

St. Herman's Orthodox Church

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Hierodeacon Mark Sanford, Deacon – sanfordm@me.com

August 20 2023 – 11th Sunday After Pentecost

Sunday: Hours and Divine Liturgy – 9:30 am

Saturday: Liturgy for Transfiguration – 9:30 am **Catechumen's Class** – 3 pm **Vespers and Confession** – 5 pm

Wednesday: Confessions – 4:30 pm **Vespers** - 6:30 pm **Class and Potluck** – 7:00 pm

Synaxis of saints of Valaam Monastery

Martyr Dometius of Persia (363) and two disciples

Meal Team 3

John 21:15-25 (11th Matins Gospel)

1 Corinthians 9:2-12 (Epistle)

Matthew 18:23-35 (Gospel)

Hebrews 7:26-8:2 St. Metrophanes

John 10:9-16 St. Metrophanes

Troparion and Kontakions:

Troparion of the Sunday, Tone II –

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life immortal, / Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead! / And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, / all the powers of heaven cried out: / O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!

Hymn to the Theotokos, Tone II –

All beyond thought, all most glorious, / are your mysteries, O Theotokos. / Sealed in purity, preserved in virginity, / you were revealed to be the true Mother who gave birth to the true God. / Entreat Him to save our souls.

Kontakion of the Sunday, Tone II –

Hell became afraid, O Almighty Savior, / seeing the miracle of Thy Resurrection from the tomb! / The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld this and rejoiced with Thee! / And the world, O my Savior, praises Thee forever.

Martyr Dometius of Persia, Troparion of the martyr, in Tone IV –

Having struggled in fasting upon the mountain, / thou didst destroy the noetic hordes of the enemy / with the weaponry of the Cross, O most blessed one. / And thou didst likewise manfully array thyself for battle, / slaying Copronymus with the sword of faith. // And for both thou hast been crowned by God, // O ever-memorable venerable martyr Dometius.

Kontakion of the saint, in Tone VI –

Having utterly spurned corruptible things and thoughts / which draw one down to the depths, O venerable martyr Dometius, / thou didst show thyself to be a great leader of monks, / turning to fear the wrath of the king who did not wish to worship Christ as the true God. / Wherefore, thou didst repose, chanting the hymn; // God is with me, and no one is against me!

1 Corinthians 9:2 – 12

- ² If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.
- ³ My defense to those who examine me is this:
- ⁴ Do we have no right to eat and drink?
- ⁵ Do we have no right to take along a believing wife, as do also the other apostles, the brothers of the Lord, and Cephas?
- ⁶ Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working?
- ⁷ Who ever goes to war at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit? Or who tends a flock and does not drink of the milk of the flock?
- ⁸ Do I say these things as a mere man? Or does not the law say the same also?
- ⁹ For it is written in the law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain." Is it oxen God is concerned about?
- ¹⁰ Or does He say it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written, that he who plows should plow in hope, and he who threshes in hope should be partaker of his hope.
- ¹¹ If we have sown spiritual things for you, is it a great thing if we reap your material things?
- ¹² If others are partakers of this right over you, are we not even more? Nevertheless we have not used this right, but endure all things lest we hinder the gospel of Christ.

Matthew 18:23 – 35

- ²³ Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants.
- ²⁴ And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents.
- ²⁵ But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made.
- ²⁶ The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, 'Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.'
- ²⁷ Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt.
- ²⁸ But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, 'Pay me what you owe!'
- ²⁹ So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.'
- ³⁰ And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt.
- ³¹ So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done.
- ³² Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me.
- ³³ 'Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?'
- ³⁴ And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him.
- ³⁵ So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.

Announcements

Food Pantry

We are now moving to a system of giftcards for food, groceries, and gas. Please contact Fr. Alexander Laymon for assistance
anevsky54@gmail.com

Limited Seating

The pews around the nave are placed there primarily for pregnant women, parents with small children, the aged and infirm. If you are young and healthy please be considerate of other parishioners and allow those who need to sit down a place to do so.



SEWING GUILD

The sewing guild meets every second Saturday of the month from noon until 2:30 pm to work on pattern making and other various projects for the church. Bring your sewing machine and white thread to help with these projects. No sewing experience is required; these are learn as you go projects.

SARITHSEWS@GMAIL.COM
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FLOWER Guild



Everyone is welcome to bring flowers for the chapel. Bringing flowers is a great opportunity to show love and thanksgiving to God. You can also commemorate your saint, a special person, or a special occasion. The sign up dates are set on Sundays, but if you wish to bring the flowers the day before, that is fine. Sundays are available through December 31, 2023.

