



*St. Nicholas Orthodox  
Christian Church*

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

**Very Reverend Michael Speck – Pastor (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 – Jane Kimak**

**Treasurer – Glenn Peters**

***Sunday, October 20, 2024***

17th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 8. Greatmartyr Artemius at Antioch (362). Righteous Child Artemius of Verkola. Ven. Gerasimos the New Ascetic, of Cephalonia (1579). Ven. Matrona of Chios (14th c.)

**Saturday, October 19 – 8:30 AM – Memorial Divine Liturgy of  
St. Demetrius**

**- 5:00 PM – Great Vespers**

**Sunday, October 20 – 8:40 AM – Adult Education**

**9:30 AM - Divine Liturgy Followed by a Panikhida  
for Fr. Stephen Mack (Annual) followed by Coffee Hour**

**Wednesday, October 23 – 8:30 AM - Divine Liturgy**

**Saturday, October 26 – 8:30 AM – Pork Chop Dinner Prep**

**- 5:00 PM – Great Vespers**

**Sunday, October 27 - 9:00 AM – Confessions**

**10:00 Divine Liturgy followed the Pork Chop Dinner**

**The Parish Council Meeting originally scheduled for October 20 will be  
held on Sunday, November 4. Sorry for any inconvenience!**

***Some Pork Chop Dinner tickets for our October 27 event may still be available from Greg Michaels.***

**We will be preparing for the pork chop dinner next Sunday (October 27) during the upcoming week. Please take some time to help out with the dinner preparations and at the dinner as well. Thanks!**

*We plan to deliver our Food Pantry Ministry donation for this month next Wednesday, October 30. Please pick up some things for those who are in need during your shopping this weekend.*

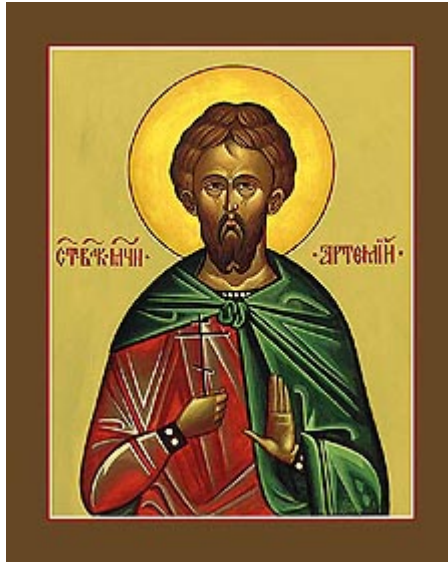
*God bless you!*

*Donation*

*\$60 for Votive Candles by Mikki and Bill Wilczek for the health and blessings for Dr. Luke Wilczek in honor of his Namesday (Oct 18) and Birthday (Oct 19). May God Grant him Many Blessed Years!*



# Greatmartyr Artemius at Antioch



Commemorated on [October 20](#)

**Holy Great Martyr Artemius of Antioch was a prominent military leader during the reigns of the emperor Constantine the Great (May 21), and his son and successor Constantius (337-361). Artemius received many awards for distinguished service and courage. He was appointed viceroy of Egypt. In this official position he did much for the spreading and strengthening Christianity in Egypt.**

**Saint Artemius was sent by the emperor Constantius to bring the relics of the holy Apostle Andrew from Patras, and the relics of the holy Apostle Luke from Thebes of Boeotia, to Constantinople. The holy relics were placed in the Church of the Holy Apostles beneath the table of oblation. The emperor rewarded him by making him ruler of Egypt.**

**The emperor Constantius was succeeded on the throne by Julian the Apostate (361-363). Julian in his desire to restore paganism was extremely antagonistic towards Christians, sending hundreds to their death. At Antioch he ordered the torture of two bishops unwilling to forsake the Christian Faith.**

**During this time, Saint Artemius arrived in Antioch and publicly denounced Julian for his impiety. The enraged Julian subjected the saint to terrible**

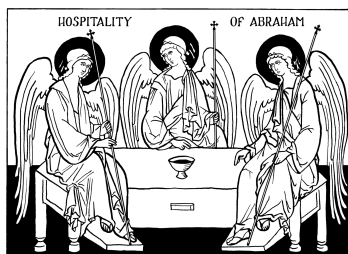
**tortures and threw the Great Martyr Artemius into prison. While Artemius was praying, Christ, surrounded by angels, appeared to him and said, “Take courage, Artemius! I am with you and will preserve you from every hurt which is inflicted upon you, and I already have prepared your crown of glory. Since you have confessed Me before the people on earth, so shall I confess you before My Heavenly Father. Therefore, take courage and rejoice, you shall be with Me in My Kingdom.” Hearing this, Artemius rejoiced and offered up glory and thanksgiving to Him.**

