

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: Great Vespers 5:00 PM

Sunday: Matins (Orthros) 8:45 AM

Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM

***Please note that attendance is currently limited by restrictions dictated by local response to the COVID-19 pandemic; if you are currently not assigned to an attendance group, please contact outreach@apostlethomas.org for information on when you may attend.**

August 30, 2020 | 12th Sunday After Pentecost

Sts. Alexander, John, and Paul the New, Patriarchs of CP

Saint Alexander was born in Calabria of Italy some time between 237 and 244. At a young age he was dedicated to God, and eventually ordained a priest. He attended the First Ecumenical Synod in Nicaea in 325 while still a priest as a representative of the aged Metrophanes, who was the Bishop of Byzantium. It was then revealed to Metrophanes by an Angel of the Lord that he should choose Alexander as his successor, and ten days later he reposed. Indeed, Alexander succeeded him in 326 as Bishop of Byzantium, and was present at the dedication ceremony of Constantinople on 11 May 330, which also made him the first Archbishop of Constantinople. During his episcopacy, Alexander engaged in debate with pagan philosophers and opposed heresies, especially Arianism. He was highly praised by Gregory the Theologian and Epiphanius of Salamis; Theodoret called him an "apostolic" bishop. He finally reposed in 337, the same year as Emperor Constantine the Great.



Saint John VIII Xiphilinos was a native of Trebizond born around the year 1010. He pursued studies at the University of Constantinople and eventually became nomophylax of its School of Law. During this time he was close friends with the philosopher Michael Psellos, and they became monks together at Mount Olympus in Bithynia in 1054. In 1064 he was selected by Emperor Constantine X (1059–67) to succeed Constantine Leichoudes as Ecumenical Patriarch. As Patriarch he took great interest in helping the poor, opening bakeries and renovating the Church of Hagia Sophia. At the same time, he continued his writing work, which consisted of theological, philosophical and legal treatises. John VIII also wrote a hagiography of Saint Eugenios of Trebizond. He is considered an innovator in the field of the methodology of jurisprudential research. He reposed on 2 August 1075. After his death his remains were buried at the Monastery of Angourion.

Saint Paul IV the New was from Cyprus. He was distinguished for the holiness of his life, excellent learning and his moderate character. He was elected Patriarch while he was still a Reader in 780 with the support of the iconoclastic Emperor Leo IV, and was considered a strict iconoclastic. In 784, however, he came down with a severe illness, and considered this illness as divine punishment for his iconoclastic views. He therefore resigned from his office as Patriarch in 784 and entered the Monastery of Floros. From there he expressed his remorse for his compromise as Patriarch on the issue of iconoclasm and advised the Empress Irene of Athens to convene a Synod to solve this problem. He said to her: "If there is no ecumenical synod and error is not corrected among us, then you will not have salvation." The Empress even visited him while he was bedridden with illness together with iconoclast officials, in order that he may advise them to abandon their error. Soon after he reposed. Indeed, the Seventh Ecumenical Synod did convene in 787 at the orders of Empress Irene. *(from johnsanidopoulos.com)*

Today's Epistle Lesson – St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 15:1-11

Brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time. For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of

God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God *which was* with me. Therefore, whether *it was* I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

Today's Gospel Lesson – Saint Matthew 19:16-26

At that time, one came and said to Him, “Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?” So He said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one *is* good but One, *that is*, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments.” He said to Him, “Which ones?” Jesus said, “‘You shall not murder,’ ‘You shall not commit adultery,’ ‘You shall not steal,’ ‘You shall not bear false witness,’ ‘Honor your father and *your* mother,’ and, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ” The young man said to Him, “All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?” Jesus said to him, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.” But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

Then Jesus said to His disciples, “Amen, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.” When His disciples heard *it*, they were greatly astonished, saying, “Who then can be saved?” But Jesus looked at *them* and said to them, “With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

A Word From the Holy Fathers

When praying heedfully, guard yourself with great caution, so as to pray in Psalms and to chant prayers with fear, joy, firm zeal, and a low bow to the Divine icon. For you will find in the Psalms both instruction and prayer. Let us not pronounce the words only with the tip of the tongue, but pray with our whole heart. Join into one the body, the soul, and the mind.... Just as one who fills a bad vessel with water can never fill it, so also one who prays without heedfulness does not receive rewards. One must not simply recite a Psalm or prayer, as if performing one's usual lesson, but one must pray to God from one's whole heart and be in constant contrition of soul with the purity of prayer. God does not require a quantity of established Psalms and prayers, but heeds our undisturbed and firm mind. For many thousands of prayers are performed with the tongue, while the mind is thinking of vain, vile and unclean things. And how does God hear and obey such ones? Your striving should be not for quantity but for a profound understanding and heedfulness, so that all you do might be accepted by God. Acquire fasting and the fear of God. Stand at prayer in contrition, modestly before God and glorify

