

Icon of the Mother of God “of the Akathist” of Zographou Monastery

In the XIII century, there was a certain Elder who spent his life in ascetical struggles on Mount Athos. He had the pious custom of reading the Akathist Hymn before the Icon of the Mother of God every day.

One day, while reading the Akathist, and silently repeating the word "rejoice," the Elder suddenly heard a voice coming from the Icon, "Rejoice also, Elder of God!"

The ascetic trembled in horror, but the voice continued: "Do not be afraid, but go to the monastery as soon as possible and announce to the brethren and to the Igoumen that the monastery is in danger from enemies who are already close by. Whoever is weak in patience, let him hide until the temptation passes; but as for those who are seeking crowns, let them stay."

The Elder left the cell right away and hurried to the monastery. As soon as he entered the gate, his eyes beheld the very Icon from his cell, before which he had just read the Akathist. An invisible, miraculous power had brought it there from the ascetic's cell.

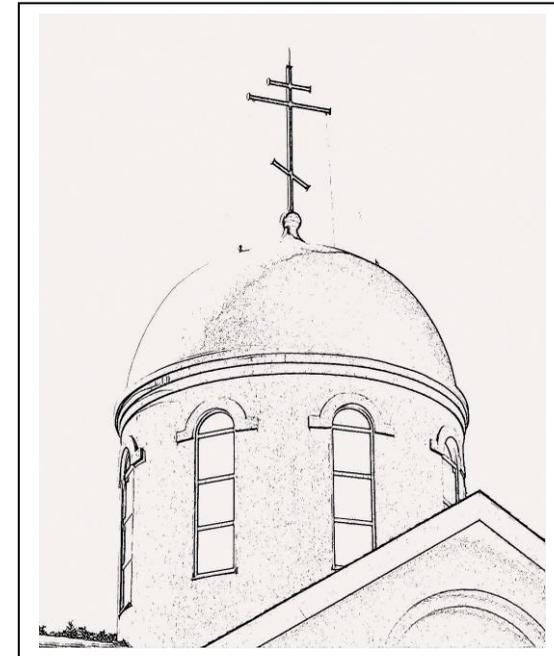
The Elder fell down before the Icon with ardent prayer, and then with the Icon in his hands, he went to the Igoumen. The brotherhood, learning of the impending danger, was very worried. The more faint-hearted monks hastened to hide in the mountains, while twenty-six brave monks, including the Igoumen himself, remained in the monastery. The Elder, who received the heavenly revelation, also remained with them, so that he might comfort them during the coming trial.

It did not take long for their enemies to reach the monastery. These were Latins who at that time were trying to convert Orthodox Christians to Catholicism. Arriving at the monastery and approaching the tower in which the monks had locked themselves, they tried to persuade them to renounce Orthodoxy. In an effort to convince them to recognize the pope as the head of the Universal Church, the Latins promised the champions of Orthodoxy all sorts of favors and monetary rewards. But these faithful sons of the Orthodox Church remained adamant.

Then the enemies of Orthodoxy piled wood around the tower and lit it. As they prayed to the Lord, the monks gave thanks to the Almighty for making them worthy of receiving the crown of martyrdom, and then all of them surrendered their spotless souls to the Heavenly Father. Their martyric death occurred on October 10, 1274. The names of the victims were added to the Synodikon of Zographou Monastery, as well as to the official calendar of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church.

