

July Announcements

Annual Dinner Planning

Thank you to all who participated in this past Sunday's planning meeting for our annual dinner. Several parishioners stepped forward to be responsible for various elements of the event. There are still a few positions that need coordinators: ticket sales and appetizers/desserts for the event. There is a sign-up sheet at church for these positions, as well as to volunteer to help in any of the areas of the event.

Parish Picnic

On Sunday, July 10,, from 12:00 p.m. to ?, we have the Marina Pavilion reserved at Punderson State Park off of Route 87 for an all-parish picnic. The event will be potluck style. Items we will also need: water, beverages, disposable forks, spoons, napkins, paper towels, plates, trash bags. Please contact Mike Bifano (mikebifano@yahoo.com) to sign up. As a reminder, events in state park facilities must be alcohol-free.

Supplication Service to St. Raphael of Brooklyn

We will offer our first Supplication Service to St. Raphael of Brooklyn at 5 p.m. on Saturday, July 16. This service will be in place of our regular Saturday Vespers service.

Building Committee Meeting

The Building Committee is schedule to meet 6 p.m. on Saturday, July 16 after the Supplication Service. As a reminder, all Building Committee meetings are open to the parish.

Biennial Clergy Symposium.

Fr. Matthew will be participating in the biennial Clergy Symposium at Antiochian Village July 18-22.

Transfiguration Monastery Trip

A group from our parish will visit Transfiguration Monastery in Ellwood City, PA on Saturday, July 23 to review the monastery's approached to a phased building program. Plans call to depart from Chagrin Falls at 9 a.m. and return mid-afternoon. If you plan on participating, please contact Fr. Matthew.

Church School Planning Meeting.

We will have our church school planning meeting for 2016-17 on Sunday, July 24 after coffee hour.

SAVE THE DATE! Third Annual Parish Gala Dinner

Mark your calendars now! Our **third annual parish gala dinner** is scheduled for **Saturday, October 22, 2016.**

From the Synaxarion: Major Feast in July

St Joseph of Damascus (*Celebrated this year with Divine Liturgy on Sunday, July 10*)

On July 10 in the Holy Orthodox Church we commemorate the holy, glorious and right-victorious New Hieromartyr Joseph Mouhana al-Haddad and his Companions.

Saint Joseph of Damascus, as he is commonly known, was a weaver by trade. After he was married and ordained to the priesthood, Joseph was assigned Great Economos of the Patriarchal Cathedral of the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos (al-Mariamiyeh) in the heart of the Old City of Damascus. On Monday, July 9, 1860, the brutal massacre of Christians which began in the Lebanese mountains spread to Damascus. Some Damascenes (including Michael Hawaweeny and his young wife Mariam who was bearing in her womb a son, the future Saint Raphael), fled the city for Beirut. The majority, however, took refuge in al-Mariamiyeh. Joseph took up his communion kit containing the Reserved Sacrament, left his home and began to make his way to the Cathedral by jumping from rooftop to rooftop in the Old City. As he went, he stopped to confess and commune the aged and infirm who could not flee their homes, encouraging them with stories from the Lives of the Great Martyrs. On the morning of Tuesday, July 10, the Cathedral was surrounded, pillaged and burned. Those inside perished in the flames; of those who escaped and fled into the streets, most were caught and forced back into the burning building, while only a few, including Father Joseph, survived. As he roamed the narrow streets searching for survivors who needed confession and communion, Joseph was surrounded by the enemies of Christ. Seeing that his end was near, Saint Joseph took out his communion kit and consumed what remained of the Body and Blood of Christ. Recognizing him as the "leader of the Christians," the persecutors savagely attacked and killed him with axes. Joseph and his Companions were glorified by the Holy Synod of Antioch in 1993.

Holy Fathers of the 4th Ecumenical Council (*Celebrated this year with Divine Liturgy on Sunday, July 17*)

On this Sunday, we commemorate the 630 holy and God-bearing Fathers of the Fourth Ecumenical Council, which convened in Chalcedon in 451 against the Monophysites.

The Holy Fathers were, once again, concerned with the nature of Jesus Christ. The false teaching arose that Christ's human nature (considered by heretics as less perfect) dissolved itself in His divine nature (considered by heretics as more perfect): like a cube of sugar in a parcel of water. Thus, in that scenario, Christ had only one nature, the Divine. These false preachers were called Monophysites ("mono", meaning "one" and "physis", meaning "nature"), and they were led by Eutyches and Dioscorus. Monophysitism overemphasized the divine nature of Christ, at the expense of the human. The Fourth Ecumenical Council condemned Monophysitism and proclaimed that Christ has two complete natures: the divine and the human, as defined by previous Councils. These two natures function as equally perfect, without confusion, and are neither divided nor separate. The Fathers declared that at no time did they undergo any change.

Prophet Elias (*July 20*)

On July 20 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the fiery ascent as it were into the Heaven of the holy and glorious Elias (Elijah) the Tishbite.

