

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

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

Children's Sunday School 9:30 | AM Divine

Liturgy 10:00 AM.

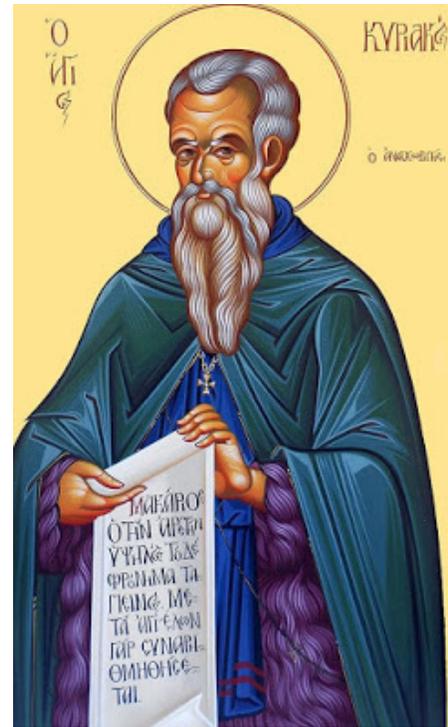
September 29, 2019 – 15th Sunday After Pentecost

Venerable Cyriacus the Hermit

Born in Corinth, the son of a priest, he was tonsured by Ven. Euthymius the Great. Then he practiced asceticism about 30 years in the Souka (Old Laura) Monastery, 5 years in the Natoupha Hermitage and 5 years in the Rufus Hermitage. For food the ascetic ate "bitter herbs", and his regular task was "prolonged vigils and prayers". Unceasingly stifling in himself the "dainty desires of carnal sweetness" and "cleverness", Ven. Cyriacus subjugated his "flesh" to the spirit and died in the Souka Monastery in 556 at the age of 107 years.

Also Commemorated: Martyrs Dada, Gabdelas, and Casdoe

They suffered for Christ about the middle of the fourth century in Persia. St. Dada was formerly grandee at the court of King Shapur. By his own steadfastness in suffering he converted St. Gabdelas, the son of King Shapur, and his sister Casdoe, who also died from cruel torture. The magus Gargal suffered with them. (*from Handbook for Church Servers, 2nd ed., by S. V. Bulgakov (Trans. Archpriest Eugene D. Tarris)*)



Today's Epistle Lesson – St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 4:6-15

Brethren, it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. *We are* hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; *we are* perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed — always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So then death is working in us, but life in you. And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed and therefore I spoke," we also believe and therefore speak, knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will present *us* with you. For all things *are* for your sakes, that grace, having spread through the many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God.

Today's Gospel Lesson – Saint Luke 6:31-36

The Lord said, "Just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise. But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend *to those* from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful."

A Word From the Holy Fathers

Do not do anything without signing yourself with the sign of the Cross! When you depart on a journey, when you begin your work, when you go to study, when you are alone, and when you are with other people, seal yourself with the Holy Cross on your forehead, your body, your chest, your heart, your lips, your eyes, your ears. All of you should be sealed with the sign of Christ's victory over hell. Then you will no longer be afraid of charms, evil spirits, or sorcery, because these are dissolved by the power of the Cross like wax before fire and like dust before the wind.

In any stage you may be do not get discouraged, pray even if you feel compulsion and the Lord will visit you with His mercy: 'Let it be to you according to your faith,' [Matt. 9:29].

The enemy will run like a wild ass from the man who has tasted the sweetness of prayer.

– Elder Cleopas of Romania

It has been commanded that we tolerate those who despise us because we are disciples of Him Who is gentle and peaceful, but no one can tolerate those who commit violence against the faith; since even He Himself, though He gently bore other things and did not retaliate, not only did he drive away from His Father's house those who had become so desperate as to make it a house of commerce with a vehement censure, but also, having threatened with a double punishment those who were sharpening their tongues against the Holy Spirit, He made their city, men and all, a work of fire and sword and famine in this world and assured them, through the fact that He had disclosed their present punishment with much anger, that they should not escape their future judgment as well.

– St. Photios the Great, Patriarch of Constantinople, *Letter 8*

Beloved ones, the time has come to have recourse to the Mother of the Word, our only hope and refuge. Imploring, let us cry out to her, "save your city, as you know how, O Lady!" Let us set her up as our intermediary before her Son our God, and make her the witness and surety of our compact, she who conveys our requests and rains down the mercy of her Offspring, and scatters the cloud of enemies, and lights up for us the dawn of salvation. May we be delivered through her pleading of this present wrath, and be delivered also of the endless condemnation to come, in Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom be all glory and thanks and veneration, together with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and ever. Amen.

– St. Photios the Great, Patriarch of Constantinople, *Homily 3.7*

Debt Reduction by the Numbers

At the September 22nd Parish Annual Meeting, based on the current church finances, the parish voting members motioned for and approved the pay-off of the Diocesan loan balance of \$13,722. The monthly payment for this loan of \$361.11 will be added to the payment on the interest-bearing primary mortgage to accelerate the pay-off date. Pay-off dates for the primary mortgage were calculated based on what our actual minimum payments are, what we have been paying with dedicated building fund donations added (averaged), and what the date will be with the additional diocesan loan payment added to the minimum and dedicated donations. Below are those dates:

Minimum Payments: September 2032; \$100,164 interest

Minimum with dedicated donations: March 2029; \$71,230 interest

Minimum with dedicated donations and diocesan payment: December 2027;
\$61,712 interest

Overall, by paying-off the Diocesan loan now and adding the \$361.11 payment to the primary mortgage payment, **the church will save approximately \$10,000 in interest and pay-off the primary mortgage 15 months earlier** than anticipated! If you have any questions, please see Josh Moore or Mark Blaydoe.

Hurricane Recovery Build Team

Fr. Michael T. Chendorain (St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church in Perth Amboy, NJ) will be leading a hurricane recovery build team through IOCC from October 21-26 in Houston, TX. The cost for this work is \$100 in addition to whatever the airfare is to get participants to Houston. He will be working with Team Rubicon which is a veteran organized, owned and operated affiliate that has much experience in disaster recovery. It's an exciting opportunity and he am looking forward to it very earnestly.

Please have any interested persons contact him with any questions and he will be able to answer those as well as give them the link information to register and get signed up for the mission. His email address is fmchendorain@gmail.com and his contact phone number is 201-486-2123.



October Anniversaries and Birthdays

Anniversaries:

Lynn & Andrea Hampton 17th
Ron & Heather Wright 23rd

Birthdays:

Bernadette Karbowsky 2nd
Olivia Brady 8th
Slava Chumak 13th
Bernie Vallandingham 22nd

Ceilidh Richardson 5th
Richard Wright 8th
Mary Vallandingham 17th
Anna Oswald 25th
Andrea Hampton 29th



Elias Moore 7th
Taylor Wright 12th
Jocelyn Connour 20th
Nikki Samson 26th

Social Team for October 6

The church picnic is next week. Please bring something to share. Thank you!

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, Presbytera Katie Baker and family, Dn. Steve Hall, 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 Domieniecki, 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. 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.)