

SOBORNOST

St. Thomas the Apostle Orthodox Church

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American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese

*ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE
OF CONSTANTINOPLE*

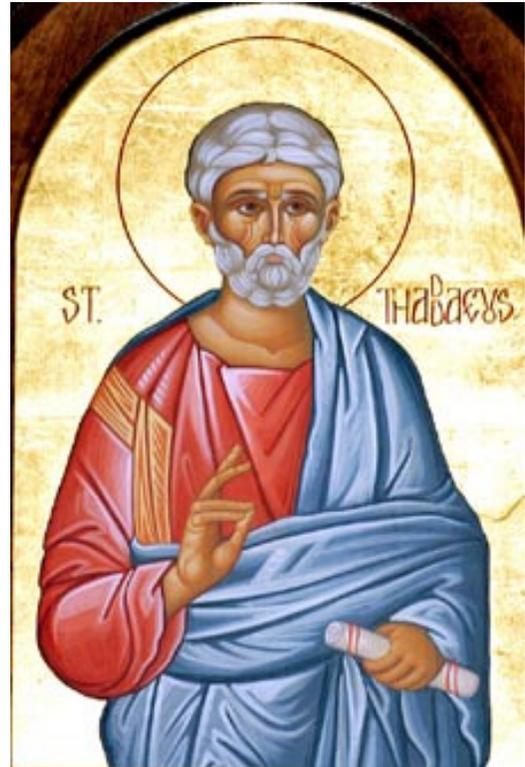
SERVICES

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
Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM.**



August 21, 2016 – 9th Sunday After Pentecost | Afterfeast of the Dormition of the Mother of God | Apostle Thaddeus

Saint Thaddeus, Apostle of the Seventy, was by descent a Hebrew, and he was born in the Syrian city of Edessa. The holy Apostle Thaddeus of the Seventy must be distinguished from St Jude, also called Thaddeus or Levi (June 19), who was one of the Twelve Apostles.

When he came to Jerusalem for a feastday, he heard the preaching of John the Forerunner. After being baptized by him in the Jordan, he remained in Palestine. He saw the Savior, and became His follower. He was chosen by the Lord to be one of the Seventy Disciples, whom He sent by twos to preach in the cities and places where He intended to visit (Luke. 10: 1).

After the Ascension of the Savior to Heaven, St Thaddeus preached the good news in Syria and Mesopotamia. He came preaching the Gospel to Edessa and he converted King Abgar, the people and the pagan priests to Christ. He backed up his preaching with many miracles (about which Abgar wrote to the Assyrian emperor Nerses). He established priests there and built up the Edessa Church. Prince Abgar wanted to reward St Thaddeus with rich gifts, but he refused and went preaching to

other cities, converting many pagans to the Christian Faith. He went to the city of Beirut to preach, and he founded a church there. It was in this city that he peacefully died in the year 44. (The place of his death is indicated as Beirut in the Slavonic MENAION, but according to other sources he died in Edessa. According to an ancient Armenian tradition, St Thaddeus, after various tortures, was beheaded by the sword on December 21 in the Artaz region in the year 50). (*from oca.org*)

Today's Epistle Lesson – St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 3:9-17

Brethren, we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, *you are* God's building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation *with* gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on *it* endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. Do you not know that you are the temple of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which *temple* you are.

Today's Gospel Lesson – Saint Matthew 14:22-34

At that time, Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there. But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary. Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid." And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. But when he saw that the wind *was* boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" And immediately Jesus stretched out *His* hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God." When they had crossed over, they came to the land of Gennesaret.

YOU'RE INVITED!



PLEASE JOIN US FOR
THE BAPTISM AND CHRISTENING CEREMONY OF

Robert Douglas Chadwick

GODMOTHER - KRISTINA GZIKOWSKI

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2016 AT 10:00 AM
SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE ORTHODOX CHURCH
4419 LEONARDTOWN ROAD, WALDORF, MARYLAND

RECEPTION TO IMMEDIATELY FOLLOW AT
THE LIGHTHOUSE RESTAURANT - SOLOMONS, MARYLAND

RSVP TO GNOZYW@YAHOO.COM BY SEPTEMBER 1ST

Wedding Bells are Ringing

Father and Pani's son John will be married to Molly Boice this coming week in Raleigh, NC. So, they'll be out of town Wednesday through Saturday. All services this week are cancelled until Sunday morning Matins and Divine Liturgy. In the event of an emergency requiring a priest, please call Fr. Nectarios Trevino at (703)-629-0414. If Father doesn't answer, please leave a message, he will return your call.