The wonderworking Icon of the Mother of God, who warned the Elder about the impending disaster, was subsequently found unscathed under the ashes in the ruins of the monastery. Today this Icon is in the monastery, and an unsleeping lampada burns before 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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Reader Matthew Hascha, *Choir Director*

Annunciations

October 10, 2021

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Fathers of the 7th Ecumenical Council

Tone 7. Martyrs Eulampius and Eulampia, at Nicomedia, and 200 Martyrs with them (303-311). St. Amphilókhy (Amphilochius), Bishop of Vladimir, Volyn' (1122). Synaxis of the Saints of Volyn': Ven. Job of Pochaev, Ss. Stephen and Amphilókhy, Bishops of Vladimir in Volyn'; Hieromartyr Makáry, Archimandrite of Kanev; St. Yaropolk, Prince of Vladimir in Volyn'; Ven. Theodore (in monasticism Theodosius), Prince of Ostrog; and St. Juliana Ol'shanskaya. Bl. Andrew of Tot'ma, Fool-for-Christ (1673). Martyr Theotecnus of Antioch (3rd-4th c.). St. Bassian of Constantinople (5th c.). St. Theophilus the Confessor of Bulgaria (8th c.). Ven. Amvrosy of Optina (1891). Hieromartyr Peter (Polianskii), Metropolitan of Krutitsy (1937—Sept 27th O.S.). The "AKATHIST" Icon of the Mother of God at Zographou (Mt Athos).

Today's Readings:

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6:1-10

Gospel: Luke 7:11-16

Upcoming Service Schedule:

Today **9:00am Divine Liturgy**

Friday **7:00pm Vespers (Consecration)**

Saturday **9:00am Consecration & Hierarchical Divine Liturgy**

Saturday **6:00pm Great Vespers**

Sunday **9:00am Divine Liturgy**

Next Sunday's Readings:

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1 and Hebrews 13:7-16

Gospel: Luke 8:5-15 and John 17:1-13



*The "AKATHIST" Icon
of the Mother of God at
Zographou*

Special Prayers

We pray for **all** our parish family members, but we pray especially for those who are ill and afflicted. Among them are **Zoran Pejovic, Ruth Federoff, Betty James, Manya Shark, Deryl Tczap, Rdr. John Economou, Margaret Makara, Ann Marie and Dennis Gahr, and Dorothy Studier.**

To those who have joined us in-person today for worship, we are happy you have done so. Please 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 recent confession. We encourage you 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.**

TODAY – Please join us for **Coffee Hour** after Divine Liturgy and the veneration of the Cross. **Team #2** is in charge of today's ministry effort.

TODAY – A **special collection basket** is once again located in the parish narthex for **donations of relief** for those in our Diocese who suffered losses in the wake of **Hurricane Ida**. An anonymous donor has offered a **dollar-for-dollar match** on all parish contributions to this fund! Please be generous with your offerings. **This is the last Sunday that this collection will be taken.**

TODAY – Sheets are available in the Narthex and the Parish Hall for parishioners to submit **names of current and former parishioners** to Father Gary. The lists of these people – living and dead – will be placed in, and will reside in the same box as the three saintly relics that will be enshrined in the new altar table next Saturday. Only names of Orthodox Christians should be submitted. Names must be received no later than this Thursday evening, and may alternatively be submitted via email to: orthodoxbrick@gmail.com.

THIS FRIDAY – **Vespers** will be served at 7:00pm (not 6:00pm as listed in the printed calendar).

THIS SATURDAY – The **Consecration service** will begin at 9:00am with the procession of Archbishop Michael into the Church. Immediately after the Consecration service ends, the **Hierarchical Divine Liturgy** will begin. It is expected that the total time for the services will be approximately **3-1/2 hours**. The **Celebratory Dinner** will begin as close as possible to 1:00pm. Those who plan to be present for all or some of the day's activities should plan accordingly.

THIS SATURDAY – We have **reached the capacity limit** for the Celebratory Dinner. No further reservations can be accommodated. Many thanks to all who responded.

NEXT SUNDAY – **Team #3** will oversee the Coffee Hour.

It continues to be the parish policy that the **wearing of masks in Church** is optional. Those who wish to wear a mask are encouraged to do so. Those who don't should not feel pressured to do so. **Masks are available in the narthex** for those who wish to use them.

MANY YEARS

Birthdays this week:

Today – Natalie May

Thursday – Alexander Ciorlian

Saturday – Tom Berger

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.