

St. Nicholas Orthodox Christian Church

30 Cross Street - Auburn, New York 13021 (www.stnicholasauburn.com)

Very Reverend Michael Speck – Pastor (315) 246-6051 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 – Jane Kimak Treasurer – Glenn Peters

Sunday, December 8, 2024

24th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 7. 362 Martyrs of Africa (62 Clergy and 300 Laypeople) (475). Ven. Patapius of Thebes (8th c.). Ven. Kirill, Abbot of Chelmogorsk (1378). Holy Apostles of the Seventy: Sosthenes, Apollos, Cephas, Tychicus, Epaphroditus, Cæsar, and Onesiphorus (1st c.). Martyr Anthusa, at Rome (5th c.).



Saturday, December 7 — 5:00 PM – Great Vespers

Sunday, December 8 - 9:00 AM – Confessions

9:30 AM - Divine Liturgy and Coffee Hour

followed by a Sisterhood Meeting

Wednesday December 11 – 8:30 AM - Divine Liturgy

Saturday, December 14 - 5:00 PM – Great Vespers

Sunday, December 15 – 8:40 AM – Adult Education

- 9:30 AM - Divine Liturgy

Please note that there will be a Divine Liturgy this Wednesday. This service was not originally scheduled on the December calendar.

Thanks so very much to all who helped to complete the sauerkraut pierogi making during that past several days.

I realize that this is a very busy time of year for many of us, but we ask that you again generously offer your time this Friday and Saturday to help make potato pierogi to fill orders for Christmas this Friday, and Saturday (Dec. 13 and 14). Your hard work for this charity project is most deeply appreciated and blessed by Our Lord. Thank you!

We thank you for your donations to our Food Pantry Ministry. We hope to make a delivery of our collection on December 18, so please pick up a few extra items when you do your shopping to help those in need.

Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors Appeal

We ask you to open your heart this holiday season and contribute to the Distinguished Diocesan Benefactor Fund that supports so many vital ministries within our diocese. If you would make a check payable to the Diocese of New York and New Jersey Distinguished Diocesan Benefactor program and place it in the container in the back of the church we will forward it to the Diocese and you will be recognized for your kindness. Anonymous donations are also gladly accepted. Thank you in advance for your support of this important ministry.

May God Bless You Richly!



Venerable Patapius of Thebes



Commemorated on [December 8](#)

Saint Patapius was born at Thebes into a pious Christian family. Reaching the age of maturity, he scorned the vanity of this world, and so he went into the Egyptian desert where he became known for his ascetic deeds. Though he wished to live in silence, people began coming to him for advice.

To every tired pilgrim who visited his cell, he offered rest and hospitality, as well as spiritual instructions and profitable counsel for the salvation of one's soul. The Saint's reputation spread quickly, and every day many arrived at his cell in order to hear these beneficial instructions from his lips.

Later, he went to Constantinople, where he had a cell by the city wall, near the Blachernae church. But even here, he soon became known. The infirm started to gather around Patapius, and because he had been granted the gift of healing, he helped all those in need.

Once a certain woman was afflicted by the terrible disease of cancer, and worms came forth from her breasts. Not only did she suffer a great deal of pain in her chest, but throughout her entire body as well. She was in constant pain, and it reached her heart, so that she was near death. The doctors could not help her, and she felt she was wasting her money without obtaining relief. Therefore, she came to Saint Patapius and fell at his feet, begging him to heal her. The worms were devouring her flesh even before she was in the grave, causing her such pain that she longed for death. The Saint answered, "If you have faith in the Lord, and have no doubt that you shall be healed, then let it be done according to your faith."

Sighing from the depths of her soul, she said, "I believe, O Lord that You know all things which are hidden and unknown, and that You are all-powerful. Therefore, have mercy on me and heal me."

Then the Saint asked the woman to let him see the effects of her distress. When he saw the ravages of the disease, he was struck with awe, saying, "Your affliction is indeed great, and difficult to cure. Go in peace, for you shall not suffer anymore." As soon as he said this, the woman was healed and went home rejoicing and glorifying God. She told of this miracle everywhere, and praised Saint Patapios.

After a life adorned with virtue and miracles, Saint Patapios fell asleep in the Lord and was buried in the church of Saint John the Baptist.

Prophetess Hannah the mother of the Prophet Samuel



Commemorated on [December 9](#)

The Holy Prophetess Hannah dwelt in marriage with Elkanah, but she was childless. Elkanah took to himself another wife, Phennena, who bore him children. Hannah grieved strongly over her misfortune, and every day she prayed for an end to her barrenness, and vowed to dedicate her child to God.

Once, as she prayed fervently in the Temple, the priest Heli thought that she was drunk, and he began to reproach her. But the saint poured out her grief, and after she received a blessing, she returned home. After this Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son, whom she named Samuel (which means "Asked from God").

When the child reached the age of boyhood, the mother herself presented him to the priest Heli, and Samuel remained with him to serve before the Tabernacle (1 Kings/1 Samuel 2: 1-21).

On the Importance of Silence



The Gospel mentions several points when it was demanded of the Lord to give an immediate answer, but He remained silent:

And when He was accused of the chief priests and elders, He answered nothing. Then said Pilate unto Him, Hearest thou not how many things they witness against Thee? And He answered him to never a word; insomuch that the governor marvelled greatly (Mt. 27:12-14).

This is an important example for us and a reminder that we don't always have to speak up. But alas, it isn't in fashion nowadays to remain silent; now the "public" demands that everyone speak endlessly and react, react, react—react to everything that this same "public" shows us, regardless of whether the events are important for us, giving no time to think about what's happening. The most important thing is that everyone, just like in the recent past, should say the "right" things and slogans "with one voice."

Everything would be fine, but when the faithful or even the clergy join this game, everything turns out quite sad.

We're not primitive creatures who live by the principle of stimulus-response. The Lord didn't just decide to give us reason. *Be not hasty with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be swift to utter anything before God*, says the Ecclesiast (Ecc. 5:1). But the "public" wants us to act not like humans, but as the simplest of creatures.

When we talk about the "public," we don't mean society as such. In our day, the "public" is something artificial that's usually invoked to justify any action, usually quite unseemly.

But it's not the "public" that's our god, but the one true God, the Trinity—the God Who will demand an answer from us for *every idle word* (Mt. 12:36) at the end of time. Therefore, we mustn't forget Whom we serve and mustn't rush to react, but only after prayer and careful consideration should we speak, or even remain silent, if that would be more useful.

Metropolitan Anthony (Pakanich) of Boryspol and Brovary