It's a Party!

Father and Pani's son John and his wife Molly will have their marriage blessed at St. Thomas on September 25th. Then, following Liturgy, lunch will be provided at Middleton Hall (there will not be lunch in the rectory following Liturgy). John

grew up as a parishioner at St. Thomas and would really like to celebrate this wonderful occasion with his parish family. To participate, please send Pani Stacey an e-mail **by September 7th** telling her how many will be attending so that she can coordinate with Middleton Hall - sedgington003@gmail.com. (Only St. Thomas parishioners, please!) No gifts please, your presence is all we want.

A Word From the Holy Fathers

Finally when blessed Mary having completed the course of this life, and was to be called from the world, all the Apostles gathered to her house from their different regions. And when they had heard that she was to be taken from the world, together they kept watch with her; and lo, the Lord Jesus came with His angels. Taking her soul, He gave it the Archangel Michael and withdrew. At dawn the Apostles raised her body with a pallet and they placed it in a vault and they guarded it awaiting the coming of the Lord. And lo, a second time the Lord stood by them and he ordered the holy body to be taken and borne to Paradise; there having rejoined the soul exultant with His elect, it enjoys the good things of eternity which shall know no end.

– St. Gregory of Tours

On Stewardship and the Orthodox Life –

Part 83: The Gift of Generosity



“Be still before the LORD, and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over him who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices!” (Psalm 37:7 RSV)

The Holy Apostle St. Matthew was a rich man. He gained his wealth by means of his work. He was a tax collector, in the employ of the Roman government. He was required to collect taxes from the people in the Roman province of Palestine. The amount of tax that was expected to be paid by the Romans was one amount – the amount of tax collected by the tax collectors was another amount. And the latter amount was higher. In other words, the tax collectors forced people to pay more tax than was required. And the tax collectors pocketed the difference. Tax collectors were cheaters and liars. Matthew the tax collector got rich on his ill-gotten gains. The Holy Apostles Andrew and Peter were brothers. Both of them worked as fishermen. Every day they would go out to the Sea of Galilee, throw their nets into the sea, gather what fish they could, bring them in, clean their nets, and sell their fish. Some days were good days, others were not. In any case, Peter and Andrew were not rich. Fishing was one of the lowest-paid occupations in the time of Christ. Fishermen were among the poorest of the people of

Palestine. Yet to Matthew in his wealth and Andrew and Peter in their poverty, the same call was made. For Andrew and Peter, the call came at the moment of success, when their nets were filled with fish, and the financial future for each of them was brightest. Matthew was called from his tax collector's desk. He was probably counting his income for the day. His financial future was brightening each moment. To each – Matthew, Andrew and Peter – came the call to leave everything and follow Jesus.

So it is with everyone. The call, the test is always a choice of which is stronger: the desire to get and keep earthly goods or to be a follower of Christ. And this test does not come just once. It is repeated daily, hourly, minute-by-minute. There is no time and no place where the call to be followers of Christ is not being made. How that call is answered is the key to life as Christian stewards. It is the key to our eternal life. For no one can answer “yes” to the call of Christ unless his or her whole heart is in the work. No one can answer “yes” the call of Christ unless he counts, like the Holy Apostle St. Paul who writes to the Philippians, “*everything*” as loss. Yes, we are to count everything as loss because fellowship with Christ surpasses everything – *everything!* (from *acrod.org*)

Encyclical of Archbishop Demetrios for the Feast of the Dormition

As we commemorate this holy day of August 15, we are inspired by one who knew, followed and shared the voice of Christ. The Virgin Mary knew the voice of Christ because she shared a unique relationship with Him as His mother. She heard His voice from birth throughout His life and ministry; she heard His words as He grew; she marveled at His wisdom as a youth; she listened to His teaching; she was burdened with great sorrow when He cried out from the Cross; and she was filled with great joy following His resurrection and hearing His promises. The Virgin Mary also followed the voice of Christ because of her commitment to the will of God.

