HOLY RESURRECTION ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese
Ecumenical Patriarchate
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Potomac, Maryland 20854
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www.holyresurrection.com
www.facebook.com/groups/hroc25
YouTube: HROC Media
Protopresbyter Peter Zarynow, Pastor
Protopresbyter John Fedornock
Subdeacons Anastasios Davis & Michael Vaporis Reader Stephen Sudik

Sunday 01 November 2026
Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost
Prophet Joel
Righteous John, Wonderworker of Kronstadt
Epistle: Galatians 6:11-18
Gospel: Luke 8:5-15
Tone Five

The Schedule of Divine Services for the Week is as Follows:

01 Nov (SUN) 22nd Sunday after Pentecost
Chanting of the 3rd Hour 9:15am
Divine Liturgy of St John Chrysostom 9:30am
Parish Group Photo
Coffee Social to follow

04 Nov (Wed) 23rd Wednesday after Pentecost
Divine Liturgy of St John Chrysostom 9:30am
Coffee Social to follow

07 Nov (Sat) Blessing of the Marriage (Crowing)
Frank & Charlotte Constantino 2pm

08 Nov (SUN) 23rd Sunday after Pentecost
Chanting of the 3rd Hour 9:15am
Divine Liturgy of St John Chrysostom 9:30am
Coffee Social to follow

Announcements:

Confessions be heard by appointment. Please contact Fr Peter to schedule. All faithful are encouraged to come to the Sacrament every 8-10 weeks, on average, to help maintain spiritual health. If you have not been to Confession since the Great Fast (or longer) consider contacting FrPeter to schedule an appointment. Time permitting, Confessions will also be heard on bake day, 24 October

National ACRY 2027 *Lots-O-Luck* calendars are now available! Calendars are $25 each and we have 16 remaining. If you would like to purchase one (or more) please see George Dahulich during Coffee Social. If paying by check, make it payable to ACRY Chapter 25.

Soup Sale season is upon us! Remaining sale dates 15 November and 13 December. Each ACRY member is asked to make at least one 5-qt batch of soup. Quart containers are in the ACRY Closet. Please have your soups in the hall refrigerator before Divine Services. To get more ACRY involvement, if you are not making soup, you should be at the window selling soup! Sale goes from 11am-1pm on sale days. If there are any questions, please contact Cyndi Dzubak or Caryl Strauss

LAST CALL: 2026 DIOCESAN ASSESSMENT

Being our parish, and we as its faithful, are a part of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese, each parish member (who is over 18 years of age and not a full-time undergraduate student or in first term of military service) has been assessed **$86.00** this year to support the work of the Diocese (Seminary, Camp Nazareth, etc.) and administration. Please make sure that this commitment is handed in by no later than Sunday 25 October. You may contact Debi Myers if you need to check if you are up to date.

FALL CLEANING DAY

Saturday 14 November

Come and help clean our church in preparation for Christmas! Everyone can help in some way! In addition to cleaning inside the church and hall, we also will do outdoor maintenance projects, weather permitting. Join us on Saturday, Nov. 14 starting at 8:00 am until everything is completed, usually around mid-afternoon. Any amount of time that you can come is appreciated, particularly in the morning. So that we can have enough food and cleaning supplies, please SIGN YOUR NAME on the "I am coming on November 14" sign-up sheet posted on the hall bulletin board. Coffee will be available in the morning and a lunch at noon.

OR – IF YOU CAN'T COME ON NOVEMBER 14, you can still help by doing one of the items at a time that is convenient to you before Thanksgiving. Just write your name in the blank space next to the item on the "Fall Cleaning Day List" that is posted on the hall bulletin board. After you clean, please check it off to indicate that you completed it. If you have questions, talk to Mark Sudik, Curator. Thank you for helping to keep our church and grounds beautiful!

