

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: 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.

October 25, 2020 | 20th Sunday After Pentecost

Holy Martyrs Markianos and Martyrios the Notaries

These saints of God were notaries (*i.e.* secretaries) under Paul, the Patriarch of Constantinople (Nov. 6), during the reign of Emperor Constantius (337-361). With the death of the great Emperor Constantine, the Arian heresy, which until then had been suppressed, revived and gained momentum. Even Emperor Constantius himself leaned toward this heresy.

There were two influential noblemen at the emperor's court, Eusebius and Philip, both of whom were ardent Arians. Under their influence, Patriarch Paul was ousted from the patriarchal throne and banished to Armenia, where the Arians strangled him in 344. Then the dishonorable Macedonius seized the patriarchal throne.

At that time Orthodoxy had two bitter struggles: against the pagans and against the heretics. Markianos and Martyrios were with all their strength and determination on the side of Orthodoxy, proclaiming openly that: "The Son of God is



consubstantial with the Father and God by nature." Markianos was a reader and Martyrios was a subdeacon at the Cathedral Church of Hagia Sophia, who shined with their reverence, modesty, holiness and virtue.

The Arians at first tried to bribe them, but when these holy men rejected this with scorn, the heretics condemned them to death. When they were brought to the executioner, they raised their hands and prayed to God, giving Him thanks for a martyr's end to their lives: "Lord, we rejoice that we depart from this life by such a death. Make us worthy to be partakers of eternal life. Thou art our life!" They placed their necks beneath the sword and were beheaded in the year 355. Their sacred relics were buried outside the Melandissia Gate of the Constantinople. Later, St. John Chrysostom built a church in their name over their miracle-working relics. *(from johnsanidopoulos.com)*

Today's Epistle Lesson – St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 1:11-19

Brethren, I make known to you that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught *it*, but *it came* through the revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and *tried to* destroy it. And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers. But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called *me* through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those *who were* apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.

Today's Gospel Lesson – Saint Luke 16:19-31

The Lord said, "There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.' But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are

tormented. And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.' Then he said, 'I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.' Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.' And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.'"

A Word From the Holy Fathers

What is patience? Patience consists in not desponding or grieving in any difficult circumstances, whether in bodily labors or amidst thoughts of the soul, but manfully and good-naturedly enduring all suffering of afflictions, even until death, with hope in God's loving-kindness, according to the Lord's word: "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Mat. 11:28). And again: "He who endures to the end," He says, "shall be saved" (Mat. 10:22).

– St. Theodore of Sanaxar

Also Commemorated Today: St. Tabitha

"She was always doing good works and acts of charity." In this way Luke the Evangelist praises Saint Tabitha. The name "Tabitha" is Syriac and in Greek is translated as Dorcas, which means "deer". Such was name of this most-pious and philanthropic woman, who lived in Joppa.

In the Acts of the Apostles (9:36-40) we are informed that Dorcas specialized as a weaver and manufactured tunics and garments, which she would sell and from these proceeds she supported the poor, widows and orphans.

While the Apostle Peter was out spreading the gospel, and he arrived in Lydda of Palestine, it happened that Dorcas fell ill and died. And though she was ready for burial, it became known that Peter was in Lydda. Then two were sent to plead with Peter to come to Joppa. When he arrived he went upstairs to the room in which they kept the body of Dorcas. Peter was moved, and without saying anything, after sending everyone outside the room, he knelt and prayed fervently. Then he said: "Tabitha, rise up." And indeed the dead woman resurrected! This was received with immense joy by all those in attendance, and the event spread throughout Joppa, which led to many believing in Christ.

After this Tabitha lived many years, "always doing good works and acts of charity." Death found her again in old age. And so this benevolent woman departed

in peace and with joy, because God made her worthy to live beneficially full of good spiritual fruits. (from johnsanidopoulos.com)

SPF50 – Scripture, Prayer, Family

SPF stands for “Scripture, Prayer, Family” and is designed to equip families to read the Scriptures and pray together at home. Why “50”? Fr. David Mastroberte explains: “On average, if a family uses the recommended Bible readings and prayers, they will spend approximately 50 minutes per month in these spiritual exercises. This is not a time limit, but rather meant to encourage even the busiest family that they can make these a part of their life and learn to love encountering God in prayer and the Scriptures.”

The third installment of SPF50 will started September 20 and ends November 14, 2020. It contains the appropriate prayers for families and a reading plan for the Gospel of St. Luke. There are also supplemental resources to help families get started and maintain participation. SPF50 is not meant to be separate from the ministry of the parish, but rather an extension of it. Under the guidance of their Priest, participating families are encouraged to meet on a monthly basis to foster fellowship and support. Quality time with our Lord is hard to come by. Quality time with your family is hard to come by. SPF50 intends to help families have both. Each week SPF50 will offer a new audio or video recording to help us to encourage us in our life of faith at home with our families. One will be posted each week. These can be found at <https://www.acrod.org/ministries/acrod-family/spf50>,

The Distinguished Diocesan Donor Program Needs YOU!

Covid has turned much of our life upside down, including our Distinguished Diocesan Donors Program! The 2020 Fund Drive is still under way and will continue through the end of November. However, there will be no Fall DDD Dinners. We encourage as many parishioners as possible to participate. Gifts of \$100 or more are asked. Proceeds from the DDD benefit Camp Nazareth, and because Covid has caused all events and programs to be canceled, DDD is basically our only source of Camp income. Checks are payable to: Distinguished Diocesan Donors and may be sent to:

Diocesan Chancery
312 Garfield Street
Johnstown, PA 15906.

May the Lord bless you and yours during these stressful times.

Sincerely in Christ, Very Rev. Protopresbyter Frank P. Miloro, *Chancellor*

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 & 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 & Marlena Cooper, Tina Crull, Mary Diane David, Ron Dominiecki, Linda A. Georgiev, Heather Himler, John Homick, 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, Nicholas Pavlik, 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.)