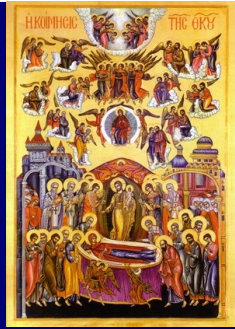


CHURCH STAFF

- Parish Priest: Very Reverend Archimandrite Christodoulos Margellos
- Parish Council President: Jim (Demetrios) Katsitis
- Philoptochos President: Eleni Giakoumopoulos
- Sunday School Directors: Susu Saba & Peli Galiti
- Greek School: Ilektra Kolokouri
- Choir Director: George Tzougros

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

June Calendar	2
Parish Council Update	3
Focus on Philoptochos	4
Community News	7
Saints of June & July	10 - 14
July Calendar	15



Wonderworker

JUNE / JULY 2022

SUMMER AND GOD

Summer is here, or so they say, although the way the weather has been I am not yet convinced. Summer is a time for kids to get a break from school, for everyone to take their vacations, and to get out and enjoy our families and friends. One of the things I love most about the summer is watching all the hustle and bustle going on around me everywhere. One of my own favorite things to do is to sit on the deck, reading a good book, and watching everything around me. This allows for me to have a lot of time to ponder things.

I have always noticed something else that takes place every summer, the attendance in church slowly dwindles. People tend to feel they have more important things to do, and tend to put God on the back burner. Finding that an early morning round of golf, or a chance to hit the lakes early is to be far more tempting than enjoying a rich sacramental life. I am not here to scold or judge, but simply to ask everyone not to forget about God.

To often God takes a back seat in our lives, only being remembered one time a week, when something goes wrong, or simply because we feel God is like a genie, here to take wishes. We come up unprepared week after week to receive our Lord's most precious gift of Holy Communion. Our Lord does not ask for much only that we love Him, and to show that love He gave the ultimate sacrifice in giving up His own life so that we may be brought back into eternal life.

Let us have deep roots within our faith, take the chance to not only partake of the Holy Communion, but to come to confession. To read the lives of our saints, as well as read what some of the Fathers of the church have to say. Let us be like the first servant in Christ's parable of the talents. Let us take what the Lord has given us and multiply it ten fold, and not to be like the third servant and take what the Lord has given and hide it away, and do nothing to make it grow.



Take the chance to come to church for the services we will have this summer, to the vespers we will be offering, and to the Paraklesis service in August. Come join us as we all together send our praise and thanks to our Lord. God Bless! May you all have a blessed and safe summer.

✙ *Very Rev. Archimandrite Christodoulos*

Note: the watermark "G.H.T.M." will not appear on your icon.

June 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Fast Day (Fish Permitted) Apodosis of Pascha Ascension Vespers 8:00 p.m. 9th hour and Great Vespers	2 Ascension of our Lord 8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by Divine Liturgy	3 Strict Fast	4 +Sacrament 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers
5 Sunday of the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council 8:30 a.m. Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy Graduate Sunday	6	7	8 Strict Fast 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	9	10 Strict Fast	11 Saturday of Souls 8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by Divine Liturgy with Memorial Service Parish Outing to the Forward Madison Soccer Game
12 Pentecost 8:30 a.m. Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy Special Vespers with Kneeling Prayers immedi- ately following Liturgy	13	14	15 Fast Free Day	16	17 Fast Free Day	18 Russian Mission Service
19 All Saints Father's Day 8:30 a.m. Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy	20 Fast Day (Fish Permitted)	21 Fast Day (Fish Permitted) 7:00 p.m. Parish Council Meeting	22 Strict Fast	23 Fast Day (Fish Permitted)	24 Strict Fast Nativity of John the Baptist 8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by Divine Liturgy	25 Fast Day (Fish Permitted)
26 Fast Day (Fish Permitted) 2nd Sunday of Matthew 8:30 a.m. Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy	27 Fast Day (Fish Permitted)	28 Fast Day (Fish Permitted)	29 Fast Day (Fish Permitted) Saints Peter & Paul 8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by Divine Liturgy	30 Synaxis of the 12 Apostles 8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by Divine Liturgy		

The Parish Council Update June/July 2022

Officers: Jim Katsihtis, President; Maria Molzahn, Vice President; Bruce Hansen, Secretary; Scott Storck, Treasurer; Niko Papadopoulos, Assistant Treasurer

Members: Christy Chappell-Belkin, Conn Choles, Carol Griskavich, Nick Helser, Mike Smith, John Soloninka

Congratulations to our graduates! And to all of our Sunday and Greek School teachers and students for completing another successful year. We give thanks to God and pray that everyone has a blessed Summer. We look forward to celebrating our Lord's Ascension, Pentecost, our Lord's Transfiguration and our parish's feast day over the Summer. We are also looking forward to the completion and installation of the stavrosis/crucifixion iconography on the North transept wall. The Parish Council's agenda for this Summer will include planning and preparing for GreekFest+, the National Clergy Laity Conference and presenting a recommendation for replacing the roof.