CANDLE OFFERINGS

Eternal Light: in memory of +Michelle-Lois (*Memory Eternal!*)

Vigil Candles Offered For the Living- (*Many Years! Mnohaja L'ita!)*

2-special intention-love Mom & Dad
Jonathan & Lara; Stephanie
1-health of Melanie-love Alex
1-health of Alex-love Melanie
1-health & special intention John & Marie Smith, Georgene & Ray Ammon, Fr Peter & Paňi Bernadette, Alex Zarynow, Marie Skasko, Fr John & Paňi Marge Fedornock, Lois Erhard, Charlie & Debi Myers, Chris Fallon, Barbara Homick, All parishioners of HROC-Carol Miller
2-for health-Sheila
HROC parishioners; Family members
3-special intention-Sheila
Fr. Peter & family; Diocesan Priests & their families; OCMC Missionaries
1-health of children & grandchildren-Tom & Amy
1-health of Chris Fallon-Michael, Kathleen, John & Anna
1-health & sp int Taina Ferguson-love Craig
1-health & sp int. Taina-love Debbie & Greg Yakubik
2-special intention-brother George
Archbishop Michael; Barbara & Harold Harrington
1-special intention Metropolitan Gregory-George Dahulich
13-for health-George Dahulich
Archbishop Michael; Fr. Tom Kadlec; Fr. Jim Dutko; Chris Fallon; Charlie Myers; Barbara Harrington; Paňi Kathy Dutko; Alex Zarynow; Emily Dzubak; Katherine Chow; Psa. Diana Acsente; Fr. John & Paňi Marie Brancho; Georgia Wimberly
2-happy birthday-George Dahulich
Randy Verbrugge; Alexa Fitzgerald
2-happy anniversary-George Dahulich
Brian & Linda Antonishek; Brandon & Nicole Patrick
1-health of Savannah, Chloe, Caroline, Christopher, Natalie, Cole, Parker Ray-love Grandparents
20-health & special intention-John & Marie Smith
Melanie Samson; Carol Miller; Barbara Homick; Marie Skasko; Georgene & Ray Ammon; Fr Tom & Paňi Linda Kadlec; FrJohn & Paňi Marge Fedornock; FrPeter & Paňi Bernadette; FrJohn & Paňi Eleanor Pribish; Eleanor Breno; Charlie Myers; Lois Erhard; FrJohn & Paňi Marie Brancho; Paňi Jean Hutnyan; Chris Fallon, Jeanne Delasko; Andrea Dzubak; Maig & Violette; Blaire & Tatiana; Melissa
1-world peace-John & Marie Smith
1-good luck & sp. int. Jason & Helena-love Baba & Dido
6-special intentions-the Breno Family
Breno Family; Fedornock Families; Peart Family; Nakonecznyj Family; Zankey Family; Fabian Family
2-for health-the Breno Family
Nadya & Baby; all who are ill
1-happy anniv Liz & Tim Fabian-the Breno Family`1
2-specail intention-Mom & Dad
Brian, Angela & Dominic; Stephen
11-for health & special intention-Mark & Marie
Nancy Shields; Mike Czap; Skeets & Beth; Carol Miller; Ray & Georgene Ammon; Eleanor Breno; FrJohn & Paňi Marge; FrPeter & Paňi Bernadette; Chris & Mike Fallon; Susan & Dan Zelensky; Reggie Mervine
1-for health Skeets & Beth, Carol Miller, Michael, Dan-Charlie & Debi Myers
2-specail intention Jacob & Joey-love Mom & Dad
1-health & healing Hayley, Bob, Peggy and Bruce, Carol Miller, Chris Fallon, AnneMarie, Paňi Jean, Ray Ammon, Tom Delare, Jordan; Nancy Hall; Nick & Janet-Lois
1-for health Savannah & Parker, Caroline, Natalie, Karen K, Jeanne Delasko, Barbara Homick, Georgene, Debbie Delare, Julie Williams, Pam, Sharon-Lois
1-happy birthday Cousin Kelly-Lois
6-birthday blessings-Rose Plowchin
Joan Medvigy, Debbie Delare, Asefash Gebremarian, Marie Sudik, Diane Rowland, Carol Miller
3-health & wellbeing-Olga Vovk
Artem, Andrey, Lidia, Tatiana, Natalia, Konstantin, Eva and George; Lubov, Michail, Ivan, Mark, Alexandra, Anastasia, Ludmila, Vasili, Maxim; Sofia, Sergei, Eva, Matthew, Timothy, Yulia, Dru, and Alex, Arkadii. Irina and their children and grandchildren
1-health & safety Natalie, Konstantin, Eugenia, George-Olga Vovk
1-special prayer-Paňi Marge Fedornock
2-for health-Paňi Marge Fedornock
Chris Sacmar; all who are ill