[Click Here to Sign Up](#)

1. THE VENERABLE MARTYR DOMETIUS

Dometius was born in Persia as a pagan during the reign of Emperor Constantine. He became acquainted with the Christian Faith as a young man, abandoned paganism, and was baptized. So much did Dometius love the True Faith that he left every worldly thing and was tonsured a monk in a monastery near the town of Nisibis. He lived for some time among the brethren, and then withdrew to a life of silence with the elder, Archmandrite Urbel (who is said to have not eaten only cooked food for sixty years). Elder Urbel ordained Dometius a deacon, and when he wanted to compel him to receive the rank of a priest, Dometius withdrew to an isolated mountain and settled in a cave. He attained such a high degree of perfection through fasting, prayer, all night vigils and godly-thoughts that he miraculously cured the sick. When Julian the Apostate came to those regions, he heard of Dometius and sent men to seal him up alive in a cave, with two of his disciples. Thus, this saint of God died and took up his habitation in the Kingdom of God in the year 363 A.D.

2. THE VENERABLE OR, HERMIT OF THE THEBAID

Or attained great perfection through the greatest asceticism. When he firmly established himself and attained holiness in solitude, he gradually established several monasteries, and was a superb spiritual leader and teacher of many monks. Rufinus, who visited him, describes Or in the following way: "In appearance, he resembled an angel of God--a ninety-year old elder with a long beard, as white as snow. His outward aspect was wonderful. His gaze shone with superhuman radiance." Often he saw the angels of God. He especially endeavored never to speak an untruth. He had great temptations from the demons but overpowered them all, soberly and courageously. He received Holy Communion daily. On one occasion, one of his disciples reminded him that the Feast of the Resurrection had come, and that it should be celebrated. Hearing this, Or came out, raised his hands to heaven and spent three days in prayer without rest. He explained to his disciple: "For the monk, this is the celebration of the Resurrection of Christ: to elevate his mind and to unite it with God." He rested in deep old age in about the year 390 A.D.

3. THE HOLY MARTYRS MARINUS AND ASTERIUS

Marinus was a soldier and Asterius was a Roman senator. At the time of Emperor Gallienus, St. Marinus served as a soldier in Caesarea in Palestine. Marinus was beheaded for the sake of the Christian Faith. Asterius, the senator, also a Christian, was present at his martyrdom. He removed his toga [dolman] and wrapped the body of the martyr in it. He then carried the body on his shoulders and honorably buried it. Seeing this, the pagans beheaded him also. They both died honorably for Christ in about the year 260 A.D.

4. THE VENERABLE POEMEN, THE MUCH-AILING

Since his youth, Poemen was both sickly and desirous of the monastic life. Brought to the Lavra of the Caves in Kiev for healing, he remained there until his death. Poemen prayed to God more for sickness than for health. At night, angels appeared to him and tonsured him a monk. They also informed him that he would be ill until his death and that just before his death he would become healthy. And so it was. Poemen was bedridden for twenty years. He worked miracles during his lifetime, and possessed a rare gift of clairvoyance. Just prior to his death, he rose from the bed completely whole, and immediately prepared a grave for himself. He rested in the Lord in the year 1110 A.D.

5. THE PRIESTLY-MARTYR NARCISSUS, PATRIARCH OF JERUSALEM

Narcissus was beheaded at the time of Antoninus, in the year 213 A.D., being one hundred sixteen years of age...

HYMN OF PRAISE
SAINT OR, HERMIT OF THE THEBAID

To the honor and glory of monks,
Chief among monks, Or, the all-wise Abba,
With great labor and many sighs
Of a true monk, reached the perfection.
Give us a word, they once begged him!
"Never tell a lie, speak the truth.
I know a man who never swore,
Never lied, never wished evil to another."
Having replied, the elder was silent.
Then holy Sisoës asked Or:
"Give me, Father, some instruction."
"Live," Or said to him, "as you see me live!"
"Tell me more clearly, how should I see you?
Does every man, a secret in himself, hide?"
Or spoke again: "Behold, to you I speak:
Of all God's creations, myself I consider the worst."
Paul, his disciple, Or taught in this way:
"From every sin you will easily flee,
If only from evil conversation you will flee,
For, from this evil, every other sin sprouts.
To the soul of man, evil conversation is death;
Every good seed in the heart, it smothers.
One more thing will I say, and let it be enough:
All vain thoughts, repel; iniquitous desires, repel;
From material cares, distance yourself,
And, my son, the immaterial you will attain."

REFLECTION

Neither concern yourself about the righteous nor envy the sinner. Always remember that the Lord Jesus Christ, by His Resurrection, triumphed over a shameful death--and that Herod, Judas, Nero, Julian the Apostate, Valerian, Leo the Armenian, and other opponents of Christ destroyed their own successes and victories forever, by their shameful deaths. Envious ones slandered St. Narcissus the patriarch, spreading rumors that he had lost his chastity. The innocent Narcissus withdrew into the wilderness. He spent many years in silence and patiently waited for God to do His will. Three patriarchs succeeded him before witnesses came forward to clearly prove his innocence. Then everyone forced him to return from the wilderness to the patriarchal throne.

