed, Maria, Michael, John, James, Nancy, Susan, Daniel, Aaron, Mark, Jennifer, Nina, Nadine, Michael, Anna, Gregory, Marianna, Mykola, Helen, Isaiah, Albert, Kevin, Robert, Robert, Andrew, David, Warren.

**God Grant Many Years!** Prayers for the health of all our Fathers, Godfathers, Grandfathers, Brothers and Uncles were offered today at Liturgy and Moleben today.

**God Grant Many Years!** Prayers for the health of Louellen and Archpriest Paul Kucynda were offered at Liturgy and Moleben today at the request of Father John Udics.

**God Grant Many Years!** Prayers for the health of newborn Avery Grace Buttino (born June 5), her parents, grandmother and all her family were offered today at Liturgy and Moleben June 9<sup>th</sup> at the request of S. Buttino.

**God Grant Many Years!** Prayers for the health of Fred Wilkinson, Al Kaba, Michael Stehnach, Matushka Sheila Shinn, and cousin Wilma Zambo Webster were offered at Liturgy and Moleben today at the request of Father John Udics.

**Memory Eternal.** Prayers for the repose of the souls of all our Fathers, Godfathers, Grandfathers, Brothers and Uncles were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today.

**Memory Eternal.** Prayers for the repose of the soul of Mary Konet Udics were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of Father John Udics.

**Memory Eternal.** Prayers for the repose of the souls of Justina Staley, Elizabeth Spytko, Anna and Wasil Prawlocki and John Prawlocki were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request the "Memory Eternal Requiem Service Fund."

**SAINT TIKHON, BISHOP OF AMATHUS** was a miracle-worker. Following the death of Blessed Mnemonius, Tikhon was unanimously elected a bishop and consecrated by the renowned Epiphanius for the Diocese of Amathus. His purity of life and zeal for Orthodoxy recommended him for this office. There were still pagans on Cyprus at that time. With apostolic zeal Saint Tikhon undertook to convert the unbelievers into believers, with great success. After lengthy labor in the vineyard of the Lord, Tikhon took up habitation in blessed eternity about the year 425 A.D. He was called a miracle-worker because of the many miracles he worked during his life. Tikhon's father was a baker. When his father left him alone in the store, he would distribute bread free of charge to the poor. Once, his father reproached him for this. Tikhon prayed to God and their granary was so filled with wheat that the door could not be opened without difficulty. Again, at another time, he planted withered branches of a vine and the vine became green and, in due time, brought forth fruit.

**THE HOLY MARTYRS TIGRIUS AND EUTROPIUS** were among the clergy of Saint John Chrysostom. When evil men banished Chrysostom from Constantinople, the cathedral church [Hagia Sophia] was set on fire and a flame rose from it and fell upon the houses of the persecutors of this beacon of the Church. The people saw the finger of God in that but the enemies of Chrysostom attributed this fire to his adherents. Many of those who were accused suffered bitterly because of that, among them Tigrius, the presbyter and Eutropius, the reader. Optatius, the mayor of the city, an unbaptized Greek with particular malice, began a pursuit for

Chrysostom's followers. Tigris, in his youth, was a slave of a wealthy man who castrated him. Freeing himself of slavery, he dedicated himself completely to the service of the Church and in this service shone as a shining ray. Optatus subjected this "meek, humble, charitable and hospitable" man to great tortures and then banished him into exile to Mesopotamia where he died in prison. Eutropius, chaste from birth, pure, blameless and kind was beaten by oxen whips and by canes and finally hanged. When Christians took his body to bury it, sweet angelic singing was heard in the air.

#### **REFLECTION by Saint Nikolai of Zhicha**

In enumerating the miracles of the Christian Faith we need never forget the countless and great miracles of the changes of heart and dispositions of people truly converted to the Faith. How many are the enraged criminals that this Faith tamed! How many bloodthirsty robbers has the Faith transformed to innocent lambs! How many debauched ones has the Faith turned into chaste ones! How many persecutors has the Faith turned into defenders of the Faith! How many selfish avaricious men has the Faith taught compassion! How many fearful ones has the Faith directed on the road to extreme self-sacrifice! Metropolitan Philaret writes about Russian Prince Vladimir: "A lover of all pleasures; how this was not possible any longer for the pagan Vladimir in Christianity and he became a model of a chaste married life; he dismissed all women and lovers and lived with one, the devout Anna. An evil, vindictive and bloodthirsty fratricide in paganism, Vladimir, in Christianity, was the most compassionate friend of the poor. The poor always had access to him and he distributed both money and food with a generous hand." More than that: "the sick are unable to come to my palace," said he and ordered that meat, fish, bread, yeast and honey be carted about the streets. The Gospel words: "Blessed are the merciful" (Matthew 5:7), penetrated into the depth of his heart and became his rule of life.

