

Holy Apostles Orthodox Church

347 Ridge Rd Lansing NY

HolyApostlesLansing.org

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JANUARY 18, 2015

Sanctity of Life Sunday

32nd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 7. Ss. Athanasius the Great (373) and Cyril (444), Archbishops of Alexandria. Ven. Afanásii (Athanasius), Abbot of Syandémsk (Vologdá—16th c.). Righteous Afanásii of Novolótsk, Monk (16th-17th c.). Ven. Marcian of Cyrrhus in Syria (ca. 388).

EPISTLE: 1 TIMOTHY 1.15-17: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.

GOSPEL: LUKE 18.18-27: Jesus teaches the rich young man how to follow Him.

VESPERS NEXT WEEK: Rdr Bob.

HOURS: Casey. **NEXT WEEK:** Available.

EPISTLE READER: Samual B. **NEXT WEEK:** Available.

COFFEE HOUR HOST: Lane Family. **NEXT WEEK:** Allard Family.

DIRECTORY: Through the efforts of Ivan, Bernice and Sam, the Parish Directory is now available and was emailed out a few days ago. Please keep this document handy for reaching out to each other throughout the week. Hard copies will be made available. And remember, there are open spaces on the last page for adding new members as they arrive!

PAYPAL: There is now a new way to financially help out the parish - PayPal! If you would like to make a donation through credit or debit card, see Fr James after each service.

KNOW YOUR FAITH: The next class will be January 20 at Unwind Coffee Shop in the Ithaca Mall. We will be reading and discussing chapter 11 of the Gospel of St John, The Raising of Lazarus at Bethany; Final Plot against Jesus; Jesus Retreats to Ephraim. Invite your friends to join us. The complete syllabus is available on the information table and online.

WELCOME!: We warmly welcome all of our visitors! It's good to have you with us! Please know that we are glad that you are here praying with us and invite you to join us after the service for a meal and to meet everyone in our community.

ALTAR SERVERS RETREAT: The Annual Diocesan Altar Server Retreat will be held at St Basil Academy in Garrison NY from February 6-8. The main focus of this annual retreat is to bring the altar servers of our diocese together in prayer, Christian fellowship, education, and fun. There is no charge to participate in the retreat but early registration is essential.

PARISH COUNCIL: When we have elections at the next Annual Meeting, there will be one opening for the Parish Council. If you are interested in this unique and valuable ministry as an opportunity for your life, see Fr James.

CHOIR: The choir will be meeting Tuesday night at Casey's house for rehearsal. All are invited to come and practice. And as always, all are invited to the choir or to sing along with the entire congregation.

HOUSE BLESSINGS: It is a beautiful tradition of our Orthodox faith to bless homes in the Theophany season. To have your house blessed, please see Fr James to schedule an appointment. It would be wonderful if we could every house in the parish blessed in the next few weeks. For those who do not make an appointment, Fr James will be calling to schedule a time.

PRAYER SCROLL: LIVING: Archpriest Timothy Holowatch, Archpriest Herman Shick, Archpriest John Chupeck, Archpriest Thomas Edwards, Archpriest Michael Thier, Archpriest Stephen Mack, Dn Symeon, Abbess Silouana, Mother Raphaela, Mother Christophora, Mat Cecelia, Mat Katya, Mat Catherine, Mat Dorothy, Joshua, Brittany & Isaac, Gretchen, Toni, Peter, Marriane, Terrence, Helen, Judy, Gretchen, Mary & Susan, John & Carmine, Nathan, Leah, Helen, Lindsey, Christopher E, Susanne H, Olga S, Elizabeth, Mary, Joe A, Daniel, Andrew and family, Harold, Wilhemina, Children Anthony, Mia and Isabel, Gordon, Elizabeth, David, Madeline, Shirley, Larry, Christina, Caleb, Jim & Kim, Rachel, Constantine & Maria, Gaetan. **BIRTHDAYS:** None. **ANNIVERSARIES:** None.

NAMESDAYS: Stephanie.