GreekFest+

GreekFest+ is scheduled for September 24th and 25th! More information will be coming soon, including our plan, needs and how you can help make it a success. Please see Father or a Council member if you are able to help. Thanks.

Spring General Assembly

Thanks to all who attended the Spring General Assembly. We'll post the minutes on the Parish Council bulletin board.

Bucket Brigade/Cleaning Team

Our cleaning team needs help and could use the help of at least two more people. We recently hired an outside cleaning company to help clean twice per month, but we still rely on our parishioners to clean the other weeks as well as to clean the sanctuary every week. If you can help (just 1 hour per week, 2-3 weeks per month), please see a Council member or Jenny Glatch. Let's help this team who so wondrously kept our church clean and safe throughout the pandemic with all the extra cleaning and sanitization that was necessary. Thank you.

2022 Stewardship

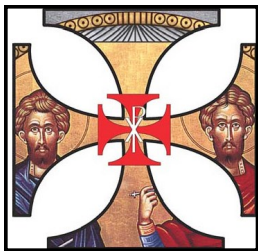
If you haven't already, please return your 2022 Stewardship form and continue to pray for, and generously support, our parish. Your stewardship helps support our worship, ministries, youth programs and facility expenses. Our goal is for stewardship to cover our operating expenses and for us not to have to rely on fundraisers for standard operating expenses. Please help us reach that goal. And please consider joining the Stewardship Committee to provide input and help us grow and engage our stewards more.

Next Parish Council Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 21 at 7:00PM. Parish Council meetings will typically be scheduled on the third Tuesday of the month. There will not be a Parish Council Meeting in July.

On behalf of the Parish Council,

Jim
407-408-3096
jkatsihtis@gmail.com



FOCUS ON PHILOPTOCHOS HELP US TO HELP OTHERS

June/July 2022

Focus on PHILOPTOCHOS
#PhiloCares

From National Philoptochos President Arlene Siavelis Kehl in her message to all Philoptochos Sisters:

"The mission of Philoptochos has never rung truer in these deeply unsettling times. The work of our beloved Philoptochos offers hope to those in despair and the less fortunate among us. We fund social service cases to help with housing, food, utilities, medical care, transportation, and funerals. For years and for the love of our precious children, we have worked tirelessly on our biennial children's medical fund luncheons to fund innovative children's programs. We provide meals and basic supplies for those going hungry and looking for a place to rest. We offer critical assistance in the short and long term by providing humanitarian relief throughout the United States and the world."

LOOKING AHEAD

- We continue to be #PhiloStrong because of the support of this amazing community!!
June collection tray: For June we are collecting for the **Orthodox Christian Prison Mission** and for the July collection tray, we are collecting for the **Philanthropy Fund**.
- There will not be a general Chapter meeting in June or July. There will be a board meeting at the end of August. Look for the date and time in the next newsletter.
- **June 2 – Philoptochos Spring Social** – Thank you to co-chairs, Sue S and Elene P for coordinating our final gathering before we head into the summer months. A lovely evening for all in attendance.
- **June 12** – This is the last scheduled coffee hour to be hosted by Philoptochos until we resume in the fall.

NOTES FROM MAY

- Funds distributed in May: \$2,642 was sent to the River Food Pantry / \$750 to the Salvation Army / \$2,000 to Porchlight Inc. / \$750 to Hearts and Hands – UW Health, along with the National Philoptochos commitments and our sponsorship for the convention.
- 2022 National Philoptochos Biennial Convention: "Legacy, Renewal, Unity" - Celebrating 90 years of philanthropy. Our chapter will be represented by Jenny Glatch at the convention on July 3-7, 2022 in New York.

