

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Icon of Saint Hierotheus, Bishop of Athens -- October 4th



October 4, 2015

19TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – TONE 2

THE HOLY HIEROMARTYR HIEROTHEUS, BISHOP OF ATHENS

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 5 – OCTOBER 11

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10 – THE HOLY HIEROMARTYR DIONYSIUS THE AREOPAGITE

6:00 PM – GREAT VESPERS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11 – SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 7TH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; THE HOLY APOSTLE PHILIP, ONE OF THE SEVEN DEACONS; OUR VENERABLE FATHER THEOPHANES THE BRANDED, HYMNOGRAPHER AND BISHOP OF NICAEA

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy

For All Parishioners

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

ON PARENTS' PRIMARY DUTY

Let everything take second place to our care for our children, our bringing them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. If from the beginning we teach them to love true wisdom, they will have greater wealth and glory than riches can provide.

– St. John Chrysostom

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We are not merely imperfect creatures who must be improved: we are, as Newman said, rebels who must lay down our arms.

– C.S. Lewis

The Problem of Pain

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Haven't Seen Someone in a While?

Give them a call. See how they are doing. Let them know that you not only miss them but also care enough to see if everything is okay. A kind word can go a long way.

October Birthdays

Andriy Ivasyk	– October 1
Erin Avant	– October 6
Olga Gerega	– October 14
Joseph Hartman	– October 18
Mark Lozovyj	– October 28
Christia Bankston	– October 29

Cards for sale

Various Greeting Cards are available for sale in the church hall following each Divine Liturgy. See Mary Kitt to purchase.

PARISHIONERS THAT ARE HOME BOUND



If you or a loved one cannot make it to Church, Fr. James would be more than pleased visit at your home, in the hospital, at a nursing home, or any other place. It is no inconvenience at all.

Please be sure to schedule a visit.

ПОКРОВА - POKROVA

The **Protection of the Mother of God** is one of the most beloved feast days on the Byzantine calendar among the Slavic peoples, commemorated on October 1. The feast is celebrated additionally on October 28 in the Greek tradition. It is also known as the feast of the **Virgin Mary's Cerement**.

In most Slavic languages the word "cerement" has a dual meaning of "veil" and "protection." The Ukrainian word Pokrova (Покрова), like the Greek Skepi (Σκέπη), has a complex meaning. First of all, it refers to a cloak or shroud, but it also means protection or intercession. For this reason, the name of the feast is variously translated as the **Veil of Our Lady**, the **Protecting Veil of the Theotokos**, the **Protection of the Theotokos**, or the **Intercession of the Theotokos**.

THE FEAST

The feast day celebrates the appearance of the Mother of God at Blachernae (Vlaherna) in the tenth century. At the end of St. Andrei (Andrew of Constantinople) Yurodivyi's life, he, with his disciple St. Epiphanius, and a group of people, saw the Mother of God, St. John the Baptist, and several other saints and angels during a vigil in the Church of Blachernae, nearby the city gates. The Blachernae Palace church was where several of her relics were kept. The relics were her robe, veil, and part of her belt that had been transferred from Palestine during the fifth century.

The Theotokos approached the center of the church, knelt down and remained in prayer for a long time. Her face was drowned in tears. Then she took her veil (cerement) off and spread it over the people as a sign of protection. During the time, the people in the city were threatened by a barbarian invasion. After the appearance of the Mother of God, the danger was averted and the city was spared from bloodshed and suffering.

CELEBRATION OF THE FEAST

The Protection is commemorated most fervently in Slavic churches, probably because St. Andrei was a Slav. The first celebration of the Theotokos's cerement in the Slavic Church dates back from the 12th century and today is celebrated throughout the Byzantine Churches.

The feast day commemorating the miracle is celebrated with an All-Night Vigil, with many of the same elements as occur on Great Feasts of the Theotokos. However, this feast has no afterfeast.

ABOUT THE ICON

Two different events that took place four hundred years apart are combined in this one icon. Both events took place in the former Church of Blachernae in Constantinople.

The icon of the feast, Protection of the Mother of God, shows the Theotokos standing above the faithful with her arms outstretched in prayer and draped with a veil. On both sides of her are angels. On the lower right of most icons of this feast, are saints Andrew and his disciple Epiphanius who saw this vision of the Mother of God, with

the twelve apostles, bishops, holy women, monks and martyrs, spreading her veil in protection over the congregation. St. Epiphanius is wearing a tunic under his cloak and gestures in astonishment at the miraculous appearance, while St. Andrew, Fool-for-Christ, is dressed only in a cloak.

Below the Theotokos, in the center of the icon, stands a young man with a halo, he is clothed in a deacon's sticharion. In his left hand, he is holding an open scroll with the text of the Kontakion for Nativity in honor of the Mother of God. This is St. Romanus the Melodist, the famous hymnographer whose feast is also celebrated on the same day, October 1. He is with his choir attended by the Emperor Leo the Wise together with the Empress and the Patriarch of Constantinople.



GO TO CHURCH!

September 29, 2015 by Fr. Barnabas Powell

In one of my retreats that I give around the country, I have a particular presentation about how to heal the weaknesses of our modern age. I use examples from sociology, psychology, science, and even religion. But then I get down to the timeless and purposeful answer from Orthodoxy: **GO TO CHURCH!** It usually gets at least a smile from folks, but it's meant to be a wake up call for us all.

You see, the timeless faith of Orthodoxy **has been making saints for centuries**. The methodology isn't complicated but it isn't easy either. Before there was Sunday School. Before there was multimedia presentations. Before there was an internet or sound system or videos or other technological marvels. Before there was any of the modern conveniences of transportation and communication; there was the constant method of shaping persons into God's eternal companions: **The rhythm of the Church!** The Church Year, a robust liturgical schedule, and the intentional community of people being committed to one another in good times and bad times that shaped men and women, boys and girls, rich and poor, into being "like" Christ!

In other words – Go to Church!

Look at Luke 5:12-16:

"At that time, Jesus was in one of the cities, there came a man full of leprosy; and when he saw Jesus, he fell on his face and besought him, "Lord, if you will, you can make me clean." And he stretched out his hand, and touched him, saying, "I will; be clean." And immediately the leprosy left him. And he charged him to tell no one; but "go and show yourself to the priest, and make an offering for your cleansing, as Moses commanded, for a proof to the people." But so much the more the report went abroad concerning him; and great multitudes gathered to hear and to be healed of their infirmities. But he withdrew to the wilderness and prayed."

Jesus heals a man from leprosy, but He doesn't send him home. He **sends him to the Temple**. And that is exactly right because being healed from a horrible disease must be recognized by the Community! Why do you think God gave these regulations to Moses for the People? **Because we need the Community** to be fully who we are! "Lone Ranger" spirituality always leads to weak theology. Always. We need the Church to be fully Christian. As St. Cyprian said "He cannot have God as his Father who does not have the church for his Mother."

This is why every time gathering together wanes among us Orthodox, all manner of

spiritual illnesses grow! A recent study found that **less than 25% of all Orthodox Christians** attend liturgy weekly! That's why it's silly for us to decry our kids disconnecting from the Faith when **they are simply following the example left for them**. But, when Church attendance increases, all manner of spiritual growth occurs. In the same presentation I mentioned above, I give folks the three main reasons for growing Orthodox parishes in this country and two of the three reasons are 1. **Lot's of Church Services**, and 2. **Lot's of Religious Education!** All of that translates into going to your Church building a lot!

Today, is **your occasional Christianity letting you down?** Don't be surprised! The

spiritual leprosy of our hearts can be cured by God's grace, but never forget He will then turn to you and send you to His Church for that healing to grow and be maintained. The three word answer to most of your spiritual challenges today is simple (not easy): **GO TO CHURCH!** It's the **ONLY** way to be Orthodox on Purpose!

About Fr. Barnabas Powell

Fr. Barnabas is the parish priest at Sts. Raphael, Nicholas, and Irene Greek Orthodox Church in Cumming, Georgia. He is also host of Faith Encouraged Live on Ancient Faith Radio and author of the Faith Encouraged podcast.

<http://blogs.ancientfaith.com/faihtencouraged/2015/09/go-to-church/>



“ENCOMPASS US UNDER
THE PRECIOUS VEIL OF YOUR
PROTECTION; DELIVER US
FROM EVERY FORM OF EVIL
BY ENTREATING CHRIST,
YOUR SON AND OUR
GOD THAT HE MAY
SAVE OUR SOULS.”



ON THE PATH INTO THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

By St. Innocent of Alaska

Without faith in Jesus Christ no one can return to God and enter the Kingdom of Heaven. No one, even though he believe in Jesus Christ, can regard himself to be His disciple and share His glory in Heaven if he does not act as Jesus Christ did. And no one is able to follow Jesus Christ if he does not receive help from the Holy Spirit.

To receive the Holy Spirit, we must use the means granted us by God.

We should remember that the path into the Kingdom of Heaven that has been opened to us by Jesus Christ is the only one, and there **never was and never will be another path** that leads to salvation. At times this path may appear difficult, but, again, you should remind yourself that this is the only one that leads toward your objective. At other times the Christian will encounter such consolations and delights on this path as cannot be found in any worldly thing. The Lord Jesus Christ assists us on this path. He gives us the Holy Spirit, He sends His angel to protect us, He provides instructors and leaders, and even He Himself takes us by the hand and leads us to salvation.

If the path into the Kingdom of Heaven seems difficult, then consider how incomparably more dreadful are the eternal torments in fiery Gehenna. If the path toward heavenly bliss seems difficult, compare it with the path toward earthly happiness, and you will see that the path toward earthly happiness is not really easier at all. Just observe how much people toil to amass earthly things, how many disappointments, fights, sleepless nights and deprivations they bear. Or remind yourself of how much effort and expenses it takes to achieve some meaningless and fleeting pleasure! And for what? Instead of the expected happiness, you are left with disappointment and weariness. When you carefully examine the heart of the matter, it becomes evident that people stay away from the Heavenly Kingdom

not because the path to it is more difficult than the other paths of this world, but because it **appears** that way to them. Besides, the devil, an experienced and crafty deceiver, misleads people into believing that the path to salvation is difficult and the paths to perdition are easy, and he often succeeds in this.

