



St. Michael the Archangel Orthodox Church

A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America

2300 W. Huntington Drive, Wilmington, Delaware 19808 • (302) 995-6775

Sunday November 19, 2017 24th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 7. Prophet Obadiah (Abdia—9th c. B.C.). Martyr Barlaam of Cæsarea in Cappadocia (ca. 304). Ven. Varlaam, Abbot of the Kiev Caves (Near Caves—1065). Finding of the relics of Monk Martyr Adrian of Poshekhónsk (Yaroslavl’—1625). Martyr Azes of Isauria and with him 150 soldiers (3rd c.). Martyr Heliodorus in Pamphylia (ca. 273).

This Week’s Schedule

Monday 11/20 Vespers Entrance of the Theotokos 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday 11/21 Entrance of the Theotokos
into the Temple Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.

Thursday 11/23 Thanksgiving Molieben 9:00 a.m.

Saturday 11/25 Great Vespers 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 11/26 Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.
followed by Coffee Hour

Reader Schedule

<u>DATE</u>	<u>3RD HOUR</u>	<u>6TH HOUR</u>	<u>EPISTLE</u>
Nov 19	WALES	WALES	WALES
Nov 21	ENTRY OF THE THEOTOKOS		
Nov 26	J RILEY	A RILEY	J RILEY
Dec 03	BUNITSKY	BUNITSKY	LEWIS
Dec 10	SULPIZI	SOUDER	CAREY

Hymns and Prayers

Tone 7 Troparion *(Resurrection)*

By Your Cross You destroyed death.
To the thief You opened Paradise.
For the Myrrhbearers You changed weeping into joy.
And You commanded Your disciples, O Christ God,
to proclaim that You are risen,//
granting the world great mercy.

Tone 2 Troparion *(for Prophet Obadiah)*

We celebrate the memory
of Your Prophet Obadiah, O Lord;
through him we beseech You:
“Save our souls!”

Tone 4 Troparion *(for Martyr Barlaam)*

Armed with youthful fervor,
you endured martyrdom in old age and glorified Christ.
You offered Him your right hand as a whole burnt offering
and your holy soul as a blameless sacrifice.//
Intercede that all that be granted forgiveness, Great-martyr Barlaam!

Tone 7 Kontakion *(Resurrection)*

The dominion of death can no longer hold mankind captive,
for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers.
Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and cry:
“The Savior has come to those in faith;//
enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!”

Tone 1 Kontakion *(Prophet Obadiah)*

The great Obadiah, acquiring a mind luminous with divine splendor,
speaks through the Holy Spirit, proclaiming things to come.
Today we honor him with faithful minds, //
celebrating his holy memory which enlightens the hearts of men.

Tone 3 Kontakion *(Martyr Barlaam)*

Though weak with old age you vanquished the Evil One
in your mighty contest, O Barlaam.
You endured the rack like one without a body,
and steadfastly endured the burning of your hand.
Therefore, God the Word has crowned you with a crown of glory.

Tone 7 Prokeimenon

The Lord shall give strength to His people. The Lord shall bless His people with peace. (*Ps 28/29:11*)

*v: Offer to the Lord, O you sons of God! Offer young rams to the Lord!
(Ps 28/29:1)*

Epistle Ephesians 2:14-22

For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.

And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near.

For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Tone 7

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

v: It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Your Name, O Most High. (Ps 91/92:1)

*v: To declare Your mercy in the morning, and Your truth by night.
(Ps 91/92:2)*

learn and help offer the responses. Come be a part of the mid-week service of supplication.