Metropolis dates to note:

- Philoptochos President's Meeting, June 4, 2022 at SS. Constantine & Helen, Palos Hills, IL
- National Clergy Laity Convention and Philoptochos Assembly – July 3-7, 2022, New York, NY
- September 24: Metropolis of Chicago September Luncheon, The Empress Banquets



The Ladies' Philoptochos Society Assumption Greek Orthodox Church 2022 Membership Drive

We invite you to join us and share in our philanthropic mission. Through your stewardships and our various fundraisers, we are able to donate to many worthy causes helping people in need locally, nationally, and internationally. Locally we donate our resources and Philoptochos power to several organizations on a regular basis, and also to special hardship situations as needs are presented to us. Nationally and internationally we support the philanthropic programs of our Metropolis Philoptochos and our National Philoptochos.

We hope that you will join us as a member and also as a volunteer. Whether you attend regular meetings, volunteer to help with our activities, or would like to support our work with your stewardship, you will be a valued Philoptochos member. We look forward to hearing from you.

Please complete the form below and submit it with your 2022 stewardship payment, by **February 28, 2022**. Checks should be made payable to "Philoptochos" and please write *membership* in the memo section. The mailing address is below. Thank you!

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

I am interested in helping with the following project(s) and please include me!

Vasilopita Dinner (January) (n/a 2022)		Baklava Plus Sale (Sept. – Nov.)	
Mid – Winter Luncheon (February)		Maintaining the Church Hall/Kitchen	
Greek Independence Day Dinner		Cooking for Grace Episcopal -Porchlight Homeless Shelter	
Koulourakia baking (Holy Week)		Baking Breads for Special Dinners	
Spring/Easter bake sale (drive by pick up)		Coffee Hour Host	
Greek Fest Bake Sale (drive by pick up or onsite)		Prosforon (Holy Bread) baking	
Reception for Assumption Feast Aug 14		Bucket Brigade (church cleaning)	
Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, and/or Memorial Services (if requested)			

My Stewardship payment of \$_____ is enclosed (check #_____ or cash).

Please note: \$15.00 goes to National Philoptochos, \$5.00 to the Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos, and \$2.00 to the Bishop's Fund. We ask for a minimum pledge of \$22.00. Dues paid above the amount will be used for our philanthropic activities and other chapter obligations.

*Please return to Beth Fatsis (1215 E Johnson St, Madison, WI 53703)
or drop it in the Philoptochos mailbox at Church.*

Thank you for your generous time and support!

YOUTH CORNER

Summer Word Scramble

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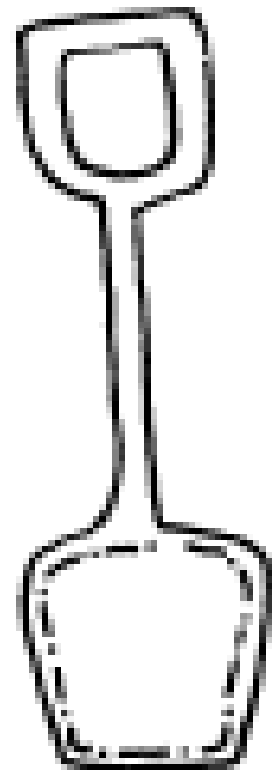
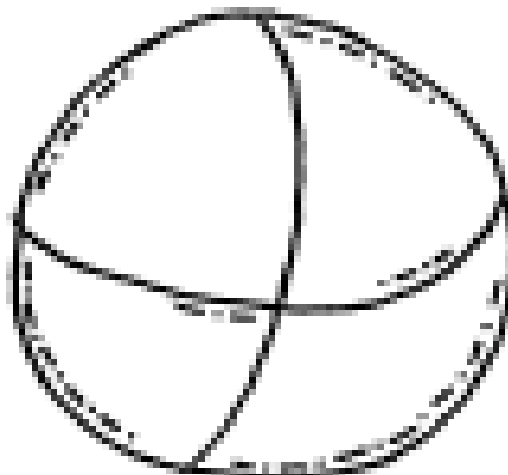
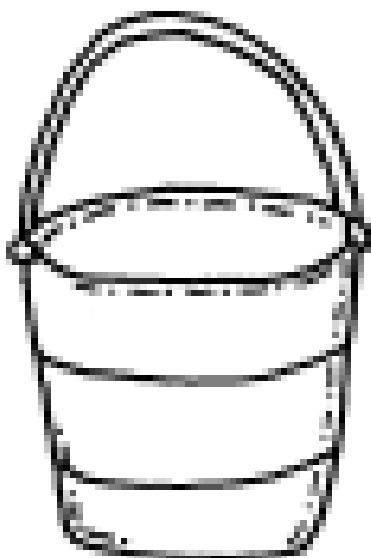
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COMMUNITY NEWS

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: Will be held on Tuesday, June 21st at 7:00 p.m.

