***July 12, 2020***

**ASSUMPTION OF THE VIRGIN MARY**

**UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH**

**ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE OF CONSTANTINOPLE AND NEW ROME**

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**Sun. 12 July (June 29nd) FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. TONE 4. HOLY GLORIOUS ALL-PRAISED APOSTLES PETER & PAUL (67).**

**Romans 10:1-10 Matthew 8:28-9:1**

**2 Corinthians 11:21-12:9 Matthew 16:13-19**

**Liturgical Meneion & Scripture Readings For The Sixth Week After Pentecost**

**Mon. 13 July Synaxis of the Holy, Glorious and All-praised Twelve Apostles.**

**Rom. 16:17-24 Mt. 13:10-23**

**Tue. 14 July** Holy and Wonderworking Unmercenaries Cosmas and Damian, martyrs at Rome. Martyr Potitus (2nd c.).

**1 Cor. 1:1-9 Mt. 13:24-30**

**Wed. 15 July** The Placing of the Honorable Robe of the Most Holy Theotokos at Blachernae (5th c.). St. Photius, metropolitan of Kyiv (1431).

**1 Cor. 2:9–3:8 Mt. 13:31-36**

**Thu. 16 July** Martyr Hyacinth. Martyrs Diomedes, Eulampius, Asclepiodotus, and Golinduc (108). Ven. Anatolius, of the Near Caves in Kyiv (12th c.).

**1 Cor. 3:18-23 Mt. 13:36-43**

**Fri. 17 July** St. Andrew, archbishop of Crete (712-726). Ven. Martha, mother of St. Symeon Stylites (551). Martyrs Theodotus and Theodota (108).

**1 Cor. 4:5-8 Mt. 13:44-54**

**Sat. 18 July** Ven. Athanasius of Mt. Athos (1000). Martyr Anna at Rome (304). Martyr Cyrilla of Cyrene in Libya, a widow. **Martyr Elizabeth** (1918)

**Rom. 9:1-5 Mt. 9:18-26**

***5:00 PM Great Vespers***

**Sun. 19 July** Ven. Sisoes the Great of Egypt (429). Uncovering of the relics of Holy Princess Juliana Vilshanska (1540).

**Rom. 12:6-14 Mt. 9:1-8**

***8:30 AM Third & Sixth Hours***

***9:00 AM Divine Liturgy (restriction of 30 people; also available Online)***

**Who are Peter and Paul?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Peter** = RockFisherman, Unlearned, PoorCalled by Christ through brother AndrewDenied Jesus 3 times (out of fear)Confessed Jesus 3 times (out of love)Repented & ForgivenCrucified upside down (64AD)Apostle to JewsWrote 2 Universal Epistles | **Paul** = small, little, lessJew, Pharisee, Educated, Roman citizenPersecutor of Church- became persecutedConversion (Damascus Road, Acts 9:1-30)   Called by risen Jesus directly   blinded by Jesus; got back sight thru baptism by AnaniasNot one of the 12 ApostlesBeheaded (67AD)Apostle to GentilesWrote 14 Epistles in New Testament |

**Demon-possession.** To the modern skeptics of the Bible, some who claim to be Christian, demon-possession is rubbish. They might say that it was just a primitive way people had to describe psychic or social disorders. But the Scriptures are not so accommodating to popular superstitions; if they were false or fanciful, they would correct them. Rather, they clearly affirm that there is a spirit world all around us that cannot be ignored.

The revelation of this began for Matthew with the account of the temptation. Satan, or the Devil, according to the biblical tradition, was an archangel who was cast out of heaven when he rebelled against God. Apparently, he took a sizeable number of the angels with him. These fallen angels are what are referred to as demons. It is interesting in our passage that the demons instantly recognize who Jesus is and know that His presence could mean judgment on them. They remember Him from glory; they knew His mission on earth; and they know that all judgment has been given over to Him.