Vigil Candles In Loving Memory: (*Memory Eternal! Vicnaja Pamjat!)*

1+in loving memory of Les-love Carol
1+in memory Mother & Fatherï Carol Miller
1+In loving memory of Chris Hudack, Grandparents, Bettie Searfoss, Myrtle Miller, John Hudack, John Hrapchak, John Homick, Marge Tomasevich-Carol Miller
1+in loving memory of Tom, Ann & Chrysa Thear-Taina & Craig
2+loving memory-the Fallons
Bishop Matthias & Paňi Jeannette; Anna & John Luchok
1+in memory of parents Helen & Larry Rowland-Diane
1+in memory grandparents Helen & Peter Sedlar-Diane
1+Memory Eternal Parents/Grandparents-Koval Family
1+Memory Eternal Uncle George, Aunt Marge & Uncle Tony- Koval Family
2+Memory Eternal-love Alex, Melanie
parents Michael & Elaine; parents John & Katherine
7+in memory-Sheila
John; Dad Kraynok; Mom Kraynok; Charles Hrapchak; Anna Hrapchak; Evelyn Hrapchak; Irene Dzubak
1+In loving memory of Metro-Love, Joan and Family
1+in loving memory of parents Peter & Ann Dahulich-love son George
1+loving memory of Nikolai Mushegian-love Mom & Dad
1+for soulsˆ peace, mercy & entry into paradise-Olga V
Vladimir, Lidia, Pavel, Nina, Vladimir, Anatol, Maria, Rafael, Germina, Maxim, Anna, Irene, Sergei, Irina, Tatiana, Natalia, Olga, Konstantin, Leonid, Anna, Izot, Nina, Natalia, Afanasii, Lidia, Anastasia, Fedor
2+in memory-Mark & Marie Sudik
Mom; Irene Dzubak
1+loving memory Grandpa, Grammy, Irene Dzubak - Charlie & Debi Myers
1+in memory Irene Dzubak-John & Marie Smith
1+in memory of Aunts Anne & Mary-Lois
2+in memory-Paňi Marge Fedornock
Parents; Brother & Sister
1+in memory of Nancy Hall-Mike & Chris Fallon

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There are commemorative Books from the ACRY Convention on the back table. Please take one (or as many as you would like).

Please pray for the following: Metropolitan Gregory; Fr. Frank & Paňi Connie Miloro; Fr Stephen & Paňi Daria Loposky, Paňi Betty Jean Baranik; Fr Michael Rustik; Fr. Mark Leasure; Fr. John Fencik; Fr. Paul Stoll; Fr. Robert & Paňi Peggy Teklinski; Dn. Peter Skoog & family; Fr James & Paňi Kathy Dutko; Fr. Gregory Allard; Paňi Linda Barriger; Fr. James Gleason, Fr. Luke Mihaly; Hieromonk Michael; Fr Thomas & Paňi Linda Kadlec; Fr Stephen Krivonak; Fr David Smoley; Paňi Annamarie Slovesko; Paňi Patricia Duranko; Fr John & Paňi Cindy Zboyovski, Paňi MaryMargaret Conjelko; Fr John & Paňi Eleanor Pribish; Fr John Mikitish; Paňi Karen Miklos; Paňi Marie Brancho; Paňi Jean Hutnyan; Fr David & Paňi Paula Kossy; Fr Edward Pehanich; Fr Andrew Fetchina; Fr Dan Mahler; SGT Joey Myers; SGT Alexander Zarynow; Beth & Ed 'Skeets' Williams; Carol Miller; Dorothy Mastronicola; Tony Zankey; Justin Popek; Florence Gregoric, James & Melody Peyton; Carol Blum, Alexi Williams, Missy Johns, Susan Buckley, Constance Amey, James Lazor, Debbie Dell; Grace Yoon; Michael Dinneen; Joan Detwiler; Joan Kondratick; Barbara Homick; Jim David & Jeanne Delasko; Melanie Samson; Laura Gary; Richard & Wendy Sulich; James Durachko; Randi Ca alle, Hayley Marshall, Jon Green, MaryJane, Kyle & Rosie Brant, Alicia, Stephen Brancho; Emily; MaryMargaret; Thomas & Deborah Delare; Diana Hannan; Devan Merrill; Bob Fitzurka; Olga Vovk; Lela; Carly; Robert; Vic Fitzwater; Taina Ferguson; Olya Romanova; Luke Gri ith; Richard Durachko; Jennifer Haire; Simon, Alla; Artem Vovk; Charles Arnhold; Danielle V; Debbie Aumen; David Bulko; Bill Finken; Angelo Taveira-DaSilva, Andrew S.; Natalie Z; Stephen Hutnyan; Dayton Naugle; Cassidy Riselvato; Phillip Trivett; Camila Bonilla; Hilary Soperak; Ray Rushnak; Christine Sakmar; Joel F, Frank, Jordan, Ruth Moore; Hudson Kennedy; Ray Ammon; Stephan B, Jacob C; Michael Myers, Andrea Dzubak, Tony Pená, Lucile, Dan Breno, Sbdn Alex Breno, Blaire Zarynow & Tatiana, Kaitin Alfaro & son, Christine & Abigale, Karen Kaczmarek, Larry Pinckney, Vasilios Moschonas, Nadya Breno & baby, Barbara & James Farnan, Gail Cushing; Lucy Winsky; Larry and Bonnie Zedlovich

