

September 1 - Holy Forty Women Martyrs and Martyr Ammon the Deacon, their teacher, at Heraclea in Thrace

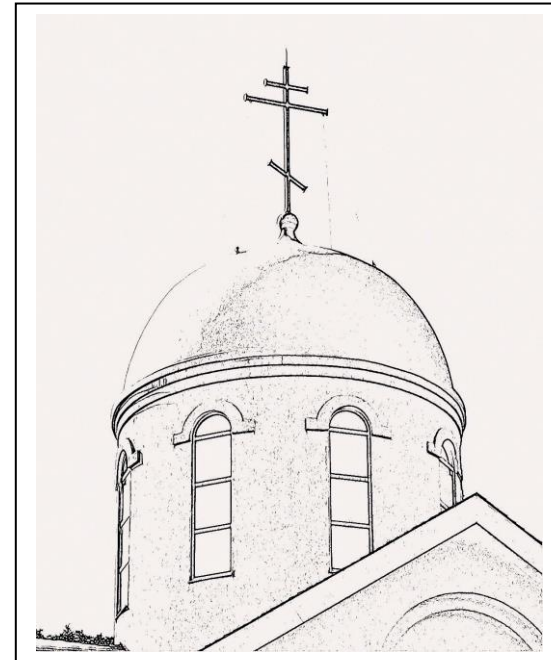
These holy women lived at Adrianople in Thrace during the reign of Emperor Licinius, who was coruler with Saint Constantine the Great (May 21). Babdos, the ruler of the region (circa 305) arrested them as Christians and tried to force them to worship idols. A certain woman named Kelsina, was a prominent citizen. After her courageous confession of the Faith she gathered them all in her home, along with their teacher, Deacon Ammoun (Ammoún), in order to strengthen them for martyrdom. Ammoun took a paper with their names on it and read them aloud one by one. Then he said: "Strive for Christ through martyrdom, for in this way the Master Christ at the gate of the heavenly Kingdom will call you by name, one by one, in order to bestow upon you a crown of eternal life."

When the ruler interrogated them again, all of the Martyrs steadfastly confessed their faith. They prayed to God, and shattered the idols, then suddenly the pagan priest was lifted up into the air by an invisible force, and after being tormented for a long time, he fell to the ground dead. Then Babdos ordered Saint Ammoun to be suspended in order to rake his sides, and burn his wounds with lit candles, and then a red-hot bronze helmet was placed on his head, but miraculously the Holy Martyr was delivered from them.

Since the Saint was unharmed by his ordeal, he was led along with his disciples from Veroe [modern Stara Zagora (Stára Zagorá) in Bulgaria] to Heraclea, and brought to the ruler Licinius. On the way the Lord appeared and encouraged them. Arriving in the city they went to the place where the holy relics of the Virgin Martyr Glykería (May 13) were buried. While they spent the night there praying, the Saint appeared and said: "Welcome, holy servants of God! I have long awaited your glorious companions in Christ, so that we might dance crowned with the Holy Angels in Christ's Kingdom, Whom we have confessed unto blood."

Saint Ammoun and the Holy Virgins were taken to Heraclea (Ηράκλεια) to face further torments. There they were thrown to the wild beasts. The holy women and their teacher prayed standing with upraised hands, but the animals fell asleep and did not touch them. While the soldiers were lighting a fire in which to throw the Martyrs, they predicted to the impious Licinius the victory of Saint Constantine the Great, the triumph of Christianity, and the eradication of idolatry. Then they were sealed with the Sign of the Cross. Ten of them leaped into the flames rejoicing and praising God, Who bedewed the fire. Another eight were beheaded with a sword along with their teacher Ammoun. Another ten were executed after being stabbed in the heart with a sword, or after red-hot irons had been put into their mouths. Six more were also slaughtered, and the remaining six departed to the Lord in peace.

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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September 1, 2024

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Tone 1. Church New Year (Indiction). St. Simeon the Stylite (the Elder) and his mother, Ven. Martha (ca. 428). Martyr Aithalas of Persia (380). Holy Forty Women Martyrs and Martyr Ammon the Deacon, their teacher, at Heraclea in Thrace (4th c.). Martyrs Callista and her brothers, Evodius and Hermogenes, at Nicomedia (309). Righteous Joshua the Son of Nun (16th c. B.C.). Synaxis of the Mother of God in the Miasenga Monastery (commemorating the finding of her Icon there—864). “Chernigov-Gethsemane” Icon of the Mother of God (1869).

Today’s Readings:

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 4:9-16 and Colossians 3:12-16

Gospel: Matthew 17:14-23 and Matthew 11:27-30

Upcoming Service Schedule:

Today – **9:00am Divine Liturgy**

Saturday – **6:00pm Great Vespers w.Litya**

Sunday – **9:00am Divine Liturgy** (*Nativity of the Theotokos*)

Next Sunday’s Readings:

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 9:2-12 and Philippians 2:5-11

Gospel: Matthew 18:23-35 and Luke 10:38-42, 11:27-28



*Church New Year
(Indiction)*

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.

Special Prayers

We pray for all our parish family members, but we pray especially for those who are ill and afflicted. Among them are Fr. Paul Kucynda, Brian Price, Mary Herelick, Tami Economou, Zoran Pejovic, Betty James, Manya Shark, Deryl Tczap, Mary Tczap, George Stavrou, Margaret Makara, Dennis & Ann Marie Gahr, Michael Getmanov, Alan Diaz, Ellen Norman, Maryann Sivilic, Leo Radionoff, and Lori Ratushnik.

We are happy that you have joined us for worship today and hope that you will join us for Coffee Hour after the Vespers of Pentecost. **The 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 – We welcome all our guests visiting us today. Please join us for **Coffee Hour** in the Parish Hall after the Divine Liturgy. **Team #1** is in charge.

TODAY is the **Church New Year!**

TODAY - Father Gary will continue leading a series of talks on the basics of Orthodoxy. The series is called “**Orthodoxy 101**”. All are welcome to participate, especially those who are new to or inquiring about the Orthodox Faith. The ½ hour talks will be held in the church beginning at 11:30am.

TODAY – A letter explaining current issues with our **church HVAC system** has been made available to parishioners and friends. All are encouraged to **read the letter and respond** accordingly. **Many thanks** to those who already have!

Saturday, September 21 is the next **Parish Cleanup Day**. THIS IS A CORRECTED DATE. Please plan to come and help the ongoing effort to clean up our building and grounds. Of course, cleaning and caring for our buildings and grounds is not limited to these cleanup days, so please feel free to volunteer to help with regular small chores (cleaning bathrooms, mopping floors, etc.) Speak with Father Gary or any Parish Council member if you are interested.

SAVE THE DATE! The **Annual Parish Ethnic Fair and Gift Auction** will take place on **Sunday, September 29, 2024!** Please mark your calendars! **Donations** are now being received for **Gift Auction gifts**. Requested items for donation are posted on the white board just outside the parish hall.

Please continue to use the **clothing bin** located in the church parking lot. Each donation of clothing or shoes helps the parish financially. Many thanks for your participation.

MANY YEARS

Birthdays this week:

Monday – James Buchala

Wednesday – Marie Price

Thursday – Bill Buchala

Friday – Anthony Macejka

Wedding Anniversaries this week:

Monday – Debbie & John Alpaugh

Monday – Christina Pasick & Philip George

***Please pray for vocations
to the Holy Priesthood!***

The Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors program is an essential vehicle for funding the activities and programs of our diocese. As you plan your year-end giving, please consider participating in this program. More information is available at the diocesan website at www.nynjoca.org.