

# *St. Nicholas Orthodox Christian Church*

30 Cross Street - Auburn, New York 13021 ([www.stnicholasauburn.com](http://www.stnicholasauburn.com))

Very Reverend Michael Speck – Parish Priest (315) 246-6051

[mspeck100@gmail.com](mailto:mspeck100@gmail.com)

Office Hours 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM Thursday or any time by appointment

Reverend Deacon David Donch    Reverend Deacon Michael W. Speck

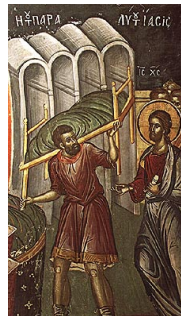
Reader Nathaniel Donch

Sr. Warden - Greg Michaels    Jr. Warden – Reverend Deacon David Donch

Secretary – Karen Schoonover    Treasurer – Glenn Peters

*May 3, 2026    Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!*

**4th SUNDAY OF PASCHA — Tone 3. Paralytic. Ven. Theodosius, Abbot of the Kiev Caves Monastery and Founder of Cœnobitic Monasticism in Russia (1074). Martyrs Timothy the Reader and his wife Maura of Antinoë in Egypt (ca. 286). St. Peter the Wonderworker, Bishop of Argolis (10th c.)**



## **Schedule of Services and Events**

**Saturday, May 2 - 5:00 PM - Vespers**

**Sunday, May 3 – 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy and Sunday School**

**Parish Council Meeting**

**Wednesday, May 6 – No Divine Liturgy**

**Saturday, May 9, 2026 – 5:00 PM Vespers**

**Sunday, May 10 – 9:30 AM - Divine Liturgy followed by Sunday School**

**A parish Council Meeting will be held on Sunday, May 3 following  
Divine Liturgy**

**Memory Eternal Jane Kimak - January 1, 1946 – April 26, 2026**

**Frances Jane (Gross) Kimak passed away peacefully Sunday, April 26, 2026, at home with her family by her side, joining her late husband Frank after 37 years of marriage. Jane was a life resident of Cayuga County and the daughter of the late Francis Gross and Mary Elizabeth Gross-Longyear. Jane was a graduate of Port Byron Central School. She worked for Cayuga BOCES as a graphic artist, as well as working for the Port Byron School District for 28 years. Jane was a proud member of St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in Auburn. She spent her free time doing various activities from cooking, baking, sewing, photography, but most of all spending time with her family meant the most to her. Jane is survived by her two sons; Kevin and Alisa Kimak, and Brian and Lynn Kimak, her step-sons Gary Kimak, Frank J. Kimak and wife Darlene (both deceased). Her siblings are Rosalee (Gross) Shaffer deceased, Mary (Taffy) Gross-Brown, Barbara Ann (Gross) Decker, deceased, Yvonne (Bonnie) Gross-Warrick and husband Bob, Virginia (Ginny) Longyear-Boyce, Diane Longyear-Emmi and husband Fran and brothers Steve Longyear and wife Kathy, Stanley Longyear and wife Cheryl, Michael Longyear and partner, and Francis Gross and wife Marybeth, and her dear friend Nancy Pennypacker who was like a sister to her, also three grandchildren Kristina, Nicholas and Morgan and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. Friends are invited to call Monday, May 4, 2026 from 10 to 11 am at St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, 30 Cross St. Auburn. Funeral services will follow at 11 am in the church. Burial will be in St. Nicholas Cemetery, Half Acre.**

**Memory Eternal - Dennis Charles Kiser**

**Dennis C. Kiser, 78, of Newport News VA, passed away unexpectedly on April 14, 2026. Dennis was a veteran of the United States Army. He is survived by his sons, Joseph Kiser (Kim) and John Kiser (Robin); his grandchildren, Leslie and Amanda; and his siblings, Robert Kiser, Barry Kiser, and Karen (Kiser) Durniak. He was preceded in death by his parents. Harry Kiser and Betty (Popovich) Kiser. A funeral service will be held 11 AM Friday April 24, 2026 at Amelia Veterans Cemetery, Amelia Courthouse VA. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions can be made in his honor to St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, 28 Cross St., Auburn NY 13021.**

