

# 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**

**December 16, 2018 – 29<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Before Nativity (Forefathers) | Prophet Haggai**

The Sunday that falls between December 11-17 is known as the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers. These are the ancestors of Christ according to the flesh, who lived before the Law and under the Law, especially the Patriarch Abraham, to whom God said, “In your seed shall all of the nations of the earth be blessed” (Gen. 12:3, 22:18).

The Holy Prophet Haggai was the tenth of the Twelve Minor Prophets. He was of the Tribe of Levi and he prophesied during the times of the Persian emperor Darius Hystaspis (prior to 500 B.C.). Upon the return of the Jews from the Babylonian Captivity, he persuaded the people to build the Second Temple at Jerusalem, and he proclaimed that the Messiah would appear in this Temple in the last times.

It is believed that Haggai was buried with the priests at Jerusalem, since he was descended from Aaron. *(from oca.org)*



### **Today's Epistle Lesson – St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians 3:4-11**

Brethren, when Christ *who is* our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new *man* who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave *nor* free, but Christ *is* all and in all.

### **Today's Gospel Lesson – Saint Luke 14:16-24**

The Lord spoke a parable, saying, “A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, ‘Come, for all things are now ready.’ But they all with one *accord* began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.’ And another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.’ Still another said, ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’ So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here *the* poor and *the* maimed and *the* lame and *the* blind.’ And the servant said, ‘Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.’ Then the master said to the servant, ‘Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel *them* to come in, that my house may be filled. For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.’”

## *A Word From the Holy Fathers*

Hail, favored one, the Lord is with you. Hail favored one...for from you will be born the joy of all, and he will put an end to their ancient curse by destroying the power of death, and the hope of resurrections will be given to all. Hail, favored one, the unfading Paradise of chastity, in which the tree of life was planted and will burgeon with the fruits of salvation for all. Hail, favored one, the mediator between God and humans so that the dividing wall of enmity was razed and the things of earth united with the things of heaven. Since you are a temple truly worthy of God, perfumed by the fragrance of chastity, the great high priest according to the order of Melchizedek will dwell in you, he who is motherless and fatherless: motherless as from God the Father, fatherless as from you his mother.

How will this be possible? The paradox of your annunciation holds an assurance hard to accept. How will the seedless one sprout a fruit? How will the unwedded conceive a son? For do you not have a womb wider than the heavens? For if such power of the Highest did not overshadow you, you would not be able to contain the uncontainable. How did the uncreated and uncontained essence of the Word, not partaking in any created matter and at which the Cherubim dare not glance, even though they excel other orders, afford him a partaking in the weak and earthly nature of humanity? A mystery took place, which remains a mystery to this day, and will never cease to be a mystery. For the one born was not merely human but God the Logos, made incarnate of a virgin and assuming (or putting on) flesh of one essence with me, so that he might save like by means of like.

– Basil of Seleucia, *Oration 39*

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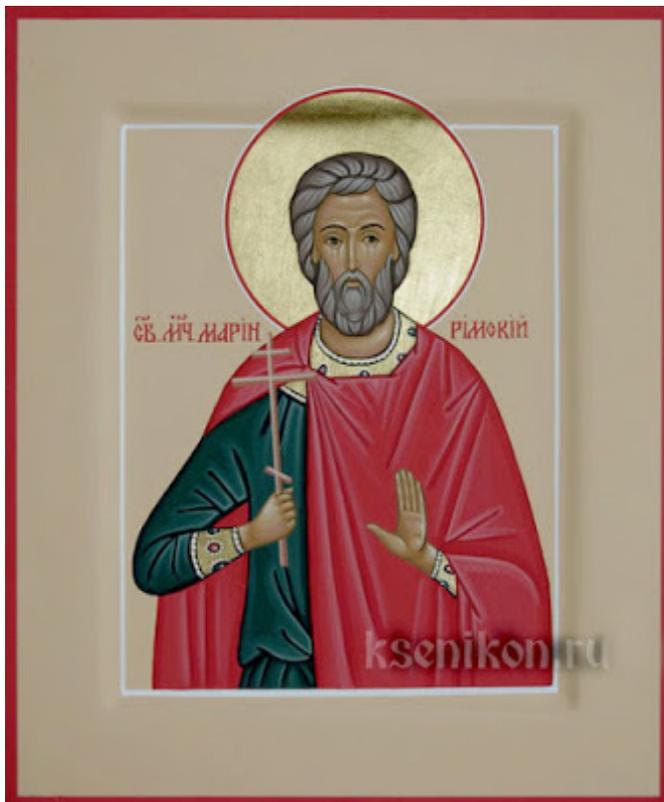
God himself, the uncreated, beginningless, uncircumscribed and all-powerful Word came and took flesh... and taking the form of a servant became flesh and was born of a virgin, in all things wishing to show that in truth he had become human. For just as a man who is naturally born does not come forth complete in the perfection of active power all at once, but rather the seed of nature first becomes flesh, and then afterwards gradually attains the faculties of sense and active powers in their completion, so too God the Word shot up from retracing the very beginning and root of human existence.