Thus, God justifies the righteous. The bloody Emperor Valerian, with satanic passion, murdered Christians throughout the entire civilized world [Roman Empire]. How did he end his days? He was defeated in battle and enslaved by the Persian king, Sapor. Sapor did not desire to kill him immediately, but used him as a mounting block whenever he mounted a horse. Every day, King Sapor's servants brought Valerian along with the horses, and Sapor enjoyed placing his foot on the neck of the Roman emperor in order to make it easier for him to mount the horse. He who sows evil seed reaps an evil harvest.

CONTEMPLATION

To contemplate the mercy of God toward the barren Hannah, the mother of Samuel (1 Samuel 1 [also known as 1 Kings 1]):

1. How Hannah was barren, and in her sorrow implored God that she be enabled to bear a son, promising to dedicate him to God;
2. How God heard the prayers of Hannah, and she gave bore a son, and named him Samuel (bidden of God);
3. How Hannah brought Samuel to the Temple and dedicated him to God.

HOMILY

About the new Law from Zion

"For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem" (Isaiah 2:3).

The prophet speaks of a new Law and of a new Word. The old Law was given on Sinai; the new Law would come from Zion. The old Law was given through Moses; the new Law would be brought by the Lord Christ Himself. The former was intended in the beginning only for the Jews, and the latter would be for all people--all of mankind. Even though these words of the prophet are clear to us, the Jews could not understand them; nor do they understand them today. The meaning of these words is closed to them because of their stony hearts. To whom do they [the Jews] apply these words? To no one. How do they interpret these words? They do not. They pass by these words as a blind man passes by an open door. If they were able to comprehend these words, would they have acted in the manner they did with the prophet and the prophesied One [Christ]? Would they have sawn Isaiah asunder, and crucified Christ on the Cross?

The Jews considered the Law of Moses to be the one, final Law of God. That is why they were unable to comprehend the prophecy of the new Law from Zion, from the House of David, for David glorified Zion. But if the Jews did not know that the new Law would be revealed through the old Law, we Christians know that we comprehend the old Law through the new. The Jews had a tree without fruit, but we have the tree and the fruit.

They had an image without reality, but we have both image and reality. They adhered only to promises (and those they understood incorrectly), but we have the promises and their fulfillment.

**O most wealthy Lord, Who has enriched us with Your spiritual Law and Your life-giving Word,
You only do we worship, and to You only do we pray. Grant us wisdom and power to live
according to Your Law and to uphold Your holy Word, so that we may not become poor before
You, Who has made us rich!**

To Thee be glory and praise forever. Amen.

Metropolitan Jonah requests that you send him the full name and general reason for intercessory prayer (such as health or illness, unemployment, family issues, military deployment to Afghanistan, etc.) for his pastoral care. Only the names of the living (and recently deceased) will be included in the prayer list in the weekly bulletin. He also requests that the faithful who have requested intercessory prayers for various persons let him know when there is no longer a specific need for prayer, so that we may keep the list current.

LIVING: Sarah, Emmanuel, Mark, Claudia, Katherine, Erika, Victoria, Michael, Tate, Renate, Dieter, Rebekah, Sofia, Ioannis, Anastasia, Elizabeth, Georgia, John, Elena, Alice, Matthew, Boris, Elizabeth, Davis (Columba), Moses, Emma, Kristin, Monk Sergius, Priest John, Priest David, Priest Costa, Priest Michael, Presbytera Cindy, Priest George, Presbytera Areti, Nun Aimiliane, Priest Charalambos, Monk Serapheim, Elizabeth, Katje, Rachel, Mandi, Clive, Claire, Rebecca, Janis, Paisley, George, Archpriest Alexander, Steven, Millicent, Archpriest Victor, Matushka Masha, Pdn. Patrick, Matushka Joanna, Matushka Sophia, Mother Theodora, Archpriest Alexander, James, Leonidas, Sophia, Maria, Larry, Bill, Modestos, Ephraim, Reader Moses, Jo Ann, Sarah, Paul, Brianna, Robert, Baby Nina, Charley & Alexandra, Irina & baby, Rebecca, Priest Alexander Laymon, Archpriest Michael Sekela, Fr. Filipe and his family, Irene and John, Inna and Emma, Ronin O'Neill, Anastasia and Mila, Brody (Anthony) Lessin, Sophia Stylianopoulos, Olga Petrova and the baby, Sarah Francis, Jeanine Karam, Christina Kendrat, Alexa, Valentina, Victor, Maria, Max, Mark, Elena, Anna, Benedict, Fr. Mark Grant and family, Yianni Tsapos

MEMORY ETERNAL:

