

ST. NICHOLAS BULLETIN

Sunday, August 9th 2020

9th Sunday after Pentecost — Tone 8.

Afterfeast of the Transfiguration.

Glorification of Ven. Herman of Alaska,

Wonderworker of All America (1970)

Epistle: Galatians 5:22-6:2(Saint) / 1 Corinthians 3:9-17

Gospel: Luke 6:17-23 (Saint) / Matthew 14:22-34

We are now in the midst of the **Dormition Fast**. Let us increase our own repentance through prayer and fasting for the world in this difficult time! As always, confession is encouraged especially during the 4 major fasting seasons. If you're communing regularly, it's good to aim to build a habit of monthly confession (that's not an encouragement to commune infrequently!) Fr. John is always available by appointment or any time after vespers, and available by phone as well for those unable to come in person.

Our bible Study group on the Epistles of St. Paul will begin in September.

SERVICES AND EVENTS THIS WEEK

Wed. Aug. 12th 6:00PM—Vespers

7:00PM—**Zoom book Club**

Fri. Aug 14th 6:00 PM Great Vespers for **Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos**

Saturday, Aug. 15th

10:00 AM—Divine Liturgy **for the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos**

Flowers are traditionally brought to this service to be blessed following

6:00PM—Great Vespers

Sunday, Aug. 9th 9:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, hours @ 9:10

Prayer List July 26th

Mary Behanna—in memory of parents Andy & Petrina Gernat

Sandy Carroll—in memory of parents Mae & Pete Ruev

Mary AnnForlene(Sp?)—in memory of departed Dolores Evans

Fred & Caroline Ruev—for health of Jim Hays, Phil Soroka, & Fr. Igor / in beloved memory of newly departed Gary

Denise Ricci—

Dimitri & Pauline Petro—in memory of newly departed Norman Champagne, Memory Eternal / birthday remembrance of Matushka Irene / for health of Philip Soroka / for health of daughter Kyra, Luke, & Noah / for health of Alexandra, Nicholas and Christine / for health of Fr. Igor / for health of Mat. Nadia / God's blessings for sister-in-law Janice on her birthday

Pauline Aitken— in memory of departed son Kevin, husband Lee, and grandson Nicholas / for health of Phil Soroka, Jim Hays, and Fr. Igor / special intentions

Tom & Elaine Backstrom— Special intentions / memory of Mom and Dad / memory of Paul Zolak / God's healing hand be upon sister Michele / God's blessings on grandchildren Sydney, Luke, Freddy & Mason

Vlad Kash—

Mark Soroka— for health of Father, Fr. Igor

Fr. Igor—in blessed memory of beloved Mat. Irene / God's blessings for health of son, Philip

Before Thy Crucifixion, O Lord,
the mountain became as heaven,
and like a tabernacle the cloud spread itself out,
when **Thou wast transfigured**,
and the Father bore witness to Thee.

Peter was present with James and John,
since they were to be with Thee **at the time of Thy betrayal**,
that, **having seen Thy wondrous works**,
they might not be afraid of Thy sufferings.//
Grant us to venerate Thy sufferings in peace, through Thy mercy!

He Who of old spoke through symbols to Moses on Mount Sinai saying: "I am He Who is,"
was transfigured today upon Mount Tabor before the Disciples.
In His own person He showed them the nature of man arrayed in the original beauty of the Image.
Calling Moses and Elijah to be witnesses of this surpassing grace,
He made them partakers of the gladness,//
foretelling His death on the Cross and His saving Resurrection.
(Stichera From Vespers for the Transfiguration)

Making the Home a "little Church"

As Orthodox Christians, our life in Christ finds its culmination in the Divine Services of the Church, where we receive the Word of God, the grace of the Holy Spirit, and the unity of the faith in the receiving of the Body and Blood of Christ. While Church is essential, and the culmination, nevertheless, our life in Christ must carry beyond Sunday worship, and form our home life as well. The grace we receive in the Divine services is meant to permeate every corner of our lives, to be brought into our very homes, to the most intimate aspects of our lives. The way we live, eat, sleep, pray, and exist in the days between Church attendance are all part of the offering, the "sacrifice of praise," that we bring to raise up to God in Worship.

Thus it is that St. John Chrysostom calls the home the “Little Church,” and our daily life should mirror the life of the Christian Church. If we plan our week around our duties and obligations to school, work, and hobbies, even before all of that, we must orient our home life towards times of regular prayer, remembrance of God, and stillness. This is why it is good to have a dedicated icon “corner,” a place set up to be the “altar” of the home, to pray together as a family. While having icons in each room is also good, it’s important to have a main space where prayer happens. The icon corner also makes it clear to those who visit: “This is a Christian home, and Christ is the head here.” The presence of the icon in our home goes beyond beautiful decoration or religious symbolism – icons are not decorations. Rather, we pray in front of them, and by doing so the Saints become present in our midst, reminding us of the reality of our true homeland, the Kingdom of God which is in heaven. It also helps us to avoid sin, remembering the examples of holy men and women who now pray on our behalf!

The home is an icon of the Church, and the family is an icon of the Kingdom of heaven. Therefore, how we live together is important. In today’s paradoxically “busy” and idle world, it is very easy to constantly be distracted by screens and devices. More and more, it is becoming common to have meals in front of the T.V., or in separate rooms as people work on homework, projects, or jobs. Simple as it seems, it is part of the Christian struggle to “commune” together as a family, without phones. Meals should be spent at the table, which is an icon of the Holy Altar; here on this table we share our lives, our stories, our very sustenance. Even for those living alone, having a meal at the table with prayer and thankfulness is a way of preparing for the Heavenly Banquet, the receiving of Christ’s Body and Blood.

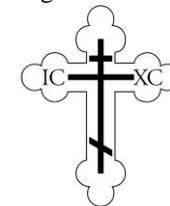
For our Christian life to deepen, the roots need deep soil, and that happens where we live. The more we allow our home life to be a place of darkness, to be filled with distractions, impure images and sounds, riotous living, fighting and arguments, etc., then the more we choke the seed that is sown in us when we hear the word of the Lord in Church. However, the more we allow our home to be a place of light, filled with reminders of God and of the Saints, good order and habits, consistent prayer, peaceful living, etc., then the more we prepare our hearts to receive even greater grace when we return to the Divine Services.



“The psychological trials of dwellers in the last times will be equal to the physical trials of the martyrs. In order to face these trials, we must be living in a different world.”— Bl. Fr. Seraphim Rose

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

1 St. Nicholas Drive
DONORA, PENNSYLVANIA
Organized 1916



The Reverend Father JOHN PARKER, Pastor
Rectory Telephone (724) 379-4827
frjohndonora@gmail.com

Deacon ROBERT MOTICHAK (Attached)
Dr. DIMITRI PETRO, Choir Director

www.stnicholasorthodoxdonora.org
Facebook / Instagram: @stnicholasdonora