

SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF  
THE FIRST SIX ECUMENICAL COUNCILS



*Icon of Saint Macrina -- July 19th*



**July 19, 2015**

**8<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – TONE 7**

OUR VENERABLE MOTHER MACRINA, SISTER OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT;  
OUR VENERABLE FATHER DIUS

**SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 20 – JULY 26**

**PLEASE NOTE:** There will be **NO** vespers during the Summer months unless noted in the bulletin.

SUNDAY, JULY 26 – 9<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; OUR VENERABLE MOTHER MACRINA, SISTER OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT; OUR VENERABLE FATHER DIUS

12:00 NOON – Divine Liturgy

For All Parishioners

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*If you are reading the bulletin during the Liturgy (including the homily),  
please **stop** and be attentive – будьмо уважні!*

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**Blessing of Automobiles**

O Lord our God, Who makes the clouds Thy chariot and Who walks on the wings of the wind, Who has sent to Your servant, the Prophet Elias, a chariot of fire, Who has guided man to invent these vehicles which are as fast as the wind. We thank You for You have provided Your servants with these vehicle to serve their various needs.

Therefore, O Master, pour out now upon it Your heavenly blessings; assign to it a guardian angel to preserve it from all evil. And as You granted faith and grace by Your deacon Philip to the man from Ethiopia who was sitting in his chariot and reading holy Scripture, show the way of salvation to Your servants. So that helped by Your grace and always intent on doing good works, they may after all the trials of their pilgrimage on earth, attain to everlasting joys, through the intercessions of our Most-pure Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, by the power of the precious and lifegiving Cross; through the prayers of the holy Angels; of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker and of all the Saints: For You are the Provider and Sanctifier of all things and to You do we ascribe glory, and to Your Only-begotten Son, and Your All-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

*This vehicle is blessed by the sprinkling of this Holy Water, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

***A Prayer for Vision***

*Disturb us, Lord, when we are too well pleased with ourselves; when our dreams have come true because we have dreamed too little; when we arrived safely because we have sailed too close to shore. Disturb us, Lord, when with the abundance of the things we possess, we have lost our thirst for the water of life. Stir us, Lord, to dare more boldly, to venture on wider seas, where storms will show your mastery; where losing sight of land, we shall find the stars. We ask you to push back the horizons of our hopes and to push us into the future in strength, courage, hope and love. Amen.*

**Fr. James will be away...**

Fr. James will be out of town from 7/20/15 through 8/14/15. In case of an emergency please contact either Fr. Brian Escobedo of Holy Angels Byzantine Catholic Church at (858) 277-2511 or (661) 800-8383, Fr. James Babcock at (714) 600-3660, or or Fr. Ihor Koshyk at (323) 663-6307.

During Fr. James' absence Divine Liturgy will be at 12:00 Noon and will be served by Fr. Brian Escobedo, pastor of Holy Angels.

There will be **NO** Divine Liturgy for the Transfiguration (8/6) but you are encouraged to attend Holy Angels at 7:00 PM on August 5th (Vesperal Liturgy) or 9:00 AM on August 6th. Fruit will be blessed at both services at Holy Angels.



## POPE DECLARES UKRAINIAN CHURCH LEADER ‘VENERABLE’

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis has signed a decree declaring “venerable” Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky, who led the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the tumultuous period of both World Wars and at the beginning of Soviet occupation.

The pope July 16 signed the decree recognizing that Metropolitan Sheptytsky heroically lived a life of Christian virtue. The recognition is an initial step in the sainthood process; the Vatican would have to recognize a miracle attributed to his intercession for a beatification ceremony to be scheduled.

Metropolitan Sheptytsky led the Eastern Catholic Church in Ukraine from 1901 until his death in 1944. During the period of his leadership, Ukraine and its people were ruled by seven different regimes: Austrian, Russian, Ukrainian, Polish, Soviet, Nazi, and finally, the Soviets again.