NEW IN BOOKSTORE: CD of *Paraklesis* to the Most Holy Theotokos, beautifully sung in Byzantine chant by three sisters, ages 11, 13, and 15 from Holy Cross Orthodox Church in Yamika, Washington. We have been singing this version on Wednesday nights. \$12

The Nativity Fast This is just a reminder that the Nativity Fast began Nov. 15th. and continues until the Nativity of our Lord (Dec. 25th). The celebration of the feast of the Nativity of Christ in the Orthodox Church is patterned after the celebration of the feast of the Lord's Resurrection. A fast of forty days precedes the feast, with special preparatory days announcing the approaching birth of the Savior. Thus, on Saint Andrew's Day (November 30) and Saint Nicholas Day (December 6) songs are sung to announce the coming birthday of the Lord: 'Adorn yourself, O Cavern. Make ready, O Manger. O Shepherds and wise men, bring your gifts and bear witness. For the Virgin is coming bearing Christ in her womb' (Vesperal Hymn of Saint Nicholas Day)

No Study Group this Week There will be no study group this coming Thursday. Nov. 30th, we will resume reading "Courage to Pray," by Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh. The study group meets Thursday mornings from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. All are welcome to join us!

St. Michael's and Amazon At this time of year, we begin buying gifts for our friends and family. This is just a reminder that if you purchase items from Amazon.Com, St. Michael's could benefit from your purchases. Amazon Smile will give St. Michael's a small rebate for every purchase you make if you use the address below. This address is specific to St. Michael's so it is easy to use. So far this year, we have received over \$130. Just type the address into your web browser. <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/05-0545881>

The Smartest Person in the Room

On November 24th we remember the Great Martyr Catherine, who lived in the fourth century. As residents of Alexandria, Egypt, her wealthy pagan parents had access to all the city's great institutions of learning. They gave their daughter the kind of education such a place could provide, and Catherine was well-versed in public speaking, sciences, languages, and philosophy. She was a brilliant student, extremely attractive, and very well-mannered.

With all these desirable attributes, the young Catherine still had a big problem. There was no shortage of men who wanted to marry her, but there was a definite lack of men who could measure up to her. She told her mother, with a strong note of complaint, that all the men she knew were boring and shallow, and that she feared she might never find one who could be her equal. Catherine knew the loneliness often felt by the child who is perceived by others to be the brightest in the class, with nobody to challenge her in argument or conversation. She also must have felt the boredom of inevitably being the smartest person in the room—any room. And if some envied her wealth and beauty, that envy could isolate her even more.

Catherine's mother was worried. As a secretly-practicing Christian, she decided the best person to help and advise her daughter was a holy elder. This man instructed Catherine in the faith, guiding her prodigious intelligence toward a relationship with Christ. After much prayer and fasting, Catherine had a vision of Christ and His mother. She saw the Lord's beauty and brilliance, so much greater than her own. She wanted to dedicate herself to Him, happily giving up the idea of finding a human partner.

But it was not to be that easy. In another vision, Christ would not even look at her, declaring her unworthy or unready. It was quite a new experience for the sought-after, bored beauty. Yet there was already a new element of humility developing in Catherine, for on the advice of the elder she continued to study, pray and fast, and finally received baptism. She had a third vision of Christ and His mother receiving her joyfully and placing a ring on her finger. When she awoke the ring was still there.

Catherine would later confront the pagan Emperor Maximian, publicly challenging his gory sacrifice to the gods by saying that the true God loves life and true wisdom, not senseless bloody slaughter. Seeking to put the outspoken female in her place, he called fifty prominent philosophers to persuade her that her beliefs were mistaken. But instead she convinced many of them to become believers.

Once again, Catherine was the smartest person in the room. But this time, her intelligence didn't bring her boredom and loneliness. It brought her the chance to witness with power and readied her, the "God-summoned bride", to die for the Bridegroom she had learned to love so much.

This weekly bulletin insert complements the curriculum published by the Department of Christian Education of the Orthodox Church in America. This and many other Christian Education resources are available at <http://dce.oca.org>.

