

Saintly Notes

The Triumph of Orthodoxy (February 21)

For more than one hundred years the Church of Christ was troubled by the persecution of the Iconoclasts of evil belief, beginning in the reign of Leo the Isaurian (717-741) and ending in the reign of Theophilus (829-842). After Theophilus's death, his widow the Empress Theodora (celebrated Feb. 11), together with the Patriarch Methodius (June 14), established Orthodoxy anew.

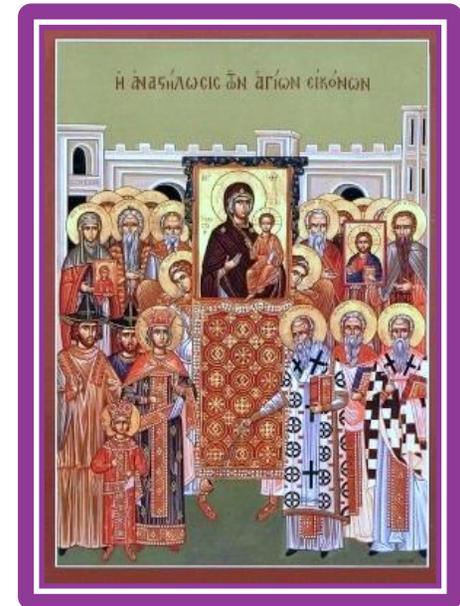
This ever-memorable Queen venerated the icon of the Mother of God in the presence of the Patriarch Methodius and the other confessors and righteous men, and openly cried out these holy words: "If anyone does not offer relative worship to the holy icons, not adoring them as though they were gods, but venerating them out of love as images of the archetype, let him be anathema." Then with common prayer and fasting during the whole first week of the Forty-day Fast, she asked God's forgiveness for her husband.

After this, on the first Sunday of the Fast, she and her son, Michael the Emperor, made a procession with all the clergy and people and restored the holy icons, and again adorned the Church of Christ with them. This is the holy deed that all we the Orthodox commemorate today, and we call this radiant and venerable day the Sunday of Orthodoxy, that is, the triumph of true doctrine over heresy.

(Iconograms.org)

First Sunday of Great Lent
(Sunday of Orthodoxy)

February 21, 2010



First Sunday of Great Lent (Sunday of Orthodoxy)

All Saints Orthodox Church, Raleigh NC
(www.allsaintsnc.org)
919-859-1332

The V. Rev. Nicholas R. A. Sorensen, Archpriest
The Rev. Philip Pelikan, Priest
The Rev. David Keim, Deacon

February 21, 2010

The Saints Whom We Remember

Venerable Timothy of Symbola; Eustathios, archbishop of Antioch;
Zachariah, patriarch of Jerusalem; George, bishop of Amastris

This Week's Schedule

Today: 8:00a Orthros; 9:00a Church School; 10:00a Divine Liturgy;
5:30p Orthodoxy Sunday Vespers (St. Barbara Church, Durham)
Monday: Church Office Closed;
Wednesday: 9:15a Third Hour Prayers; 6:30p Presanctified Liturgy; 8:00p
Lenten Soup Supper
Friday: 6:30p Akathist
Saturday: 5:30p Great Vespers
Sunday: 8:00a Orthros; 9:00a Church School; 10:00a Divine Liturgy

Third Antiphon

Troparion for Sunday of Orthodoxy
Tone 2

Let the heavens and the earth praise Him. This is the day which the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. O Lord my God, I will give thanks unto Thee forever.

Troparion of the First Sunday of Great Lent. Thy pure image do we venerate, O good One, asking forgiveness of our sins, O Christ our God; for by Thine own will Thou didst ascend the Cross in Thy body, to save Thy creatures from the bondage of the enemy. Thou hast verily filled all with joy, since Thou didst come, O our Savior, to save the world.