**On the following day, Julian demanded that Saint Artemius honor the pagan gods. Meeting with steadfast refusal, the emperor resorted to further tortures. The saint endured all without a single moan. The saint told Julian that he would be justly recompensed for his persecution of Christians. Julian became furious and resorted to even more savage tortures, but they did not break the will of the saint. Finally the Great Martyr Artemius was beheaded.**

**His relics were buried by Christians. After the death of Saint Artemius, his prophecy about Julian the Apostate’s impending death came true.**

**Julian left Antioch for a war with the Persians. Near the Persian city of Ctesiphon, Julian came upon an elderly Persian, who agreed to betray his countrymen and guide Julian’s army. The old man deceived Julian and led his army into the Karmanite wilderness, where there was neither food nor water. Tired from hunger and thirst, Julian’s army battled against fresh Persian forces.**

**Divine retribution caught up with Julian the Apostate. During the battle he was mortally wounded by an unseen hand and an unseen weapon. Julian groaned deeply said, “You have conquered, Galilean!” After the death of the apostate emperor, the relics of the Great Martyr Artemius were transferred with honor from Antioch to Constantinople.**



# **“Rejoice Evermore”, or a Word on Fighting Despondency**



**Alas, our world is filled with evil and suffering. Since the very moment of the fall, human nature has been infected with sin, which has become a human property. As the Old Testament says, *for there is no man that sinneth not* (3 Kings 8:46).**

**And this sinfulness results in something that is known to each one of us: envy, anger, judging, resentment, lies and much more. And in more terrible and global manifestations it becomes grounds for the hatred of people for their religion, nationality, skin color, lifestyle, political views, and so forth. Such hatred throughout history has become the basis of numerous wars and genocides with brutal executions and torture. This was the case in the past, and it is the same now.**

***The whole world lieth in wickedness* (1 Jn. 5:19). And the paradox is that every person who feels hatred considers he is good and right. Deep down, everyone would like this evil not to be in the world, but it is there. To a greater or lesser extent, it is in each one of us. And it is sad to realize this hopelessness.**

**And there are reasons for sadness in everyone’s life—not only public life, but also personal. Sadness is a natural reaction to life’s difficulties and losses, especially the loss of your loved ones. However, if you completely succumb to sadness, it can develop into despondency. Despondency is a sinful**

**state that occurs when a person refuses to fight sadness and sinks into the abyss of despair. It is important to distinguish between these two states and not let melancholy take over.**

**While sadness appears due to external factors, despondency emerges in the person himself. And in spiritual life it is accompanied by disbelief in Divine Providence, the cooling of faith, lack of trust in God and love for Him, your neighbors and yourself. A despondent person no longer desires prayer and salvation, sinking deeper into this abyss.**

**In some cases, this condition can even develop into depression. In popular culture this word is commonly used to describe deep melancholy, but this is not the case at all. Depression is a severe psychophysiological condition and it is impossible to get out of it without medical help. We will not dwell on it in detail, since the subject of depression is very extensive and belongs to the field of psychiatry.**

**So what should we do? How can we not get despondent when there is so much terrible news around or when something irremediable happens in our personal life? The answer is one: we should find the strength to overcome sadness in order not to stay in it for a long time. But how can we do it?**

**First of all, we should remember our faith. For an Orthodox person, life always has meaning thanks to his love for God and his neighbor. A believer knows that God will never forsake him, even when the world seems evil and hopeless. Entrust your worries and problems to God. As the Psalter says: *Cast thy care upon the Lord, and He shall sustain thee* (Ps. 54:23). Just realizing this will make it easier to deal with anxiety and sadness.**

**When it comes to the loss of our loved ones, we must keep in mind one fact: weeping for the departed, we actually weep for ourselves. The soul of a newly departed person has begun a new path, that of the particular judgment and eternal life. The departed go to their previously reposed relatives—to their beloved grandparents, to their dear friends. A meeting full of love and joy awaits them. And we weep for ourselves. It's me who won't see my reposed loved one for a long time; it's me who will miss him here on earth. By crying I actually pity myself. For non-believers this is really a tragedy and a nightmare, because they do not believe in the afterlife, and for them death is the end. But God promised**