REPOSED: Priest John, Archpriest Alexander, Rdr Gregory, Daniel, Ada, Walter, Lillian, Joseph, Marie, Joseph, Laura, Martha, Stanley, Helen, Charles, Arthur, Taissia, Steluta, Theophan, Lynda, Florence, James.

NEWLY DEPARTED: James (1-9). **ANNIVERSARIES:** None.

FB Check-in



SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

CONFESSIONS ARE HEARD BEFORE AND AFTER VESPERS AND AT ANY OTHER CONVENIENT TIME.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18: 9 AM Divine Liturgy and Social Hour

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20: 8:30 Morning Prayers

6 PM Choir Rehearsal

7 PM Know Your Faith at Unwind Café in Ithaca Mall

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21: 8:30 Daily Matins

7 PM Cornell OCF in Anabel Taylor Hall

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22: No Morning Prayers

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23: No Morning Prayers

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24: 6 PM Great Vespers

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25: 9 AM Divine Liturgy and Social Hour

SANCTITY OF LIFE PETITIONS AND PRAYERS

These petitions are to be inserted into the Litany of Fervent Supplication as part of the annual commemoration of Sanctity of Life Sunday.

- ❖ Again we pray that You will grant to the people of this nation the will to do good, to flee from evil, and to practice all righteousness, making us respectful of life and sharers of Your blessings, caring for one another in mercy and truth.
- ❖ Again we pray that You will banish all evil from our hearts and wickedness from our laws, enabling us to be servants of Your holy will and performers of Your love.
- ❖ Again we pray that You will kindle in our hearts the will to care for the needy, to show kindness to the poor, to aid the homeless and help the helpless.

Troparion to the Apostles

First enthroned of the Apostles, And teachers of the Universe; Entreat the Master of all
To grant peace to the world, And to our souls great mercy!

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Lansing, New York



SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2015

32ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SS ATHANASIUS THE GREAT AND CYRIL, ARCHBISHOPS OF ALEXANDRIA

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Troparion Tone 7 (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.

Troparion Tone 3 (SS Athanasius and Cyril)

You shone forth with works of Orthodoxy and quenched all heresy,
and became victorious trophy-bearers, O hierarchs Athanasius and Cyril.
You enriched all things with piety and greatly adorned the Church,
and worthily found Christ God,//
Who grants His great mercy to all.

Kontakion Tone 7 (Resurrection)

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

Kontakion Tone 4 (SS Athanasius and Cyril)

Athanasius and Cyril, great hierarchs of true piety, and noble champions of the Church
of Christ,
Preserve all who sing://
O Compassionate Lord, save those who honor You!

Prokeimenon Tone 7

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 ye sons of God! Offer young rams to the Lord! (Ps 28/29:1)*

Alleluia Verses Tone 7

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

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

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

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (Ps 148:1)
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

THE INSTITUTION OF THE CHURCH

It is the mystery of the Church as new creation in its two dimensions – the cosmic and eschatological – that reveals to us the meaning and structure of the Church as *institution*. The nature of the institution can be termed *sacramental*, and this means not only a given or static inter-dependence between the visible and the invisible, nature and grace, the material and the spiritual, but also, and primarily, the dynamic essence of the Church as passage from the old into the new, from this world into the world to come, from the kingdom of nature into the Kingdom of Grace. The Church, as visible society and organization, belongs to this world; it is truly a part of it. And she must belong to it because she is "instituted" to represent and to stand for the world, to assume the whole creation. It belongs thus to the very "institution" of the Church to be a people, a community, a family, an organization, a nation, a hierarchy; to assume, in other words, all the natural forms of human existence in the world, in time and space.

She is an organic continuity with the whole of human life, with the totality of human history. She is the *pars pro toto* of the whole creation. Yet she is all this in order to reveal and manifest the true meaning of creation as fulfillment in Christ, to announce to the world its end and the inauguration of the Kingdom. The "institution" is thus the sacrament of the Kingdom, the means by which the Church always becomes what she is, always fulfills herself as the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church, as the Body of Christ and the Temple of the Holy Spirit, as the new life of the new creation. The basic act of this fulfillment, and therefore the true "form" of the Church, is the Eucharist: the sacrament in which the Church performs the passage, the *passover*, from this world into the Kingdom, offers in Christ the whole creation to God, seeing it as "heaven and earth full of His glory," and partakes of Christ's immortal life at His table in His Kingdom.