GRADUATE SUNDAY: Will be held on Sunday, June 5th. On this day our parish honors the academic accomplishments of our youth. A gift will be presented to our graduates from high school, college or university who have had their names submitted to the church office by Tuesday, May 31st.

PARISH OUTING TO FORWARD MADISON FC SOCCER GAME: On Saturday, June 11th, 2022 we will have a Parish Outing to the Forward Madison FC Soccer Game vs the Greenville Triumph SC with a 7:00 p.m. Kick-Off.

We have tickets available in the Pre-Game Party which begins 90 minutes prior to Kick off this includes for the 90 minutes prior all you can eat food & drink and then also a ticket for the Game. The cost is \$31 if you want pop or \$36 for food and alcohol.

<https://offer.fevo.com/greenville-triumph-sc-2qyoe2a-0f09fda?fevoUri=greenville-triumph-sc-2qyoe2a-0f09fda%2Fgreenville-triumph-sc-2qyoe2a-0f09fda>

Everyone is responsible for buying their own tickets with the link provided above. Join us for what is sure to be a great night of fun & fellowship. Deadline for tickets is Wednesday, June 8th, 2022.

CARPET FUNDRAISER: To help offset the cost of the new carpet for the church we have put together an option to help pay for it. The new carpet comes in tiles and each of those tiles will cost \$20. So we are interested in seeing if people would consider donating tiles as many as you like, but we are hoping to get everyone to donate the tiles they are using each service. You can also donate an entire row which is 10 tiles for \$200. Please consider giving if you are able. Thank you for being a part of our community.

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASS: A.R.E. are now done for the Summer. We will return to in person classes and Zoom classes again this fall. We should begin again in late August or early September. We will be starting Metropolitan Kallistos Ware's book "The Orthodox Church". We will see you in the fall when we look forward to continuing our journey together.

FROM THE GREEK SCHOOL: Greek School has ended and will begin again in the Fall.

J & M HOME HELPERS: AGOC's handymen, John and Mike, will do minor home repairs and maintenance for \$25/hour, with the money for their work being donated to the church. Call Mike at (608) 516-9188 and John at (608) 575-1014 today!

HOLY CONFESSION IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF OUR LIVES: Each of us should go to the priest for Holy Confession preferably 3 times a year, but at the very least once a year. Our very salvation can be threatened when we ignore this most beautiful sacrament of our Church. This year make the effort to call your Father Confessor for an appointment.

RIVER FOOD PANTRY: Starting May 28, The River Food Pantry will introduce a new pantry session, called Pantry xPress, on Saturdays from 11 am to 2 pm that offers a condensed selection of curbside groceries and to-go meals. "By offering a pantry session on the weekend that does not require registration, we will increase convenience and accessibility for our community," said Rhonda Adams, Executive Director of The River. Pantry xPress choices will vary and be more limited than groceries offered by The River during the week. This drive-thru service will offer an assortment of groceries, such as produce, milk, eggs, meat, perishables, bread, nonperishables, desserts, and FAM (Family At-Home Meals).

There will be no registration. Pantry xPress visits will not count towards existing clients' weekly visits at The River.

SAVE THE DATE GREEKFEST+ SEPTEMBER 24th & 25th

FUTURE PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND: I have been blessed to lead a few trips to the Holy Land as a priest and I plan to lead another one for our parish here at Assumption. In conjunction with Saint Andrew's in Chicago we will be doing a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Constantinople. The Itinerary is being finalized as we write this. The Plan is to depart early November 2023. In the Fall we will be holding an informational meeting.

2022 Parish outing to the Forward Madison FC



**On Saturday. June 11th, 2022 we will have a Parish Out-
ing to the Forward Madison FC Soccer Game vs the
Greenville Triumph SC with a 7:00 p.m. Kick-Off.**

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begins 90 minutes prior to Kick off this includes for the 90
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**Everyone is responsible for buying their own tickets with
the link provided above.**

**Join us for what is sure to be a great night of fun &
fellowship.**

*The Faithful Stewards & Friends
of the Holy Metropolis of Chicago
are cordially invited to celebrate the*

Feast Day of the Holy Apostle Bartholomew

Patron Saint of
Metropolitan Nathanael of Chicago

June 9th

Holy Apostles, Westchester, IL
7:00 pm Great Vespers Service
Reception to follow

June 10th

Annunciation Cathedral, Chicago, IL
8:30 am Orthros
Reception to follow





The Holy Glorious and All-Praised Leaders of the Apostles, Peter and Paul: Today the Holy Church piously remembers the sufferings of the Holy Glorious and All-Praised Apostles Peter and Paul.