**us that we will all see each other again there and spend eternity together. We are not separated forever.**

**We often look at our lives from the perspective of “here and now” and rarely think about life and death from the perspective of eternity. God wants a person to receive salvation in eternal life; therefore, He takes him from here when he is most ready. It seems unfair to us. We think, “He could have lived much longer”, but from the perspective of eternity it was the best moment for him to pass into eternal life. This moment is the best for this particular person. He will have the joy of meeting his loved ones who have gone there and are with God Himself. He needs our prayers now more than ever. But we continue to feel tearfully sorry for ourselves, when we should be supporting the reposed with intense prayer and love.**

**Our life here is just a preparation for the life to come. I will never forget the story of one sick girl. She was born into a religious family, was bedridden, but had a lucid mind—she could talk and pray. She lived till about twenty. And one morning she told her parents, “Wash me today—I’m going home.” Her parents didn’t understand her, because she was at home, and she couldn’t walk. As usual, they avoided thoughts of death. But her request was fulfilled. In the evening, with a smile on her lips, the girl closed her eyes forever.**



**I have seen perhaps the most Orthodox [among the heterodox] attitude towards death and the afterlife in the Mexican Day of the Dead. It is not their custom to mourn for the departed. Moreover, they believe that our tears only interfere with them. This holiday for them is an invisible meeting with the dead. Mexicans organize festivals with music and dancing, treats, fun and joy. Yes, it is a little this-worldly and partly pagan; they believe that the departed come to**

visit them during that day, so the holiday begins with a family feast. In the evening everyone goes to the cemetery, as if to a train station, to “escort” the departed back to the afterlife. And in addition to songs and treats, they communicate with the reposed as with the living—they tell them news and share their joys and experiences with them. This holiday is filled with the desire to ensure that the departed do not bemoan the separation, but rejoice in the meeting—that is, everything is not done for the living, but for those in eternity.

**Don't let sadness overcome your soul. Remember that sadness does not belong to you, but is an external force that can lead you to despondency. The Apostle Paul tells us: *Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks* (1 Thess. 5:16-18). Even if it seems that nothing good is happening around, think about what you should thank God for. There is joy in simple things. Remember that life in all its manifestations is God's most important gift to man. Learn to appreciate the gifts of life and rejoice that we were born, baptized, have our loved ones, are still alive, and can do a little more good.**

**Do not forget that the world, despite its misfortunes, is still full of goodness and beauty. Take the time to see this goodness around you, and don't yield to gloom. Do good yourself: help your loved ones and give alms to the poor. This is also stated in the Psalter: *Trust in the Lord, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed* (Ps. 36:3). After all, the Lord teaches us that we must serve our neighbors as ourselves, and not vice versa. Our own sins are the cause of our difficulties, and not people around us.**

**And, of course, do not forget about prayer. The Lord is willing to be with each one of us, but He will participate only in the lives of those who ask Him to do so. God is not intrusive. And if someone does not ask God to participate in his life and help him, He will not act in the life of such a person, because He Himself gave us free will. And only with His help are we able to overcome despondency, as well as other sins. As the Apostle Paul said, *I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me* (Phil. 4:13).**

**A person in a state of despondency stops praying and trusting God. He seems to be drugged by his sadness and melancholy and eventually stops doing anything useful for himself and his loved ones. This is why despondency is dangerous. But it is prayer and mutual help that can relieve sadness and give hope for the future and for the help of the Lord. This is how the Apostle Paul**



**comforts the Christians of Corinth: *There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it (1 Cor. 10:13).***

**An example of how to deal with sadness is the story of the holy King David. When he experienced betrayal and the loss of his son, he felt deep sorrow. However, instead of succumbing to despondency he turned to God and found solace in repentance and prayer.**

**The book of Proverbs says: *Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths (Prov. 3: 5–6).***

**Sadness and sorrows are challenges that every person faces on their life path. However, by following the instructions of the Bible and drawing strength from faith, we can learn to deal with them and not let them take over our souls. Believers always find comfort and support in communion with God through prayer and reading the Bible, which helps us keep hope and fight against despondency. We must remember that God is always with us and ready to help us overcome any problems.**

***Thou wilt show me the path of life: in Thy presence is fullness of joy; at Thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore (Ps. 15:11).***

**Priest Alexei Taakh**