## Donations

**\$30 by Pauline and Glenn Peters in Memory Of Denny Kiser for the Benevolence Fund**

**\$50 by Fr. Michael and Matushka Julie in Memory of Denny Kiser for the Hall Fund in Memory of Denny Kiser**

## Martyr Timothy the Reader and his wife, Maura, in Egypt



Commemorated on [May 3](#)

**Saints Timothy and Maura suffered for the faith during the persecution under the emperor Diocletian (284-305). Saint Timothy came from the village of Perapa (Egyptian Thebaid), and was the son of a priest named Pikolpossos. He was made a reader among the church clergy, and also a keeper and copyist of divine service books. Saint Timothy was denounced as a keeper of Christian books, which the emperor ordered to be confiscated and burned. They brought Saint Timothy before the governor Arian, who demanded that he hand over the sacred books. They subjected the saint to horrible tortures for his refusal to obey the command. They shoved two red-hot iron rods into his ears, from which the sufferer lost his eyesight and became blind.**

**Saint Timothy bravely endured the pain and he gave thanks to God, for granting him to suffer for Him. The torturers hung the saint head downwards, putting a piece of wood in his mouth, and they tied a heavy stone to his neck. Saint Timothy's suffering was so extreme, that even those who tortured him implored the governor to ease up on the torture.**

**About this time they informed Arian that Timothy had a young wife named Maura, whom he had married only twenty days before. Arian ordered Maura to be brought, hoping that with her present, they could break Saint Timothy's will. Saint Timothy urged his wife not to fear the tortures, but to follow his path. Saint Maura answered, "I am prepared to die with you," and she boldly confessed herself a Christian. Arian commanded that the hair be torn from her head, and to cut the fingers off her hands.**

**Saint Maura underwent the torment with joy and even thanked the governor for the torture, which she endured so that her sins might be forgiven. Then Arian gave orders to throw Saint Maura into a boiling cauldron, but she did not feel any pain, and she remained unharmed. Suspecting that the servants had filled the cauldron with cold water out of sympathy for the martyr, Arian went up and ordered the saint to splash him on the hand with water from the cauldron. When the martyr did this, Arian screamed with pain and drew back his scalded hand. Then, momentarily admitting the power of the miracle, Arian confessed God in Whom Maura believed as the True God, and he ordered her to be released. But the devil still held great power over the governor, and soon he again began to urge Saint Maura to offer sacrifice to the pagan gods. Having gotten nowhere, Arian was overcome all the more by a satanic rage and he came up with new tortures. Then the people began to murmur and demand a stop to the abuse of this innocent woman. But Saint Maura, turning to the people, said, "Let no one defend me. I have one Defender, God, in Whom I trust."**

**Finally, after torturing them for a long time, Arian ordered the martyrs to be crucified. For ten days they hung on crosses facing each other.**

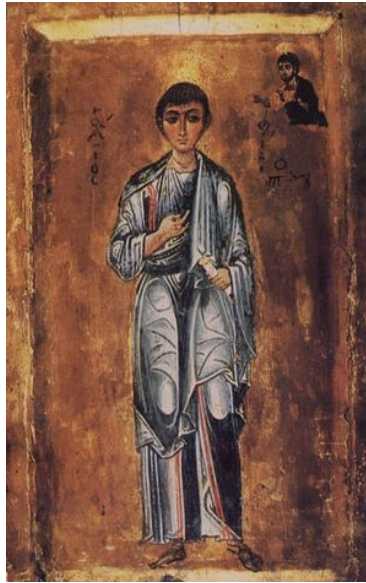
**On the tenth day of martyrdom the saints offered up their souls to the Lord. This occurred in the year 286. Later, a solemn celebration of the holy martyrs Timothy and Maura was instituted at Constantinople, and a church was built in their honor.**

**Saint Maura's skull is located in the church of Koilani, Limassol, Cyprus. Fragments of Saint Maura's relics are also located in Kykkos Monastery on Cyprus, and in the Greek church in Venice.**

# The Quiet Demons of Modernity: Why Have the Miracles Fallen Silent?

Metropolitan Luke (Kovalenko)

**Christ is Risen, my dear readers!**



**St. Philip. Photo: wikimedia.org** Today we turn our gaze to the pages of the Acts of the Apostles, which tell of the great joy that visited Samaria. We see Philip the Deacon—a man “full of the Spirit and of power.” His example is a living witness that the Lord acts not through ranks and titles, but through open hearts.

