



Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church

9th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone

8. Afterfeast of the Dormition. Martyr

Agathonicus of Nicomedia and his companions:

Martyrs Zoticus, Theoprepius, Acindynus, Severian, Zeno, and others who suffered under Maximian (4th c.). Hieromartyr Athanasius, Bishop of Tarsus in Cilicia, Ven. Anthusa—Nun, and her servants, Martyrs Charesimus and Neophytus (3rd c.). Virgin Martyr Eulalia of Barcelona and the Martyr Felix (ca. 303).

Lord's Day – 08-22-2021

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Tone 8 Troparion (Resurrection)

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One!
Thou didst accept the three day burial to free us from our sufferings!//O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee!

Tone 1 Troparion (Dormition)

In giving birth thou didst preserve thy virginity.
In falling asleep thou didst not forsake the world, O Theotokos.
Thou wast translated to life, O Mother of Life,//
and by thy prayers thou dost deliver our souls from death.

Tone 4 Troparion (St. Agathonicus)

Thy holy martyr Agathonicus and his companions, O Lord,
through their sufferings have received incorruptible crowns
from Thee, our God. For having Thy strength, they laid low
their adversaries, and shattered the powerless boldness of
demons.//Through their intercession, save our souls!

Tone 8 Kontakion (Resurrection)

By rising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead and
resurrect Adam. Eve exults in Thy Resurrection,//
and the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead, O greatly
Merciful One!

Tone 1 Kontakion (St. Agathonicus)

Having received the good calling, O divinely wise one,
thou didst abandon the cult of evil men, not fearing their
tortures, O glorious Agathonicus. Therefore, thou hast
inherited good things// and worthily received the incorruptible
crown with thy fellow martyrs.

Tone 2 Kontakion (Dormition)

Neither the tomb, nor death, could hold the Theotokos,
who is constant in prayer and our firm hope in her
intercessions. For being the Mother of Life,// she was
translated to life by the One Who dwelt in her virginal womb.

Tone 8 Prokeimenon (Resurrection)

Pray and make your vows / before the Lord, our God! (Ps.
75:10a)
V. In Judah God is known; His Name is great in Israel. (Ps.
75:1)

Tone 3 Prokeimenon (Song of the Theotokos)

My soul doth magnify the Lord, / and my spirit hath rejoiced in
God my Savior. (Lk. 1:46-47)

Tone 8

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!
V. Come, let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to
God our Savior! (Ps. 94:1)

V. Let us come before His face with thanksgiving; let us make a
joyful noise to Him with songs of praise! (Ps. 94:2)

Tone 8

V. Arise, O Lord, into Thy rest, Thou and the Ark of Thy
sanctification! (Ps. 131:8)

(Instead of "It is truly meet...", we sing:)

The Angels, as they looked upon the Dormition of the Virgin,
were struck with wonder, seeing how the Virgin went up from
earth to heaven. The limits of nature are overcome in thee, O
Pure Virgin: for birthgiving remains virginal, and life is united
to death; a virgin after childbearing and alive after death,
thou dost ever save thine inheritance, O Theotokos.

Holy Scripture:

1 Corinthians 3:9-17 (Epistle)

For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's
building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a
wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on
it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other
foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus
Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver,
precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear;
for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the
fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which
he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is
burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as
through fire. Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that
the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God,
God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you
are.

Matt 14.22-34 (Gospel)

At that time, Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before
Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. And when
He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by
Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there. But the
boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the
wind was contrary. Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to
them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw Him walking on
the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out
for fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good
cheer! It is I; do not be afraid." And Peter answered Him and said,
"Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." So He
said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he
walked on the water to go to Jesus. But when he saw that the wind was
boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying,
"Lord, save me!" And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and
caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"
And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. Then those who
were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the
Son of God." When they had crossed over, they came to the land of
Gennesaret.

Holy Words

Faith

The foundation of all Christian virtue and life is faith. Faith is
the natural possession of all men who are wise and virtuous.
For if a person lacks faith in man's ability to know, to do good
and to find meaning in life; if he does not believe that this is
possible, profitable and worthy of man's efforts, then nothing
wise or virtuous can be achieved. The striking characteristic of
all prophets of doom, apostles of despair and preachers of
absurdity is the absence of faith in man's capabilities for
goodness and truth, and the absence of faith in the meaning
and value of life. It is also an absence of faith in God.
Faith in God is the fundamental virtue of all the saints (cf. Heb
11). The prototype of the believer in God is Abraham, the
father of Israel.

The promise to Abraham and his descendents that they should inherit the world did not come through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.

That is why righteousness depends on faith in order to guarantee it to all his descendents . . . who share the faith of Abraham, for he is the father of us all . . . in the presence of God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what He had promised. That is why his faith was “reckoned to him as righteousness” (Gen 15.6). But the words “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake only, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in Him that raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was put to death for our trespasses and raised for our justification (Rom 4.13-25).

