

# SOBORNOST

## St. Thomas the Apostle Orthodox Church

(301) 638-5035 Church  
4419 Leonardtown Road  
Waldorf, MD 20601

Rev. Father Joseph Edgington, Pastor  
(703) 532-8017

[fredgington@gmail.com](mailto:fredgington@gmail.com)  
[www.apostlethomas.org](http://www.apostlethomas.org)

*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.**

**January 29, 2017 – Zacchaeus Sunday**

## Translation of the Relics of Hieromartyr Ignatius of Antioch

The Transfer of the Relics of the Hieromartyr Ignatius the God-Bearer: (See December 20). After the holy hieromartyr Ignatius was thrown to the lions in the year 107 on the orders of the emperor Trajan, Christians gathered up his bones and preserved them at Rome.

Later, in the year 108, the saint's relics were collected and buried outside the gate of Daphne at Antioch. A second transfer, to the city of Antioch itself, took place in the year 438. After the capture of Antioch by the Persians, the relics of the Hieromartyr Ignatius were returned to Rome and placed into the church of the holy Hieromartyr Clement in the year 540 ( in 637, according to other sources).

Saint Ignatius introduced antiphonal singing into Church services. He has left us seven archpastoral epistles in which he provided instructions on faith, love and good works. He also urged his flock to preserve the unity of the faith and to beware of heretics. He encouraged people to honor and obey their bishops, "we should regard the bishop as we would the Lord Himself" (To the Ephesians 6)

In his Letter to Polycarp, Saint Ignatius writes: "Listen to the bishop, if you want God to listen to you... let your baptism be your shield, your faith a helmet, your



charity a spear, your patience, like full armor.” (Compare Eph. 6:14-17 and the Wisdom of Solomon 5:17-20. Also THE LADDER 4:2) (*from oca.org*)

### **Today’s Epistle Lesson – St. Paul’s First Letter to Timothy 4:9-15**

My son Timothy, this *is* a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance. For to this *end* we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is *the* Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. These things command and teach. Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.

### **Today’s Gospel Lesson – Saint Luke 19:1-10**

At that time, *Jesus* entered and passed through Jericho. Now behold, *there was* a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that *way*. And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, “Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house.” So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. But when they saw *it*, they all complained, saying, “He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner.” Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold.” And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

## *A Word From the Holy Fathers*

Ignatius, who is also Theophorus, to the church of God the Father and of Jesus Christ the Beloved, which has been mercifully endowed with every grace, being filled with faith and love and lacking in no grace, most reverend and bearing holy treasures, to the church which is in Smyrna of Asia, in a blameless spirit and in the word of God abundant greeting.... Shun divisions, as the beginning of evils. Follow your bishop, as Jesus Christ followed the Father, and the presbyters as the Apostles; and pay the deacons respect, as to God’s commandment. Let no man do anything pertaining to the Church apart from the bishop. Do not consider a eucharist valid unless it is under the bishop or one to whom the bishop has committed it. Let the people be wherever the bishop is; even as the universal

Church is where Jesus is. It is not lawful either to baptize or hold a love-feast apart from the bishop, but whatever he approves is well-pleasing also to God; do so in order that everything you do may be sure and valid. It is reasonable henceforth that we awake to soberness, while we still have time to repent and turn to God. It is good to recognize God and the bishop. He who honors the bishop is honored of God; he who does anything behind the bishop's back renders service to the devil.

– St. Ignatius of Antioch, *Epistle to the Smyrnaeans*

## On Stewardship and the Orthodox Life – 111:

### What do I have to Give?



*“If I give away all I have, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.”* (1 Corinthians 13:3 RSV)

As Orthodox Christians, we ought to believe that God has given us everything we have. God, after all, has created everything, *“The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof.”* (Psalms 24: 1 RSV).

As Orthodox Christians, if we practice good stewardship, we return to God in proportion to what He has given us. Said in another way, we are giving back to God part or a portion of what He has given us. But what do we have that we can give to God?

Princess Ileana of Romania, Mother Alexandra, had a prayer that she recited on Sunday evenings which ended, *“...nothing have I to give to thee, for all I have has come of Thee: only my love is mine to give or to withhold.”* What a beautiful thought. Only my love is mine to give to you my God for all else that I have comes from You and belongs to You.