In her dedication to a life of holiness and purity, she was obedient to His calling to become the Theotokos and to carry the Son of God in her womb. In faithfulness she nurtured Jesus, trusting in the promises of God to fulfill His plan for our salvation. She followed in hope and faith as Christ proclaimed and revealed divine grace. She listened and found great strength in His words as His teaching offered assurance of abundant blessings and eternal life. As she knew and followed the voice of Christ, the Theotokos also shared His voice. Through her life of holiness, many others found new life in Christ. Many were able to see the power of God's presence and blessings through her witness. She shared His voice through her love of God and others, her sacrifice, and her faith. Generation after generation has called her blessed because the example of her life continues to lead people to God.

This witness of faith and sanctity of life was celebrated on her repose, a celebration we continue today as we cherish her life and witness. Through her life we see the power of knowing and following the voice of Christ. We affirm the need for a direct relationship with Him so that we hear His voice. Through worship, prayer, and reading the Holy Scriptures, we know His words, we commune with Him, and acknowledge His presence. From this foundation of knowing Christ we are able to share Him and His message of truth and love with others. We are able to be the voice of Christ in a changing world filled with challenges. Through our daily lives, our words and actions, and our parishes, we offer His invitation to grace and eternal life, to all that was known and experienced by our Most Holy Mother, the Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary. On this blessed day we give thanks to God for her holy life and repose, for her faithful intercessions for mercy and protection, and for her witness of our Lord. As she inspires us in our journey of faith, may we also be witnesses of Him so that all will hear His voice!

With paternal love in Christ,

†DEMETRIOS,

Archbishop of America

Also Commemorated Today: **St. Athanasios, Patriarch of Constantinople**



Saint Athanasios III Patellarios, Patriarch of Constantinople, Wonderworker of Lubensk, in the world Alexis, was born in 1560 on the island of Crete, into the pious Greek family Patellarios. Despite his education and position in society, Alexis was attracted by the life of Christian ascetics. After his father's death, he became a novice in one of the monasteries of Thessalonica with the name Ananias. From there, he later went to the Monastery of Esphigmenou on Mt. Athos, where he fulfilled his obedience in the trapeza (dining area).

From Athos he journeyed to the Palestinian monasteries, and he was tonsured with the name Athanasios. Upon his return to Thessalonica he was ordained presbyter

and spread the Gospel of Christ among the Vlachs and the Moldovians, for whom he translated the *Psalter* from the Greek.

Sometimes, the Saint went to Mt. Athos for solitude, and to ask God's blessing on his pastoral work. The holiness of his life attracted many Christians who wished to see a true preacher of the Orthodox Faith. By his remarkable abilities and spiritual gifts he attracted the attention of the Patriarch of Constantinople, Cyril I (Lukaris) (1621-1623). Summoning the ascetic, Patriarch Cyril appointed him a preacher of the Patriarchal throne.

Soon St Athanasios was consecrated bishop and became Metropolitan of Thessalonica. At this time Patriarch Cyril was slandered before the sultan and imprisoned on the island of Tenedos. St Athanasios assumed the Patriarchal throne on March 25, 1634, on the day of the Annunciation of the Most Holy Theotokos. Patriarch Athanasios led an incessant struggle against heretics, Jesuits, and Muslims. After only forty days on the Patriarchal throne, he was deposed through the intrigues of the enemies of Orthodoxy, and Cyril I was returned.

The Saint went to Athos, where for a certain time he pursued asceticism in solitude. Then he became Patriarch again, but was deposed after a year. After this, he returned to Thessalonica and renewed his connections with the Holy Mountain. In view of the intolerable persecution of Christians by the Muslims, St Athanasios was repeatedly (from 1633 to 1643) obliged to send petitions to the Russian tsar Michael (1613-1645) seeking alms for the hapless Church of Constantinople. When living at Thessalonica became impossible for the Saint, he was forced to journey to Moldavia under the protection of its sovereign, Basil Lukulos, and he settled there in the monastery of St Nicholas near Galats, but he longed for Mount Athos. He visited it often and hoped to finish his life there, but God ordained something else for him.