Wisdom from the Holy Fathers

"Our holy fathers hearkened to the Lord's words, 'Out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, unchastity, thefts, perjuries, blasphemies; these are the things that defile a man' (Mt. 15:19-20); and they also hearkened to Him when He enjoins us to cleanse the inside of the cup so that the outside may also be clean (cf. Mt. 23:26). Hence they abandoned all other forms of spiritual labor and concentrated wholly on this one task of guarding the heart, convinced that through this practice they would also possess every other virtue, whereas without it no virtue could be firmly established. Some of the fathers have called this practice stillness of the heart, others attentiveness, others the guarding of the heart, others watchfulness and rebuttal, and others again the investigation of the thoughts and the guarding of the intellect. But all of them alike worked the earth of their own heart, and in this way they were fed on the divine manna (cf. Ex. 16:15)."

+St. Symeon the New Theologian (*The Philokalia* Vol. 4; Faber and Faber pg. 71):

Our hope of obtaining that which we ask for during prayer is founded upon faith in God's mercy and bountifulness, for He is the God of mercy and bountifulness, and the Lover of men; therefore at that time it is useful to remind ourselves of former innumerable experiences of mercy and grace bestowed upon men (in Holy Writ and in the lives of the Saints) and upon ourselves. Besides this, in order that prayer may be effectual it is also necessary that those who pray should have already obtained that which they formerly asked for, and firmly believe this with their whole heart. We often receive through prayer that which we have asked for, especially when we pray for that which relates to the salvation of our soul; it is necessary to ascribe this directly to God and His grace, and not to chance. How can there possibly be any chance in the Kingdom of the Almighty God? Nothing can really happen without His will, as "without Him was not anything made that hath been made."

+St. John of Kronstadt, *My Life in Christ*

He who has no love cannot be called a Christian...The whole Gospel is summarized in compassion. And this secures immortality and eternal life to man.

+St. Justin Popvitch +1979

Prayers for the Departed: Archpriest Stephen Mack, Archpriest Wsevolod Drobot, Protodeacon Keith Russin, Matushka Martha Ermikov, Matushka Marie (Gambal) Kreta, Jean Marie Mokhiber

Prayers for the Sick and Those in Need: Fr. Joseph Chupeck, Fr. Josef Petranin, Fr. John Nightingale, Mat Julia Petranin, Mat. Ellen Chupeck, Mat. Jennifer Franchak, Mat. Lisa Weremedic, Matushka Myra Kovalak, Lemlem Resat, Peter Melnik, Olga Riley, Marie Holowatch, Marie Karawulan, Barbara Hicks, JamesHicks, Anna Herko, Zack Bajuyo, Luke & Anna Wales, Nona Carey, Mona Elia, Lydia Kendall, Maria and Doug Dozier, Mary Anne Farrell, Catalina(Mary) & Jeremy (John) Finck, John Griffith, Cynthia Griffith, Benjamin, Charles, Patrica, Lubov, Marilyn Coyle, Alfred Mokhiber

Prayers for Women and the Child to be born: Mary (Misty) Robinson, Elizabeth Brasowski, Laura Cristina Najemy, Maria Peck, Rachel Facaros

Prayers for Catechumens: Stephanie Smiertka Riley

Date	<u>Coffee Hour</u>	<u>Service Duty</u>	<u>Church Cleaner</u>	<u>Library</u>
19-Nov	Hojnicki /Flynn /Robert	Riley	Clause/Whalen	Skomoruch
26-Nov	Sulpizi /Skomorucha	Sulpizi/Finck	Finck	Maloney
3-Dec	PARISH POT LUCK	Hojnicki/Souder	Skomorucha/Lewis	Lewis
10-Dec	Peck / Wales	Sheeler/Baldyche	General Cleaning	Gundersen
17-Dec	Gerassimakis /Bunitsky	Bunitsky/Lewis	Baldychev/Shatley/	Farrell

Church School Reminder

Nov. 19 Class
 *Nov. 26 No Class
 Thanksgiving Holiday
 Dec.3 St. Barbara's Day/ St. Nicholas Activities
 Dec. 10 Class
 Dec 17 Class/Church Decorating

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE

Nov-19 Roel
 Nov. 26 Andrew
 Dec-03 Rafael
 Dec-06 St. Nicholas Day Roel
 Dec-10 Roel
 Dec-17 Andrew