May Our Lord Jesus Christ Touch Them with His Healing Hand!!

Prayer For The Priesthood

O Lord Jesus Christ, Good Shepherd of Your sheep, light the fire of ardent love in the hearts of all Your priests, that they may ever and in all things seek only Your glory. Remember especially, Lord, our **Metropolitan Gregory**, and our spiritual fathers who are laboring in Your vineyard for the salvation of all those whom You have entrusted to them. Remember also, O Lord, our priests and deacons, especially **Fr Edward Pehanich, Fr John Pribish & Fr Deacon Art Steinstra and our Diocesan Seminarians Fr. Peter Sodini, Fr. Maximus Cannaverde, Dn. Bradley Shaffer, Reader John Fedornock III, Nicholas Cizin, Spyridon Raburn, Clay Wood, Gabriel Saldana, David Miazga and Ignatius Dixon. Reader Ignatios Leonardo** is in administration

Make their lives as holy as the word they preach. Keep them from being discouraged. Hear their prayers for our salvation. Give them wisdom and courage to proclaim Your truth. Make them priests after Your own heart. For You are a merciful God who loves us, and to You we give glory, together with Your eternal Father and Your all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

SR ACRY ANNUAL CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE

The ACRY Christmas Cookie Sale is happening on 05 December this year, and we want to invite all of our parishioners to participate in this special event.

Do you have a GREAT Christmas cookie that you bake every year? The ACRY could use your help.

PLEASE consider baking some of your BEST CHRISTMAS COOKIES to donate to the Cookie Sale (Dec 5)

Last year, only 12 people baked 495 dozen cookies.

We realize it is an ACRY fundraiser, but it is a way to showcase our Church.

Baking 1 or 2 batches of your best Christmas cookie would be such a big help.

The ACRY can provide you with butter/sugar/flour/eggs. Check the fridge and counters in the kitchen for the supplies

If you have ant questions you can reach out to Caryl Strauss.

A sign-up sheet to list your cookies is posted on the freezer

Winter Clothes Drive

Once again, this year we will be helping with the Coat Drive (and more) organized by Father & Paňi's nephew Nicholas. Beginning 25 October, we will have a collection box in the back of the hall for hats, gloves, scarfs and socks (all ADULT sizes). If anyone has any questions, would like to make a monetary donation or simply send something directly, please contact Fr Peter and he will give you the contact information. Have all items to the box by Sunday 22 November

Distinguished Diocesan Donors

BECOME

DISTINGUISHED!

Distinguished Diocesan Donors Program

() YES! I would like to support Diocesan Ministries and Apostolates!
Enclosed is my check made payable to *Distinguished Diocesan Donors*
in the amount of :

() $100 Entry () $250 Bronze () $500 Silver
() $1000 Gold () $10,000 Platinum

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Parish _____

I am interested in leaving a legacy gift to help sustain the mission of the Diocese.
Please contact the Diocesan Chancery (814) 539-9143

Please invite others to Become Distinguished also

It is that time again to look for donors to the Distinguished Diocesan Donor program to benefit the Ministries and Apostolates of the diocese, Camp Nazareth begin the largest part. In years past Holy Resurrection has constantly been in the top 5 parishes in the Diocese contributing to the DDD. You can make a contribution in two ways:
1) Give your gift through the parish and we will send in a total of the DDD gifts the week after Thanksgiving (29 November)
2) Use the form to the left and send your gift directly to the Diocese.