-Protopresbyter Alexander Schmemmann

ARCHPASTORAL MESSAGE FOR SANCTITY OF LIFE SUNDAY

To the Hierarchs, Clergy, Monastics, and Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America

Dearly Beloved in the Lord:

Today has been designated by the Orthodox Church in America as "Sanctity of Life Sunday," a day on which we re-affirm our faithfulness to the eternal value of human life and re-commit ourselves to the defense of the lives of the unborn, the infirm, the terminally ill and the condemned.



Our proclamation of life is offered in the context of a world in dismay at the terrorist attacks that recently shook Paris, the latest in a series of seemingly endless tragedies throughout the world that unnecessarily claim many innocent lives. Following this latest tragedy, Christians, Muslims, Jews and non-believers have engaged in discussion and debate about a range of issues, from human dignity to the responsibilities of political cartoonists, from freedom of expression to humanity's capacity for tolerance.

Unfortunately, much of this debate is framed in an atmosphere of ideological violence, whether this be a "war on infidels" or "war on terrorism." In such divisive engagements, there are rarely any victors but only more victims.

As Orthodox Christians, who hold dear the revealed truth that the life of "all mankind" is sacred, we might reflect, along with St Nikolai of Zhicha, on the paschal victory of Christ over death and corruption:

"Christ's victory is the only victory in which all humanity can rejoice, from the first-created to the last. Every other victory on earth has divided, and still divides, men from one another. When an earthly king gains the victory over another earthly king, one of them rejoices and the other laments. When a man is victorious over his neighbor, there is singing under one roof and weeping under the other. There is no joyful victory on earth that is not poisoned by malice: the ordinary, earthly victor rejoices both in his laughter and in the tears of his conquered enemy. He does not even notice how evil cuts through joy."

Our world is so full of these joyless and dark victories that we might despair of being able to put forward the hope and light of the Gospel message. We would do well to heed the words of St Nikolai and keep our hearts and minds focused on our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ, in Whom alone can solace, hope and joy be found in any meaningful and lasting way.

Indeed, Christ did not say: "I offer one of many complimentary paths"; He said: I am

the Way. Christ did not say: "I hold to the correct philosophical principles;" He said: I am the Truth. Christ did not say: "I subscribe to the only viable political agenda;" He said: I am the Life.

It is only possible to attain to this Way, this Truth and this Life through Christ and through the light that He bestows to those who strive to allow even a small beam of that light to enter their hearts and illumine their path.

As St Nikolai writes: "Christ's victory alone is like a sun that sheds bright rays on all that are beneath it. Christ's victory alone fills all the souls of men with invincible joy. It alone is without malice or evil."

Let us therefore make every effort to offer this "victory of light and life" to those who are surrounded by darkness and death. Let us be bold in our adding our Orthodox voices in support of the value of every human person, born or unborn; let us offer consolation to the mothers who have undergone abortions and offer our prayers to them and to all who have been affected by this tragedy; let us affirm our Orthodox understanding of the human person as created in the image and likeness of God and yet in need of healing in Christ.

Let us, together with St Nikolai, proclaim the great victory of Christ:

A mysterious victory, you will say? It is; but it is at the same time revealed to the whole human race, the living and the dead.

A generous victory, you will say? It is, and more than generous. Is not a mother more than generous when she, not once or twice, saves her children from snakes but, in order to save them for all time, goes bravely into the snakes' very nest and burns them out?

A healing victory, you will say? It is, healing and saving for ever and ever. This gentle victory saves men from every evil and makes them sinless and immortal. Immortality without sinlessness would mean only the extending of evil's reign, and of that of malice and wickedness, but immortality with sinlessness gives birth to unconfined joy, and makes men the brethren of God's resplendent angels.

With Love in the Lord,

+TIKHON

Archbishop of Washington
Metropolitan of All America and Canada