So, my brethren, in order to avoid eternal perdition, let us definitely concern ourselves with our future. We know that beyond the grave there awaits one of the following two outcomes: either the Heavenly Kingdom or everlasting perdition in hell. There is no middle state, only everlasting bliss or everlasting torment. As there exist only two conditions past the grave, so there exist only two paths in this life. The one that seems wide and easy is taken by the majority. The other that seems narrow and thorny is taken by few. Those who follow the narrow path will be a hundredfold more happy than those who do not.

Brethren, if any of you who walk the wide path should suddenly die, what will happen to you? To whom shall you turn? To the Lord? You refuse to listen to Him now, so you must expect He will refuse to listen to you then. Now He is your merciful Father; then He will be your righteous judge. Who will defend you against His righteous rage? Ah! How frightful it is to fall into the hands of the living God! Therefore, concern yourselves now with the salvation of your soul while you still have time!

Work for your salvation while it is still daylight, for the night will come in which there will be no chance to change anything. Strive for the Heavenly Kingdom while you can still walk. Walk even a little bit, even if by crawling, but do it in the right direction. Then in eternity you will truly rejoice for every step you have taken! May the All-merciful Lord help us all in this! Glory and thanksgiving be to Him throughout the ages of ages. Amen.

DID YOU KNOW?

- ❖ Most people come to church because of a **personal** invitation.
- ❖ Only 2% of church-going people invite someone to church in a given year. That means 98% of church-goers **never extend** an invitation in a given year!
- ❖ 7 out of 10 unchurched people **have never been invited to church** in their whole lives.
- ❖ 82% of the unchurched are at least somewhat likely to attend church if invited.
- ❖ The top “rational” reason adults seldom or never attend church is they don’t agree with organized religion or what they preach (24 percent).
- ❖ The top “practical” reasons for hardly attending or missing church altogether, 21 percent said they **don’t have time** or they don’t get around to it.
- ❖ Children and youth who attend religious services weekly, exhibit fewest behavior problems, are more likely to have high-quality relationships with their parents, and are more likely to exhibit positive social behavior, including showing respect for teachers and neighbors, getting along with other children, understanding other people’s feelings, and trying to resolve conflicts with classmates, family or friends.
- ❖ Every Sunday can be a “Back To Church Sunday”! **Who will you invite?**

Sunday offering for September 27

Amount	Number
\$15.00	2
\$20.00	2
\$25.00	1
\$40.00	2
\$50.00	2
\$55.00	1 (loose)
\$80.00	1
\$85.00	2
\$150.00	1
\$200.00	2
\$300.00	1
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\$980.00	

Parishioner Total: \$980.00

Average / parish household (42): \$11.81

Weekly Stewardship Goal: \$2200.00

Deficit: (\$1145.00)

Year-to-date deficit: (\$39574.00)



Pastor:

Fr. James Bankston: (619) 905-5278

Pastoral Council:

Vladimir Bachynsky: (619) 865-1279

Mark Hartman: (619) 446-6357

Luke Miller: (858) 354-2008

Social Committee Chair:

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**

4400 Palm Avenue
La Mesa, CA 91941
Parish Office: (619) 697-5085

Website: stjohnthebaptizer.org

Pastor: Fr. James Bankston
frjames@mac.com
Fr. James' cell phone: (619) 905-5278

Advice for Christian Living

Let everything you do be done for God, both deeds and words. Refer all that is yours to Christ. Constantly turn your soul to God; and put your thought on the power of Christ, as if in some harbor by the divine light of the Savior it were resting from all talk and action. And often by day speak your thoughts to men, but most of all to God at night as well as by day. Don't let too much sleep keep you from your prayers and hymns to God, since long sleep is a rival of death. Show yourself always a partner of Christ, who makes the divine ray shine from heaven. Let Christ be to you continual and unceasing joy.

Do not relax the tension of your soul with feasting and drunkenness, but consider what is needful to be enough for the body. And do not rush early to meals, before the time for dinner comes; but let your dinner be bread, and let earth's grasses and the ripe fruits of trees be set before you; and go to your meal with composure, showing no sign of raging gluttony. In place of such pleasures, choose the joys

that are in divine words and hymns, joys supplied to you by wisdom from God; and let heavenly meditation ever lead you upward to heaven.

And give up the many anxious cares about the body by taking comfort in hopes toward God; because for you He will provide enough of all the necessary things: food to support life, covering for the body, and protection against winter cold. For to your King belongs the whole earth and all that is produced from it; and God treats the bodily parts of His servants with exceeding care, as if they were His, like His own shrines and temples. On this account do not dread severe diseases, nor the approach of old age, which must be expected in time; for even disease will come to an end, when with wholehearted purpose we do His commandments.

St. Clement of Alexandria

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