Him in unceasing hymns, for the unsleeping eye day and night beholds what we do, what we think, and how we live, in whom we place our hope in every grief and need. And our King and righteous Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God and True God, is always willing and able to deliver us from every misfortune and trouble. But consider yourself worse than every other man and every other creature, and your work unpleasing to God. Without this, secret lack of fear will arouse blasphemous high-mindedness. According to our faith, God also helps us in our every need. If we have a more powerful hope and trust, God the more powerfully will help us.

– St. Paisius Velichkovsky

Also Commemorated Today: Translation of the relics of Saint Alexander Nevsky

The Holy Prince Alexander Nevsky died on the return journey from the Horde at Gorodtsa on the Volga, on November 14, 1263, and on November 23, 1263 he was buried in the Cathedral Church of the Nativity Monastery in the city of Vladimir.

Veneration of the Prince began right at his burial, where a remarkable miracle took place. The saint extended his hand for the prayer of absolution (a written document placed in the coffin). Great Prince John (1353-1359), in his spiritual testament written in the year 1356, left to his son Demetrius (1363-1389), the future victor of the Battle of Kulikovo, “an icon of Saint Alexander.” The incorrupt relics of the holy Prince were uncovered, because of a vision, before the Battle of Kulikovo in the year 1380, and then they were sent forth for a local celebration.

Russian commanders asked for the intercession of the holy Prince, glorified by his defense of the Fatherland, in the following times: On August 30, 1721 Peter I, after a lengthy and exhausting war with the Swedes, concluded the Nishtad Peace. On this day it was decided to transfer the relics of the holy Prince Alexander Nevsky from Vladimir to the new northern capital, Petersburg, on the banks of the Neva. Removed from Vladimir on August 11, 1723, the holy relics were greeted at Shlisselburg on September 20 of that year and remained there until 1724.

On August 30, they were placed in the Trinity Cathedral of the Alexander Nevsky Lavra, where they now rest in Saint Petersburg. By an edict on September 2, 1724 a feastday was established on August 30. Archimandrite Gabriel Buzhinsky compiled a special service in remembrance of the Nishtad Peace, combining with it a service to St. Alexander Nevsky.

The name of the Defender of the borders of Russia and the Patron of Soldiers is famous far beyond the borders of Russia. The numerous temples dedicated to Saint Alexander Nevsky bear witness to this. The most famous of them: the Patriarchal

Cathedral at Sofia, the Cathedral church in Talinin, and a church in Tbilisi. These churches are a pledge of friendship of the Russian National-Liberator with brother nations. (from oca.org)



September Anniversaries and Birthdays



Anniversaries:

Luke & Marlena Cooper 21st Fr. Joseph & Pani Stacey 30th

Birthdays:

Amanda Hampton 2nd Fr. Joseph Edgington 10th Dennis Thomidis 20th
Cecilia Saksen 24th Adina Vallandingham 24th Elias Matthew Flade 25th
Simon Gebre Hypolite 27th Elizabeth & Rachel Single 28th

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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 & Mt. Kenya, Fr. John & Pani Betty Jean Baranik, Presbytera Katie Baker & family, Santiago Alzugaray, Patty Blaydoe, Jeffrey Carey, Tatyana & Slava Chumak & family, Xenia Chilkowich, Jon Church, Ramius Connour, Luke Cooper, Tina Crull, Mary Diane David, Ron Dominiecki, Linda A. Georgiev, Heather Himler, John Homick, Cameron Houk, Howl family, Helen Janowiak, John M. Janowiak, Tucker Karl & family, Robert & Pam Karpin, Andrew Kinn, Kopan family, Brian, Helen, Luke & Mia 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 & Christina Ristas, Robinson Family, Samson Family, Sharon Sheptak, Bernie Takabayashi & family, Dawn & Faith Ulmschneider, Joe & Darlene Waters, Christine, Marshall, Nathaniel, Dcn. Nectaros & Ia, the Syrian Christians displaced by war, Mother Virginia Marie & the Carmelite Nuns of Port Tobacco, and those in need of our prayers. (Please advise Fr. Joseph of changes.)