St. Peter, the fervent follower of Jesus Christ, for the profound confession of His Divinity: “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God,” was deemed worthy by the Savior to hear in answer, “Blessed art thou, Simon ... I tell thee, that thou art Peter [Petrus], and on this stone [petra] I build My Church” (Mt.16:16-18). On “this stone” [petra], is on that which thou sayest: “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God” it is on this thy confession I build My Church. Wherefore the “thou art Peter”: it is from the “stone” [petra] that Peter [Petrus] is, and not from Peter [Petrus] that the “stone” [petra] is, just as the Christian is from Christ, and not Christ from the Christian. Do you want to know, from what sort of “rock” [petra] the Apostle Peter [Petrus] was named?

Hear the Apostle Paul: “Brethren, I do not want ye to be ignorant,” says the Apostle of Christ, “how all our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; and all were baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; and did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ” (1 Cor.10: 1-4). Here is the from whence the “Rock” is Peter.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, in the final days of His earthly life, in the days of His mission to the race of man, chose from among the disciples His twelve Apostles to preach the Word of God. Among them, the Apostle Peter for his fiery ardor was vouchsafed to occupy the first place (Mt.10:2) and to be as it were the representative person for all the Church. Therefore it is said to him, preferentially, after the confession: “I will give unto thee the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth, shall be bound in the heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth: shall be loosed in heaven” (Mt.16: 19). Therefore it was not one man, but rather the One Universal Church, that received these “keys” and the right “to bind and loosen.” And that it was actually the Church that received this right, and not exclusively a single person, turn your attention to another place of the Scriptures, where the same Lord says to all His Apostles, “Receive ye the Holy Spirit” and further after this, “Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them: and whose soever sins ye retain, are retained” (John 20: 22-23); or: “whatsoever ye bind upon the earth, shall be bound in Heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth, shall be loosened in heaven” (Mt.18:18). Thus, it is the Church that binds, the Church that loosens; the Church, built upon the foundational cornerstone, Jesus Christ Himself (Eph 2:20), doth bind and loosen. Let both the binding and the loosening be feared: the loosening, in order not to fall under this again; the binding, in order not to remain forever in this condition. Therefore “Iniquities ensnare a man, and everyone is bound in the chains of his own sins,” says Wisdom (Prov 5:22); and except for Holy Church nowhere is it possible to receive the loosening.

After His Resurrection the Lord entrusted the Apostle Peter to shepherd His spiritual flock not because, that among the disciples only Peter alone was pre-deserved to shepherd the flock of Christ, but Christ addresses Himself chiefly to Peter because, that Peter was first among the Apostles and as such the representative of the Church; besides which, having turned in this instance to Peter alone, as to the top Apostle, Christ by this confirms the unity of the Church. “Simon of John” -- says the Lord to Peter -- “lovest thou Me?” -- and the Apostle answered: “Yea, Lord, Thou knowest that I love Thee”; and a second time it was thus asked, and a second time he thus answered; being asked a third time, seeing that as it were not believed, he was saddened. But how is it possible for him not to believe That One, Who knew his heart? And wherefore then Peter answered: “Lord, Thou knowest all; Thou knowest that I love Thee.” “And sayeth Jesus to him” all three times “Feed My sheep” (John 20:15-17).

Besides this, the triple appealing of the Savior to Peter and the triple confession of Peter before the Lord had a particular beneficial purpose for the Apostle. That one, to whom was given “the keys of the kingdom” and the right “to bind and to loose,” bound himself thrice by fear and cowardice (Mt.26:69-75), and the Lord thrice loosens him by His appeal and in turn by his confession of strong love. And to shepherd literally the flock of Christ was acquired by all the Apostles and their successors. “Take heed, therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock,” the Apostle Paul urges church presbyters, “over which the Holy Spirit hath made you overseers, to feed the Church of the God, which He hath purchased with His own blood” (Acts 20:28); and the Apostle Peter to the elders: “Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof not by constraint, but willingly: not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind: neither as being lords over God’s heritage, but being examples to the flock. And when is appeared the Prince of pastors, ye will receive unfading crowns of glory” (1 Pet. 5:2-4).