Ukrainian Bishop Borys Gudziak of Paris told Catholic News Service that while the process for his sainthood opened five decades ago, it was only with the independence of Ukraine 25 years ago that church historians and theologians had access to all his archives. The study required for the sainthood process was not possible while Ukraine was still part of the Soviet Union.

“It was a rich file,” Bishop Gudziak said. “Metropolitan Sheptytsky was involved in everything, so it took a long time to go through it all.”

“Metropolitan Sheptytsky lived in the house of the Lord and it had a high roof, open doors and open windows — he lived outside the box,” the bishop said. “He reached out to the Orthodox when ecumenism was not official church policy; he defended the Jews during the Holocaust; and he was close to artists, poets, intellectuals and writers.”

“Like Jesus, Metropolitan Sheptytsky had a very clear sense of his identity and his God-given

dignity, which allowed him to be non-defensive and non-aggressive with others,” the bishop said.

Born Roman Aleksander Maria Sheptytsky July 29, 1865, in Prylbychi near Lviv, he took the name Andrey when he entered the Basilian Order.



Ukrainian Catholics around the world are celebrating the 150th anniversary of his birth, which Bishop Gudziak said, may explain the timing of the decree.

Elected major archbishop of the Ukrainian Catholic Church at the age of 36, he quickly became recognized as a social and cultural leader in a situation of great political uncertainty.

He died Nov. 1, 1944, just four months after the Soviets took definitive control of Lviv. Bishop Gudziak said, “The Soviets did not liquidate the Greek Catholic Church while he was alive.” The metropolitan’s stature was such that they permitted a public funeral for him, but five months after his death, they arrested all the bishops and moved toward declaring the Eastern Catholic church illegal.

“His social teaching, his fine, subtle and prophetic voice allowed the church to survive,” the bishop said.

Father Peter Galadza, acting director of the Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute of Eastern Christian Studies at St. Paul University in Ottawa, also mentioned the metropolitan’s efforts to save Jews during the Holocaust — including by personally sheltering them — and his efforts to promote reconciliation among Ukrainians, Russian and Poles.

“It is also important to recall Sheptytsky’s commitment to the poor,” he said in a statement. “Born into an aristocratic family, the archbishop used his resources to create a free clinic, provide countless scholarships and help victims of famine, flooding and war. He personally lived a life of poverty.”

## THE HOLY PROPHET ELIAS

*From the Prologue by St. Nikolai Velimirovich*

Saint Elias, one who saw God, a miracle-worker and a zealot for faith in God, was born of the tribe of Aaron from the town Tishba for which he was called the Tishbite. When St. Elias was born, his father Savah saw an angel of God hovering around the child, wrapping the child in fire and giving him a flame to eat. That was a foreshadowing of Elias's



fiery character and his God-given fiery power. He spent his entire youth in godly thoughts and prayers withdrawing frequently into the wilderness to contemplate and to pray in solitude. At that time the Jewish kingdom was divided into two unequal parts: the kingdom of Judah consisting of only two tribes, the tribes of Judah and Benjamin with their capital in Jerusalem and the kingdom of Israel consisting of the remaining ten tribes with their capital in Samaria. The first kingdom was governed by the descendants of Solomon and the second kingdom was governed by the descendants of Jeroboam, the servants of Solomon. The greatest confrontation that the prophet Elias had was with the Israelite King Ahab and his evil wife Jezebel. For they, Ahab and Jezebel, worshipped idols and were turning the people away from serving the One and Living God. Before this, however, Jezebel, a Syrian, persuaded her husband to erect a temple to the Syrian god Baal and ordered many priests to the service of this false god. Through great miracles Elias displayed the power and authority of God: he closed up the heavens, so that there was not any rain for three years and six months; he lowered a fire from heaven and burned the sacrifice to his God which the pagan priests of Baal were unable to do; he brought down rain from heaven by his prayer; miraculously multiplied flour and oil in the home of the widow in Zerepath, and resurrected her son; he prophesied to Ahab that the dogs will lick up his blood and to Jezebel that the dogs will consume her flesh, all of which happened as well as many other miracles did he perform and prophesy. On Mount Horeb, he spoke with God and heard the voice of God in the calm of a gentle breeze. Before his death he took Elisha and designated him as his successor in the prophetic calling; by his mantle he divided the waters of the Jordan river; finally he was taken up into the heavens in a fiery chariot by flaming horses. He appeared on Mount Tabor to our Lord Jesus Christ together with Moses. Before the end of the world St. Elias will appear again to put an end to the power of the anti-Christ (Revelation, Chapter 11).