The 'Word became flesh' (Jn. 1:14), he did not change into flesh, for the divinity transcends change, which is a condition of transient nature. But that which is eternal and eternally the same possesses immutability as its natural attribute. We speak, therefore, employing both expressions of scripture, saying that he 'became flesh' and that he 'assumed the form of a servant' (Phil. 2:7). When both expressions are grasped in piety, they become the seeds of our salvation. With the phrase 'he became,' the Evangelist points to the indivisibility of radical oneness of the divine subject. For in the same way that a monad cannot be divided into two monads (because if it could, it would not be a monad, but a dyad), so too that which is one with respect to its radical oneness cannot be divided into two. On the other hand, the phrase 'he assumed' points to the immutability of the divine nature. For everything that comes into existence does so either out of complete non-existence (as the heavens which once were not), or as the result of a change from a pre-existing substance (as the Nile changed from water into blood). But neither of these cases can be applied to the divinity, for the One eternally without beginning was not created out of nothing, nor was the immutable Word begotten by change.

Thus through the phrases 'he became,' and 'he assumed,' sacred scripture proclaims the immutability of the divinity and the indivisibility of the mystery of the incarnation, in order to set forth both the uniqueness of the person and the immutability of the nature ...and becoming human he saves by means of like suffering the race with which he is one according to the flesh... I know and have been reverently taught only one Son, I confess only one hypostasis of God the Word made flesh, the same one who in truth endured the passion and worked miracles.

— St. Proclus, Archbishop of Constantinople, *Tome to the Armenians*

## Also Commemorated Today: Holy Martyr Marinos of Rome



The Holy Martyr Marinos lived during the reign of Emperors Corinus (283-285) and his younger brother Numerian (283- 284). He was from Rome and at an early age shared in the deliberations and honor of the imperial senate. Accused of being a Christian, he was brought to trial. Choosing not to sacrifice to idols, he was suspended and beaten with wooden swords. He was then laid out over a fiery gridiron, then a heated frying pan, and then in a cauldron full of boiling water. From all these things he was kept unharmed, for the fire was amazingly changed into dew. After these things he was thrown to the

beasts to be devoured, but by divine grace they did not touch him. Then he deceived the emperor, saying he wanted to go to the temple of the idols to offer sacrifice, but when he arrived there the idols were demolished by his prayers. For this reason he was sentenced to decapitation. His parents accompanied him and encouraged him as he went to the place of his execution, blessing him for being found worthy of receiving such a blessed end. Thus he was beheaded, and received from the Lord the crown of martyrdom. (from [johnsanidopoulos.com](http://johnsanidopoulos.com))

## November Treasurer's Report

Glory to Jesus Christ! November saw the final payment for the basement water damage restoration work go out, which was a major expense. We were still able to provide over \$550 towards charitable works, and meet our other obligations. Our operating income for November was \$9,300 and our expenses were \$20,850. Thank you for your generosity and continued giving.

In Christ,

Josh Moore, Treasurer.

### 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 Eminence Metropolitan 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, Presbyteria 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.)