Either way you are helping continue the work of the Diocese and all that it does in helping us grow and sustain the work of the Holy Church!

Thanksgiving Basket Project

The lists are out for the Thanksgiving Baskets to benefit 2 local families through *A Wider Circle*. Please put your name next to the item(s) you would like to contribute and check the box when you put it in the basket. All items must be in the baskets by **before Divine Services on Sunday 15 November**

Christmas Candy Sale Now Open

Orders for Christmas Chocolates from Sarris Candies is open until **midnight 13 December**. Place your order online and your order will be shipped directly to you.
Shipping is now at $7.00 per order. Ground shipping is free for orders over $100. Orders usually ship within 72 hours
Go to: https://shopfundraising.sarriscandies.com and click on line ordering. Go to Christmas Fundraising. All items on the website, if available are also eligible for this program.
Make sure that you give our full name:
Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church
Our customer number is 10-2493.
Proceeds from the sale goes to benefit our Camp Transportation Fund.
(Thanksgiving Themed Items will be available until that holiday)

STEWARDSHIP REPORT
September 2026

SEPTEMBER TREASURER'S REPORT

Non-Designated Fund Balance, 8/31/26		$ 62,178.92
		$ ($1,706.14)
		$ 60,472.78
Income	$ 12,957.95	
Expenses	$ - 14,674.09	
	$ - 1,716.14	
Non-Designated Fund Balance		$ 58,756.64

Loss in September: - $1,716.14

CUMULATIVE YEAR TO DATE

Income	$150,220.33
Expenses	$152,759.85
Loss YEAR TO DATE -$	2,539.52

Some of the ñunusualò expenses in September:
Copier payment was 2 months
Electric bill for church was over $1,000 (extremely hot summer)
Maintenance was over $2,000 (tree removal was $1,000 plus new stove for the rectory and other general maintenance items)
Water bill was over $1,000 due to unknown leak (which has since been repaired and we are working with WSSC on getting our bill corrected)

ATTENDANCE AND COMMUNICANTS SEPTEMBER 2026

06 September: 180/169 (convention)	20 September: 52/37
13 September: 67/43	27 September: 58/40

"EVERY MAN SHALL GIVE AS HE IS ABLE, ACCORDING TO THE BLESSINGS OF THE LORD YOUR GOD WHICH HE HAS GIVEN YOU."

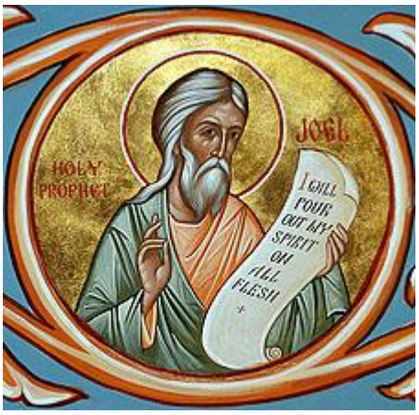
Deuteronomy 16:17

A BIG THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO CAME OUT TO HELP BAKING NUT ROLLS ON SATURDAY 24 OCTOBER.

Caryl Strauss
Marie Sudik
Sarah Hetzler
Faith Breno
Arcady Mushegian
Joann Medvigy
Tom Koval
Amy Koval
FrPeter
PaŕÌ Bernadette
Sasha Filippov
Joanne Durka
Anne Wright
Nicole Patrick
Brandon Patrick
Matthew Delcher
Debi Myers
Joanie Wisnosky

Also, thanks to those who helped set up on Sunday 18 October (we did not get a list of those folks, but all your efforts are appreciated!)

We will be baking all the usual rolls (nut, poppy, apricot & raspberry/nut) and breads in late winter/early spring. Please be on the look out for those dates Christmas soon after Christmas.



PROPHET JOEL

Commemorated 19 October/1 November

The Prophet Joel (800 B.C.) predicted the desolation of Jerusalem. He also prophesied that the Holy Spirit would be poured out upon all people, through the Savior of the world (Joel 2:28-32).
The hymnographer Anatolius links Joelôs prophecy to the Nativity of the Lord. In the Praises at Matins on the Sunday following the Nativity, he refers to Joel 2:30, saying that the blood refers to the Incarnation, the fire to the Divinity, and the pillars of smoke to the Holy Spirit.