## 10 COMMANDMENTS FOR DRIVERS

- I. Always begin a trip with prayer, making the Sign of the Cross and entrusting yourself to the Lord.
- II. Never drink and drive or text and drive.
- III. Never try to shorten the time of a trip. If you started out late, you will arrive late. Do not speed.
- IV. Apologize to a driver whom you have interfered with, even when you did not intend to. After all, when we are walking, and bump someone, we apologize without thinking. So why should there be a different ethic behind the wheel?
- V. Always yield way to someone who is in a great hurry, or is driving aggressively. If you do not yield, he will still pass you, but the situation will be more dangerous.
- VI. Give a wave of thanks to a driver who makes way for you.
- VII. Drive in such a way that you won't fear seeing a police car. Remember that God is watching, even if the police are not.
- VIII. Stay as far away as possible from cars that have dents or show signs of accidents. But be careful not to judge, or you may share in their misfortune.
- IX. Never speed up when another driver tries to pass you, or to get into your lane. Do not treat your neighbor in a way you do not want to be treated.
- X. After every trip, thank God for its safe completion. Be thankful after any trip, and not just a successful one. After all, almost always it could have been worse!

**Spiritual death happens  
one compromise  
at a time**



Cheap grace is  
the preaching of forgiveness  
without requiring repentance,  
baptism without church discipline,  
Communion without confession,  
absolution without personal confession.

Cheap grace is  
grace without discipleship,  
grace without the cross,  
grace without Jesus Christ.

*Dietrich  
Bonhoeffer*

### **Three paths lead from the Holy Supper.**

1. Christ chose the path of ascetic struggle, of suffering, death, and resurrection.
2. The Apostles slept in the Garden of Gethsemane.
3. Judas chose betrayal, despair, perdition.

*Fr. Alexander Elchaninov (1881-1934)*

### **LOVE AND GLORY IN THE WORLD**

“Apart from love nothing whatever has existed, nor ever will. Its names and actions are many. More numerous still are its distinctive marks; divine and innumerable are its properties. Yet it is one in nature, wholly beyond utterance whether on the part of angels or men or any other creatures, even such as are unknown to us. Reason cannot comprehend it; its glory is inaccessible, its counsels unsearchable. It is eternal because it is beyond time, invisible because thought cannot comprehend it, though it may perceive it. Many are the beauties of this holy Sion not made with hands! He who has begun to see it no longer delights in sensible objects; he ceases to be attached to the glory of this world.”

*St. Symeon the New Theologian*

### **NOTHING CREATED BY GOD IS EVIL**

Nothing created by God is evil. It is not food that is evil but gluttony, not the begetting of children but unchastity, not material things but avarice, not esteem but self-esteem. It is only the misuse of things that is evil, not the things themselves.

*St. Maximus the Confessor*

### **DOES SATAN KNOW ALL THE THOUGHTS & PLANS OF MAN?**

*by St. Macarius the Great*

If one man is with another person and knows things concerning him, and if you, twenty years old, know things concerning your neighbour, can Satan, who has been with you from birth, not know your thoughts? For he is already many years old. Still we do not say that before he tempts he knows what man will intend to do. For the tempter tempts, but he does not know whether a person will obey him or not until one gives up his will as a slave. Neither again do we maintain that the devil knows all the thoughts of a person's heart and its desires. Like a tree, it has many branches and limbs. So the soul has certain branches of thoughts and plans and Satan grasps some of them. There are other thoughts and intentions that are not grasped by Satan.