It is remarkable that Christ, having said to Peter: “Feed My sheep,” did not say: “Feed thy sheep,” but rather to feed, good servant, the sheep of the Lord. “Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?” (1 Cor.1:13). “Feed My sheep”. Wherefore “wolfish robbers, wolfish oppressors, deceitful teachers and mercenaries, not being concerned about the flock” (Mt.7:15; Acts 20:29; 2 Pet 2:1; John 10:12), having plundered a strange flock and making of the spoils as though it be of their own particular gain, they think that they feed their flock. Such are not good pastors, as pastors of the Lord. “The good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep” (John 10:11), entrusted to Him by the chief Shepherd Himself (1 Pet 5:4). And the Apostle Peter, true to his calling, gave his soul for the very flock of Christ, having sealed his apostleship by a martyr’s death, is now glorified throughout all the world.

The Apostle Paul, formerly Saul, was changed from a robbing wolf into a meek lamb. Formerly he was an enemy of the Church, then is manifest as an Apostle. Formerly he stalked it, then preached it. Having received from the high priests the authority at large to throw all Christians in chains for execution, he was already on the way, he breathed out “threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord” (Acts 9:1), he thirsted for blood, but “He that dwells in the Heavens shall laugh him to scorn” (Ps 2:4). When he, “having persecuted and vexed” in such manner “the Church of God” (1Cor.15:9; Acts 8:5), he came near Damascus, and the Lord from Heaven called to him: “Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou Me?” and I am here, and I am there, I am everywhere: here is My head; there is My body. There becomes nothing of a surprise in this; we ourselves are members of the Body of Christ. “Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou Me; it is hard for thee to kick against the goad” (Acts 9:4-5). Saul, however, “trembling and frightened”, cried out: “Who art Thou, Lord?” The Lord answered him, “I am Jesus Whom thou persecutest.”

And Saul suddenly undergoes a change: “What wantest Thou me to do?” -- he cries out. And suddenly for him there is the Voice: “Arise, and go to the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do” (Acts 9:6). Here the Lord sends Ananias: “Arise and go into the street” to a man, “by the name of Saul,” and baptize him, “for this one is a chosen vessel unto Me, to bear My name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel” (Acts 9: 11, 15, 18). This vessel must be filled with My Grace. “Ananias, however, answered: Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he hath done to Thy saints in Jerusalem: and here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Thy Name” (Acts 9:13-14). But the Lord urgently commands Ananias: “Search for and fetch him, for this vessel is chosen by Me: for I shall show him what great things he must suffer for My name’s sake” (Acts 9:11, 15-16).

And actually the Lord did show the Apostle Paul what things he had to suffer for His Name. He instructed him the deeds; He did not stop at the chains, the fetters, the prisons and shipwrecks; He Himself felt for him in his sufferings, He Himself guided him towards this day. On a single day the memory of the sufferings of both these Apostles is celebrated, though they suffered on separate days, but by the spirit and the closeness of their suffering they constitute one. Peter went first, and Paul followed soon after him. Formerly called

Saul, and then Paul, having transformed his pride into humility. His very name (Paulus), meaning “small, little, less,” demonstrates this. What is the Apostle Paul after this? Ask him, and he himself gives answer to this: “I am,” says he, “the least of the Apostles... but I have labored more abundantly than all of them: yet not I, but the grace of God, which was with me” (1 Cor.15:9-10).

And so, brethren, celebrating now the memory of the holy Apostles Peter and Paul, remembering their venerable sufferings, we esteem their true faith and holy life, we esteem the innocence of their sufferings and pure confession. Loving in them the sublime quality and imitating them by great exploits, “in which to be likened to them” (2 Thess 3: 5-9), and we shall attain to that eternal bliss which is prepared for all the saints. The path of our life before was more grievous, thornier, harder, but “we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses” (Heb 12: 1), having passed by along it, made now for us easier, and lighter, and more readily passable. First there passed along it “the author and finisher of our faith,” our Lord Jesus Christ Himself (Heb 12: 2); His daring Apostles followed after Him; then the martyrs, children, women, virgins and a great multitude of witnesses. Who acted in them and helped them on this path? He Who said, “Without Me ye can do nothing” (John 15: 5).



Holy Virgin Martyr Paraskevi: Holy Virgin Martyr Paraskevi of Rome was the only daughter of Christian parents, Agathon and Politia, and from her early years she dedicated herself to God. She spent much of her time in prayer and the study of the Holy Scriptures. After the death of her parents Saint Paraskevi distributed all of her inheritance to the poor, and consecrated her virginity to Christ. Emulating the holy Apostles, she began to preach to the pagans about Christ, converting many to Christianity.