Elias was born in the town of Tishba for which he was called the Tishbite. When Elias was born, his father Savah saw an angel of God hovering around the child, wrapping the child in fire and giving him a flame to eat. This foreshadowed Elias's fiery character and his God-given fiery power. Elias confronted the Israelite King Ahab and his evil wife Jezebel. They worshipped idols and were turning the people away from serving the One and Living God. Jezebel, a Syrian, persuaded her husband to erect a temple to the Syrian god Baal. Through great miracles Elias displayed the power and authority of God: he closed up the heavens, so that there was not any rain for three years and six months; he lowered a fire from heaven and burned the sacrifice to his God which the pagan priests of Baal were unable to do; he accurately prophesied to Ahab that the dogs will lick up his blood and to Jezebel that the dogs will consume her flesh. Before his death Elias took Elisha and designated him as his successor in the prophetic calling. Elias was taken up into the heavens in a fiery chariot by flaming horses. He appeared on Mount Tabor to our Lord Jesus Christ together with Moses on the Transfiguration. Before the end of the world Elias will appear again to put an end to the power of the anti-Christ (Revelation, Chapter 11).

St. Panteleimon (*July 27*)

On July 27 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the holy and glorious Great-Martyr and Healer Panteleimon.

Panteleimon means "all merciful" in Greek. He was born in third-century Nicomedia of a Christian mother, Eubula, and a pagan father, Eustorgius. As a young man he studied medicine. The priest, Hermolaus, invited Panteleimon to be with him and taught him the Faith of Christ and baptized him. Panteleimon miraculously cured a blind man by the power of Christ whom the other doctors treated in vain. The blind man was later martyred and we also commemorate him today. Out of envy the doctors accused Panteleimon of being a Christian and he went before the Emperor Maximian to stand trial. Before the emperor, he freely declared that he was a Christian and he also healed a long-time paralytic. This miracle drew many pagans to the Faith of Christ. Sentenced to death, Panteleimon knelt for prayer. At that moment the executioner struck him on the neck with a sword, and it broke. The executioner was unable to execute him until the saint completed his prayer and until Panteleimon told him to behead him, which he then did. His relics possessed the ability to heal. Panteleimon is invoked in prayers at the time of the "Blessing of Waters" and in the blessing of the holy oils used in the "The Sacrament of Holy Unction," together with Hermolaus and the other unmercenary saints and wonderworkers.

Schedule of Services & Events

July

2	Sat	5:00 p.m.	Vespers	
3	Sun	8:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	Orthros Divine Liturgy	2nd Sunday after Pentecost
			(Prospora: Baskette; Coffee Hour: Thurman)	
4	Mon		<i>Independence Day Holiday</i>	
9	Sat	5:00 p.m.	Vespers	
10	Sun	8:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	Orthros Divine Liturgy	St. Joseph of Damascus
			(Prospora: Baskette; Coffee Hour: none—parish picnic)	
		Noon	Parish Picnic @ Punderson Marina Pavillion	
13-17	Wed-Sun		Sacred Music Institute Antiochian Village	
16	Sat	5:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Supplication Service to St. Raphael of Brooklyn Building Committee	
17-29	Sun-Fri		Session 3 Antiochian Village Camp	
17	Sun	8:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	Orthros Divine Liturgy	Fathers of the 4th Ecumenical Council
			(Prospora: Markovich; Coffee Hour: Abraham & Baskette)	
18-22	Mon-Fri		Clergy Symposium - Antiochian Village	
23	Sat	9:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	Orthodox Monastery of the Transfiguration Trip—Building Vespers	
24	Sun	8:30 a.m.	Orthros Divine Liturgy	5th Sunday after Pentecost
			Church School Planning Meeting	
			(Prospora: Bifano; Coffee Hour: Markovich)	
28	Thu	5:00 p.m.	Parish Leadership meeting w/ His Grace Bishop ANTHONY	
30	Sat	5:00 p.m.	Vespers	
31	Sun	8:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	Orthros Divine Liturgy	6th Sunday after Pentecost
			(Prospora: Thurman; Coffee Hour: Peña)	

August

1				<i>Dormition Fast begins</i>
5	Fri	6:00 p.m	Evening Divine Liturgy	Transfiguration of Our Lord

6	Sat	5:00 p.m.	Vespers	
7	Sun	8:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	Orthros Divine Liturgy	7th Sunday after Pentecost
				(Prosphora: Abraham; Coffee Hour: Baskette & Abraham)
13	Sat	5:00 p.m.	Vespers	
14	Sun	8:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	Orthros Divine Liturgy	8th Sunday after Pentecost
				(Prosphora: Abraham; Coffee Hour: **Available**)
15	Mon			Dormition of the Theotokos
20	Sat	5:00 p.m.	Vespers	
21	Sun	8:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Orthros Divine Liturgy August Parish Council Meeting	9th Sunday after Pentecost
				(Prosphora: Markovich; Coffee Hour: Bifano)
27	Sat	5:00 p.m.	Vespers	
28	Sun	8:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	Orthros Divine Liturgy	10th Sunday after Pentecost
				(Prosphora: Bifano; Coffee Hour: Stevens)