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Week of April 7, 2024

Sunday, April 7

SUNDAY OF THE CROSS — Repose of St. Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia and Enlightener of North America (1925). Ven. Serapion of Egypt (5th c.). Tone 3.

9:00am Matins

10:00 The Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

11:45-12:15 Sunday school

12:00pm Fellowship

12:00pm “Baffle the priest”

This Divine Liturgy’s Hymns & Readings

Tone 3. Troparion of the resurrection

Let the heavens rejoice! Let the earth be glad! For the Lord has shown strength with His arm. He has trampled down death by death. He has become the first born of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of hell, and has granted to the world great mercy.

Tone 1. Troparion of the Cross

O Lord, save Your people, and bless Your inheritance! Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians over their adversaries; and by virtue of Your Cross, preserve Your habitation!

Tone 3. Kontakion of the resurrection

On this day You rose from the tomb, O Merciful One, leading us from the gates of death. On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices; with the Prophets and Patriarchs they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Your power.

Tone 7. Kontakion of the Cross

Now the flaming sword no longer guards the gates of Eden; it has been mysteriously quenched by the wood of the Cross. The sting of death and the victory of hell have been vanquished; for You, O my Savior, have come and cried to those in hell: "Enter again into Paradise!"

Instead of Trisaghion

Before Your Cross, we bow down in worship, O Master, and Your holy Resurrection we glorify.

Tone 6. Prokeimenon

O Lord, save Your people, and bless Your inheritance!
To You, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me!

Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6

Tone 8. Alliluias

Remember Your congregation, which You have purchased of old!
God is our King before the ages; He has worked salvation in the midst of the earth!

Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1

Hymn to the Theotokos

All of creation rejoices in you, O Full of Grace: the assembly of angels and the race of men. O sanctified temple and spiritual paradise, the glory of virgins, from whom God was incarnate and became a Child: our God before the ages. He made your body into a throne, and your womb He made more spacious than the heavens. All of creation rejoices in you, O Full of Grace. Glory to you!

This week's schedule

Monday, April 8. Holy Apostles of the Seventy: Herodion, Agabus, Asyncritus, Rufus, Phlegon, Hermes, and those with them (1st c.).

1:00-3:00pm Fr. Silviu office hours

Tuesday, April 9. Martyr Euphrosyne of Caesarea in Cappadocia (362).

Wednesday, April 10. Martyrs Terence, Pompeius, Africanus, Maximus, Zeno, Alexander, Theodore, Macarius, and 33 others, beheaded at Carthage (3rd c.).

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

6:00-8:00pm Ninth Hour and the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts.

Thursday, April 11. Ieromartyr Antipas, Bishop of Pergamum, disciple of St. John the Theologian (92). Calinic of Cernica, Bishop of Ramnic in Romania (1868).

Friday, April 12. Basil the Confessor, Bishop of Parium (8th c.).

Saturday, April 13. Ieromartyr Artemon of Laodikeia in Syria (303).

5:00-5:45pm Adult education class with Fr. Kyril

6:00-7:00pm Ninth Hour and Great Vespers

7:00-7:30pm Choir practice

Announcements

Proskomidi on Sunday, April 14, at 9:30am

On Sunday, April 14, we will not have the customary Matins before the Divine Liturgy, but Fr. Silviu will serve the Proskomidi out in the nave, the main room of the church, for everyone to see. This service is the one which prepares the divine gifts (the wine and the bread) for the Divine Liturgy and is usually served before all other Sunday services, when Fr. Silviu is in church by himself, before anyone else even gets there and before any out loud service even begins. Come and see how the gifts are prepared and how the names of all those given for commemoration are remembered!

Church cleaning day on Saturday, April 20, at 10:00am

Come and help clean the church in preparation for Pascha. The more help we have the faster and easier it will be to prepare our church for the greatest feast.

Talk on the influence of screens on our lives on April 21

On Sunday April 21, at 1:00pm (immediately after our fellowship), Dr. Ovidiu Dulgheru and Fr. Silviu will talk on the influence of screens on our lives, from psychiatric and spiritual perspectives. The two talks will be followed by questions and answers. Please feel free to bring your friends and bring prepared questions, ask questions ad-hoc, or just be there to take it all in.

Quote of the Week

The absence of love is a sickness, while the presence of love is health. Whenever someone wants to, he can love God genuinely and become the spouse of God. What more could a person desire? And how much more so a person living in a monastery? For what is a monastery if not a ceaseless nuptial union with God, day and night? This is why we need to make sure that, first, our prayer is stable and focused. Second, when our prayer is stable and focused, we must not deceive ourselves but rather recognize that we do not love God and seek for the straight path that leads to Him. “Make straight the paths of the Lord,” says St. John the Baptist, and so let us make our minds straight paths conducting us to God. Third, when we see that our mind has wandered off to some habitual thought, memory, image, or experience, we should know that we are distancing ourselves from God. The “place” to which our minds go, no matter what it is—and no matter whether it is bound to our power of desire, or anger, or from our will—is God’s rival for our affections, and it causes us to throw off the yoke that unites us to God. It doesn’t matter if you think it is something filled with light, holiness, righteousness, and wonder; it doesn’t matter if your mind is swept away in ecstasy before the majesty of what you think you’ve found, and which so easily draws your mind away. In truth it would be better to be poor and wretched by not having such a thing, than by having it to wander away from God.

Just as it is natural to walk-only someone with an illness or disability has difficulty walking-so too is it natural to walk truly and rightly toward God, to draw near to Him. Let us understand the ease and agreeable nature of such walking. Even though we were separated from God—covering ourselves with fig leaves, not realizing that these would become a wall separating us from God—He did not cease to love us, and broke down those walls and gave us the possibility to draw near to Him, to embrace Him, and be united to Him. Let us rejoice in this freedom that He has given us, and for the greatness of which He has deemed us worthy, that is, of His love.

(from Elder Aimilianos of Simonopetra, *The Mystical Marriage. Spiritual Life according to St. Maximos the Confessor*, Newwrome Press, 2018, pages 23-24)