She was arrested during the reign of Antoninus Pius (138-161) because she refused to worship the idols. She was brought to trial and fearlessly confessed herself a Christian. Neither enticements of honors and material possessions, nor threats of torture and death shook the firmness of the saint nor turned her from Christ. She was given over to beastly tortures. They put a red-hot helmet on her head and threw her in a cauldron filled with boiling oil and pitch. By the power of God the holy martyr remained unharmed. When the emperor peered into the cauldron, Saint Paraskevi threw a drop of the hot liquid in his face, and he was burned. The emperor began to ask her for help, and the holy martyr healed him. After this the

emperor set her free.

Traveling from one place to another to preach the Gospel, Saint Paraskevi arrived in a city where the governor was named Asclepius. Here again they tried the saint and sentenced her to death. They took her to an immense serpent living in a cave, so that it would devour her. But Saint Paraskevi made the Sign of the Cross over the snake and it died. Asclepius and the citizens witnessed this miracle and believed in Christ. She was set free, and continued her preaching. In a city where the governor was a certain Tarasius, Saint Paraskevi endured fierce tortures and was beheaded in the year 140.

Many miracles took place at the saint's tomb: the blind received sight, the lame walked, and barren women gave birth to children. It is not only in the past that the saint performed her miracles, but even today she helps those who call on her in faith.



The Great Martyr and Unmercenary Panteleimon: The Great Martyr and Healer Panteleimon was born in the city of Nicomedia into the family of the illustrious pagan Eustorgius, and he was named Pantoleon. His mother Saint Euboula (March 30) was a Christian. She wanted to raise her son in the Christian Faith, but she died when the future martyr was just a young child. His father sent Pantoleon to a pagan school, after which the young man studied medicine at Nicomedia under the renowned physician Euphrosynus. Pantoleon came to the attention of the emperor Maximian (284-305), who wished to appoint him as royal physician when he finished his schooling.

The hieromartyrs Hermolaus, Hermippus and Hermocrates, survivors of the massacre of 20,000 Christians in 303 (December 28), were living secretly in Nicomedia at that time. Saint Hermolaus saw Pantoleon time and again when he came to the house where they were hiding. Once, the priest invited the youth to the house and spoke about the Christian Faith. After this Pantoleon visited Saint Hermolaus every day.

One day the saint found a dead child on the street. He had been bitten by a great snake, which was still beside the child's body. Pantoleon began to pray to the Lord Jesus Christ to revive the dead child and to destroy the venomous reptile. He firmly resolved that if his prayer were fulfilled, he would become a follower of Christ and receive Baptism. The child rose up alive, and the snake died before Pantoleon's eyes.

After this miracle, Pantoleon was baptized by Saint Hermolaus with the name Panteleimon (meaning "all-merciful"). Speaking with Eustorgius, Saint Panteleimon prepared him to accept Christianity. When the father saw how his son healed a blind man by invoking Jesus Christ, he then believed in Christ and was baptized by Saint Hermolaus together with the man whose sight was restored.

After the death of his father, Saint Panteleimon dedicated his life to the suffering, the sick, the unfortunate and the needy. He treated all those who turned to him without charge, healing them in the name of Jesus Christ. He visited those held captive in prison. These were usually Christians, and he healed them of their wounds. In a short time, reports of the charitable physician spread throughout the city. Forsaking the other doctors, the inhabitants began to turn only to Saint Panteleimon.

The envious doctors told the emperor that Saint Panteleimon was healing Christian prisoners. Maximian urged the saint to refute the charge by offering sacrifice to idols. Saint Panteleimon confessed himself a Christian, and suggested that a sick person, for whom the doctors held out no hope, should be brought before the emperor. Then the doctors could invoke their gods, and Panteleimon would pray to his God to heal the man. A man paralyzed for many years was brought in, and pagan priests who knew the art of medicine invoked their gods without success. Then, before the very eyes of the emperor, the saint healed the paralytic by calling on the name of Jesus Christ. The ferocious Maximian executed the healed man, and gave Saint Panteleimon over to fierce torture.

The Lord appeared to the saint and strengthened him before his sufferings. They suspended the Great Martyr Panteleimon from a tree and scraped him with iron hooks, burned him with fire and then stretched him on the rack, threw him into a cauldron of boiling tar, and cast him into the sea with a stone around his neck. Throughout these tortures the martyr remained unhurt, and denounced the emperor.

At this time the priests Hermolaus, Hermippus and Hermocrates were brought before the court of the pagans. All three confessed their faith in the Savior and were beheaded (July 26).

