

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

Wednesday: Lay Vespers 6:30 PM

Saturday: Confession 4:30 PM

Great Vespers 5:00 PM

Sunday: Matins (Orthros) 8:45 AM

Sunday School 9:30

Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM

October 23, 2022 – 19th Sunday After Pentecost

Apostle James, the Brother of the Lord

*The brother was hurled to the condemning club, by this the all-blessed one died
being struck with a club.*

On the twenty-third the good brother of God was struck with a club.

Saint James the Brother of God was the first Bishop of Jerusalem, having been ordained by the Lord Himself. He was also the first to write the Divine Liturgy, having been taught regarding it by the Master Christ Himself. This was later shortened by Basil the Great, and again that of Basil the Great was shortened by the divine Chrysostom due to the weakness of the listeners.

Having therefore shepherded the Church of Jerusalem, and converted many Jews and pagan Greeks to the faith of Christ, he moved the Jews to rage. They therefore captured him, and hurled him from the pinnacle of the Temple, and while he was still alive, they killed him.

As to why he is called the Brother of God, there is a tradition that has been passed down to us that when Joseph, the betrothed of the Theotokos, was distributing his belongings to his sons, which were born to him from another woman,* namely this



James, as well as Joses, Judah and Simon, he wanted to give a portion to our Lord Jesus Christ, Who was born of the Virgin. The other three sons did not show a liking to this, but this James made the Lord fellow-inheritor of his own portion. Not only is he called the Brother of God, but also Bulwark of the People and Just. *(from johnsanidopoulos.com)*

Today's Epistle Lesson – St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 11:31-12:9 EOB

Brethren, the God and Father of the Lord Jesus Christ, he who is blessed unto the ages, knows that I do not lie. In Damascus, the governor of King Aretas guarded the city in order to arrest me. But I was let down in a basket along the wall through a window, and this is how I escaped from his hands. Without a doubt, it is not profitable for me to boast, but I will now discuss visions and revelations from the Lord. I know a man a in Christ, who fourteen years ago, was caught up into the third heaven (whether [it was] in the body, I do not know, or whether out of the body, I do not know; God knows). [Yes], I know such a man (whether in the body, or outside of the body, I do not know; God knows), how he was caught up into Paradise, and heard ineffable words, which it is not lawful for anyone to utter. On behalf of such a person, I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except in my weaknesses. If my intention is to boast, I will not be foolish: I will speak the truth. But now, I shall stop, so that no one may think more of me than what is seen in me or heard from me. Because of the tremendous greatness of these revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan that torments me, so that I would not be too exalted. Yes, I should not be too exalted! Concerning this thing, I begged the Lord three times that it might depart from me, but he replied to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." And so, it is with joy that I would rather [find] glory in my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest on me.

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

The Lord said, "there was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen, feasting in luxury every day. A certain beggar named Lazarus was laid at his gate, full of sores, who desired to be fed with the crumbs that fell from the rich man's table. Yes, even dogs came and licked his sores. It happened that the beggar died and that he was carried away by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died, and was buried. In hades, he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far off, and Lazarus in his bosom. He cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue! For I am in agony in this flame!' But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime, you received your good things, and Lazarus, in the same way, bad things. But now, he is comforted here

and you are in anguish. Besides all this, between us and you a great gulf is fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot [do so], and that no one may cross over from there to us.’ He said, ‘I ask you therefore, father, that you would send Lazarus to my father’s house; for I have five brothers, that he might bear witness to them, so that they would not also come to this place of torment.’ But Abraham replied to him, ‘They have Moses and the prophets! Let them listen to them!’ But he said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ Then Abraham said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone rises from the dead.’”

