

SOBORNOST

St. Thomas the Apostle Orthodox Church

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American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese

*ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE
OF CONSTANTINOPLE*

SERVICES

Wed: Moleben to the Theotokos 6:00 AM

Friday: Moleben to the Cross 6:00 AM

Saturday: Confession 5:00 PM

Great Vespers 5:30 PM

Sunday: Matins (Orthros) 8:45 AM

Children's Sunday School 9:30 AM

Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM.

December 03, 2017 – 26th Sunday After Pentecost

Prophet Zephaniah

The Prophet Zephaniah (Sophonias) was a contemporary of the Prophet Jeremiah and the Prophetess Oldama. He was from the tribe of Simeon, and was the ninth of the Twelve Minor Prophets of the Old Testament. The prophet lived at the royal court, where he preached repentance and helped King Josiah eliminate idol-worship.

He prophesied about the calamities that were to come for the people of Judea and the surrounding regions: Gaza, Ascalon, Crete, and against the Moabites, the Ammonites and the Ninevites.

Kontakion, in Tone 4

You have been revealed by the Spirit of God to be brilliant, Prophet Zephaniah, / for you proclaimed the coming of God: / “Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! / Proclaim Him, O Jerusalem! / Behold, your King is coming to save mankind!”
(from *oca.org*)



Today's Epistle Lesson – St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 5:9-19

Brethren, the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness, righteousness, and truth, finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose *them*. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light." See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord *is*. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.

Today's Gospel Lesson – Saint Luke 18:18-27

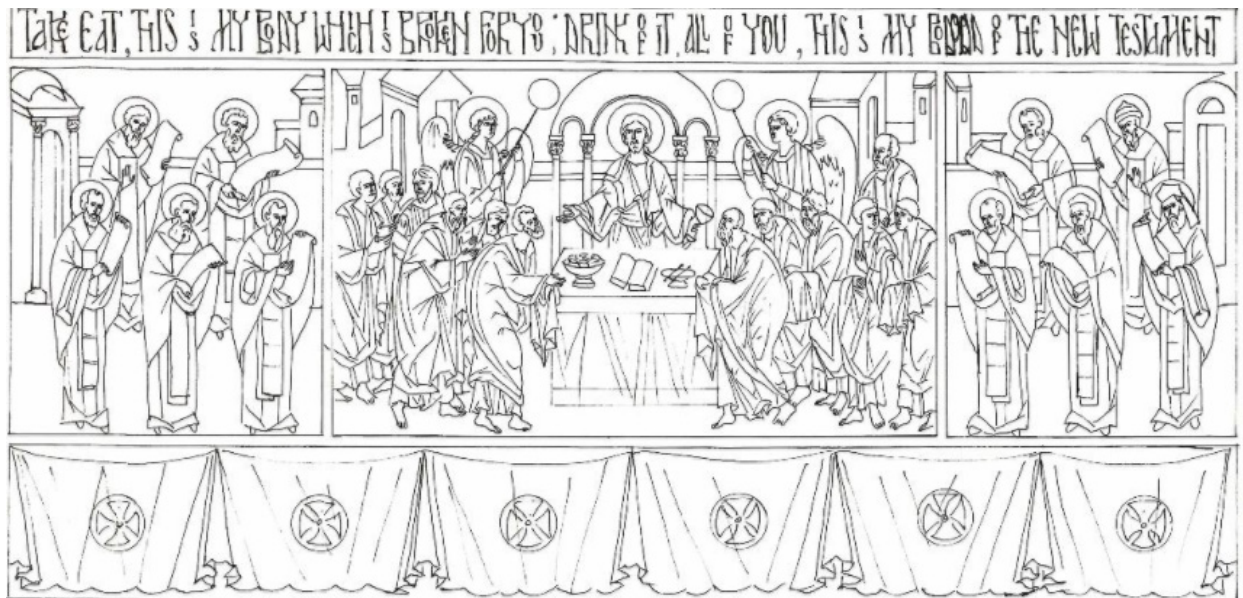
At that time, a certain ruler asked Him, saying, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one *is* good but One, *that is*, God. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother.'" And he said, "All these things I have kept from my youth." So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich. And when Jesus saw that he became very sorrowful, He said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." And those who heard it said, "Who then can be saved?" But He said, "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God."

A Word From the Holy Fathers

And I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord henceforth." "Indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors. For their deeds follow them!" (Rev. 14:13). The heavenly voice does not bless all of the dead, but those who die in the Lord, having been put to death in the world, and who *bear in the body the death of Jesus* (2 Cor. 4:10) and *suffer with Christ* (Rom. 8:17). For those, actually, the exodus from the body is rest from toils, the occasion of *unfading crowns* (1 Pet. 5:4) and rewards of glory, the prizes of those prevailing much greater in measure than the contests, which the athletes of Christ our God achieved against the invisible powers. *For the sufferings of the*

present time cannot be compared to the future glory to be revealed (Rom. 8:18) to those who are well-pleasing to God, as the Apostle Paul says, which we must also desire to pray unceasingly to God, saying, Incline our hears, Lord, to your testimonies, and turn our eyes away from all vanity (Ps. 118:36-7), and enter not into judgment with your servants for no one living is justified before you (Ps. 142:2), but visit us in your rich mercies, for yours is the dominion and the kingdom and the power and the glory of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

