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A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America
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Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory to Him Forever!

August 3, 2014	8 th Sunday after Pentecost	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am
August 6	Wednesday FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am
August 9	Saturday	Great Vespers	4:00 pm
August 10	9 th Sunday after Pentecost	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am

Saints of the Day: Venerable Isaac, Dalmatus, and Faustus, ascetics of the Dalmatian Monastery, Constantinople (5 c.). Venerable Anthony the Roman, Abbot (Novgorod) (1147). New Hieromartyr Deacon Viacheslav (1918). New Hieromartyr Priest Nicholas (1938). Protomartyr Rajden of Tsromi and Nikozi, Georgia (457). Venerable Cosmas, eunuch and Hermit of Palestine (6 c.). Holy Myrrh-bearer Salome. Venerable John, Confessor, Abbot of Patalaria Monastery. Venerable Theoctistus the Wonderworker of Optimaton. Venerable Theodora of Thessalonica. Nine Kherkheulidze Brothers, their mother and sister, and 9,000 others, who suffered on the field of Marabde, Georgia (1625). Saint Mancus of Cornwall, Bishop. Saint Senach Bishop of Clonard (6 c.). Saint Trea of Ardtree, Hermitess (5 c.).

Please remember in your prayers: Suffering Christians of Egypt, Syria, the Middle East and Ukraine. Bishop BOULOS Yazigi, Bishop YOHANNA Ibrahim, of Aleppo. Archimandrites Athanasy, Nectarios, Pachomy. Archpriests Alvian, Eugene, John, Jason, John, Vincent. Priests Jacobus, Leonid, Vasil, Vasil. Deacons Mark, Demetrios, Philip. Mother Raphaela, Dimitri, Nina, Daniel, Catherine, Helen, Anna, Peter, Helen, Michael, Kevin, Richard, Stephanie, Zara, Nolan, Emelie, Connie, Michael, Ed, Nettie, Maria, Michael, John, James, Nancy, Susan, Daniel, Aaron, Mark, Jennifer, Nina, Nadine, Michael, Anna, Gregory, Marianna, Mykola, Helen, Isaiah, Jamie, Albert, Kevin, Robert, Robert, Andrew, David, Warren, Vincent, Diane, Abigail.

God Grant Many Years! Prayers for the health of father Nicholas Risucci were offered at Liturgy and Moleben on July 20, at the request of Lauren Jedlan.

God Grant Many Years! Prayers for the health of Dan Witiak, Ed Hansen, Anita Hansen and Dave Donlick were offered today at Liturgy and Moleben at the request of Father John Udics.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of the soul of newly-departed Priest Sergius Willis were offered at Liturgy and Litiya last week and today at the request of Archpriest John Udics.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of the souls of Ann Bayzon, Jacob Elnicky and Frank Gromadzky were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of the "Memory Eternal Requiem Service Fund."

SAINT ANDREW'S CAMP and Annual Diocesan "YOUTH DAY"

The **2014 Camping Season at Saint Andrew's Camp** has begun. Details and information, including on-line registration for campers, is available on the diocesan website. See the banner news headline and refer to the "Upcoming Events" section for specific dates and themes for each week of the camping program. They have also announced the Annual Camp Bicycle Ride on 23 August 2014. **The camp is seeking additional counselors (especially male counselors), staff, and volunteers** to support the 5-week season. If you know any potential counselors or volunteers who might enjoy this incredible summer opportunity of youth ministry, please contact the camp as soon as possible: info@saintandrewscamp.org

Our **Annual Diocesan "YOUTH DAY"** will take place in Jackson NJ (Six Flags Great Adventure) on **THURSDAY, 21 AUGUST 2014**. You will find the event flyer published on the diocesan website in the "Upcoming Events" section.

Nine Kherkheulidze Brothers with their Mother and Sister and Nine Thousand Martyrs of Marabda Commemorated on August 3

On the Feast of the Annunciation in the year 1625, the Georgians annihilated the army of the Persian shah Abbas I in the Battle of Martqopi. The victory unified Georgia's eastern provinces of Kartli and Kakheti. It also instilled hope in other enslaved peoples of the Transcaucasus, and rebellions began to break out everywhere.

Soon the enraged Shah Abbas marched his finest and largest army toward Georgia under the leadership of Isa-Khan Qurchibash. A Georgian army of some twenty thousand men encamped near Kojori-Tabakhmela in preparation for the attack, while the enemy's army, which numbered in excess of fifty thousand men, encamped at Marabda. According to tradition, the Georgian soldiers received Holy Communion at dawn before the battle.

Bishop Domenti (Avalishvili) of Ruisi prepared to serve the Holy Gifts to the soldiers but they cried out with a single voice: "If you will join us and take up your sword and fight, then do so. We can receive Holy Communion from another!"

Inspired by these words, the bishop joined in, proclaiming, "Today we will fight a battle for faith and for Christ; therefore my blood must be spilled before yours!" With his vestments as armor, the bishop blessed the soldiers and took his place in the front line.

The banner of the Georgian army was entrusted to the nine Kherkheulidze brothers.