RIGHTEOUS JOHN, WONDERWORKER OF KRONSTADT

Commemorated 19 October/1 November

"Saint John of Kronstadt was a married priest, who lived with his wife in virginity. Through his untiring labours in his priestly duties and love for the poor and sinners, he was granted by our Lord great gifts of clairvoyance and miracle-working, to such a degree that in the last years of his life miracles of healings ð both of body and of soul ð were performed countless times each day through his prayers, often for people who had only written to him asking his help. During his lifetime he was known throughout Russia, as well as in the Western world. He has left us his diary My Life in Christ as a spiritual treasure for Christians of every age; simple in language, it expounds the deepest mysteries of our Faith with that wisdom which is given only to a heart purified by the grace of the Holy Spirit. Foreseeing as a true prophet the Revolution of 1917, he unsparingly rebuked the growing apostasy among the people; he foretold that the very name of Russia would be changed. As the darkness of unbelief grew thicker, he shone forth as a beacon of unquenchable piety, comforting the faithful through the many miracles that he worked and the fatherly love and simplicity with which he received all. Saint John reposed in peace in 1908." *(Great Horologion)*

What is prayer?

Prayer is an ascension of the mind and the heart toward God, a contemplation of God, a creationôs intrepid discourse with its Creator, a pious standing of the soul before Him, Who is the Giver of life; a neglect for His sake of all that surrounds us, food for the soul, its air and light, a life-giving warmth, a cleansing of sins, the easy yoke of Christ, His light burden.

Prayer is a constant feeling (awareness) of oneôs frailty or spiritual poverty, a sanctification of the soul, a foretaste of future rapture, angelic bliss, a heavenly rain which freshens, irrigates and fertilizes the soul, the power and might of the soul and body, a purification and cleansing of the mind, an enlightenment of the visage, a joyousness of the spirit, a golden thread which unites the creation with the Creator, courage and fortitude in all the sorrows and tribulations of life, the illumination of life, success in all affairs, a merit equal to that of the angels, an affirmation of faith, hope and charity.

Prayer is communion with the angels and all the God-pleasing saints.

Prayer is the rectification of life, the mother of the heartôs tenderness and tears; a strong impetus towards charitable deeds; the surety of life; the destruction of mortal fear; the rejection of earthly treasures, the desire for heavenly bounties, the expectation of a universal judgment, a universal resurrection and eternal life; a fervent effort to be delivered from eternal punishment; a continuous desire to attain the Lordôs mercy; a walk in the eyes of the Lord; a blessed entrusting of oneself to the omnipotent and all-fulfilling Creator; the living water of the soul.

Prayer is the encompassing of everyone in oneôs heart by means of love; a bringing down of heaven into the soul; an encompassing of the Most-holy Trinity in oneôs heart, as has been said: We will come unto him, and make Our abode with him (John 14:23).

From the spiritual diary of St. John of Kronstadt, ñMy life in Christò

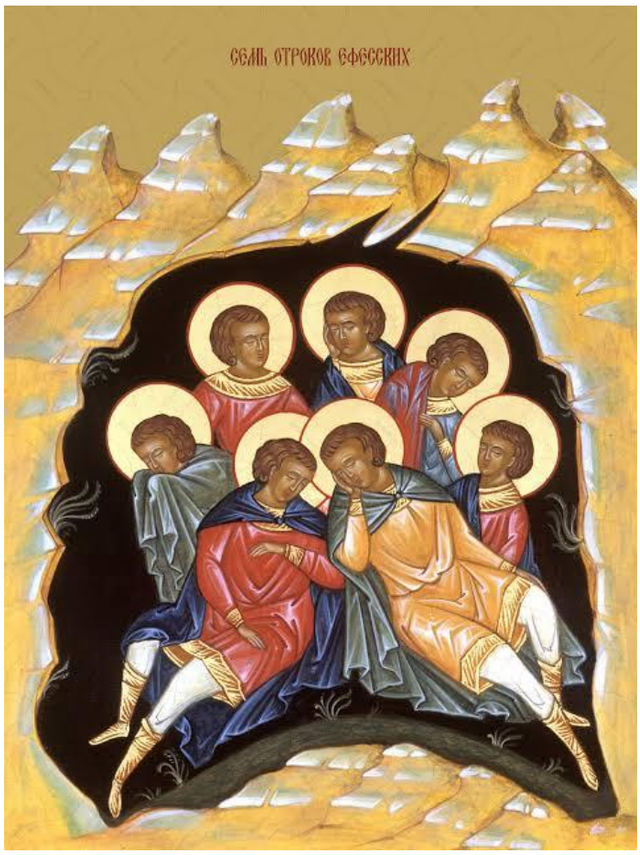
7 HOLY YOUTHS ñSEVEN SLEEPERSò OF EPHESUS