A Word From the Holy Fathers

We have received by tradition that God does not need the material offerings which men can give, seeing, indeed, that He Himself is the provider of all things. And we have been taught, and are convinced, and do believe, that He accepts those only who imitate the excellences which reside in Him, temperance, and justice, and philanthropy, and as many virtues as are peculiar to a God who is called by no proper name. And we have been taught that He in the beginning did of His goodness, for man’s sake, create all things out of unformed matter; and if men by their works show themselves worthy of this His design, they are deemed worthy, and so we have received—of reigning in company with Him, being delivered from corruption and suffering. For as in the beginning He created us when we were not, so do we consider that, in like manner, those who choose what is pleasing to Him are, on account of their choice, deemed worthy of incorruption and of fellowship with Him. For the coming into being at first was not in our own power; and in order that we may follow those things which please Him, choosing them by means of the rational faculties He has Himself endowed us with, He both persuades us and leads us to faith. And we think it for the advantage of all men that they are not restrained from learning these things, but are even urged thereto. For the restraint which human laws could not effect, the Word, inasmuch as He is divine, would have effected, had not the wicked demons, taking as their ally the lust of wickedness which is in every man, and which draws variously to all manner of vice, scattered many false and profane accusations.

– Martyr Justin the Philosopher, *Apology 1.10*

Ven. Ethelfleda, Abbess of Romsey

Today we commemorate St Ethelfleda, abbess of Romsey. Miss Dunbar lets us down on this one, surprisingly, and mentions online (by any spelling) are very patchy. There seems to be some confusion (at least on my part) about which Elflada is which – daughter of Ethelwold or of King Edward the Elder. Oh well.

The Rev. Baring-Gould comes through with an, at times, surprisingly humorous story:

Romsey Abbey anciently possessed the bodies of two saintly abbesses, who were regarded as the patrons of the monastery; these were Merwinna and Elfleda. Of these the latter was the more famous. She was the daughter of Ethelwold, a noble, a friend of King Edgar and Oricgiva, who was closely related to his queen, Elfreda, daughter of Earl Ordgar of Devon.

By his wife Ethelwold had many children; the youngest and fairest was Elfleda, or Ethelfleda. He died shortly after her birth, and his widow married again. She neglected Elfleda, and King Edgar, pitying the child, sent her to Romsey, to the care of the Abbess Merwinna, to be educated. She was consecrated by Bishop Ethelwold of Winchester. Her biographer tells some wonderful tales of the virgin. One night, when she had to read the lesson at matins, having received the benediction of the abbess, she went to the lectern, carrying her candle. But it was extinguished by the wind. Then she held up her hand, and light streamed from it so that she was able to read by it.

One day the mistress of the girls went out into the willow ground to cut some switches for whipping the poor children. Before coming in she hid the rods in the folds of her dress. Elfleda ran to her as she entered, threw herself at her feet, and cried with tears, " O, mistress, do not whip us: we will sing the psalms as well as possible, as many and as long as you like, without a whipping." The mistress said, with surprise, " Rise, my daughter ; how do you know that I was going to whip you?" " Because," said Elfleda, " I saw you cutting the switches, and I know you have them hidden about you somewhere now."

This is related as miraculous, for how, without a miracle, could Elfleda have known that she was going to be whipped, or have seen the mistress getting the instrument of chastisement? It did not occur to the biographer that the previous conduct of Elfleda in the matter of psalm-singing may have raised lively suspicions in her mind as to the purpose of the mistress precipitately leaving her pupils, nor did it probably enter the historian's head that with such an unpleasant suspicion hovering about her, Elfleda may have clambered up into the school-room window to watch whether her suspicion was being verified.

Elfleda was wont, somewhat later, to go at night from her bed, and stand in a pond whilst singing psalms. She was summoned to Court, and slept in the queen's bedroom. There was a fountain outside, and at night Elfleda would go forth, in the lightest possible attire, by the door when not locked, and through the window when it was, and jump into the spring. The queen became aware of these nocturnal excursions, and did not think well of them. Indeed, her suspicions were that Elfleda

was paying visits most objectionable in any girl, especially in a nun. So one night she followed her — not out of the window, we presume; that would hardly have been dignified in a queen—and when she saw Elflada singing psalms in a pond, she went into a fit of hysterics, which collected at once a crowd of male and female servants on the spot. The situation was not agreeable to Elflada.

