



704 W. Sam Houston

Pharr, TX 78577

Priest Silviu Bunta

Fr. Silviu: father.silviu@gmail.com, 317-362-2853

Office: stgeorgepharrtx@gmail.com, 956-781-6114

Week of October 1, 2023

Sunday, October 1

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — The Protection of our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary . Apostle of the Seventy Ananias (1st c.). Ven. Romanos the Melodist (5th c.). Tone 8.

9:00am Reader's Matins

10:00 The Typika

11:00 Sunday school

11:00 Fellowship

This Sunday's Hymns & Readings

Tone 8. Troparion of the resurrection

You descended from on high, O Merciful One! You accepted the three day burial to free us from our sufferings! O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to You!

Tone 8. Kontakion of the resurrection

By rising from the tomb, You raised the dead and resurrected Adam. Eve exults in Your Resurrection, and the world celebrates Your rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One.

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1

Gospel: Luke 6:31-36

This week's schedule

Monday, October 2. Ieromartyr Cyprian, Virgin Martyr Justina, and Martyr Theoctistus of Nicomedia (304). Blessed Andrew, Fool-for-Christ, at Constantinople (936).

1:00-3:00pm Fr. Silviu office hour canceled.

Tuesday, October 3. Ieromartyr Dionysius the Areopagite, Bishop of Athens (96).

Wednesday, October 4. Ieromartyr Hierotheus, Bishop of Athens (1st c.), Venerable Ammon (ca. 350) and Paul the Simple (4th c.), of Egypt.

3:00-5:00pm Fr. Silviu office hours canceled

6:00-7:00pm: Reader's Ninth Hour and Daily Vespers

Thursday, October 5. Martyr Charitina of Amisos (304).

Friday, October 6. Holy and Glorious Apostle Thomas (1st c.), St. Innocent, Metropolitan of Moscow, Enlightener of the Aleuts, and Apostle to the Americas.

Saturday, October 7. Martyrs Sergius and Bacchus in Syria (290-303).

5:00-5:50pm Adult education class with Fr. Kyril

6:00-7:00pm Reader's Ninth Hour and Great Vespers

7:00-7:30pm Choir practice

Announcements

Help to pay off our mortgage

As you may know, mortgage rates are at a historic high. We still have a mortgage balance for the hall and this balance (at \$19,000) is at a variable rate. This rate has increased to just below 10%, an increase which costs us a lot every month! We need to pay off this mortgage in order to save thousands of dollars a year and also to be able to launch our next projects.

For this purpose, until October 31 we are having a donation drive for the purpose of paying off this mortgage balance of \$19,000. This goal is so low only because, through the generosity of four donors (Ana Mihail, Dan Eggers,

Ovidiu and Corina Dulgheru, and Presv. Maria), we now have \$5,500 in a matching fund. *Help us pay off this remaining mortgage balance of \$19,000!* Also, due to the matching fund the first \$5,500 donated will be doubled to \$11,000! *Donate early so that your donation is doubled by the matching fund!* There is no amount which is too small!

Please write “mortgage” in the memo of your check or in your online donation. Any extra funds will be used for the next building projects and—God knows—there are many needs there: new roof over church (with repairs to the structure), repair of church walls (inside and outside) and repaint of the inside, new Holy Table, new floor in the church, repair and repaint of kitchen walls and ceilings, resurfacing of parking lot, and the replacement of the playground.

The mortgage campaign will close on October 31. Yet, it is never too early to donate. Follow its progression on the large poster in the hall and also on Facebook. *And do keep in mind: if we do not use the matching fund, we will lose it!*

Help with our international festival!

Our international festival is taking place again, on Saturday, December 9, between 10:00am-4:00pm. Announcements and calls for help will go out often, in different ways—email, parish website, Whatsapp, Facebook, etc. You can also follow the festival on its Facebook page and on our website. The parish website has a page dedicated to the festival, which will also take you to the Facebook page. Please help as much as you can, in whichever way you can.

Fr. Silviu on vacation between Sep 30-Oct 8.

Fr. Silviu will be gone between Sep 30 and Oct 8. Yet, church services will happen at their appointed times, just in a Reader’s form. Also, on Sundays we will have the Typika instead of the Divine Liturgy, at the usual time, 10:00 am. Sunday school and the fellowship will follow the Typika. Fr. Silviu will also be off the grip for a few days, so for any emergencies please contact Rdr. Mike Mezmar, our warden, or Melissa Renner, our parish administrator.

Quote of the Week

It is one thing neither to be stung nor angered by affronts and insults, nor by temptations and trials, and another to be pleased by them. It is one thing to pray for the people who do such things, and another to love them with all one’s soul as benefactors, and still another to impress on one’s spirit the face of each one of them, and then, with tears of sincere love, to em-

brace them dispassionately as true friends without the least trace of dislike making its nest in the soul. Greater, however, even than the last of which I spoke is it when someone in the midst of trials maintains an attitude of sameness and equilibrium with respect both to those who revile and slander him to his face, and to all the others who judge, or insult, or condemn with respect to those who bear themselves outwardly with an appearance of friendliness, but who, behind his back, practice the same things against him as the others, even though he is aware of this, too. I am also of the opinion that there is a stage yet incomparably higher than the last: to have arrived at complete forgetfulness of whatever it is one may have suffered and never to recall it, whether those who have done the injury are present or not, and, in addition, to behave toward these people, whether in conversation or at table, as toward friends, without having any second thoughts. These are all the works of men who walk in the light. As many, however, as learn that they are far away from such men and such behavior, let them neither be deluded nor fool themselves, but let them rather know of a certainty that they walk in darkness.

(St Symeon the New Theologian, *The Ethical Discourses* IV, vol 2, pages 15-16)