**Scripture about demons:** Genesis 3 introduces the conflict between the seed of the woman (humans, and ultimately Jesus) and the seed of the serpent, demons; Revelation 12:7-9 gives us further identification of this Serpent and his angels; Jude 8-10 gives us another window on the spiritual struggle in the spirit world; Daniel 10:13 mentions with the spirit power behind Persia. Ezekiel 28:11-19, a prophecy addressed to the king of Tyre, very quickly begins to speak of the spirit power behind him, and is one of the biblical hints to the history of Satan; 1 Peter 3:19 seems to be referring to evil spirits who have been imprisoned since the flood for leaving their first habitation and corrupting the race; Genesis 6:1-4 - It was to these that Jesus while ascending to heaven to declare His great victory over them.

**PROPERS FOR LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM**

***Tropar of the Resurrection, Tone 4***

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the joyous message of Your Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse and with gladness told the apostles: Death is overthrown. Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy.

***Tropar of the Dormition, Tone 1***

In giving birth, you preserved your virginity. In falling asleep you did not forsake the world, Birth-Giver of God. You were translated to life, Mother of Life, and through your prayers you deliver our souls. From death.

***Tropar to Ss. Peter & Paul, Tone 4***

You filled the highest seats of honor in the ranks of the Apostles and were teachers of the universe. Intercede with the Master of all asking Him to grant the world peace and great mercy to our souls.

***Kondak of the Resurrection, Tone 4***

My Savior and Redeemer as God, arose from the tomb and delivered the earthborn from bondage. He has shattered the gates of Hell and as Master, He has risen on the third day.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.**

***Kondak to Ss. Peter & Paul, Tone 2***

Lord, You have taken into the enjoyment of Your good things and Your rest, the steadfast and divinely speaking preachers who were at the head of Your Apostles. For You have accepted their labors and death more than any whole burnt offering, for You alone know what is in human hearts.

**Now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.**

***Kondak of the Dormition, Tone 2***

Neither the tomb nor death had power over the Birth-Giver of God; she is ever watchful in her prayers and in her intercession lies unfailing hope. For as the Mother of Life, she has been translated to life by the One Who dwelt within her ever-virgin womb.

***Prokimen of the Resurrection, Tone 4***

How marvelous are Your works, O Lord In wisdom You have made them all.

***Verse:***Bless the Lord my soul, O Lord my God, You are very great.

***Prokimen to Ss. Peter & Paul, Tone 8***

Their voice has gone out into all the earth and their words to the very ends of the world.

***Epistle Readings: Romans 10:1-10 & 2 Corinthians 11:21-12:9***

***Alleluia Verses in Tone4***

Bend Your bow and proceed prosperously, and reign because of truth, meekness and righteousness.

***Verse:*** Lord, the Heavens shall declare Your wonders and Your Truth in the Assembly of the Saints.

***Communion Hymn:***

Praise the Lord from the heavens. Praise Him in the Highest. Their voice has gone out into all the earth and their words to the very ends of the world. Alleluia (3X)

**Sign up for each liturgy by 7 p.m. Saturday as the guidelines restrict us to 25 people.**

**Please make the appointments for the Sacrament of Confession, Saturdays between 9:30 AM-4:00 PM.**

**ANNIVERSARIES:**

18 July…Matthew & Andrea Sawarynski

**BIRTHDAYS:**

12 July…Nicholas Alexander

13 July…Dennis Schmall

17 July…Mary Ann Dworakivsky

18 July…Brendan Phillips

19 July…Elizabeth Kravchenko

**MNOHAYA LITA! MANY YEARS!**

**NECROLOGY:**

12 July…Vladimir Schur ’59, Michael Metchoe ‘09

13 July…Mary Miga ‘01

14 July…Katherine Smallen ‘88

15 July…Mary Lee Leszczuk ‘17

16 July…Anna Molnar ’92, Olena Ferbey ‘14

17 July…Justine Czepelak ‘50

18 July…Rosalia Chudyk ’47, Mykola Martyniuk ‘92

**VICHNAYA PAMYAT! MEMORY ETERNAL!**

**WE PRAY FOR THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING** of the ill-afflicted: Allan, James, Matthew, Lubov Slonova, Chet Bohanek, William Savitz, Catherine Kochenash, Vladimir & Emma Krasnopera, Brendan Phillips, Jessie Hnatow, Jessica Meashock, Adam Hewko, Betty Hendrickson, Andrew Thaxton, Michelle Pierzga, Susan Ferretti, Mariana Goshow, Judy Albright, Rob Hewko, Daniel Kochenash, Christopher Mack, Norman Betrous.

**The Devil has not Full Power.** Among the angelic powers the chief of the terrestrial order, the one to whom God had entrusted the task of looking after the earth, was not evil by nature, he had not received any trace of evi1 from his creator. He was good. However, he did not maintain the light and the honor that God had given him. By a deliberate act of his own free will he rebelled against the Creator. He turned his face away from goodness and fell into evil. Evil is in fact is merely the absence of good, as darkness is the absence of light. A host of angels placed under his command followed him in the fall. Despite their angelic nature, they also freely plunged from goodness down to evil and became wicked. The devils cannot do anything against us without God s permission. But with God's permission they are powerful. All wickedness, all the passions are inspired by them But listen: God allows them to suggest sin to a person, but they cannot force him to do it. We ourselves are responsible for accepting or rejecting their seductive suggestions. (By St. John Damascene)

**What can we learn from the lives of Peter and Paul?** First, God calls all us to faith and service in Christ. It does not matter if you are rich or poor, learned or uneducated, sinner or saint, of high standing or low or anywhere in between on these worldly scales. God has a job for you to do. Christ may call you directly in some miraculous or wondrous way. Most often, He will use someone else to call you and help you along the way.

Second, our name is significant of our calling. Most of us were baptized as infants, some of us adults. Either way, in the Orthodox Church we receive a Christian or saint name to signify our new identity. Even if we are not commonly called by that name, we use that name when we participate in the sacramental life to remind us of our true citizenship in heaven that should inform and guide our life on earth. Some of us have names that express deep spiritual beauty and meaning, either from etymology or from the legacy of our patron saint. Some of us may not have that but we have the potential to change the future legacy of our name through our own faithful, saintly example.

Third, we are called to be disciples and some will be called to be apostles. Disciple comes from the Greek “mathetis” and means “student/follower”. We all must be followers of Christ, willing and ready to learn about Him and His teachings. Apostle means “one who is sent with a message”. The age of the apostles did not end with the twelve or the seventy during the first century. Some, like Saints Constantine and Helen of the 4th century and Saint Innocent of the 19th century, became apostles, sent to the people of their time bring the message of the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Fourth, being called by God is no guarantee of perfection. Peter, the rock of the Church, denied Christ three times. Yet, Christ gave him another chance and forgave him and restored Peter. Both Peter and Paul disputed with each other about to lead the early Christian Church but eventually reconciled as evidence by their loving embrace in certain icons of them. Even after our baptism and realization of our calling we will stumble and fall. However, the opportunity to repent, to pick ourselves up and walk again, is ever-present for us through the pure love of forgiveness in Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Fifth, we are called to care for the Church. Whether we are called to be apostles, prophets, teachers, miracle workers, healers, helpers, administrators (1Cor.12:28) or some other ministry in Church, we are called to support all the ministries through generous and sacrificial monetary stewardship. Some of us will ignore the call to ministry and stewardship or both. No worry, not for the ignorant, but no worry for the Church because Christ said, “*The gates of Hades shall not prevail against it*” (Mt.16:18). Even during times of fierce persecution, the Church is somehow strengthened through purification.

This leads to the sixth and final point. We are called to martyrdom. Being baptized and become a follower of Christ and a member of the Church is no guarantee of safety and comfort. In fact, usually the opposite is true. The more we draw closer to God, the farther we are drawn away from the world. In this process, the more the world will hate us and thus persecute us through the efforts of Satan and his demons. Peter and Paul, the greatest of the Apostles, were rewarded for the efforts by crucifixion and beheading respectively. I am not saying that will happen to anyone of us. But I will say that we will suffer, in some form or another, as we grow closer to Christ. Nevertheless, Christ says, “*Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven*” (Mt.5:12).