Faith in God is fundamental for the spiritual life. And to believe in God is to believe in His Son Jesus Christ as well. *Let not your hearts be troubled, you believe in God, believe also in Me. [. . .] Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me; or else believe Me for the sake of My works themselves (Jn 14.1-11).*

Faith in Jesus as “the Christ, the Son of the living God,” is the center of the Christian life and the foundation of the Church (Mt 16.16). It is the source of all wisdom, power and virtue. It is the means by which man can know and do all things, for “all things are possible to him who believes” (Mk 9.23, Mt 17.20). *Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing (Jn 15.4-5).*

Faith, first of all, is “the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen” (Heb 11.1). It is confidence in the spiritual capabilities of man and in the goodness and power of God. It is intellectual assent and existential everyday trust in the promises and gifts of God, given to the world in creation and in salvation in Christ and the Holy Spirit. Faith itself is a “gift of God” given to all and accepted by the poor in spirit and the pure in heart, who are open to the activity of God in their lives (Eph 2.8).

Genuine faith is not a blind leap in the dark, an irrational and unreasonable acceptance of the unreasonable and the absurd. Genuine faith is eminently reasonable; it is rooted and grounded in man’s reasonable nature as made in the image of God. Not to believe, according to the scriptures and the saints, is the epitome of absurdity and foolishness.

The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.”

They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds, there is none that does good.

The Lord looks down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there are any that act wisely that seek after God. (Pss 13.1-2, 52.1-2)

Man was made to have faith in God. Not to believe in God is a perversion of human nature and the cause of all evils. The weakness and absence of faith in God is rooted in sin, impurity and pride. It is never simply the result of an intellectual mistake or mental confusion. It is always the result of the suppression of the truth through wickedness, the exchange of God’s truth for a lie, the refusal, consciously or unconsciously, to acknowledge God with honor and thanksgiving (cf. Rom 1). You shall indeed hear but never understand, and you shall see, but never perceive. For this people’s heart has drawn dull, and their ears are heavy of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should perceive with their eyes and bear with their ears, understand with their heart, and turn to Me to heal them (Is 6.9-10, Mt 13.14-15).

The spiritual person lives “by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me” (Gal 2.20). The spiritual person is the one who, by the grace of God’s Spirit, is faithful in all things.

Services and Activities (Calendar changes see website)

www.orthodoxcrossingville.org

This Week:

Mon. Aug 23rd Vespers 6pm

Tues. Aug. 24th – Divine Liturgy – 9:30am

Sat. Aug. 28th – Men’s Fellowship – 9am

-- Great Vespers – 4pm

Sun. Aug. 29th – Divine Liturgy – 9:30am

Upcoming...

Wed. Sept. 1st – Opening Prayers of the Church year and

Adult Education Class 1 – introduction to the Creed

Sept. 7-8 Nativity of the Theotokos

Sat. Sept. 11th – Trek 4 Missions – Presque Isle 2pm with Vespers and Service for 9/11 victims.

Sun. Sept. 12th -- Church School Program resumes – 3 age levels

Sept. 13-14 Elevation of the Holy Cross

Our mission project this fall:

As you are probably already aware, OCMC is hosting its 2nd annual virtual **Trek4missions event** from August 9-September 17th. If not, you can find more info on OCMC.org or our website.

Our parish, **Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church in Crossingville**, has formed a team, but we also plan to do a **group walk on Saturday, September 11, 2021** at 2pm at Presque Isle, with Vespers and a special prayer for 9/11 victims, and a potluck dinner to follow at a pavilion. We would love for your parish to join us to make this a Pan-Orthodox event to help bring more awareness! Would you be able to form a team and join us? Please let us know!

Blessed Fast and Feast, Anna Rachocki

Pray with out ceasing...

PLEASE INCLUDE

THESE OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN YOUR DAILY

PRAYERS: Those in need – Fr. Andrew, Fr. Isaac, Fr. David, Fr. Anthony, Fr. Joseph, Fr. Zachariah, Iguman Patrick, Hieromonk Herman, Prez. Alexandria, Mat. Gail, Mat. Donna, Mat. Pirsilla, Tamara, Olga, Susan, Karen, Mary B. Margret, Bill S., Lexi, John, Nickolas, Timothy, Amanda, Damian, Preston, Olivia, Delani, Jeremiah, Christine, Rick, Samuel, Megan, Valentina, Sandy, William...
The Homebound Tanya, Mary G

Catechumen- Christian... Military servers... Greg

Special requests... Paul, Gilbert, Joanne, Phyllis, Anthony, Ian, Paul, James, Sean, Liam, Bill, Wesley, Kim, Margaret, Loren, Julia, Shelby, Janet, Lynn, Margret, Helen, Dan, Jonathan, Donna, Nicholas, Maya, Mia, Charles, Gregory, Don...

Departed : Metro. Theodosius, Archbishop David, Metropolitan Maximos Marie Guidus, Vincent, Richard, George, Ruth, Pearl, Jim(Grace’s Dad), Ann, Lillian, Alice, William, Claudia, Theona, Helen, Ann, Katherine, Vernon, Paul, James, Nikolai, Andrew, Peter, Paul, Margaret, Michael Mary Ann, Timothy...

(IF you would like a name added to the list above give it to Fr. Daniel in writing.)

A Christian receives divine wisdom in three ways: by the commandments, teachings, and faith. The commandments free the mind from passions. Teachings lead it to true knowledge of nature. Faith leads to the contemplation of the Holy Trinity. (St. Maximus the Confessor, Chapters on Love, 4.47)