

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Romans 12:6-14 (Epistle) Brethren: Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; he who teaches, in his teaching; he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who contributes, in liberality; he who gives aid, with zeal; he who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. contribute to the needs of the saints, practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

Matthew 9:1-8 (Gospel) At that time, Jesus got into a boat and crossed over, and came to His own city. And behold, they brought to Him a paralytic, lying on his bed; and when Jesus saw their faith He said to the paralytic, "Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven." And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins" -- He then said to the paralytic -- "Rise, take up your bed and go home." And he rose and went home. When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, Who had given such authority to men.

The Seventy Apostles

The Seventy Apostles (known in the Western Christian traditions as the Seventy Disciples) were early emissaries of Jesus mentioned in the Gospel of Luke 10:1-24. According to Luke, the only gospel in which they appear, Jesus appointed them and sent them out in pairs on a specific mission which is detailed in the text.

In Eastern Christianity, they are usually referred to as apostles, whereas in Western Christianity they are usually referred to as disciples. Using the original Greek words, both titles are descriptive, as an apostle is one sent on a mission (the Greek uses the verb form: *aposteilō*) whereas a disciple is a student, but the two traditions differ on the scope of the words apostle and disciple.

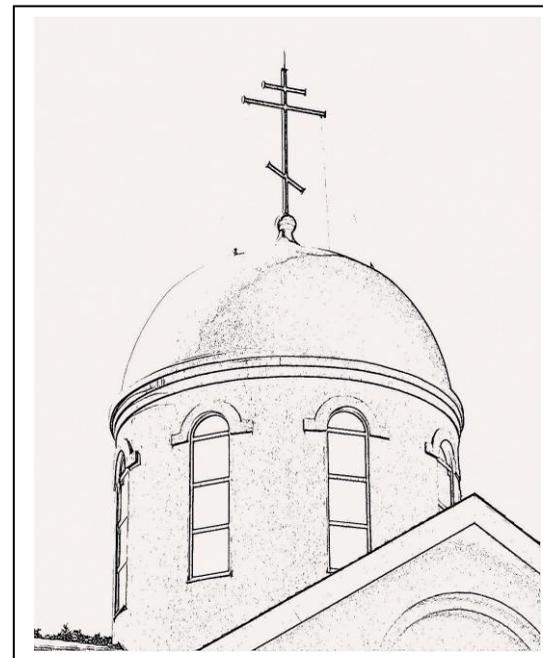
Saints Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon and Parmenas, Apostles of the Seventy were among the first deacons in the Church of Christ.

In the Acts of the Holy Apostles (6:1-6) it is said that the twelve Apostles chose seven men: Stephen, Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicholas, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, and appointed them to serve as deacons.

They are commemorated together on July 28, although they died at various times and in various places.

At first, Saint Prochorus accompanied the holy Apostle Peter, who made him bishop in the city of Nicomedia. After the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos, Prochorus was a companion and coworker of the holy Apostle John the Theologian and was banished with him to the island of Patmos. There he wrote down the Book of Revelation concerning the final fate of the world. Upon returning to Nicomedia, Saint Prochorus converted pagans to Christ in the city of Antioch, where he suffered martyrdom.

WEEKLY



BULLETIN

Today is the beginning of our salvation, the revelation of the eternal mystery. The Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin as Gabriel announces the coming of Grace. Together with him let us cry to the Theotokos: Rejoice O Full of Grace, the Lord is with you!

Troparion of the Annunciation to the Theotokos

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION

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Rev. Fr. Alexander Smida, *Attached Priest*

Tara Paxton, *Senior Warden*

Matthew Hascha, *Choir Director*

July 28, 2019

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Tone 5. Holy Apostles of the Seventy and Deacons: Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, and Parmenas (1st c.). St. Pitirím, Bishop of Tambov (1698). Ven. Moses, Wonderworker, of the Kiev Caves (Far Caves—13th-14th c.). Martyr Julian of Dalmatia (2nd c.). Martyr Eustathius (Eustace—ca. 321), of Apamea. Ven. Paul of Xeropotamou, founder of the Monastery of St. Paul on Mt. Athos (10th c.). The Smolensk “HODIGITRIA” (“THE GUIDE”) Icon of the Most-holy Theotokos (brought from Constantinople in 1046). Icon of the Mother of God “of Tenderness” (1885).

Today’s Readings:

Epistle: Romans 12:6-14

Gospel: Matthew 9:1-8

Upcoming Service Schedule:

Today – 9:00am Divine Liturgy

Saturday - 7:00pm Great Vespers

Sunday – 9:00am Divine Liturgy

Next Sunday’s Readings:

Epistle: Romans 15:1-7

Gospel: Matthew 9:27-35



*Holy Apostles of the Seventy
and Deacons*

Coffee Hour Teams:

Today – TEAM A (Pasick, Stavrou)

Next Sunday – TEAM B (Nilsen, Christos)

Special Prayers

We pray for **all** our parish family members, but we pray especially for those who are ill and afflicted. Among them are: **Betty James, Olga Kornafel, Deryl Tczap, Reader John Economou, Meni Mari, Matushka Cathy Smida, Tom Collins, Tom Kopec, Alan Diaz, Cathy Diaz, Ann Marie Gahr, Dennis Gahr, Ron Madensky, Dorothy Studier, Helen Ciurczak, Pauline Barnowsky, Elba Cinciarelli, and Catherine Ratushnik.**

We are happy that you have joined us for worship today and hope that you will join us for coffee hour after the service. Please note that **reception of the Holy Eucharist** is only for baptized members of the Orthodox Church who have prepared with prayer, fasting, and periodic confession. You are encouraged to receive the blessed bread that is **offered at the end of the service and which may also be offered to you by one of your neighbors during Communion.**

Annunciations

TODAY – Twenty parishioners and friends will be attending a production of **Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat** at the Axelrod Performing Arts Center in Deal. Those who are attending should submit payment of \$30 each to Father Gary by performance time. **Checks** should be made out to “OCCA”.

TODAY – **Parish Calendars for August** are available in the church narthex.

Tuesday, July 30 – The **Parish Council** will meet in the rectory at 6:30pm.

Thursday, August 1 marks the beginning of the **Dormition Fast**.

Saturday, August 17 – **Diocesan Youth Day** will take the form of a NY Yankees game to be played on this day. **Details for the event**, including ticket information, transportation, and associated activities, can be found at the diocesan website: www.nynjoca.org.

Many Years to the newly-illumined and baptized child of God, **Matthew Berger** who was baptized yesterday morning at the church. **Congratulations** to his parents, **Paul and Vicki**, his sponsors, **Sarah Berger and Alexander Vernak**, and to all members of the **Berger and Vazquez families**.

Many Thanks to those **parishioners who volunteered their time and effort** this past week to help our sister parish in **Pearl River NY**. The church interior was successfully cleaned and painted by several volunteers from throughout the diocese. May God bless them all for their contributions!

The **Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors (DDB)** program is an essential vehicle for funding our diocesan activities and programs. Please consider participating in the program. More information can be found at www.nynjoca.org.

Keep up on OCA news by visiting www.oca.org, diocesan news by visiting www.nynjoca.org, and parish news by visiting www.occa-brick.org.

MANY YEARS

Wedding Anniversaries this week:

Monday – Tom & Ingrid Kopec (#34)

Wednesday – Rdr. Veljko & Mihaela Pejovic (#2)

OUTREACH

- **Food Pantry donations** are *always* accepted. Place non-perishable food items in blue bin in the narthex
- **Clothing donations** are accepted on the last Sunday of each month. Place donations next to the food pantry bin.