For in one matter the side of evil takes an upper hand in thoughts that arise. In another matter, again, the thought of man is superior as he receives help and deliverance from God and he resists the evil. In one thing he is overcome and in another he has his will. For sometimes he comes to God with fervour and Satan knows this and sees that man is repelling him and that he is incapable of restraining him. Why is this? Because a person has the desire to cry out to God. He has the natural fruits of loving God, of believing him, of seeking him and coming to him.

## Refinancing of the Church

As discussed at the parish meeting last week, the process of refinancing the church is underway. A very important aspect of the application is demonstrating to the lender that the parish community have committed adequate financial support. **Please fill out your pledge form as soon as possible.**

### Sunday offering for July 12

Amount	Number
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\$15.00	1
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\$17.00	1
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\$20.00	3
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\$25.00	1
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\$36.00	1
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\$40.00	2
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\$50.00	3
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\$75.00	1
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\$80.00	1
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\$200.00	1
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\$300.00	1
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\$1038.00

Parishioner Total: \$1038.00

Average / parish household (42): \$12.66

Weekly Stewardship Goal: \$2200.00

**Deficit: (\$1087.00)**

**Year-to-date deficit: \$27637.00**

## GOD'S EXTENDED HAND

FOCUS (Fellowship of Orthodox Christians United to Serve) has provided us with a special bin for collecting donations of clothing, toiletries, etc. to be distributed at GEH. It is located near the door of the church hall.

### Please Note:

When you are away, please don't forget that the church still relies on your contributions. Our bills do not go on vacation. Your absence on any Sunday does not negate your obligation to support your home parish.

## Roof Campaign



The hall roof is in dire need of repair. There are at least six separate leaks. Numerous patch jobs have failed to solve the problems.

The current drought has minimized the problem but we

continue to pray for rain anyway. There is good news and bad news: The good news is - we have the money; the bad news is - it's still in your pockets. We will be soliciting quotes for repairs soon. Know a roofer you would recommend?

### Roof Repair Challenge

An anonymous donor has given \$1000.00 towards the repair of the hall roof. The donor has challenged the rest of the parish to contribute to this cause so that the roof can be fully repaired rather than patched.

Roof Challenge Response: \$3110.00  
Total: \$4110.00

### Pastor:

Fr. James Bankston: (619) 905-5278

### Pastoral Council:

Vladimir Bachynsky: (619) 865-1279

Mark Hartman: (619) 446-6357

Luke Miller: (858) 354-2008

Jeanine Soucie: (718) 674-4529

### Social Committee Chairperson:

Megan Hartman (619) 540-4291

### Finance Committee:

Bohdan Knianicky: (619) 303-9698





**Українська Греко-Католицька Церква  
Святого Йоана Хрестителя  
St. John the Baptizer  
Ukrainian Greco-Catholic Church**

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**Pastor:** Fr. James Bankston  
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Fr. James' cell phone: (619) 905-5278

***God's Will and Our Daily Bread***

This is the kingdom of God, when no other will than God's prevails, either in heaven or on earth; when in the case of all men, God is the directing mind, God is living, God is acting, God is reigning, God is everything, so that, according to that statement of the Apostle: "God may be all in all of you."

"Give us this day our daily bread." He who gave Himself to us as a Father, who adopted us as His sons and daughters, who made us the heirs of His goods, who raised us up in name and gave us His own honor and kingdom, He has directed that we should ask for our daily bread. In the kingdom of God, in the midst of His divine gifts, why does man in his poverty beg? Is it only when asked that a Father so good, so kindly, so generous gives bread to His children? And what are we to

make of His statement: "Do not be anxious about what you are to eat, or what you are to drink, or what you are to put on"? Is He telling us to ask for that about which He forbids us to think? What do we hold? The heavenly Father is encouraging us, as heavenly sons and daughters, to ask for heavenly bread. He said: "I am the bread that has come down from heaven." He is the Bread sown in the Virgin, leavened in the flesh, molded in His passion, baked in the furnace of the sepulcher, placed in the churches, and set upon the altars, which daily supplies heavenly food to the faithful.

*St. Peter Chrysologus*

**For more information on Eastern spirituality, visit  
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