

WELCOME TO THE GOD-LOVING & GOD-PROTECTED PARISH OF ST. MICHAEL'S!

A parish of the UOC-USA and the Ecumenical Patriarchate
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“Each one shall give what he has decided in his own mind, not Grudgingly or because he is made to - for God loves a cheerful giver.” - II Cor. 9:7

August 13, 2017

SERVICE SCHEDULE

Sunday, Aug. 13th 10th Sunday after Pentecost / Forefeast of the Procession of the Precious and Life-giving Cross of the Lord

Tone 1

Epistle: 1 Cor. 4:9-16 / Gospel: Mt. 17:14-23

9:00AM Divine Liturgy

Memory Litia for Dmytro Sarachmon, husband of Irene Sarachmon. May his memory be eternal!

LAST DAY BEFORE THE DORMITION FAST

Monday, Aug. 14th Procession of the Precious and Life-giving Cross of the Lord

BEGINNING OF THE DORMITION FAST

Friday, Aug. 18th

6:00 PM Great Vespers w/ Litia for the Holy Transfiguration

Saturday, Aug. 19th Holy Transfiguration of our Lord

Epistle: 2 Pet. 1:10-19

Gospel: Mt. 17:1-9

10:00 AM Divine Liturgy, followed by the blessing of fruit

6:00 PM Great Vespers

Sunday, Aug. 20th 11th Sunday after Pentecost / Afterfeast of the Holy Transfiguration

Tone 2

Epistle: 1 Cor. 9:2-12 / Gospel: Mt. 18:23-35

9:00AM Divine Liturgy, followed by blessing of fruit

DORMITION FAST

Saturday, Aug. 26th
6:00 PM Great Vespers
DORMITION FAST

Sunday, Aug. 27th **12th Sunday after Pentecost / Forefeast of the Holy Dormition**

Tone 2

Epistle: 1 Cor. 9:2-12

Gospel: Mt. 18:23-35

9:00AM Divine Liturgy

DORMITION FAST

Monday, Aug. 28th **Dormition of the Birth-Giver of God**

Epistle: Phil. 2:5-11

Gospel: Lk. 10:38-42; 11:27-28

10:00 AM Divine Liturgy, followed by the Procession of the Holy Shroud of the Birth-Giver of God and the blessing of flowers

Remember: even when you are absent, expenses continue.

PARISH NEWS

We extend wedding anniversary greetings to: **Melissa & Russell Baker (Aug. 7th)**, and **Daniel & Patricia Bourgery (Aug. 10th)**, may God grant you all **Many, Happy Years**. **Многая літа**

The Ladies Sodality is asking for a donation of a clean, older electric blanket for the kitchen. As well as: Donations of 5# bags of Gold Medal all-purpose flour (bleached or unbleached) and gallon jugs of Wesson vegetable or Mazona corn oil. **Thank you! Дякую!**

From the Ladies Sodality: As you know, the ladies are trying something new this year. We are encouraging parishioners to order their frozen vareneky, holubtsi (frozen in ready to bake disposable pans), and frozen fried Perohe in advance of the picnic. Order forms are available now in the church hall and can be found at the hall kitchen "window". Please help us by ordering early. Frozen Food orders can be picked up after liturgy on Sunday, Sept 3rd in the church hall. **Thank you! Дякую!**

From Father Borislav: *When you fill out the names to be remembered at the Proskomedia, please print the names, instead of writing them. Also, when approaching the chalice for Holy Communion please say your name to Father. Thank you! Дякую!*

Can you help??? We are in need of some coffee hour volunteers!! Your "turn" would come up 2 to 3 times during the year. Explanation will be given on what is needed and how to set up, etc. Please see Cindy Charest to add your name. (The more volunteers we have, the fewer times we each have to volunteer!) Please give it your consideration! **Thank you Дякую!**

Have you started your summer cleaning yet?? Save your stuff for us AND OUR CLOTHING DRIVE! Items and clothing can be brought to the church basement during coffee hour. Please use white kitchen bags (no boxes, please) for your clothing as they are easier for us to lift. Also, do not bring electronic devices (tv, computers and similar items). **Thank you! Дякую!**

Our coffee hours are offered each week for fellowship and sustenance for those who have fasted. While the donations put in the basket are voluntary, they are not nearly meeting the expenses of hosting the coffee hours. Please use a guideline of at least a \$1 donation per person for coffee hour. Your donation benefits our UOL groups. **Thank you! Дякую!**

We now have a church calendar for events on the counter of the kitchen at the “window” area. If you (church school, parish board, kitchen etc) have something coming up, please put it on the calendar and check with a board member to be sure it’s ok. We would just like to keep up with all activities and not have conflicts. **Thank you! Дякую!**

If you have any ideas for fund raisers for the church, please let a council member know! And a reminder, please consider our scrip program for gift cards is an excellent way for the church to benefit from your gift card purchases!! See Val Sternadore for more info.

KITCHEN SESSIONS:

Tuesday, August 22, 7:30 am, steam cabbage

Wednesday, August 23, 7:30 am, make holubtsi

Tuesday, August 29, 7:30 am, fried cabbage

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept. 10th – Annual Parish Picnic

Procession of the Honorable Wood of the Life-Giving Cross of the Lord (First of the three “Feasts of the Savior” in August)

Commemorated on August 1 / 14

The Procession of the Venerable Wood of the Life-Creating Cross of the Lord: In the Greek Horologion of 1897 the derivation of this Feast is explained: “Because of the illnesses that occur in August, it was customary, in former times, to carry the Venerable Wood of the Cross through the streets and squares of Constantinople for the sanctification of the city, and for relief from sickness. On the eve (July 31), it was taken out of the imperial treasury, and laid upon the altar of the Great Church of Hagia Sophia (the Wisdom of God). From this Feast until the

Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos, they carried the Cross throughout the city in procession, offering it to the people to venerate. This also is the Procession of the Venerable Cross.”

