

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

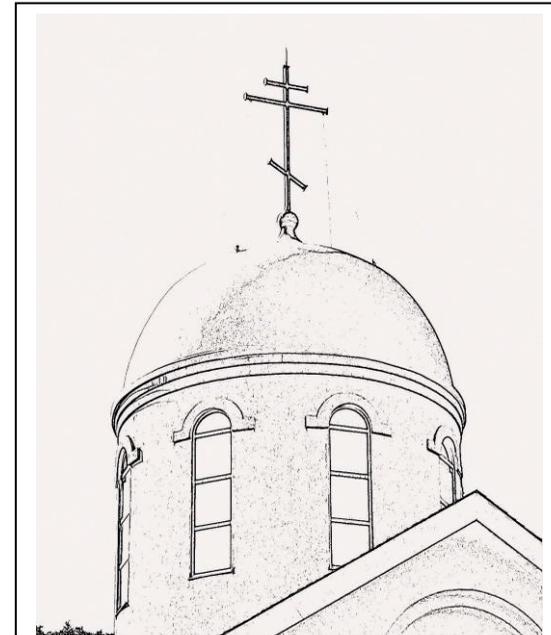
Galatians 2:16-20 (Epistle- Sunday after) Brethren: Knowing that a man is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ, and not by works of the law, because by works of the law shall no one be justified. But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we ourselves were found to be sinners, is Christ then an agent of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again those things which I tore down, then I prove myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law, that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ Who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me.

2 Corinthians 4:6-15 (Epistle) Brethren: It is the God Who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," Who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For while we live we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you. Since we have the same spirit of faith as he had who wrote, "I believed, and so I spoke," we too believe, and so we speak, knowing that He Who raised the Lord Jesus shall raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into His presence. For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

Mark 8:34-9:1 (Gospel – Sunday after) The Lord said: If any man would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever would save his life shall lose it; and whoever loses his life for My sake and the Gospel's shall save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of Me and of My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him shall the Son of Man also be ashamed, when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." And He said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who shall not taste death before they see that the kingdom of God has come with power.

Matthew 22:35-46 (Gospel) At that time, one of the Pharisees, a lawyer, asked Jesus a question, to test Him. "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" And He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets." Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question, saying, "What do you think of the Christ? Whose Son is He?" They said to Him, "The Son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David in the Spirit calls Him Lord, saying, 'The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at My right hand, till I make Thine enemies Thy footstool'? If David thus calls Him Lord, how is He his son?" And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day did any one dare to ask Him any more questions.

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!

Preparation of the Annunciation to the Theotokos

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION

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Thomas Berger, *Senior Warden*

Reader Timothy Kozak, *Choir Director*

September 17, 2017

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Tone 6. Afterfeast of the Elevation of the Cross. Sunday after Elevation. Martyr Sophia, and her three daughters: Faith (Vera), Hope (Nadézhda), and Love (Liubóv', Charity), at Rome (ca. 137). Martyrs Theodota at Nicæa (ca. 230). Martyr Agathocleia (ca. 230). 156 Martyrs of Palestine, including Bishop Peleus and Nilus, the Presbyter, Zeno, the Noblemen Paternuthius and Elias, and others (ca. 310).

Today's Readings:

Epistle: Galatians 2:16-20 and 2 Corinthians 4:6-15

Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1 and Matthew 22:35-46

Upcoming Service Schedule:

Saturday – 7:00pm Great Vespers

Sunday – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

Next Sunday's Readings:

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6:1-10 and Romans 8:28-39

Gospel: Luke 5:1-11 and Luke 21:12-19



*Martyr Sophia and
her 3 Daughters*

Coffee Hour Teams:

Today – TEAM B (Nilsen, Christos)

Next Sunday – TEAM C (Kozak, Diaz, Price)

Please pray for those who have willingly chosen to not worship and pray with us this morning. We pray that those sitting in darkness will see a great light – the light of the Risen Christ!

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.

Welcome to our visitors who have joined us today for worship and prayer. We invite you to stay with us after today's services for an Agape Coffee Hour in our Parish Hall. Please sign our guest book before you leave, tell your friends and family members about us, and bring back one or two of them on your next visit!

Special Prayers

We pray for **all** our parish family members, but we pray especially for those who are ill and afflicted. Among them are: **Dorothy Gornick, Tom Collins, Tom Kopec, Walter Romanofsky, Millie Podolak, Ann Marie Gahr, Dennis Gahr, Ron Madensky, Andy Popovchak, Dorothy Studier, Helen Ciurczak, Pauline Barnowsky, Suzanne Hanas, and Catherine Ratusnak.**

Annunciations

TODAY - We begin the **usual Sunday schedule** with Divine Liturgy served at 10:00am preceded by the Third Hour read at 9:45am.

TODAY – We will **accept offerings** to help the victims of the recent storms that have brought destruction to parts of our country. All donations will be sent to International Orthodox Christian Charities (**IOCC**), the Pan-Orthodox relief agency that responds so well to such emergencies. **A basket is located in the narthex**, and another is in the **parish hall**. Please be generous with your financial and prayerful support.

TODAY – We begin the **Church School and Adult Education sessions** with the service of Preparation (Proskomedie) in the middle of the church. All are invited to participate and to bring names of loved ones (both living and departed) to be commemorated at the service. **The session begins at 9:00am sharp.**

TODAY – A meeting of the **St. Catherine Society** will take place after Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall. All interested in attending are invited to do so.

Next Saturday, September 23 – Holy Apostles Orthodox Church in Saddle Brook is hosting a performance by the world-renowned **Tamburitians** at 4:00pm at JFK Auditorium at Clifton High School. For more information, call **973-460-0243** or see the flyer posted on the church bulletin board in the narthex.

Next Sunday, September 24 – **Church School classes** will begin at 8:45am in the Parish Hall. **Adult Education** will resume with its first session in the church beginning at 9:00am. **All parish youth** are encouraged to attend Church School, and **all adults** are invited to participate in the Adult Education sessions.

Congratulations to the clergy and faithful of **Holy Trinity Church in Rahway** on the occasion of the parish's 50-year anniversary which they celebrated yesterday. Many Years!

MANY YEARS!

Birthdays this week:

Monday – Matthew Hascha

Thursday – Christina Pasick

Saturday – Sophia Medina

Thursday – Christopher Petrides

Wedding Anniversaries this week:

Friday – Steven & Natalie May (#32)

Tuesday – Elaine & Alan D'Alessandro

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.