

Parish Announcements

- **Episcopal Visit** (September 11-12): His Grace Bishop Thomas will be visiting us next week. He will attend Great Vespers on Saturday evening; immediately prior to Vespers, he will lead us in a memorial service and special prayers for those who passed away in September 11th. On Sunday, he will be present for Orthros and Divine Liturgy, and he will join us for a luncheon following services.
- **2021 Sunday School Program:** Sunday school for children and adults will begin in two weeks (on September 19).
- **Events for Youth:** We plan to offer Teen SOYO activities and events in the future. For Youth Month in October, there will be opportunities to learn to read the Epistle and participate in other church activities.
- **Church Etiquette:** In anticipation of the visit of His Grace Bishop Thomas in September and ensuring that we put our best foot forward, it is time to review some basic church etiquette items for us to implement during and after services.

All agree that after a long week at work or school, it is nice to see our friends and church family members on Sunday mornings. However, when we are in the Nave, we are in the House of the Lord. Because of this, we all need to remember the following: All conversations, greeting friends, waving, etc. should be limited to time *after* the service, when we have exited the Nave (outside the double glass doors). Additionally, when the presiding clergy (be it the priest or the bishop) step outside the Altar for any reason (during either the Small or the Great Entrance, for the sermon, to bring Communion, or otherwise), all talking/chanting/singing ceases.

If we continue to practice these important items, this discipline will become a habit of loving behaviour not only towards Bishop Thomas and Father Christopher but also towards our fellow parishioners as they worship the Lord.



Sunday, September 5, 2021



HOLY ASCENSION

Orthodox Christian Church

**Antiochian Orthodox Christian Diocese of
Charleston, Oakland, and the Mid-Atlantic**

**Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch
and All the East**

Primate

His Eminence, the Most Rev. Metropolitan Joseph
(Al-Zehlaoui)

Diocesan Hierarch

His Grace, the Right Rev. Bishop Thomas (Joseph)

Pastor

Rev. Fr. Christopher Eid

Subdeacon

Vladimir Moses

Saturday Vespers - 5:00 PM

Sunday Orthros - 8:25 AM

Sunday Liturgy - 9:30 AM

**Confessions - Saturday evenings,
following most divine services,
and by appointment**

*For an updated service and event
schedule, visit our online calendar:*

HolyAscension.net/calendar

Divine Liturgy Variables

Resurrectional Apolytikion in Tone Two

When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal One, then Thou didst destroy hell with Thy Godly power – and when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of Heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: O Christ, Thou giver of life, glory to Thee.

Apolytikion of the Prophet Zachariah in Tone Four

In the vesture of a priest, according to the Law of God, thou didst offer unto Him well-pleasing whole-burnt offerings as it befitted a priest, O wise Zachariah. Thou wast a shining light, a seer of mysteries, bearing in thyself clearly the signs of grace, and in God's temple, O wise Prophet of Christ God, thou wast slain with the sword. Hence, with the Forerunner, make entreaty that our souls find salvation.

Apolytikion of Holy Ascension in Tone Four

Thou hast ascended in glory, O Christ our God, and gladdened Thy disciples with the promise of the Holy Spirit – and they were assured by the blessing that Thou art the Son of God and Redeemer of the world.

Kontakion of the Nativity of the Theotokos in Tone Four

By thy holy nativity, O pure one, Joachim and Anna were delivered from the reproach of barrenness, and Adam and Eve were delivered from the corruption of death; thy people do celebrate it, having been saved from the stain of iniquity, crying unto thee: The barren doth give birth to the Theotokos, who nourisheth our life.

Prayer Requests

LIVING:

Catechumen John R.; Catechumen Dan S.; Vicki M. (health); Della (Jeanne K.'s friend); David K. (Vicki M.'s nephew); Carol (Vicki M.'s sister, health); Maggie (Fran H.'s sister-in-law, health); Thomas (Fran H.'s husband, health); Jean (Lisa K.'s friend, cancer); Sophia (infant granddaughter of Lisa K.'s coworker, leukemia); Marlan A.; Mitri, Tina, and family; Courtney M. (health); Maggie W. (health); Ariel (Barbara H.'s daughter-in-law) and baby; Barbara H. (shoulder); Bp. Alexander (health); Met. Hilarion (cancer); Jeanne K. (health); Dorothy (Fran's mother); Elizabeth G. (heart); Fiona (Jane S.'s family friend); Elias (Lisa K.'s cousin, tumor); Mary (Jeff K.'s cousin, cancer); Christina (Lisa K.'s mother); Suad and Nasri (ill); Jack (Coleen's dad, for continued healing); Daniel (Mark R.'s son); Orthodox suffering from persecution; those suffering from war, illness, and disasters

DEPARTED:

Those lost to illness or natural disasters
Orthodox Christians and others recently murdered and killed during the fighting in the Middle East, Africa, and elsewhere in the world



Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
Prophet Zachariah, Father of the Forerunner

Today's Scripture Readings

THE EPISTLE

The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians (9:2-12)

Brethren, the seal of my apostleship are you in the Lord. My defense to those who would examine me is this: Do we have no authority regarding what to eat and what to drink? Do we have no authority to lead about a wife, who is a sister, as the rest of the apostles, even as the brethren of the Lord, and Cephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no authority to refrain from working? Which soldier ever served at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat the fruit thereof? Or who shepherds a flock and does not eat from the milk of the flock? Do I speak of these things according to human nature? Or does not the Law say the same also? For it is written in the Law of Moses: "Thou shalt not muzzle an ox which treads out the grain." Is it for oxen that God cares, or does He say it altogether for our sakes? Indeed, for our sakes it was written: because he who plows ought to plow in hope, and he who threshes in hope, so that the same might partake in hope. If we have sown in you spiritual things, is it a great matter if we should reap your carnal things? If others are partakers of this authority over you, are we not even more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this authority, but we endure all things, in order that we may cause no hindrance to the gospel of Christ.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (18:23-35)

The Lord spoke this parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the reckoning, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents; and as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him the lord of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But that same servant, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' So his fellow servant fell down and besought him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you besought me; and should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also My heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

Words from the Saints

Someone who bears a grudge while he prays is like a person who sows in the sea and expects to reap a harvest.

St. Isaac the Syrian