Commemorated 22 October/04 November

The Seven Youths of Ephesus: Maximilian, Iamblicus, Martinian, John, Dionysius, Exacustodianus (Constantine) and Antoninus, lived in the third century. Saint Maximilian was the son of the Ephesus city administrator, and the other six youths were sons of illustrious citizens of Ephesus. The youths were friends from childhood, and all were in military service together.

When the emperor Decius (249-251) arrived in Ephesus, he commanded all the citizens to offer sacrifice to the pagan gods. Torture and death awaited anyone who disobeyed. The seven youths were denounced by informants, and were summoned to reply to the charges. Appearing before the emperor, the young men confessed their faith in Christ.

Their military belts and insignia were quickly taken from them. Decius permitted them to go free, however, hoping that they would change their minds while he was off on a military campaign. The youths fled from the city and hid in a cave on Mount Ochlon, where they passed their time in prayer, preparing for martyrdom.



The youngest of them, Saint Iamblicus, dressed as a beggar and went into the city to buy bread. On one of his excursions into the city, he heard that the emperor had returned and was looking for them. Saint Maximilian urged his companions to come out of the cave and present themselves for trial.

Learning where the young men were hidden, the emperor ordered that the entrance of the cave be sealed with stones so that the saints would perish from hunger and thirst. Two of the dignitaries at the blocked entrance to the cave were secret Christians. Desiring to preserve the memory of the saints, they placed in the cave a sealed container containing two metal plaques. On them were inscribed the names of the seven youths and the details of their suffering and death.

The Lord placed the youths into a miraculous sleep lasting almost two centuries. In the meantime, the persecutions against Christians had ceased. During the reign of the holy emperor Theodosius the Younger (408-450) there were heretics who denied that there would be a general resurrection of the dead at the Second Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Some of them said, ñHow can there be a resurrection of the dead when there will be neither soul nor body, since they are disintegrated?òOthers affirmed, ñThe souls alone will have a restoration, since it would be impossible for bodies to arise and live after a thousand years, when even their dust would not remain.ò Therefore, the Lord revealed the mystery of the Resurrection of the Dead and of the future life through His seven saints.

The owner of the land on which Mount Ochlon was situated, discovered the stone construction, and his workers opened up the entrance to the cave. The Lord had kept the youths alive, and they awoke from their sleep, unaware that almost two hundred years had passed. Their bodies and clothing were completely undecayed.

Preparing to accept torture, the youths once again asked Saint Iamblicus to buy bread for them in the city. Going toward the city, the youth was astonished to see a cross on the gates. Hearing the name of Jesus Christ freely spoken, he began to doubt that he was approaching his own city.

When he paid for the bread, Iamblicus gave the merchant coins with the image of the emperor Decius on it. He was detained, as someone who might be concealing a horde of old money. They took Saint Iamblicus to the city administrator, who also happened to be the Bishop of Ephesus. Hearing the bewildering answers of the young man, the bishop perceived that God was revealing some sort of mystery through him, and went with other people to the cave.

At the entrance to the cave the bishop found the sealed container and opened it. He read upon the metal plaques the names of the seven youths and the details of the sealing of the cave on the orders of the emperor Decius. Going into the cave and seeing the saints alive, everyone rejoiced and perceived that the Lord, by waking them from their long sleep, was demonstrating to the Church the mystery of the Resurrection of the Dead.

Soon the emperor himself arrived in Ephesus and spoke with the young men in the cave. Then the holy youths, in sight of everyone, lay their heads upon the ground and fell asleep again, this time until the General Resurrection.