S. Merwinna died in 993, and was succeeded by Elwina, who, however, remained abbess only three years ; after her death, in 996, Elflada was summoned to assume the dignity and authority of abbess. She exhibited in that capacity great charity towards the poor—a charity almost excessive, as she spent rather more than the abbey could afford. She died at an advanced age, probably about the year 1030. *(from pyhiinvaeltaja.wordpress.com)*

Also Commemorated Today

New Hieromartyrs Nicholas, Vladimir, Alexander, Nicholas, Emilian and Sozont priests (1937).

New Hieromartyr Archpriest Vladimir Ambartsumov of Moscow (1937).

Venerable Euphrosyne (1942).

St. Ignatius, patriarch of Constantinople (877).

Venerable Elisha of Lavishevo, Belo-Russia (1250).

Venerable Nicephorus of Charsianos, Constantinople.

Venerable Petronius, disciple of St. Pachomius the Great (346).

Venerable Oda of Amay, foundress of churches (723) (Neth.).

St. Macarius the Roman of Mesopotamia.

St. Columba of Cornwall, Virgin and Martyr

Translation of the Relics of St. James of Borovichi, W/W of Novgorod (1657)

St. Romanus, Bishop of Rouen (639)

Martyrs Servandus and Germanus, in Cadiz (c. 305)

Martyr Severinus Boethius of Pavia (524)

St. Syra, abbess of Châlons-sur-Marne (c. 660)

St. Verus, bishop of Salerno (4th c.)

Social Team for October 30

Team 2 is up next week - Dewey, Carrie LaMere, Heather Shear, Ezra Dotson.

Thank you!

.Become a Distinguished Diocesan Donor

We would like to invite you to become a Distinguished Diocesan Donor. Help us to edify Christ by building up The American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese ministries and apostolates through the Distinguished Diocesan Donors Program. We invite you to view our [brochure](#).

Annual Donation Levels

\$100 - Entry

\$250 - Bronze

\$500 - Silver

\$1,000 - Gold

\$10,000 & Up – Platinum



Making Your Contribution

It is easy to participate in the DDD Program: either donate via Apostle Thomas, marking your contribution for “DDD”, or visit <https://www.acrod.org/ministries/dddprogram/ddd-become> to donate online.

Study on the Divine Liturgy starting Wednesday

As a reminder, we will be starting the Study Series: *Exploration of the Divine Liturgy* on Wednesday 10/19/22 at the parish hall (house behind the church) at 7:00 pm following Lay Vespers (6:30 - 7:00). In the series, will work through the Liturgy to understand why each part is there, its significance in our Corporate Worship and our personal Christian development with a goal of bringing us closer to Christ. We will look at historical writings and explanations to gain a better understanding of our Liturgy.

The Diocesan website has been revamped – check it out! (link below)

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, His Grace Bishop Neofitos of Nyeri & Mt. Kenya, Bennett family, Tatyana & Slava Chumak & family, Luke & Marlena Cooper, Roberta Corson, Jon Church, Tina Crull, Mary Diane David, Marlene Doukas, Linda A. Georgiev, Sandi Hebel, Howl family, Helen P. Janowiak, John M. Janowiak, Andrew Kinn, Kopan family, Helen, Brian, Luke and Mia Mahony, Valentina Makowelski, Susan Matula, Anna Meinhold, David & Kathryn Newman, Bobby Nutter & family, Nicholas Pavlik, Weston Perry & family, John Reece, Mary Reed, Marge Rusnak, Rose Song, Fr. Nectarios & Ia, Mother Virginia Marie & the Carmelite Nuns of Port Tobacco, the suffering people of Ukraine, and those in need of our prayers. (Please advise Fr. Joseph of changes.)