

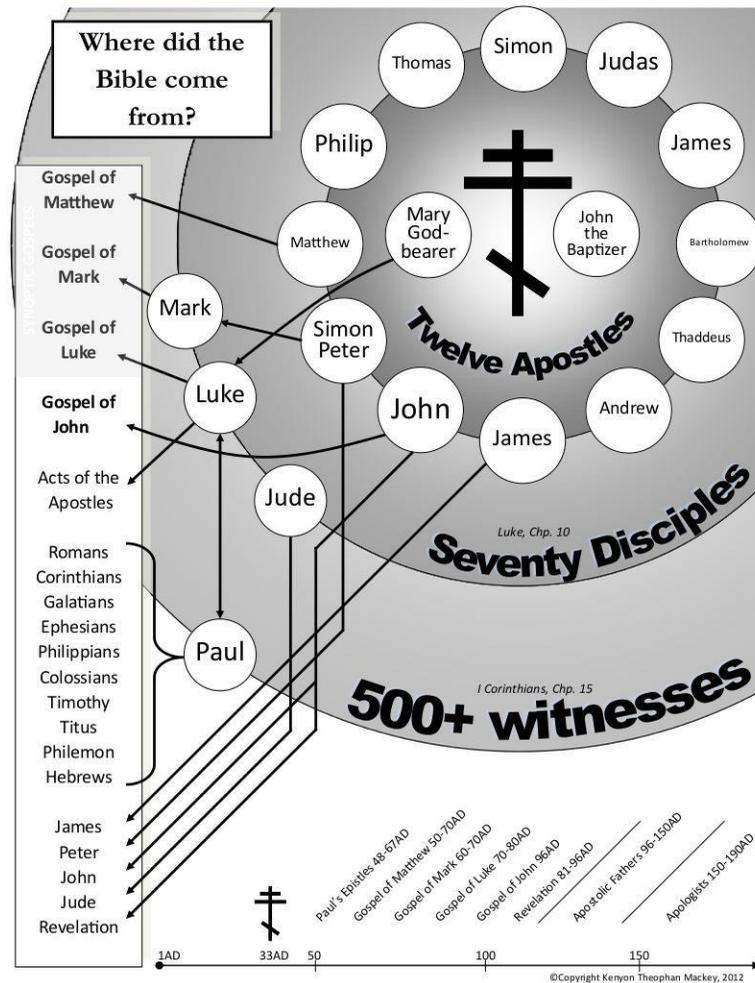
honors and rewards. But the holy sisters steadfastly confessed their faith before him, rejecting all his suggestions. They told him that they did not value the temporal things of this world, and that they were prepared to die for their Heavenly Bridegroom, for death would be their gateway to eternal life. Flying into a rage, the governor took out his wrath on Saint Menodora, the eldest sister. She was stripped of her clothes and beaten by four men, while a herald urged her to offer sacrifice to the gods. The saint bravely endured the torments and cried out, "Sacrifice? Can't you see that I am offering myself as a sacrifice to my God?" Then they renewed their torments with even greater severity. Then the martyr cried out, "Lord Jesus Christ, joy of my heart, my hope, receive my soul in peace." With these words she gave up her soul to God, and went to her Heavenly Bridegroom.

Four days later, they brought the two younger sisters Metrodora and Nymphodora to the court. They showed them the battered body of their older sister to frighten them. The virgins wept over her, but remained steadfast. Then Saint Metrodora was tortured. She died, crying out to her beloved Lord Jesus Christ with her last breath. Then they turned to the third sister, Nymphodora. Before her lay the bruised bodies of her sisters. Frontonus hoped that this sight would intimidate the young virgin. Pretending that he was charmed by her youth and beauty, he urged her to worship the pagan gods, promising great rewards and honors. Saint Nymphodora scoffed at his words, and shared the fate of her older sisters. She was tortured and beaten to death with iron rods. The bodies of the holy martyrs were to be burned in a fire, but a heavy rain

extinguished the blazing fire, and lightning struck down Frontonus and his servant. Christians took up the bodies of the holy sisters and reverently buried them at the so-called Warm Springs at Pythias (Bithynia). Part of the relics of the holy martyrs are preserved on Mt. Athos in the Protection cathedral of the Saint Panteleimon Russian monastery, and the hand of Saint Metrodora is on the Holy Mountain in the monastery of the Pantocrator. **Venerable Paul the Obedient, of the Kiev Caves**

Saint Paul the Obedient was an ascetic in the Far Caves at Kiev. Upon assuming the monastic schema at the monastery of the Caves, the monk underwent very burdensome obediences without a murmur, on which the monastery's Superior had sent him.

He was never idle, and when he was not at an obedience, he ground the grain under the millstone, wearing down his body by this heavy work and attaining ceaseless inner prayer. The Church honors his memory on September 10, on the day of his namesake Saint Paul, Bishop of Nicea.



# Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church

25636 N. Mosiertown Rd Crossingville, PA 1641 Rev. Fr. Daniel Mathewson –  
**Rector Lord's Day – September 3rd, 2017** Parish phone: 814-734-3801 Find  
us on the Web at: [www.orthodoxcrossingville.org](http://www.orthodoxcrossingville.org) or on Face book: Saints  
Peter and Paul Orthodox Church



## Glory to Jesus Christ!

**14th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 5. Afterfeast of the Nativity of the Theotokos. Sunday before Elevation. Martyrs Menodora, Metrodora, and Nymphodora, at Nicomedia (305-311). Ven. Paul the Obedient, of the Kiev Caves (Far Caves—13th-14th c.). Bl. Prince Andrew, in monasticism Joasaph, of Kubensk (Vologda—1453). Apostles Apelles, Lucius, and Clement of the Seventy (1st c.). Martyr Barypsabas in Dalmatia (2nd c.). Rt. Blv. Pulcheria, the Empress of the Greeks (453). Ss. Peter and Paul, Bishops of Nicea (9th c.).**

### Galatians 6:11-16 (Epistle, Sunday Before)

See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand! As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.

### 2 Corinthians 1:21-2:4 (Epistle)

Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. Moreover I call God as witness against my soul, that to spare you I came no more to Corinth. Not that we have dominion over your faith, but are fellow workers for your joy; for by faith you stand. But I determined this within myself, that I would not come again to you in sorrow. For if I make you sorrowful, then who is he who makes me glad but the one who is made sorrowful by me? And I wrote this very thing to you, lest, when I came, I should have sorrow over those from whom I ought to have joy, having confidence in you all that my joy is the joy of you all. For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you, with many tears, not that you should be grieved, but that you might know the love which I have so abundantly for you.



### John 3:13-17 (Gospel, Sunday Before)

No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

### **Matthew 22:1-14 (Gospel)**

And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said: "The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come. Again, he sent out other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, "See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding."' But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business. And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them. But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. Then he said to his servants, "The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding. So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. So he said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

## **NEWS and NOTICES**

**Today: 40 day Memory Eternal for Kate Ryan** who reposed in the Lord on August 1<sup>st</sup> . Kate was beloved by all of us for her simplicity and love, she was a consistent soul, who lived life with zeal and an upright heart! May her soul dwell with the righteous and may her memory be eternal!



**Mens' Fellowship Chicken Dinner- Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>** — this dinner will be by order only, (dinner includes a half Chicken). See Sign-up sheet in hall. All donations go to the Fellowship.

**+The Newly Illumined Kati McCrone will wed in holy marriage Andrew Sawyer here at our parish on Sunday, Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017 there will be a reception to follow in the hall. The couple is registered at: <https://theknot.com/us/kati-mccrone-and-andrew-sawyer-sep-2017>**

### **PLEASE INCLUDE THESE OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS:**

**Those in need** - Fr. Andrew, Fr. David, Mat. Donna, Fr. John, Fr. Nicholas, Fr. Paul, Fr. George, Mat. Suzanne, Drew, Helene, Karen, Mary, Marie, Judy, Richard, William, Theona, Sara, Joel, Evan, Eugene, John S., David, Sean, John, Theona, James, David, Kathleen, Thomas, Timothy, Paul, George, Valentina, Peter, Jeremiah, James, Renee, Delani, Emily, George  
**The Homebound**... Vincent, Tanya, Mary-Louise, Helen, John, Irene, Ruth, Josephine, Ann, William, Claudia ...  
**Catechumens -Inquirers** Katie, Christian **Newly Married**- Joseph and Elizabeth **Our Missionaries Abroad**...Fr. David and Mt. Rozanne, **Military servers**...Greg ... **All effected by hurricanes** ...**Departed Orthodox**...Newly Departed – Katherine. Vernon, Paul, James, Andrew, Peter, Paul, Margaret, Michael Mary Ann, Timothy **special requests**... Ian, Paul, Daleen, Penni, James

### **PRAYERS FOR people in Florida and Texas...**

#### **O LORD JESUS CHRIST HAVE MERCY ON US SINNERS!**

**As you saved your apostles from perishing in a storm by calming wind and waves on you command, so now keep us safe and sound in this hurricane season. Grant us favorable and benign weather. Protect us from the unpredictable elements of nature. Steer us from storm, flood, fire, illness, injury, disaster and sudden death. Preserve us from all evil and harm for we, though sinful, are nonetheless the work of Your hands. And You together with your Father who has no beginning and Your all holy good and life giving Spirit are our God in whom we live, move, and have being. Now and ever and unto ages and ages. Amen.**

#### **MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS SAVE US!**

**Seeing how your holy and powerful maternal intercessions and safe haven for the storm tossed, count us worthy of your prayers during this season of uncertain and threatening weather. Beg your divine human Son to grant us mercy, forgiveness, health, safety and salvation over the coming months. For He is sure to listen to you, His mother, the woman whom all generations call blessed. Amen.**

### **LIVES OF THE SAINTS...**

**The Holy Virgins Menodora, Nymphodora, and Metrodora (305-311)**, were sisters from Bithynia (Asia Minor). Distinguished for their special piety, they wanted to preserve their virginity and avoid worldly associations. They chose a solitary place for themselves in the wilderness and spent their lives in deeds of fasting and prayer. Reports of the holy life of the virgins soon spread, since healings of the sick began to occur through their prayers. The Bithynia region was governed at that time by a man named Frontonus, who ordered that the sisters be arrested and brought before him. At first he tried to persuade them to renounce Christ, promising great