



SAINTS PETER AND PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory to God for All Things!

June 7, 2015	Sunday of All Saints	Divine Liturgy, Blessing of Graves	9:30 am
	Beginning of Saints Peter and Paul Fast – Apostles' Fast		
June 13	Saturday	Great Vespers	4:00 pm
June 14	Sunday of All Saints of America	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am

Saints of the Day: Martyr Theodotus of Ancyra (303). New Hieromartyr Archbishop Andronicus of Perm, Priests Alexander, Alexis, Alexander, Valentine, Benjamin, Viktor, Alexander, Paul, Vladimir, Ignatius, Michael, Nicholas, Paul, Alexander, Nicholas, Deacon Gregory and Martyrs Athanasius and Alessander (1918). New Hieromartyrs Priests Nicholas and Peter (1919). Hieromartyr Marcellinus, Pope of Rome (304) and with him the Holy Martyrs Claudio, Cyrius and Antoninus (304). Hieromartyr Marcellus, Bishop of Rome, and those with him: Deacons Sisinius and Cyriacus, Smaragdus, Largus, Apronian, Saturninus, Pappias, Maurus, Crescentian, Priscilla, Lucina, and Princess Artemia (304-310). Martyrs Kyriaki, Caleria (Valeria), and Mary, of Caesarea in Palestine (304). Synaxis of All Saints of Ivanovo. Venerable Daniel of Scete in Egypt (420). Virgin-martyr Potamiaena of Alexandria. Martyr Zenais (Zenaida) of Caesarea in Palestine. Saint Colman, Bishop of Dromore, Ireland (6th c.). Holy women Aesia and Susanna, disciples of Venerable Pancratius of Taormina and martyred with him (1st c.). Martyr Lycarion of Hermopolis in Egypt. Venerable Panagis of Cephalonia. Martyrs Tarasius and John. Saint Stephen the Hieromonk. Saint Anthimus the Hieromonk. Saint Sebastian the Wonderworker. Saint Anthony (in schema Abramius), monk, of Kozha Lake (1634). Saint Meriadoc, Bishop of Vannes (688).

Please remember in your prayers: Suffering Christians of Egypt, Syria, the Middle East and Ukraine. Bishop BOULOS and Bishop YOHANNA, of Aleppo. Archimandrites Athanasy, Nectarios, Pachomy. Archpriests Alvian, Eugene, Leonid, John, Jason, John, Vincent. Priests Jacobus, Leonid. Deacons Mark, Demetrios, Philip. Mothers Raphaela, Michaela, Catherine, Anna. Monk Victor, Mary, Valentina, Dimitri, Nina, Daniel, Helen, Catherine, Anna, Peter, Helen, Michael, Stephanie, Zara, Nolan, Emelie, Michael, Ed, Nettie, Anita, Maria, Michael, John, James, Nancy, Susan, Daniel, Aaron, Nicole, Ashley, Mark, Jennifer, Nina, Nadine, Michael, Anna, Gregory, Marianna, Isaiah, Jamie, Albert, Kevin, Robert, Robert, Andrew, David, Warren.

God Grant Many Years! Prayers for the health of John Jedlan and Steven Mamrosch were offered at Liturgy and Moleben at the request of his wife Lauren.

God Grant Many Years! Prayers for the health of Steven Mamrosch were offered at Liturgy and Moleben at the request of family.

God Grant Many Years! Prayers for the health of George Grentzinger and Curt Arndt were offered at Liturgy and Moleben at the request of Father John Udics.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of Brandon M. Sauer (20) were offered today at Liturgy and Litiya at the request of John Elnicky.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of Priest Sergius Willis, aunt Ethel Udics and aunt Anna Mayhrich were offered today at Liturgy and Litiya at the request of Father John Udics.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of Helen Hrynda, Frank Prawlocki, Harry Homyk and Nicholas Kuzenech were offered today at Liturgy and Litiya at request of the "Memory Eternal Requiem Service Fund."

FOR YOUR CALENDAR: GENERAL PARISH MEETING: JUNE 14 (change of date) after Liturgy

ISIS THREATENS ANCIENT MONASTERY FILLED WITH CHRISTIANS

Source: WND.com Leo Hohmann | 02 June 201

A 1,650-year-old monastery in northern Iraq, one of the oldest Christian monasteries in the world, is in danger of falling to ISIS.

Saint Matthew's monastery, founded in A.D. 363, has survived the Ottoman and Persian Empires, Mongol invaders and Kurdish conquests. Today it's threatened by ISIS. Only three monks remain.

It has served as a place of refuge for persecuted Christians and other religious minorities for centuries, but now its very existence is threatened.

Some of the earliest Christians sought safety there. And when Islamic hordes stormed the city of Mosul, just 20 miles away, last June, the monastery's thick stone walls again became a safe haven.

Located about 20 miles north of Mosul, the monastery is in protected Kurdish territory but is just a little more than three miles from the front lines of battle.

"We can see the battles and the airstrikes from here in front of us, especially at night. The sky lights up at night, but we of course are not scared. God protects us," Father Yousif Ibrahim, one of three monks who resides in the monastery, told USA Today. There are also six students living at Saint Matthew's.