We read in Galatians 5: 12, *“But the fruit of the Holy Spirit is love....”* Love is the greatest of the virtues. If we love somebody we should also wish to help that person, give to them of the time, talents and treasure that God has given to us on loan. When we comprehend that *“all I have has come from Thee”* then we may truly give out of love.

When we give as stewards of what God has given us, let's not give out of social obligation, habit, or peer pressure. If we do not give out of love, with our hearts, then we expect something in return. Maybe that is what Jesus meant when, talking to the Pharisees, He quoted Isaiah 29: 13, *“This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.”*

Give your time, talent and treasure *with your heart, out of love* for your God. What Mother Alexandra prayed is a reality: because all belongs to God, then the only thing you own and can give to God is your love. (from *acrod.org*)

## **ANNUAL PARISH RETREAT, SKI TRIP TO WEST VIRGINIA**



THINK SNOW! Mark your calendar for **3-5 March 2017** to join our annual parish retreat to Davis, West Virginia, for a weekend of fellowship, skiing and fun at Timberline Resort and Blackwater Falls State Park. All families and guests are welcome. **PLEASE ATTEND A SHORT ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING AFTER LITURGY ON 5 FEBRUARY.** *See Carol or Anna if you are interested, but you cannot attend this meeting.* This very affordable trip has been planned for those who have never skied before, and for experienced skiers, too. It's also a great opportunity for any non-skiers to get away for a relaxing weekend in the scenic Canaan Valley area of wild and wonderful West Virginia! We'll stay at Canaan Valley Baptist Church in Davis, WV. We'll have use of their fellowship hall, kitchen, Sunday school rooms, and bathrooms, including showers. Timberline resort has a great family style atmosphere, and several recent

improvements. It has a 1,000+ foot vertical drop, with trails for accomplished skiers and beginners alike - from the double diamond "Drop" to the gentle, two mile long "Salamander," and lots of intermediates in between. We'll ski 9AM to 4:30PM on Saturday and on Sunday morning we'll conduct our own worship service at our host Church, and have an optional tour of nearby Blackwater Falls State Park before returning home. All first time skiers must take a lesson before getting on a lift! We want a perfect safety record, and this is where it starts! You can get a free lesson from our certified instructor, Al Harvey, and his crew of helpers. They will also help you throughout the day - ask them to watch you, and to offer helpful tips that can make your skiing easier, safer, and more enjoyable. Experienced skiers will only need a quick safety check run on the beginners' slope before hitting the slopes with their buddies. Spread the word and THINK SNOW!

### **ALSO COMMEMORATED TODAY: NEW-MARTYRS OF RUSSIA**



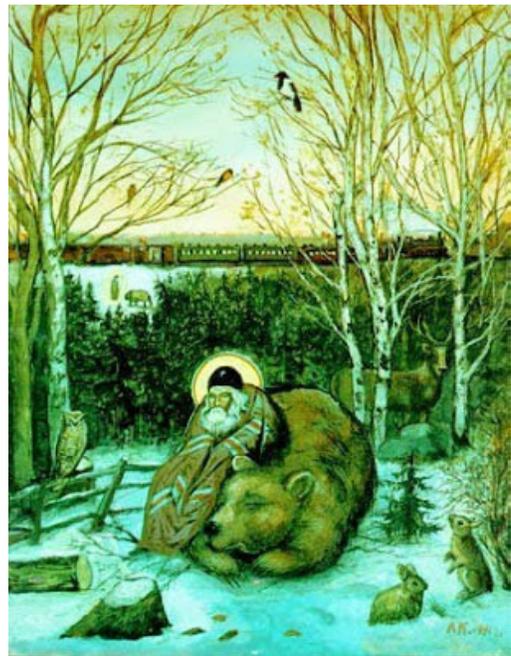
Today we commemorate the uncounted millions of faithful who suffered and died at the hands of the Soviet atheists. The Sunday closest to (or after) January 25 is dedicated to the memory of the New Martyrs of Russia killed under the communist yoke. The date of this commemoration was first set by the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia in 1981, then adopted by the Moscow Patriarchate in 1992. About 1050 new martyrs were glorified by the Patriarchate in 2000, and many more are expected to be recognized in coming years. The date of January 25 was chosen because that was the date in 1918 of the martyrdom of St. Vladimir (Bogoyavlensky), Metropolitan of Kiev, who is referred to as the "Protomartyr of the communist yoke in Russia."

