

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR ...

The health and salvation of –

Abducted Bishops Paul & John	Pauline
Hieroschemamonk Ambrose	Ann
Archpriest Eugene	Stefan
Archpriest Dimitrie	John
Priest James	Vivian
Priest John	Jung Sook
Subdeacon Paul	Thomas
Reader Aleksei	Cheyenne
Reader Sergei	Nancy
Monk Philaret	Randall
Matushka Priscilla	Rose
Marie • Virginia • Thomas	Don
John • Luke • Katherine	Norma
Catechumen Rebecca	James
Catechumen Jennifer	

The repose and salvation of –

Matushka Mary (February 12)

Please let Father know if there are any names you would like added to the list.

**This Friday, March 2, 6:30 PM – Presanctified
Liturgy & Lenten Potluck**

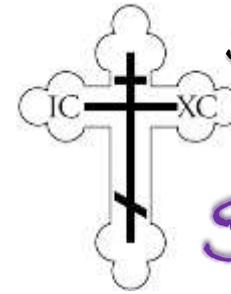
Sunday, March 11 – Church School

PAN-ORTHODOX VESPERS NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 4

5:00 PM @ Holy Transfiguration of Christ Cathedral, Denver

6:00 PM @ St. Michael the Archangel Orthodox Church, Pueblo

*A mission parish under the omphorion of His Eminence Benjamin,
Archbishop of San Francisco and the Diocese of the West,
Orthodox Church in America*



**ST TIKHON ORTHODOX
CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

Sunday, February 25, 2018

The Triumph of Orthodoxy



**Sunday Hours & Divine Liturgy at 9:10 AM, followed by agape potluck
Wednesdays at 6:30 PM – Evening Prayers & Saints of the Day
Other services as announced**

Rev. Alexander Vallens, Rector
priest@sttikhonparker.org

(303) 305-8443

19035 East Plaza Drive, Parker, Colorado 80134

www.sttikhonparker.org

Sermon on the Sunday of Orthodoxy at the Cathedral in San Francisco (1903)

Part 1

This Sunday, Brethren, begins the week of Orthodoxy, or the week of the Triumph of Orthodoxy, because it is today that the Holy Orthodox Church solemnly recalls its victory over the Iconoclast heresy and other heresies and gratefully remembers all who fought for the Orthodox faith in word, writing, teaching, suffering, or godly living. Keeping the day of Orthodoxy, Orthodox people ought to remember it is their sacred duty to stand firm in their Orthodox faith and carefully to keep it.

For us it is a precious treasure: in it we were born and raised; all the important events of our life are related to it, and it is ever ready to give us its help and blessing in all our needs and good undertakings, however unimportant they may seem. It supplies us with strength, good cheer and consolation, it heals, purifies and saves us.

The Orthodox faith is also dear to us because it is the Faith of our Fathers. For its sake the Apostles bore pain and labored; martyrs and preachers suffered for it; champions, who were like unto the saints, shed their tears and their blood; pastors and teachers fought for it; and our ancestors stood for it, whose legacy it was that to us it should be dearer than the pupil of our eyes.

And as to us, their descendants – do we preserve the Orthodox faith, do we keep to its Gospels? Of yore, the prophet Elijah, this great worker for the glory of God, complained that the Sons of Israel have abandoned the Testament of the Lord, leaning away from it towards the gods of the heathen. Yet the Lord revealed to His prophet, that amongst the Israelites there still were seven thousand people who have not knelt before Baal (III Kings 19 LXX). Likewise, no doubt, in our days also there are some true followers of Christ. ‘The Lord knoweth them that are His.’ (II Tim 2:19)

We do occasionally meet sons of the Church, who are obedient to Her decrees, who honor their spiritual pastors, love the Church of God and the beauty of its exterior, who are eager to attend to its Divine Service and to lead a good life, who recognize their human failings and sincerely repent of their sins.

But are there many such among us? Are there not more people, ‘in whom the weeds of vanity and passion allow but little fruit to the influence of the Gospel, or even in whom it is altogether fruitless, who resist the truth of the Gospel, because of the increase of their sins, who renounce the gift of the Lord and repudiate the Grace of God’.

‘I have given birth to sons and have glorified them, yet they deny Me,’ said the Lord in the olden days concerning Israel. And today also there are many who were born, raised and glorified by the Lord in the Orthodox faith, yet who deny their faith, pay no attention to the teachings of the Church, do not keep its injunctions, do not listen to their spiritual pastors and remain cold towards the divine service and the Church of God.

How speedily some of us lose the Orthodox faith in this country of many creeds and tribes! They begin their apostasy with things, which in their eyes have but little importance. They judge it is ‘old fashioned’ and ‘not accepted amongst educated people’ to observe all such customs as: praying before and after meals, or even morning and night, to wear a cross, to keep icons in their houses and to keep church holidays and fast days. They even do not stop at this, but go further: they seldom go to church and sometimes not at all, as a man has to have some rest on a Sunday (...in a saloon); they do not go to confession, they dispense with church marriage and delay baptizing their children.

And in this way their ties with Orthodox faith are broken! They remember the Church on their deathbed, and some don’t even do that! To excuse their apostasy they naively say: ‘this is not the old country, this is America, and consequently it is impossible to observe all the demands of the Church.’, as if the word of Christ is of use for the old country only and not for the whole world. As if the Orthodox faith is not the foundation of the world!

‘Ah, sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evil doers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the Lord, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel into anger.’ (Is 1:4) If you do not preserve the Orthodox faith and the commandments of God, the least you can do is not to humiliate your hearts by inventing false excuses for your sins! If you do not honor our customs, the least you can do is not to laugh at things you do not know or understand. If you do not accept the motherly care of the Holy Orthodox Church, the least you can do is to confess you act wrongly, that you are sinning against the Church and behave like children! If you do, the Orthodox Church may forgive you, like a loving mother, your coldness and slights, and will receive you back into her embrace, as if you were erring children.

-- Tikhon, Bishop of the Aleutian Islands & North America (to be continued next week)

Also this week: *St Porphyrius, Bp of Gaza (February 26); REPOSE OF ST RAPHAEL, Bp OF BROOKLYN (February 27); Ven. Kyra of Syria (February 28); Martyr Eudoxia of Heliopolis (March 1); Hieromartyr Theodosius, Bp of Cyrenia; St Chad, Bp of Lichfield (March 2); MEMORIAL SATURDAY; Martyrs Eutropius, Cleonicus, and Basiliscus of Amasea (March 3).*

*** fasting all week; wine and oil allowed on Tuesday and Saturday ***

Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2 (Sunday)

Gospel: John 1:43-51 (Sunday)

Troparion - Tone 5 (Resurrection)

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, / Co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, / Born for our salvation from the Virgin; / For He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, / To endure death, / And to raise the dead /// By His glorious Resurrection.

Troparion – Tone 2 (Triodion)

We venerate Thy most pure image, O Good One, / And ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ our God. / Of Thy good will Thou wast pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh / And deliver Thy creatures from bondage to the enemy. / Therefore with thankfulness we cry aloud to Thee: / Thou hast filled all with joy, O our Savior, /// For Thou didst come to save the world.

Kontakion – Tone 8 (Triodion)

The uncircumscribed Word of the Father became circumscribed, / Taking flesh from thee, O Theotokos, / And He has restored the smiled image to its ancient glory, / Filling it with the divine beauty. / This our salvation we confess in deed and word, /// And we depict it in the holy ikons.