#### **Sunday, June 02, 2013 The Dhimma Returns to Syria**

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This is the future of Syria under the jihadists. The genocide of religious minorities will be of unimaginable proportions. Dr. Mark Durie

The following report comes from Martin Janssen in Amman, Jordan (original in Dutch). The preceding notes and translation from Dutch into English are by Dr. Mark Durie, an Anglican vicar in Melbourne, Australia, author of *The Third Choice*, and an Associate Fellow at the Middle Eastern Forum.

In his report Janssen tells of his experience of a prayer walk in Amman, held on May 21 2013 for the two abducted Syrian clergy, Greek Orthodox Archbishop Paul Yazigi and Syriac Orthodox Archbishop Yohanna Ibrahim. These Archbishops have been captured by Syrian rebels.

After the prayer walk Janssen had the opportunity to meet with Syrian Christian refugees, who told him how they came to flee their homes and villages. Their village was occupied by rebel forces, who proceeded to announce that they were now under an Islamic emirate, and were subject to sharia law.

The Christian residents were offered four choices: 1. renounce the 'idolatry' of Christianity and convert to Islam; 2. pay a heavy tribute to the Muslims for the privilege of keeping their heads and their Christian faith (this tribute is known as jizya); 3. be killed; 4. flee for their lives, leaving all their belongings behind.

Some Christians were killed, some fled, some tried to pay the jizya and found it too heavy a burden to bear after the rebels kept increasing the amount they had to pay, and some were unable to flee or pay, so they converted to Islam to save themselves.

The scenario reported by Syrian refugees is a re-enactment of the historic fate of Christians across the Middle East.

The Muslim historian Al-Tabari reported that when the Caliph 'Umar conquered Syria, he gave the following command to his armies: "Summon the [conquered] people to Allah; those who respond unto your call, accept it [their conversion to Islam] from them, but those who refuse must pay the jizya out of humiliation and lowliness. If they refuse this, it is the sword without leniency." Umar's command referenced Sura (chapter) 9 verse 29 of the Koran:

"Fight against such of those who have been given the Scripture as believe not in Allah nor the Last Day, and forbid not that which Allah hath forbidden by His messenger, and follow not the Religion of Truth, until they pay the jizya readily, being brought low." This policy of subjugating Christians under the yoke of jizya taxation was also based upon the teaching of Muhammad who said: "Fight in the name of Allah and in the way of Allah. Fight against those who disbelieve in Allah. Make a holy war ... When you meet your enemies who are polytheists, invite them to three courses of action. if they respond to any one of these, you also accept it and withhold yourself from doing them any harm. Invite them to (accept) Islam; if they respond to you, accept it from them and desist from fighting against them .... If they refuse to accept Islam, demand from them the jizya. If they agree to pay, accept it from them and hold off your hands. If they refuse to pay the tax, seek Allah's help and fight them." (Sahih Muslim. The Book of Jihad and Expedition. [Kitab al-Jihad wa'l-Siyar])

Classical Islamic law mandates that 'People of the Book' should be given three choices, however the Syrian rebels are augmenting this with the fourth option of allowing them to flee. in Islamic law, Christians who accept to pay the jizya in order to keep their faith -- and their head -- are known as dhimmis. For a full explanation of the Islamic doctrine of the three choices, including the psychological meaning of the jizya tribute, see *The Third Choice* especially Chapter 6: *The Dhimma: Doctrine and History*.

It is a matter of deep concern that European states and the US are assisting the Syrian rebels as they implement this Islamic 'emirate', which includes the restoration of the dhimma system by re-enacting the conditions of jihad conquest against Christians.

**The conclusion of this article will be printed in next week's Bulletin.**