– Andrew of Caesarea, *Commentary on the Apocalypse*



Beauty Will Save the World (Dostoyevsky, *The Idiot*)

We are moving forward with the next phase of iconography at St. Thomas, which will complete work in the Narthex (the entry of the church) and in the Holy Place (the curved wall in the altar area). Icons of two Seraphim on the ends of the curved walls will cost \$1,700 each. Icons of the ten Bishops flanking the icon of the Heavenly Banquet in front of the altar (either side of the Banquet already in the Holy Place) will cost \$2,000 each. We will also be moving Gorazd of Prague, a Bishop whose icon currently hangs in the Nave, into the Holy Place with an icon of John of Damascus being put in his place, which can be sponsored for \$600. Four new icons will be completed in the nave, for \$750 each. The writing above the icons, as well as the "tablecloth" below will be completed, and costs have been combined with the sponsorship of the Bishops.

The icons will be installed in 2018. The last time we offered this opportunity to glorify God in His church, the response was tremendous. We are ready to collect

funds to complete the project, so if you are interested in participating, please contact Josh Moore by phone at (541) 601-8413 or at jgmoore01@gmail.com.

Please see the Church website for up-to-date sponsorship information and pictures of the icon work to be completed. Any donation of \$500 or more is eligible for a memorial plaque in the social hall. **Currently** we have: Pledged/Received Funds: \$10,957 | Remaining Needed: \$15,443.

The Bishops to be placed in the Holy Place are currently planned to be (\$2,000 to sponsor one): Basil the Great, Gregory the Great, John Chrysostom, Cyprian of Carthage, Athanasius the Great, Cyril of Alexandria, Leo the Great, Polycarp, Ignatius of Antioch (sponsored), and Peter Moghila.

2 Seraphim in the Holy Place (\$1,700 to sponsor; 1 sponsored).

John of Damascus in the nave (\$600 to sponsor)

In the Narthex: Pr. Daniel, David, Elijah, and Melchizedek. (\$750 to sponsor).

ALSO COMMEMORATED TODAY: ST. THEODOULOS THE FOOL FOR CHRIST



Saint Theodoulos the Fool for Christ lived in asceticism in Cyprus in an unknown time. When he was young he forsook the world for the love of Christ he had in his heart, and he became a monk. His primary occupation was fasting, praying, sleeping on stones instead of a bed, vigils and other ordeals in order to succeed in his illumination and sanctification. This led him to acquire the grace of God and the gift of foreknowledge of the thoughts of men.

After receiving this holy gift from God he returned to the world and pretended foolishness in order to rebuke sinners with severity, revealing to them the secret thoughts of their souls, so as to lead them to repentance and a godly way of life. Finally, after the Saint excelled in a holy way of life and brought many to repentance by his example and teachings, he departed in peace to Christ to enjoy the fruits of his labors. After his death, his holy relic was miraculous and worked many healings for the faithful. *(from johnsanidopoulos.com)*

St. Nicholas Is Coming!

Parents, take note: St. Nicholas will visit St. Thomas parish next Sunday, December 10.

November Treasurer's Report

Glory to Jesus Christ! For the month of November 2017:

Our income: \$11,177.00 | Our expenses: \$12,008.39

Our income over expenses: **\$-831.39**

This month our additional expenses were property insurance, liturgical publications, a new printer and heating oil delivery. Thank you for being good stewards of God's house.

Kari David, Treasurer

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Diocesan Website: <http://www.acrod.org>

Camp Nazareth: <http://www.campnazareth.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/acroddiocese>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/acrodnews>

You Tube: <https://youtube.com/acroddiocese>

In Your Prayers – Please Remember... His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch BARTHOLOMEW, His Grace Bishop GREGORY, Fr. Joseph & Family, Greek Orthodox Archbishop Paul Yazigi of Aleppo, Syriac Orthodox Archbishop Yohanna Ibrahim of Aleppo, His Grace Bishop Neofitos of Nyeri and Mt. Kenya, Fr. John & Pani Betty Jean Baranik, Fr. Vincent Saverino, Presbyteria Katie Baker and family, Santiago Alzugaray, Alicia Barosio and family, Jeffrey Carey, Tatyana and Slava Chumak & family, Xenia Chilkowich, Jon Church, Ramius Connour, Curtis Cooper, Luke Cooper, Tina Crull, Mary Diane David, Ron Dominiecki, Linda A. Georgiev, Heather Himler, John Homick, Cameron Houk, Helen Janowiak, John M. Janowiak, Deanna Jarrett, Tucker Karl and family, Robert Karpin, Andrew Kinn, Kopan family, Brian, Helen, and Luke Mahony, Valentina Makowelski, Susan Matula, Anna Meinhold, Dn. Henry Middleton, David & Kathryn Newman, Bobby Nutter & Family, Henry & Lisa Osborne, Westin Perry & Parents, John Reece, Mary Reed, Chris & Kaitlin Rixey, Jerry Von Ronne, Anne Rosario, James, Theodore and Christina Ristas, Samson Family, Sharon Sheptak, Dawn & Faith Ulmschneider, Lydia Vita, Christine, Marshall, Nathaniel, Subdcn. Nectaros and Ia, the Syrian Christians displaced by war, Mother Virginia Marie and the Carmelite Nuns of Port Tobacco, and all those in need of our prayers. (Please advise Fr. Joseph of changes.)