

October 20 – The Greatmartyr Artemius at Antioch

Holy Great Martyr Artemius of Antioch was a prominent military leader during the reigns of the emperor Constantine the Great (May 21), and his son and successor Constantius (337-361). Artemius received many awards for distinguished service and courage. He was appointed viceroy of Egypt. In this official position he did much for the spreading and strengthening Christianity in Egypt.

Saint Artemius was sent by the emperor Constantius to bring the relics of the holy Apostle Andrew from Patras, and the relics of the holy Apostle Luke from Thebes of Boeotia, to Constantinople. The holy relics were placed in the Church of the Holy Apostles beneath the table of oblation. The emperor rewarded him by making him ruler of Egypt.

The emperor Constantius was succeeded on the throne by Julian the Apostate (361-363). Julian in his desire to restore paganism was extremely antagonistic towards Christians, sending hundreds to their death. At Antioch he ordered the torture of two bishops unwilling to forsake the Christian Faith.

During this time, Saint Artemius arrived in Antioch and publicly denounced Julian for his impiety. The enraged Julian subjected the saint to terrible tortures and threw the Great Martyr Artemius into prison. While Artemius was praying, Christ, surrounded by angels, appeared to him and said, "Take courage, Artemius! I am with you and will preserve you from every hurt which is inflicted upon you, and I already have prepared your crown of glory. Since you have confessed Me before the people on earth, so shall I confess you before My Heavenly Father. Therefore, take courage and rejoice, you shall be with Me in My Kingdom." Hearing this, Artemius rejoiced and offered up glory and thanksgiving to Him.

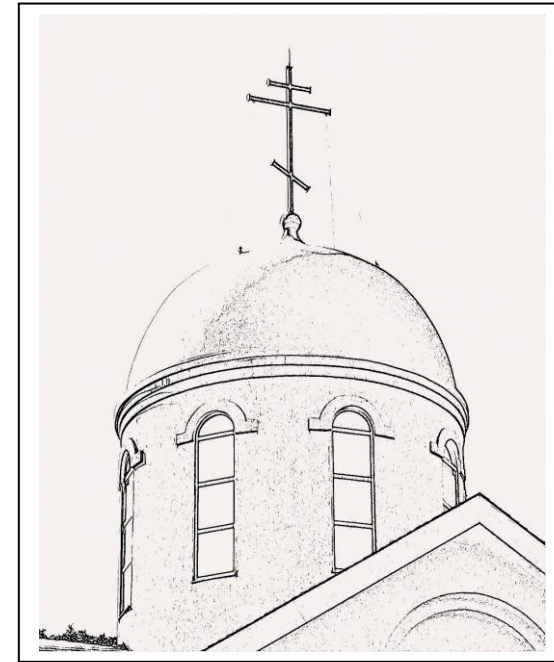
On the following day, Julian demanded that Saint Artemius honor the pagan gods. Meeting with steadfast refusal, the emperor resorted to further tortures. The saint endured all without a single moan. The saint told Julian that he would be justly recompensed for his persecution of Christians. Julian became furious and resorted to even more savage tortures, but they did not break the will of the saint. Finally the Great Martyr Artemius was beheaded.

His relics were buried by Christians. After the death of Saint Artemius, his prophecy about Julian the Apostate's impending death came true.

Julian left Antioch for a war with the Persians. Near the Persian city of Ctesiphon, Julian came upon an elderly Persian, who agreed to betray his countrymen and guide Julian's army. The old man deceived Julian and led his army into the Karmanite wilderness, where there was neither food nor water. Tired from hunger and thirst, Julian's army battled against fresh Persian forces.

Divine retribution caught up with Julian the Apostate. During the battle he was mortally wounded by an unseen hand and an unseen weapon. Julian groaned deeply said, "You have conquered, Galilean!" After the death of the apostate emperor, the relics of the Great Martyr Artemius were transferred with honor from Antioch to Constantinople.

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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Matthew Petrides, *Senior Warden*

Christian Gamboa, *Choir Director*

October 20, 2024

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Tone 8. Greatmartyr Artemius at Antioch (362). Righteous Child Artemius of Verkola. Ven. Gerasimos the New Ascetic, of Cephalonia (1579). Ven. Matrona of Chios (14th c.).

Today's Readings:

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1

Gospel: Luke 16:19-31

Upcoming Service Schedule:

Today – 9:00am Divine Liturgy

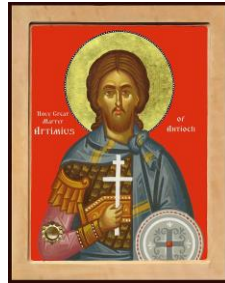
Saturday – 6:00pm Great Vespers

Sunday – 9:00am Divine Liturgy

Next Sunday's Readings:

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 9:6-11

Gospel: Luke 8:26-39



*Greatmartyr Artemius
at Antioch*

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.

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.

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, 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 Ratushnuk.

We are happy that you have joined us for worship today and hope that you will join us for Coffee Hour after Divine Liturgy. **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 the **COFFEE HOUR** in the Parish Hall after we venerate the Cross. **Team #3** is in charge of today's Coffee Hour.

TODAY – **Church School** will be held during Coffee Hour.

TODAY – The **St. Catherine Society Meeting** scheduled for today has been **postponed** to a date TBD.

Next Sunday, October 27 – A **Diocesan Distinguished Benefactors** appreciation dinner will be held at Ss. Peter & Paul Church in South River. **Everyone is invited. More information** is found on the flyers posted in the Church and the Parish Hall.

Saturday, November 9 - A **fall retreat** led by Dr. Peter Bouteneff and titled "Theology: What it is and Why it Matters" will be held at Holy Cross Church in Medford from 9:30am – 3:30pm. All are invited to attend. See the event flyer for more details.

Saturday, November 16 – An **Advent Retreat and Luncheon** led by Fr. Barnabas Powell and titled "Be Watchful - Be Sober: St. Paul's Wisdom for Spiritual Maturity" will be held at St. George Greek Orthodox Church in Ocean from 9:30am – 3:30pm. All are invited to attend. See the event flyer for more details.

Father Gary & Matushka Mary will be away this Monday to next Monday. In case of pastoral emergency, please contact Father Bohdan Chaikivskyi at (732) 486-9460 or bohdan940905@gmail.com. Father Bohdan will serve the Divine services next weekend in Father Gary's absence.

Group baking dates for the Cookie Walk (Saturday, December 14) have been set for Wednesday, October 30 and Tuesday, November 12. Both sessions will be held in the **parish hall kitchen at 5:30pm**.

Please continue to use the **clothing bin** located in the church parking lot. A list of items that can be donated is located on the white board in the Parish Hall. Each donation helps the parish financially. Many thanks for your participation.

MANY YEARS

Birthdays this week:

Tuesday – Brian Gray

Tuesday – Richard Pasick

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