The Persians panicked upon coming face-to-face with the courage and fortitude of the Georgian soldiers, but the experienced commander Isa-Khan Qurchibash would not yield in battle. Help arrived from Beglerbeg Shaybani-Khan, and with the extra forces the Persians soon gained the advantage over the Georgian army. The Georgian colonel Teimuraz Mukhranbatoni was fatally wounded, and rumors of his death threw the soldiers into a frenzy, since they erroneously believed that the dead man was King Teimuraz I of Kakheti, the commander of their army.

Believing that their leader had fallen, the Georgian soldiers became anxious and their army was enfeebled. Before long they recognized their mistake, but it was too late—the fate of the battle had already been decided.

The military leaders Davit Jandieri, Aghatang Kherkheulidze and Baadur Tsitsishvili and the bishops of Rustavi and Kharchasho all fell in the battle at Marabda. The nine banner-bearing Kherkheulidze brothers were also killed. When the banner that had led their army through the battles at Didgori and Basiani fell from the hands of the youngest brother, their sister grabbed hold of it immediately, and when she also fell, the banner and symbol of Georgian invincibility was raised up again by their mother.

King Teimuraz fought until sunset, when every sword he had held in his hands had been broken. Even his rings were broken in the combat. The uniform of the brilliant military leader Giorgi Saakadze was stained with blood from top to bottom. Atabeg Manuchar of Samtskhe and his sons also fought bravely in this battle.

Utterly exhausted and debilitated by the heat, the Georgians fought heroically to the last moment. But the battle that had begun at dawn finally ended late that night with the defeat of the Georgian army. Nine thousand Georgians gave their lives for Christ and their motherland on the battlefield at Marabda.

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REFLECTION by Saint Nikolai of Zhicha

Holy souls read Holy Scripture with great diligence concentrating on every word and placing themselves before the mirror of the Word of God as before the Dread Judgment. Their diligence was so great in this that some of the ascetics undertook distant journeys in order to come to a spiritual sage who would interpret for them a word or a saying from Holy Scripture. Whenever it was possible, this was accomplished through correspondence. It is from this that a complete collection of the letters of the saints remained [survived] such as those of Saints Basil, Gregory, Chrysostom, Isidore of Pelusium, Nilus of Sinai and many others. One day Saint Cosmas pondered on the words of the Lord Christ when He, in the Garden of Gethsemane, asked His disciples whether they had a sword. When His disciples said to Him: "Lord, behold, here are two swords. And He said to them, it is enough" (Saint Luke 22:38). Being unable to explain these words himself, Saint Cosmas decided to cross over the wilderness to the distant Lavra called Pirga to the illustrious Abba Theophilus to inquire of him. With great difficulty did Saint Cosmas succeed to reach his goal. Theophilus explained to him: "The two swords signify the two-fold order of a god-pleasing life: deeds and visions, i.e., labor and awakening of the mind to godly thoughts and prayer. Whoever has both of these, he is perfect."

THE VENERABLE ISAAC [ISAACIUS], DALMATUS [DALMATIUS] AND FAUST [FAUSTUS]. Venerable Isaac is celebrated again separately on May 30. At first, St. Dalmatus was an officer during the reign of Emperor Theodosius the Great whom the emperor held in great esteem. When the spirit awakened in him, he despised all earthly things, resigned his rank and took his only son Faust and, with him, went to the community of Saint Isaac in the outskirts of Constantinople where they both were tonsured as monks. Dalmatus was completely devoted to a god-pleasing life for which the elder Isaac rejoiced. When Isaac approached the hour of death, he appointed Dalmatus as abbot in his place. Later, this community was named after him – the so-called Dalmatus. Dalmatus devoted himself to fasting, at times for forty days. By fasting he conquered the invisible demonic power. He participated in the Third Ecumenical Council [Ephesus 431 A.D.] and fought against the Nestorian heresy. Pleasing God, he died peacefully in the fifth century. His son Faust supported his father in everything and, after a God-pleasing life, died peacefully in this Dalmatus community.

VENERABLE ANTHONY, THE ROMAN was born in Rome in 1086 A.D. of devout and wealthy parents. At that time, the Roman Church separated from the Eastern Church and all who remained faithful to the Eastern Church were persecuted by the Roman clergy. Among the persecuted was Anthony. He distributed all of his inherited wealth and was tonsured a monk. Anthony lived a life of mortification by standing on a rock in the sea for fourteen months. Meanwhile, the rock separated from its base and by miraculous providence sailed the waters to Novgorod. In Novgorod, Archbishop Nicetas received him kindly and helped him build a church to the Holy Birth-giver of God, later to become a monastery. Anthony lived a long time as the abbot of this monastery and manifested the great power of grace through many miracles. He died peacefully in the year 1146 A.D. and took up habitation in the mansions of the Lord.

SAINT SALOME, THE MYRRH-BEARER was the mother of the Apostles James and John, the wife of Zebedee and the daughter of Joseph, the betrothed of the All-Holy Birth-giver of God. She served the Lord during His earthly life and was deemed worthy to be among the first to proclaim His resurrection.