

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR ...

The health and salvation of –

Abducted Bishops Paul & John	Pauline
Hieroschemamonk Ambrose	Ann
Archpriest Eugene	Stefan
Archpriest Louis	John
Priest Kyrill & family	Vivian
Priest James	Jung Sook
Priest John	Thomas
Priest Alexander	Cheyenne
Subdeacon Peter	Nancy
Reader Aleksei	Randall
Monk Philaret	Rose
Matushka Mary	Don
Matushka Mary Sara	Norma
John • Euphrosynos	James
Virginia • Justina	
Thomas • John	
Catechumen Rebecca	
Catechumen Jennifer	

The repose and salvation of –

Gerasim (June 19)

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

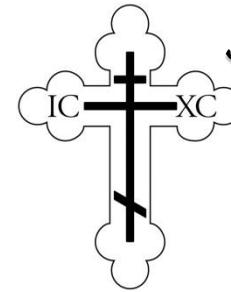
Sunday, July 16 – Parish Council

Saturday, July 22, 4:00 PM – choir practice

Saturday, July 22, 5:30 PM – Great Vespers + confession

Saturday, August 12 / Sunday, August 13 – archpastoral visit

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



**ST TIKHON ORTHODOX
CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

Sunday, July 2, 2017



Placing of the Robe of the Most Holy Theotokos at Blachernae

St John of Shanghai & San Francisco



The robe of the Most-Holy Theotokos, now in Zugdidi, Georgia

Sunday Hours & Divine Liturgy at 9:10 AM, followed by agape potluck
Other services as announced

Rev. Alexander Vallens, *Rector*

priest@sttikhonparker.org

(303) 305-8443

19035 East Plaza Drive, Parker, Colorado 80134

www.sttikhonparker.org

The Placing of the Venerable Robe of the Most Holy Theotokos at Blachernae

During the reign of the Byzantine Emperor Leo the Great (457-474), the brothers Galbuis and Candidus, associates of the emperor, set out from Constantinople to Palestine to venerate the holy places. In a small settlement near Nazareth they stayed in the home of a certain old Jewish woman. In her house they noticed a room where many lamps were lit, incense burned, and sick people were gathered. Seeing the many miracles wrought at the small shrine, they asked her what the room contained, but the pious woman did not want to give an answer for a long time. After persistent requests, she said that she had a very precious sacred item: the robe of the Mother of God. Our Lady had had two virgins in her lifetime who attended upon her. Before her holy dormition, she gave each of them one of her divine garments as a blessing, instructing them to leave it to another virgin after their death. This old widow was of the family of one of those two virgins, and it had come through the generations into her hands.

The two men took the jeweled chest, containing the sacred robe by stealth and brought it to Constantinople. There, St Gennadius, Patriarch of Constantinople, and Emperor Leo, were convinced of the incorrupt state of the holy robe, and certified its authenticity. A new church was built by Emperor Marcian and Empress Pulcheria on the shore of an inlet and was called Blachernae after the name of a Scetis commander who was slain there. On July 2, 458, St Gennadius transferred the sacred robe into the Blachernae church with appropriate solemnity, placing it within a new reliquary. It is in remembrance of the placing of this vesture of the All-Holy Birth giver of God in this church that this feast day was instituted.

Afterwards, the maphorion (i.e., the outer robe) of the Mother of God, and part of her belt were also put into the reliquary with her robe. This circumstance also influenced the Orthodox iconography of the Feast, in connecting the two events: the Placing of the Robe, and the Placing of the Belt of the Mother of God in Blachernae. The church burned in 1070, but Emperor Romanus IV Diogenes immediately raised it up again. The church burned again in 1434, and from that time the robe remained in a small house of prayer together with the renowned holy spring. According to some accounts, the robe was brought to Georgia during the period of iconoclasm in Byzantium, and was preserved in the church at Khobi for many centuries.

A history museum in Zugdidi (in western Georgia) has many of the sacred artifacts confiscated from churches and monasteries by the Soviets. Included is the Robe of the Most Holy Theotokos, which was brought there from the Dormition Monastery in Khobi. Every year on July 2, the Most Precious Robe is carried from the museum to the Cathedral of the Blachernae Icon of the Theotokos. After the festal Liturgy the faithful joyfully venerate this priceless treasure of the Christian Faith.

Also this week: *Martyr Hyacinth of Caesarea in Cappadocia (July 3); St Andrew, Abp of Crete (July 4); VEN. ATHANASIUS, FOUNDER OF THE GREAT LAVRA AND CENOBITIC MONASTICISM ON MOUNT ATHOS, AND HIS SIX DISCIPLES; UNCOVERING OF THE RELICS OF VEN SERGIUS OF RADONEZH (July 5); Ven. Sisoës the Great (July 6); Ven. Thomas of Mt. Maleon (July 7); SITKA ICON OF THE MOST-HOLY THEOTOKOS (July 8).*

** regular fasting this week; fish, wine, and oil allowed on Wednesday **

Epistle: Romans 6:18-23 (Sunday)

Gospel: Matthew 8:5-13 (Sunday)

Troparion – Tone 3 (Resurrection)

Let the heavens rejoice! / Let the earth be glad! / For the Lord has *shown* strength with his arm! / He has trampled down death by death! / He has become the first-born of the dead! / He has delivered us from the depths of hades, / And has granted to the world /// Great mercy!

Troparion – Tone 8 (Theotokos)

Ever-Virgin Theotokos, protectress of mankind, / Thou hast given thy people a *powerful* legacy: / The robe and sash of thy most honored *body*, which remained incorrupt throughout thy seedless childbearing; / For through thee time and *nature* are renewed! /// Therefore we implore thee: “Grant *peace* to thy people and to our souls great mercy!”

Troparion – Tone 6 (St John)

Glorious apostle to an age of coldness and unbelief / Invested with the *grace*-filled power of the saints of old / Divinely-illuminated seer of heavenly mysteries, / Feeder of *orphans*, hope of the hopeless, / Thou didst enkindle on earth the fire of love for Christ upon the dark eve of the day of judgment; /// Pray now that this *sacred* flame may also rise from our hearts.

Kontakion – Tone 3 (Resurrection)

On this day Thou didst rise from the *tomb*, O Merciful One, / Leading us from the gates of death. / On this day Adam exults as *Eve* rejoices; / With the prophets and patriarchs /// They unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy power.

Kontakion – Tone 8 (St John)

Chosen Wonderworker and superb servant of Christ, / Who pourest out in the latter times, inexhaustable streams of inspiration and multitudes of miracles. /// We pray thee with love and call *out* to thee, O holy hierarch John, Wonderworker of the latter times.

Kontakion – Tone 4 (Theotokos)

O Pure One, full of the grace of God, / Thou hast given thy sacred robe as a garment of incorruption to all the faithful, / With it thou didst cover thy holy body, / O divine protection of all mankind. / We celebrate its enshrinement in Blachernae with love / And we cry aloud with awe: /// “Rejoice, O Virgin, boast of Christians.”