**The sacred scripture writer tells us: *For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed* (Acts of the Apostles 8:7). Why did the Samaritans receive Philip with one accord?**

**The answer lies in the purity of their souls. Though lacking the splendor of the Judaeen Temple worship, the Samaritans retained the capacity for compassion. They brought their suffering ones to Philip’s feet, and through their faith the miracle was accomplished. The departure of demons with a “loud cry” is not merely a metaphor. It is the moment when the devil’s dominion over human**

**nature is shattered. The Lord came to destroy the works of darkness, and Philip merely continued that liberating procession.**

**Many ask: Where are such healings today? Why are the squares of our cities not filled with the cries of those delivered from demons? In the early centuries, miracles served as a confirmation of the truth, helping people distinguish the word of God from pagan superstition. Today the Gospel has been preached throughout the world, and the Lord expects from us not the search for spectacles, but the labor of faith in the silence of the heart. A miracle is an answer to faith.**

**Yet we have become too rational, too self-sufficient. Modern man seeks a doctor, a psychologist, a psychic—anyone but God. Moreover, as St. Paisios of Mount Athos said, modern people are like drained batteries. We no longer possess the fiery zeal that dwelt in St. Philip the Deacon.**

**Are the words about the possessed still relevant today? Without question. The world has changed, but not for the better. Possession does not always manifest itself as foaming at the mouth. In our time it has taken subtler forms. We live in an ocean of words, and the Word of God seems to us merely “one opinion among many.” We see people losing their freedom, becoming slaves to passions, ideologies, or destructive addictions.**

**From occultists to manipulators of consciousness in the media, souls are seized by those forces embraced by people who have rejected God. When a person refuses the Divine will, he inevitably becomes a toy in the hands of alien powers. If once demons seized men by force, today they enter through quiet addictions and proud self-will. And just as the demons once cried out at the presence of Philip, so too today true preaching provokes aggression, mockery, or the “cry” of indignation in many.**

**Truth irritates those who have grown accustomed to living in falsehood. The absence of mass healings in our time is not a sign that the power of God has diminished, but the result of our inward closedness. We have become too rational; our minds are overloaded with information, so that the living Word of preaching seems only noise. If the Samaritans “with one accord gave heed” to Philip, modern society often responds to truth either with indifference or with hostility—like that very cry of the unclean spirits, disturbed by the presence of**

**Light. And we ourselves, sadly, often preach with our lips while denying God by our deeds.**

**Even the example of the sorcerer Simon Magus, who sought to buy grace with money, serves as a warning to us. Many in our own day seek in the Church not the salvation of the soul, but “magical” help or earthly prosperity. But as shown by the example of the apostles Peter and John, grace is not sold—it is granted only to a pure and repentant heart.**

**The story of St. Philip the Deacon teaches us that persecutions and hardships only aid the spread of faith when the heart burns with love for Christ. It reminds us that each of us is called to be a bearer of joy. Though we may not have the power to heal the lame bodily, we can strengthen those paralyzed in spirit through a kind word and love. Miracles have not ceased—they have simply moved inward, into the human soul. The greatest miracle today is the repentance of a sinner and his turning toward the Light.**

**May our life become such a sermon—one that awakens not disputes, but that same pure joy which once embraced all Samaria.**

**Truly Christ is Risen!**

**Metropolitan Luke (Kovalenko) of Zaporozhye and Melitopol  
Translation by OrthoChristian.com**