By order of the emperor they brought the Great Martyr Panteleimon to the circus to be devoured by wild beasts. The animals, however, came up to him and licked his feet. The spectators began to shout, “Great is the God of the Christians!” The enraged Maximian ordered the soldiers to stab with the sword anyone who glorified Christ, and to cut off the head of the Great Martyr Panteleimon.

They led the saint to the place of execution and tied him to an olive tree. While the martyr prayed, one of the soldiers struck him with a sword, but the sword became soft like wax and inflicted no wound. The saint completed his prayer, and a Voice was heard from Heaven, calling the passion-bearer by his new name and summoning him to the heavenly Kingdom.

Hearing the Voice, the soldiers fell down on their knees before the holy martyr and begged forgiveness. They refused to continue with the execution, but Saint Panteleimon told them to fulfill the emperor’s command, because otherwise they would have no share with him in the future life. The soldiers tearfully took their leave of the saint with a kiss.

When the saint was beheaded, the olive tree to which the saint was tied became covered with fruit. Many who were present at the execution believed in Christ. The saint’s body was thrown into a fire, but remained unharmed, and was buried by Christians. Saint Panteleimon’s servants Laurence, Bassos and Probus witnessed his execution and heard the Voice from Heaven. They recorded the life, the sufferings and death of the saint.

Portions of the holy relics of the Great Martyr Panteleimon were distributed throughout all the Christian world. His venerable head is now located at the Russian monastery of Saint Panteleimon on Mt. Athos.

The veneration of the holy martyr in the Russian Orthodox Church was already known in the twelfth century. Prince Izyaslav (in Baptism, Panteleimon), the son of Saint Mstislav the Great, had an image of Saint Panteleimon on his helmet. Through the intercession of the saint he remained alive during a battle in the year 1151. On the Feast of the Great Martyr Panteleimon, Russian forces won two naval victories over the Swedes (in 1714 near Hanhauze and in 1720 near Grenham).

Saint Panteleimon is venerated in the Orthodox Church as a mighty saint, and the protector of soldiers. This aspect of his veneration is derived from his first name Pantoleon, which means “a lion in everything”. His second name, Panteleimon, given him at Baptism, which means “all-merciful”, is manifest in the veneration of the martyr as a healer. The connection between these two aspects of the saint is readily apparent in that soldiers, receiving wounds more frequently than others, are more in need of a physician-healer. Christians waging spiritual warfare also have recourse to this saint, asking him to heal their spiritual wounds.

The holy Great Martyr and Healer Panteleimon is invoked in the Mystery of Anointing the Sick, at the Blessing of Water, and in the Prayers for the Sick.



July 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p style="text-align: right;">31</p> <p>7th Sunday of Matthew</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy</p>					<p style="text-align: right;">1</p> <p>Strict Fast</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">2</p> <p>Fr. Christodoulos at Dubuque</p> <p>Russian Mission Service</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">3</p> <p>3rd Sunday of Matthew</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">4</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">5</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">6</p> <p>Strict Fast</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">7</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">8</p> <p>Strict Fast</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">9</p> <p>Fr. Christodoulos at Dubuque</p>
Fr. Christodoulos at National Clergy/Laity Congress in New York City						
<p style="text-align: right;">10</p> <p>4th Sunday of Matthew</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">11</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">12</p> <p>Saint Paisios the Athonite</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">13</p> <p>Strict Fast</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">14</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">15</p> <p>Strict Fast</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">16</p> <p>Fr. Christodoulos at Dubuque</p> <p>Russian Mission Service</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">17</p> <p>Sunday of the Holy Fathers</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">18</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">19</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">20</p> <p>Strict Fast</p> <p>Holy Prophet Elias At Dubuque, IA</p> <p>8:00 a.m. Orthros followed by Divine Liturgy</p> <p>Fr. Christodoulos at Dubuque</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">21</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">22</p> <p>Strict Fast</p> <p>Mary Magdalene, the Holy Myrrh-bearer and Equal to the Apostles & Saint Markella the Virgin Martyr</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by Divine Liturgy</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">23</p> <p>Fr. Christodoulos at Dubuque</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">24</p> <p>6th Sunday of Matthew</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">25</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">26</p> <p>Saint Paraskeve</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by Divine Liturgy</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">27</p> <p>Saint Panteleimon</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by Divine Liturgy</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">28</p> <p>Saint Irene the Righteous of Chrysoupolou</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by Divine Liturgy with Special Blessing of the Apples</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">29</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">30</p> <p>Fr. Christodoulos at Dubuque</p>

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