In 1652 after the death of Patriarch Cyril I, St Athanasios was returned to the patriarchal throne. He remained only fifteen days, since he was not acceptable to the Muslims and Catholics. During his final Patriarchal service he preached a sermon in which he denounced papal pretensions to universal jurisdiction over the whole Church. Persecuted by the Muslims and Jesuits, physically weakened, he transferred the administration of the Church of Constantinople to Metropolitan Paisios of Laureia, and he withdrew to Moldavia, where he was appointed administrator of the monastery of St Nicholas at Galats.

Knowing the deep faith and responsiveness of the Russian nation, St. Athanasios undertook a journey to Russia. In April 1653 he was met with great honor in Moscow by Patriarch Nikon (1652-1658) and Tsar Alexis Mikhailovich. While in Russia he set forth the procedure for the Divine Liturgy celebrated by a bishop that

is still in use in Russia. Having received generous alms for the needs of the monastery, Patriarch Athanasios left for Galats in December 1653.

On the way he fell ill and stayed at the Transfiguration Mgarsk monastery in the city of Lubno in February 1654. Sensing his impending death, the Saint wrote his last will, and he fell asleep in the Lord on April 5, 1654, which was the Wednesday of St. Thomas Week. Abbot Petronios and the brethren of the monastery buried the Patriarch. By Greek custom the Saint was buried in a sitting position in full vestments, which is why in Russia they call him "the Sitting."

Eight years after his death they uncovered his relics and found them to be incorrupt (only two fingers were missing from the right hand in which he held his staff), even though his clothes and chair had rotted. He was placed in new robes and a shrine was built to him. On February 1, 1662 St. Athanasios was glorified as a Saint and his feastday was designated as May 2, the Feast of St Athanasios the Great. After this event the Saint began to appear in many peoples dreams, blessing, teaching and healing the sick, and many healings took place at the tomb of the Saint.

In 1672 news began to spread concerning the miraculous healings through the relics of St. Athanasios, and eventually reached Moscow. To investigate the matter Tsar Alexei Mikhailovich immediately sent to the Ukraine the clerk M. Savin. Learning of four cases of miracles, Savin returned to the Tsar and made his report.

In 1922 Bolsheviks were in power and Commissar Sereda came from Kharkov with a letter from Petrovsky to remove the coffin on which St. Athanasios was seated which was made of pure silver. In response, people not only in Luben, but also in other regions of Poltava threw themselves into the monastery so as not to allow the atheists to approach the Saint's relics. Surrounded the church was a ring of tens of thousands of people. The church services went on around the clock, the priests succeeded each other every 34 hours, and people arrived daily. Then the authorities began military exercises in the monastery with machineguns and artillery fire and shouting "Hurrah," sending up to 3,000 soldiers and cadets, but the maneuvers were unable to disperse the people. The monks put the relics of St. Athanasios in a wooden coffin, and the silver coffin was taken to Kharkov by the atheists.

The relics of holy Patriarch Athanasios, glorified by numerous miracles and signs, rest in the city of Kharkov, in the Annunciation Cathedral church till this day.
(from johnsanidopoulos.com)

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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, Alicia Barosio and family, Millie Borys, Jeffrey Carey, Tatyana and Slava Chumak & family, Xenia Chilkowich, Jon Church, Ramius Connour, Cary Cooper, Curtis Cooper, Tina Crull, Ron Dominiecki, Linda A. Georgiev, Heather Himler, Alex Holthus, 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, Alex & Valentina Makowelski, Susan Matula, Anna Meinhold, Dn. Henry Middleton, David & Kathryn Newman, Bobby Nutter & Family, Henry & Lisa Osborne, Westin Perry & Parents, Mary Reed, Chris & Kaitlin Rixey, Jerry Von Ronne, Anne Rosario, James, Theodore and Christina Ristas, Samson Family, Sharon Sheptak, John Sparks, Dawn & Faith Ulmschneider, Daria Virvan, Lydia Vita, Christine, Marshall, Nathaniel, Rdr. 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.)