Little Entrance

- † *Entrance Hymn:* "Come, let us worship . . . Alleluia."
† *Troparion for the Resurrection (Tone 4):* Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation. And proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying: Death hath been spoiled; Christ God is risen, granting the world Great Mercy.
† *Troparion for Orthodoxy Sunday (Tone 2):* See above.
† *Troparion for All Saints (Tone 4):* As with fine porphyry and royal purple Thy Church has been

adorned with Thy *martyr's* blood shed throughout all the world. She cries to Thee, O Christ God, send down Thy bounties on Thy people, grant peace to Thy habitation and great mercy to our souls.

- † *Kontakion for the Annunciation and Great Lent (Tone 8):* To thee, our captain, Queen of war, the battle trophies won, thy people rescued by thine aid from peril, dedicate as our offering of thanksgiving, O Theotokos. As thou hast might which none by war can overcome from all forms of danger hast thou delivered me, that I may cry unto thee: O Virgin unwedded bride.

The Trisagion

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us . . .

Scripture

for today and next Sunday

Today: (See insert)

Next Sunday:

Epistle: Heb. 1:10—2:3
Gospel: Mark 2:1—12

Alegalynarion

St. Basil Liturgy

In thee rejoiceth, O full of grace . . .

Communion Hymn

Tone 8

Praise the Lord . . . Alleluia.

Post-Communion Hymn

We have seen the true light . . .

Parish Notes

Altar Servers Today

Ethan Haynes, Rim Gibrealfa, John Pridgen, Jonah Sieck, Michael Fogg, Justin Fogg, Aidan Labrozzi.

Special Attention

- **Orthodoxy Sunday.** This year all Orthodox in our area have been invited by Fr. Andrew Koufopoulos to attend the Orthodoxy Sunday Vespers at St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Church in Durham. A light Lenten supper will be served following the service. The Vespers will begin at 5:30pm. St. Barbara church is located at 8306 NC Highway 751 in Durham. Please plan now to attend.
- **Directions to St. Barbara's:** Located less than a mile south of Interstate 40, exit 274 on NC Highway 751. Turn toward Jordan Lake, the church is located on the right hand side of the road.
- **Services in Great Lent.** During Great Lent there will be a weekly Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts on Wednesdays and the weekly Akathist Hymn to the Theotokos on Fridays. Other special services will be announced as well as a full liturgical schedule for Holy Week. Please plan now to attend as many of these Lenten services as you are able.
- **Ground Breaking DVD's.** Copies are available on the Narthex table and can be purchased for \$20. All proceeds will be put in the building fund. If you cannot find a copy of the DVD, please talk to Fr. Nicholas.
- **Building Project Update.** This past week the concrete slab was poured for the temple. This coming week should see the concrete poured for the education wing. During the beginning days of March the steel frame and structure will arrive and our new building should begin to take shape. Please continue to pray for good weather and for the safety of the workmen.

Today's Epistle and Gospel Readings

Prokeimenon:

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers. Sing praises to our King, sing praises.

For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us.

†Epistle: Heb. 11:24–26, 32–40 (RSV)

Brethren, by faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to share ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets; who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, and put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated—of whom the world was not worthy—wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of

the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

†Gospel: John 1:43–51 (RSV)

At that time, Jesus decided to go to Galilee. And He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael, and said to him, "We have found Him of Whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" Nathanael said to Jesus, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered Him, "Rabbi, Thou art the Son of God! Thou art the King of Israel!" Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these." And Jesus said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man."

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A Word from Our Fathers

“While God abhors this evil conceit in us, there is nothing He loves and desires to see in us more than a sincere consciousness of our nothingness and a firm and deep-felt conviction that any good we may have in our nature and our life comes from Him alone, since He is the source of all good, and that nothing truly good can ever come from ourselves, whether a good thought or a good action.

Therefore he takes care to plant this heavenly seed in the hearts of His beloved friends, urging them not to value themselves and not to rely on themselves.

Sometimes He does this through the action of grace and inner illumination, or sometimes through external blows and tribulations, sometimes through unexpected and almost unconquerable temptations, and sometimes by other means, not always comprehensible to us.”

*(Unseen Warfare, edited by Nicodemus of the Holy Mountain
and revised by Theophan the Recluse)*

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