Before Iraq fell into chaos, the monastery was home to thousands of nuns, priests and students with the Syriac Orthodox Church. The ancient church traces its founding back to the time of Christ. Some of its earliest founders may have personally known Jesus Christ. They still speak Aramaic, the language of Jesus.

It houses one of the most ancient Christian libraries in the region. Many of the oldest manuscripts have been removed and taken to Kurdish-controlled areas.

Christian refugees running out of places to hide

More than 125,000 Christians have been forced from their homes over the past 12 months. They now live as refugees, most of them in the semi-autonomous state of Kurdistan.

ISIS has previously vowed to destroy all Christian historical sites in the areas that fall under its control. In March, it destroyed the ancient Christian Mar Behnam Monastery in the predominantly Christian town of Qaraqosh in northern Iraq.

The jihadists have desecrated Christian cemeteries, seized Christian girls for sex slaves and killed other children in front of their parents' eyes.

ISIS destroyed Jonah's tomb in Mosul in July and destroyed countless Assyrian artifacts in Nimrod in March.

The jihadist organization believes Christian relics represent a religion of polytheistic infidels and are an affront to Islam.

Saint Matthew's is built like a fortress into the side of Mount Al-Faf. Kurdish soldiers pushed the ISIS fighters back last summer to about four miles from St. Matthew's, but the monastery is again in danger of falling to the Islamic jihadists.

On CBS' "60 Minutes" in March, Father Ibrahim told Lara Logan the worst part was the uncertainty.

"We don't know exactly, but we are expecting the worst," he told Logan.

Mosul has been completely emptied of its 10,000 Christians.

Nicodemus Sharaf, the archbishop, now lives as a refugee in Kurdish capital of Erbil along with 60,000 other Christian refugees.

Despite all of the Christian refugees in Iraq and Syria, most of the refugees being sent to the United States and other Western countries are Muslim. The United Nations selects and assigns almost all of the refugees.

When he left Mosul, Sharaf said ISIS fighters were already inside the city.

"I don't have time to take anything. He told me you have five minutes. I took just five books; they are very old."

Many even older were left. Christian relics dating to the first century B.C. fell into the hands of ISIS.

ISIS uses the Arabic letter "N" for Nazarene to mark the homes of Christians. When they use red paint to put the "N" on a home, the occupants can expect a visit soon by ISIS fighters. They are given a choice: Convert, pay the Islamic head tax or die.

"Speak up. Of course there is good people in the Islam people. Not all are bad, I believe. But where is the good people? Where is their voice? Nothing!" Archbishop Sharaf said. "Where is their voice? Few! Few!

"They lost our dignity here. I'm sorry to say that. We don't have dignity in our country, in our land."

Obama's airstrikes offer little hope

President Obama's airstrikes are seen as pinpricks on ISIS.

Archbishop Bashar Warda, who leads the flock of the Chaldean Catholics in Erbil, told Logan ISIS "is a cancer" that needs to be defeated.

Logan asked if that meant militarily.

"Please God," he said. "It's a disease, so sometimes you take some hard measures, unfortunate measures, to remove this cancer."

In its heyday, Saint Matthew's monastery was home to 7,000 monks. The area surrounding the complex was named Al-Faf, meaning "the thousands," in homage to the legion of monks who worshiped, taught and studied on its steep dry slopes, USA Today reported. "But just like the Christian population in Iraq, that number has dwindled dramatically over the years."

Islamic jihadist groups have systematically targeted Christians over the past century, and ISIS is only a continuation of that long history, Ibrahim told the newspaper. Despite holding fort at the monastery, Ibrahim says Saint Matthew's, and Christianity in Iraq, are living on borrowed time.

Iraq's Christians will eventually abandon the nation, Ibrahim said, leaving their history behind. Only then will he consider fleeing the war-torn country himself.

"The shepherd cannot leave his sheep," he told USA Today.

"Saint Matthew ended up here because he was fleeing persecution, but persecution follows us," Sahar Karaikos, one of the six students still at Saint Matthews, told the newspaper. "We can't run from it, we have to stand in front of our history."

Source: <http://www.pravmir.com/isis-threatens-ancient-monastery-filled-with-christians/#ixzz3bvHTEpo5>

THE PRIEST-MARTYR MARCELLUS, POPE OF ROME

During the reign of Maximian, Marcellus was condemned to tend cattle in a designated place. In order to please Diocletian, who had taken him as co-emperor, Maximian began to construct public baths in Rome, the so-called Thermae, and forced the Christians to work on this project, as the one-time pharaoh did to the Hebrews in Egypt. Many Christians perished at this time. Also martyred was the Deacon Cyriacus who possessed great power over demons and who healed Artemia, the demonical daughter of Diocletian, as well as Jovia, the daughter of the Persian emperor, and baptized both of them. Also martyred was Artemia, the deacons Sisinus, Smaragdus and Largius, companions of Cyriacus, the deacon Aphronianus, two newly-baptized Roman soldiers, Papius and Maurus, and the elder Saturninus, Crescentianus and the blessed virgins Priscilla and Lucina who, from their wealth, built a cemetery for the slain Christian martyrs. Saint Marcellus, the Pope, tended cattle for a long time and finally from starvation, humiliations and the fury of the soldiers gave up his soul to God and died.