In the present practice of the Church, the Lesser Sanctification of Water on August 1/ 14 is done either before or after Liturgy. Because of the Blessing of Water, this first Feast of the Savior in August is sometimes called ‘Savior of the Water.’ There may also be a Blessing of New Honey today, which is why the Feast is also called “Savior of the Honey.” From this day the newly gathered honey is blessed and tasted.

<https://oca.org/saints/lives/2017/08/01/102161-procession-of-the-honorable-wood-of-the-life-giving-cross-of-the>

7 Holy Maccabee Martyrs

Commemorated on August 1 / 14

The seven holy Maccabee martyrs Abim, Antonius, Gurias, Eleazar, Eusebonus, Alimus and Marcellus, their mother Solomonia and their teacher Eleazar suffered in the year 166 before Christ under the impious Syrian king Antiochus IV Epiphanes. This foolish ruler loved pagan and Hellenistic customs, and held Jewish customs in contempt. He did everything possible to turn people from the Law of Moses and from their covenant with God. He desecrated the Temple of the Lord, placed a statue of the pagan god Zeus there, and forced the Jews to worship it. Many people abandoned the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, but there were also those who continued to believe that the Savior would come.

A ninety-year-old elder, the scribe and teacher Eleazar, was brought to trial for his faithfulness to the Mosaic Law. He suffered tortures and died at Jerusalem.

The disciples of Saint Eleazar, the seven Maccabee brothers and their mother Solomonia, also displayed great courage. They were brought to trial in Antioch by King Antiochus Epiphanes. They fearlessly acknowledged themselves as followers of the True God, and refused to eat pig’s flesh, which was forbidden by the Law.

The eldest brother acted as spokesman for the rest, saying that they preferred to die rather than break the Law. He was subjected to fierce tortures in sight of his brothers and their mother. His tongue was cut out, he was scalped, and his hands and feet were cut off. Then a cauldron and a large frying pan were heated, and the first brother was thrown into the frying pan, and he died.

The next five brothers were tortured one after the other. The seventh and youngest brother was the last one left alive. Antiochus suggested to Saint Solomonia to persuade the boy to obey him, so that her last son at least would be spared. Instead, the brave mother told him to imitate the courage of his brothers.

The child upbraided the king and was tortured even more cruelly than his brothers had been. After all her seven children had died, Saint Solomonia, stood over their bodies, raised up her hands in prayer to God and died.

The martyric death of the Maccabee brothers inspired Judas Maccabeus, and he led a revolt against Antiochus Epiphanes. With God's help, he gained the victory, and then purified the Temple at Jerusalem. He also threw down the altars which the pagans had set up in the streets. All these events are related in the Second Book of Maccabees (Ch. 8-10).

Various Fathers of the Church preached sermons on the seven Maccabees, including Saint Cyprian of Carthage, Saint Ambrose of Milan, Saint Gregory Nazianzus and Saint John Chrysostom.

<https://oca.org/saints/lives/2017/08/01/102162-7-holy-maccabee-martyrs>

The Dormition Fast in the Eastern Churches

The Eastern churches (both Catholic and Orthodox) traditionally observe a period of fasting prior to the Great Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos - one of the four great fasts that are part of the Church year in the East, the others being the Nativity Fast, the Great Lent Fast and the Apostles Fast. This fast is also called "Our Lady's Fast" or the "Assumption Fast." For those on the new calendar (Gregorian), this fast begins just before the Vespers of the Feast of the Procession of the Holy Cross (1 August) on 31 July evening. This fast ends just before Vespers for the Great Feast of the Dormition of The Theotokos (15 August) on 14 August evening. For those on the old calendar (Julian) , this fast begins on August 14 and ends on August 28.

The Dormition Fast is short, but is stricter than all the other fasting periods except Great Lent. One should fast on all days from the usual non-lenten foods, such as all animal products (meat, poultry, milk, cheese, etc.) and olive oil and wine. In addition, one also traditionally abstains from fish on all days of the fast, including weekends, except for the feast of the Holy Transfiguration of Our Lord, when fasting may be eased by having fish, wine and olive oil. On the two weekends which fall during the fast (Saturday and Sunday), the fast is also relaxed a little bit, and one may have wine and olive oil, but no fish. Please check with your priest or with your eparchial (diocesan) offices for specific information, of course. Actually fasting practice can and does vary between the particular Eastern churches.

The Scriptural foundation for the practice of Fasting is found in the Synoptic Gospels, when the Pharisees criticized the Apostles for not fasting, Jesus said to them, "***Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come, when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast.***" Our Lord, in this passage, was referring to his being taken to be crucified; but in the larger sense these words of the Lord are understood in terms of his Ascension into heaven, and his command to preach the Gospel, which can only be accomplished with prayer and fasting. The New Testament mentions the practice of fasting many times.

According to Eastern Christian teaching, by fasting we observe this time-honored Apostolic practice. We can also unite our lives more closely to the Mother of God through the Dormition Fast. By fasting, we can join in and show our appreciation for the sacrifices of the the Theotokos. The Theotokos sacrificed much to give birth to Holy God the Son within the Holy Trinity - Our Lord, God and Savior, Jesus Christ, to raise Him, and to be with Him during His ministry, His crucifixion, and His resurrection.

<http://www.aquinasandmore.com/catholic-articles/the-dormition-fast-in-the-eastern-churches/article/294>