Those commemorated include the Tsar-martyr Nicholas II and the rest of the Russian Royal Family (July 4); Patriarch Tikhon (March 24); Grand Duchess Elizabeth (July 5); thousands of martyrs, both clergy and laity, whose names are known; but also millions upon millions of simple believers whose names have been lost to history. The number of the New Martyrs of Russia far exceeds all those from the "Age of the Martyrs," the first three centuries of Christianity. May their memory be eternal.

Metropolitan Peter of Krutitsa (in the world, Peter Feodorovich Polyansky) was born in 1863. In 1920 he was Consecrated Bishop. In the will of the most saintly Patriarch Tikhon († 1925), he was designated as one of the three Hierarchs who were in turn to become Locum Tenens of the Patriarchal Throne after his repose.

On 12 April 1925, Metropolitan Peter assumed the governance of the Russian Church, which was being put through terrible hardships by the atheists. From the very first, Metropolitan Peter made no concessions to the Soviet State. After several months, on 10 December of the same year, he was imprisoned and was successively sent to prisons in Vyatka, Perm, Ekaterinburg, Tiumen, and Tobolsk (in Siberia). From there, they exiled him to the village of Khe, near the Ob River, two hundred kilometers from Obdorsk.

According to Metropolitan Peter's own account, which we know from many sources, one night he was inhumanly thrown off the train conveying him to Tobolsk. It is known that many Bishops and Priests died in this manner. The Metropolitan fell on the snow as if onto a pillow. He got up and looked around: snow, forest, not a sign of life.... He walked a long while through the snow and finally grew tired. The bitter cold pierced his bones. He was wearing only an old exorason [outer cassock — trans.]. Understanding that his end was approaching, he began to pray more intensely before he should die.... Suddenly, he saw an enormous bear approaching him! What was it doing there, seeing as how those animals sleep all winter long, and when for some reason they do wake up, they become terribly wild, aggressive and dangerous to people? Aghast at the thought that he would be devoured, the Metropolitan did not have the strength in his weariness and exhaustion to flee. The bear approached, sniffed him, and peacefully lay down at his feet, coiled up with his belly towards the Metropolitan, and, having stretched out, began to snore! From his massive body emanated heat and life. The Metropolitan hesitated a bit, but then lay down on the bear's fur, changing sides a number of times towards him. At daybreak, he heard a distant cock-crow, something which signified an inhabited area. Then, with great care not to wake the bear, he got up. But the bear, as if it had not slept at all, got up, shook himself, and calmly headed towards the forest.



In a short while, the Metropolitan reached a small village in which he sought hospitality, saying that his sister, who lived not far from there, would pay the expenses. He was received in a house where he lived for half a year. He wrote to his sister and she came to the village. But, shortly after, some agents of the secret police, the fearsome “Cheka” (precursor of the KGB), arrived. Twelve years of

inconceivable tortures followed: imprisonments, punishments, and exiles to the frozen, Northern Arctic regions. Dozens of times, the Soviets offered him the “opportunity” to abandon his Confession and to work together with them, with the office of Locum Tenens, or even the Patriarchal Throne as bait; but Metropolitan Peter remained faithful to our Holy Church. He was executed on 10 October 1937 in Magnitogorsk for the Faith and love of Christ, without, of course, having seen earthly freedom, but having been vouchsafed that holy Freedom that is granted by the Divine Comforter to the children of God, in Christ and in His Church. Amen!

The New Martyrs commemorated on January 29 are Protopriest Ivan Mikhailovich Granitov and those with him. Fr. Ivan (or John) was born in 1875 and served in Talgar stanitsa, Verney uyezd. During this night in 1920 he was killed. Before shooting him, the Cheka tortured him, gouged out his eyes and used the chain of his cross to saw his neck. During the tortures he shouted to the Christians in the neighboring room: “Don’t renounce God!” Also killed were Priest Leontius Klimenko, who served in the village of Yevgenyevskoye (Yevgenyevka, now Malovodnoye), Verney uyezd, Deacon Constantine Zverev and five others. *(adapted from oca.org, johnsanidopoulos.com, holytrinityorthodox.com, and The Holy New Martyrs and Confessors of the Urals, Siberia, and Central Asia by Vladimir Moss)*

## **CAMP NAZARETH**

Glory be to Jesus Christ!

