

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

Sunday School 9:30 AM

Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM

November 18, 2018 – 25th Sunday After Pentecost

Martyr Platon of Ancyra

The Holy Martyr Platon, brother of the holy Martyr Antiochus the Physician (July 16), was born at the city of Ancyra in Galatia. While still a youth he left home and went through the cities, preaching the Word of God to pagans, amazing his audience with the persuasiveness and beauty of his speech, and his profound knowledge of Greek learning.

Because of his preaching he was arrested and brought for trial to the temple of Zeus before the governor Agrippinus. At first, the judge attempted to persuade the saint to turn away from Christ by flattery. He assured the youth that he might be on a par of intellect with the greatest of the philosophers Plato, if only he worshipped also the pagan gods. To this Saint Platon answered, that the wisdom of the philosopher, although great, was but ephemeral and limited, whereas the true, eternal and unbounded wisdom comprised the Gospel teachings.

Then the judge promised to give him his beautiful niece for his wife if he would deny Christ. He also threatened him with torture and death if he refused. Saint Platon replied that he chose a temporal death for the sake of eternal life. The



patience of the governor was exhausted, and he gave orders to mercilessly beat the martyr, and then send him off to prison. When they led Saint Platon off to prison, he turned to the people gathered about the temple, and he called on them not to forsake the Christian Faith. S

even days later they again led the Martyr Platon for trial before Agrippinus in the temple of Zeus, where they had the implements of torture already prepared: boiling cauldrons, red-hot iron and sharp hooks. The judge offered the martyr a choice: either to offer sacrifice to the pagan gods, or to feel the effects of these implements of torture on his body. Again the saint steadfastly refused to worship idols, and after his tortures they threw him in prison for eighteen more days without bread or water. But seeing that this did not shake the martyr, they offered him his life and freedom if he would only say, "Great is the god Apollo." The martyr refused to deny Christ or to sacrifice to the idols. Therefore, Agrippinus ordered the holy Martyr Platon to be beheaded. (*from oca.org*)

Today's Epistle Lesson – St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 4:1-6

Brethren, I, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. *There is* one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in us all.

Today's Gospel Lesson – Saint Luke 12:16-21

Jesus spoke this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, *and* be merry.'" But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?' So *is* he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

A Word From the Holy Fathers

Beware, lest you suffer lest the fate of the fool of the text. "These things are written that we may shun their imitation. Imitate the earth, O man. Bear fruit, as she does, lest you prove inferior to that which is without life. She produces her fruits, not that she may enjoy them, but for your service. You gather for yourself whatever fruit of good works you have done, because the grace of good works

returns to the giver. You have given to the poor, and the gift becomes your own, and comes back with increase. Just as grain that has fallen on the earth becomes a gain to the sower, so the loaf thrown to the hungry man renders abundant fruit thereafter. Let the goal of your works be the beginning of the heavenly sowing. ‘Sow,’ it is written, ‘to yourselves in righteousness.’ (Hos. 10:12) Why then are you distressed? Why do you harass yourself in your efforts to shut up your riches in clay and bricks? ‘A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches.’ (Prov. 2:1) If you admire riches because of the honor that comes from them, think on how very much more it tends to your honor that you should be called the father of innumerable children than that you should possess uncountable riches. You will leave your wealth behind you here, even though you’d rather take it with you. You will convey the honor won by your good deeds with you to the Master. Then all people standing with you in the presence of the universal Judge shall hail you as feeder and benefactor, and give you all the names that tell of loving kindness. Do you not see theatre-goers flinging away their wealth on boxers and buffoons and beast-fighters, fellows whom it is disgusting even to see, for the sake of the honor of a moment, and the cheers and clapping of the crowd? And are you miserly in your expenses, when you are destined to attain glory so great? God will welcome you, angels will laud you, mankind from the very beginning will call you blessed. For your stewardship of these corruptible things your reward shall be glory everlasting, a crown of righteousness, the heavenly kingdom. You think nothing of all this.

Your heart is so fixed on the present that you despise what is waited for in hope. Come then; dispose of your wealth in various directions. ‘Be generous and liberal in your expenditure on the poor. Let it be said of you, ‘He has dispersed, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures for ever.’(Psalm 92:9) Do not press heavily on necessity and sell for great prices. Do not wait for a famine before you open your barns. ‘He who withholds corn, the people shall curse him.’ (Prov. 11:26) Do not watch for a time of want for gold’s sake—for public scarcity to promote your private profit. Do not drive a huckster’s bargains out of the troubles of mankind. Do not make God’s wrathful visitation an opportunity for abundance. Do not wound the sores of men smitten by the scourge. You keep your eye on your gold, and will not look at your brother. You know the marks on the money, and can distinguish good from counterfeit. You cannot tell who is your brother in the day of distress.

‘Ah!’—it is said—‘words are all very fine: gold is finer.’ I make the same impression as I do when I am preaching to libertines against their unchastity. Their mistress is blamed, and the mere mention of her only enkindles their passions. How can I bring before your eyes the poor man’s sufferings that you may know out

of what deep groanings you are accumulating your treasures, and of what high value will seem to you in the day of judgment the famous words, ‘Come, blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave me food: I was thirsty and you gave me drink:...I was naked and you clothed me.’(Mat. 25:34) What shuddering, what sweat, what darkness will be shed around you, as you hear the words of condemnation!—‘Depart from me, you cursed, into outer darkness prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry and you gave me no food: I was thirsty and you gave me no drink:...I was naked and you did not clothe me.’ (Mat. 25:41) I have told you what I have thought profitable. It is now clear and plain to you what good things are promised for you if you obey. If you disobey, for you the threat is written. I pray that you may change to a better mind and thus escape its peril. In this way your own wealth will be your redemption. Thus you may advance to the heavenly blessings prepared for you by the grave of Him who has called us all into His own kingdom, to Whom be glory and might for ever and ever. Amen.

– St. Basil the Great, *Homily 6, on Luke 12:18*

Baptism of Mary Saksen



Rejoice!

Fr. Joseph, former parishioners Ben and Cecelia Saksen, and their newly baptized daughter Mary Catherine Irene share their great joy with their St. Thomas family. Mary Catherine was recently baptized at Dormition of the Theotokos parish in Norfolk, VA. The icon in the back of the photo is of Jesus blessing the little children.



Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

We will celebrate the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple with a vespereal Divine Liturgy on Tuesday evening at 7:00. Please fast for at least 3 hours if you plan to receive the Eucharist. Due to holiday travel, services will then resume on Sunday with Matins.

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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, Presbytera Katie Baker and family, Santiago Alzugaray, 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, Tucker Karl and family, Robert & Pam 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, Alexander Shostko, Bernie Takabayashi & family, 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.)