

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

1 Corinthians 4:9-16 (Epistle) Brethren, I think that God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are ill-clad and buffeted and homeless, and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become, and are now, as the refuse of the world, the off-scouring of all things. I do not write this to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. I urge you, then, be imitators of me.

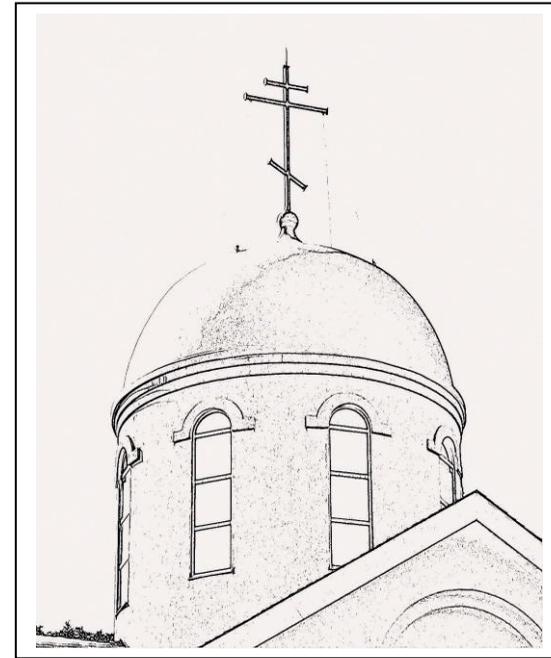
Matthew 17:14-23 (Gospel) And when they came to the crowd, a man came up to him and kneeling before him said, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly; for often he falls into the fire, and often into the water. And I brought him to your disciples, and they could not heal him." And Jesus answered, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me." And Jesus rebuked him, and the demon came out of him, and the boy was cured instantly. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" He said to them, "Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you." As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of man is to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him, and he will be raised on the third day." And they were greatly distressed.

BLESSING FLOWERS ON THE FEAST OF THE DORMITION

Holy Tradition tells us that all the Apostles, with the exception of St. Thomas, were transported mystically to Jerusalem in order to be with the Mother of God – the Theotokos – as she reposed, and to be present at her burial. When the Apostle Thomas arrived the next day, the Apostles opened the tomb so that he could kiss her farewell. As the tomb was opened, the body of the Most Pure Virgin was missing, and the cave was filled with flowers and the sweet fragrance of Paradise. This was a sure sign of her great purity and holiness to the faithful.

Therefore as part of our celebration of Dormition we bless flowers and fragrant herbs – and the faithful traditionally keep them in their homes. The herbs, used as natural medicine, are blessed in commemoration of the numerous healings and the extraordinary grace bestowed on the pilgrims at the blessed tomb of the Mother of God. During times of family strife or illness, it is a pious custom to place the flower petals in the house censer, together with the incense, and cense the whole house with it.

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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Fr. Deacon Alexander Smida, *Deacon*

Thomas Berger, *Senior Warden*

Reader Timothy Kozak, *Choir Director*

August 13, 2017

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Tone 1. Leavetaking of the Transfiguration. St. Tikhon, Bishop of Vorónezh, Wonderworker of Zadónsk and All Russia (1783). Translation of the Relics of St. Maximus the Confessor (662). Uncovering of the Relics of Ven. Maxim of Moscow, Fool-for-Christ (ca. 1547). Martyr Hippolytus of Rome and those with him: Martyr Concordia, Irenæus, and Abundius (258). The Icon "PASSION" of the Most-holy Theotokos.

Today's Readings:

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 4:9-16

Gospel: Matthew 17:14-23

Upcoming Service Schedule:

Monday – 7:00pm Great Vespers w/Blessing of Flowers (*Dormition*)

Tuesday – 9:30am Divine Liturgy w/Blessing of Flowers (*Dormition*)

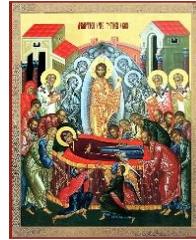
Saturday – 7:00pm Great Vespers

Sunday – 9:00am Divine Liturgy

Next Sunday's Readings:

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 9:2-12

Gospel: Matthew 18:23-35



*Dormition of the
Most-Holy
Theotokos*

Coffee Hour Teams:

Today – TEAM B (Nilsen, Christos)

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

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 Rectory. 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 continue our **summer service schedule** with Sunday Divine Liturgy beginning at **9:00am** preceded by the Third Hour at 8:45am.

TODAY – We are in final days of the **Dormition Fast**. The Church instructs us to **refrain from consuming meat and dairy products** until the Feast of the Dormition of the Most-blessed Theotokos on August 15.

MONDAY, August 14 – **Great Vespers w/Litya** will be served as we begin the celebration of the Great Feast of the Dormition of the Most-Holy Theotokos. The service begins at 7:00pm, and will conclude with the blessing of the flowers brought by the faithful.

TUESDAY, August 15 - **Divine Liturgy** will be served at 9:30am in celebration of the Great Feast of the Dormition of the Most-Holy Theotokos. All are encouraged to participate. **Flowers** brought by the faithful will also be blessed at the end of the Divine Liturgy. A **pot-luck agape meal** will be held in the rectory following the service. All are invited to attend and to bring along a dish to share.

Thursday, August 24 – The **Diocesan Youth Day** will take place at Six Flags Great Adventure. All parish youth are invited to join Archbishop Michael and other youth from throughout our Diocese of New York and New Jersey. Registration materials are available to download, print, fill out and return.

Sunday, October 29 – A **Calendar Party** in support of **St. Andrew's Camp** will be held at 3pm at **Christ the Saviour Church in Paramus**. Tami Economou is reserving a table for members of our parish who wish to attend. Entrance Fee is \$25 for Adults and \$12.50 for Children, which includes a Chicken/Kielbasy Dinner, plus a packet of Tickets for the Gift Baskets. Please see Tami for more details.

Parish Hall Update – A round of **building inspections** took place this past Friday. Several items need attention, but we are drawing very close to the time that we will be able to occupy the building. Please continue with your generosity in support of the project and stay tuned for further news.

MANY YEARS!

Birthdays this week:

Wednesday – Ron Madensky

Thursday – Stephanie Costello

Friday – Joann Hayford

Saturday – Dennis Gahr, Jr.

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.