Camp Nazareth is eagerly awaiting and preparing for the arrival of the Summer Camping Season. Diocesan priests and parents have already been calling to find out the details of the 2017 Summer Camping Schedule. The 2017 Schedule is posted on the Camp’s website.

REGISTRATION FOR CAMP WILL ONLY BE ABLE TO BE DONE ONLINE THROUGH THE CAMP’S WEBSITE – [CAMPNAZARETH.ORG](http://CAMPNAZARETH.ORG).

The Online Registration system will be up and running starting March 1, 2017. Here is what is different from previous years in this information:

1. The Most Important Change is the Clearances now required of all Clergy, Staff, and Volunteers. This is all explained through the Camp website.
2. The Dates for the Diocesan Weeks have been updated!!
3. The Fee for Camp is: \$315/diocesan camper and \$365/non-diocesan camper.
4. Staff applications are due March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017.
5. If anyone is interested in being on the Camp’s Medical Staff (MD or RN), please contact Fr. Stephen at the Camp (724-662- 4840 or [campnazareth@acrod.org](mailto:campnazareth@acrod.org)). The

Nurse or Doctor on staff each week will receive a Stipend (\$400) and a campership for one of their children or for someone whom they designate.

Those who are of age (at least 18 by the beginning of the Summer Season and have completed High School) are encouraged to be part of the Camp's Summer Staff. There are positions available as counselor, head counselor, kitchen staff, maintenance staff, athletic director, program director (and assistant program director), technology director (and assistant technology director), Ropes Course Facilitator and Lifeguard. This is a wonderful opportunity to get involved in this vital and meaningful diocesan apostolate, form lasting friendships, and use your God-given talents for the benefit and up-building of our Church. Fr. Stephen never attended Camp as a Camper or as part of the Staff, but his experience as a clergy volunteer, and now as Administrator, has made him wish he had. Staff Applications can be found on the Camp website [campnazareth.org](http://campnazareth.org).

Please note the following deanery weeks at Camp:

Week 1, July 16-22, 2017: Johnstown, Pocono, Southern Tier, Youngstown and Chicago Deaneries

Week 2, July 23-29, 2017: Pittsburgh, Mid-Atlantic, Tri-State and **Washington D.C. Deaneries**

Week 3, July 30 - August 5, 2017: New England, NY, NJ, Florida and Canada Deaneries

Remember also the following dates:

1. March 15 -- Staff Applications due
2. May 15 -- Clergy and Volunteer Applications due
3. May 15 – Last Day for Early Bird Discount (\$20) and Camper Registrations are due

## **Parish News**

Holy Water was consecrated on Theophany. If you would like to take some home for personal use, please bring a container to fill. Please contact Fr. Joseph or Pani Stacey if you would like your house blessed.

### **ASSESSMENTS FOR 2017**

We paid our Assessment to the Diocese for 2017. As in previous years, we trust that you will pay your assessments over the course of the year. The Diocesan Assessment remains \$68.00 for each adult over 18 or \$17.00 if paid quarterly. Please remember that without the Diocese and our Bishop we would not be an Orthodox Church. Thank you for being good Stewards of God's House. Kari



## February Anniversaries and Birthdays



### Anniversaries:

Stefan & Jennifer Popescu 20<sup>th</sup>

### Birthdays:

Benjamin Dewey 3<sup>rd</sup>

Lauren Chadwick 11<sup>th</sup>

Walter Howl 19<sup>th</sup>

Doug Chadwick 3<sup>rd</sup>

William Howl V 17<sup>th</sup>

Clara Vallandingham 24<sup>th</sup>

John Edgington 28<sup>th</sup>

Bernard Vallandingham 5<sup>th</sup>

Caleb Karbowsky 19<sup>th</sup>

Rachael David 27<sup>th</sup>

### MEETING OF THE LORD IN THE TEMPLE

We will celebrate this Feast of the Lord with a vesperal liturgy on Wednesday evening, Feb. 1, at 7:00 PM. Please observe at least a three hour fast if you plan to receive the Eucharist.

#### Follow Our Diocese On-Line

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, Alicia Barosio and family, Jeffrey Carey, Tatyana and Slava Chumak & family, Xenia Chilkowich, Jon Church, Ramius Connour, Curtis Cooper, Luke 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, 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. Nectarios 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.)