The emperor wanted to place each of the youths into a jeweled coffin, but they appeared to him in a dream and said that their bodies were to be left upon the ground in the cave. In the twelfth century the Russian pilgrim Igumen Daniel saw the holy relics of the seven youths in the cave.

There is a second commemoration of the seven youths on August 4. According to one tradition, which entered into the Russian PROLOGUE (of SaintsôLives), the youths fell asleep for the second time on this day. The Greek MENAION of 1870 says that they first fell asleep on August 4, and woke up on October 22.

There is a prayer of the Seven Sleepers of Ephesus in the GREAT BOOK OF NEEDS (Trebnik) for those who are ill and cannot sleep. The Seven Sleepers are also mentioned in the service for the Church New Year, September 1/14.

The Sower

a homily by Archbishop Andrei (Rymarenko, 1893-1978)

Brothers and sisters! Did you know that there exists a psychological law by which under the influence of thought, a feeling, a desire is kindled; and from desire comes action. This law was discovered back in the first centuries by the Fathers of the Church, and then it passed on into secular life. In any sphere of life, there isn't a single action which is not provoked by feeling and desire. And in their turn, feeling and desire are kindled by thought; just as any flammable substance will catch fire if, for a sufficient length of time, one holds over it a magnifying glass through which a ray of sun is concentrated. And so: thought → feeling → action.

Both readings for this Sunday, the Apostle and the Gospel, are in a wonderful way connected with this law. Even more: without this law we wouldn't even be able to understand them in all their depth. The Gospel tells us about the Sower, the seed, and the ground. Different kinds of ground are mentioned: the ground by the wayside, the stony ground, the ground overgrown with weeds, and finally, good ground.

The Sower is the Lord, the seed is the Word of God, and the ground is the listener – you and our hearts. And this parable ends with the words: "But that on the good ground are they which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience" (Lk. 8:15). This means that the purpose is such: we must accept the Word of God with all our being, with all our mind, with a good and pure heart. And it is impossible to express this good, pure heart in stronger words than in the words of the Apostle Paul in today's reading: "For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God. I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless, I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God, Who loved me, and gave Himself for me" (Gal. 2:19-20). This is what we should strive for; here is the purpose of our life.

But who among us can honestly repeat these words of the Apostle: "Nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me"? And if we do not feel what the Apostle felt, it means that our life is not fully Christian, and we are not bearing those fruits which the Lord expects from us. What is the matter? The Word of God is as powerful today as in the days when the Savior Himself was preaching it; and yet our lives do not reflect this His Word. For if our deeds would conform to the teaching of Christ, then the whole world would turn to Christ, because our lives would be more eloquent, more strong than any sermon.

But alas, they are not like this. Our deeds are not like this because our feelings are not the feelings of Christ; they have not yet died to the law of earthly life – futile, temporary – in order to live for God, as the Apostle says. And our feelings are not like this because our thoughts are busy with unnecessary things. Only rarely are they directed toward Christ, Who loved us and gave Himself for us. Are they not wandering more often on the highways of our futile earthly life? Do they not bring our hearts into a state of stoniness, absorbed only with the cares of our temporary, materialistic welfare? Do they not get stuck between our sinful desires, as between weeds?

Let us examine ourselves. And if this is so, let us bring about a revolution within ourselves. And let us start with our thoughts; because every sin passes through thought into our feeling, and through feeling into action. This means that our main struggle with sin goes on in the thoughts. This is where we have to destroy it; then it will not even touch our heart and will not pass into action.

Yes, but our thought is already infected by sin. What are we to do? From a thought, as from a hole in the ground, little snakes are constantly darting out – sinful thoughts – and they bite and poison our feelings. But this is what we must do: run to Christ with repentance. He is our Savior from sin. In His first appearance after His Resurrection, He said to His disciples: "Receive ye the Holy Spirit. Whose so ever sins ye forgive, they are forgiven" (Jn. 20: 22-23). Let us start with this. Let us take our sinful thoughts to confession, and we will receive absolution. And then new thoughts and new deeds will begin. A new life.

This is when we too will be able to say together with the Apostle: "Nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, Who loved me, and gave Himself for me." Then too the seed, the Word of God, will fall on good ground, and we will be able to keep it in a pure heart and bring forth fruit in patience. And in this "keeping" we will find a new life and a new joy.