



NEWSLETTER & DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

5th Week after Pentecost

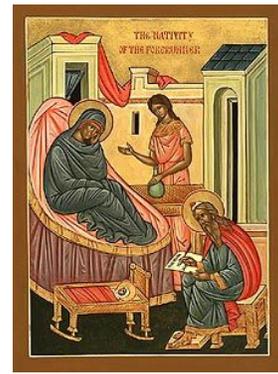
Sunday, July 5 — Saturday, July 11, 2020



**Hieromartyr Eusebius,
bishop of Samosata**



**The Meeting of the Vladimir
Icon of the Most Holy
Theotokos**



**Nativity of St. John the
Baptist**

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~ A NOTE FROM FATHER JOHN ~

In this last week of the Apostles’ Fast, we have again been faced with the difficulty of being unable to attend church services in person, due to the Governor’s recent directive to ban singing and chanting in churches because of the increased danger of spreading the COVID-19 virus in this manner. So, in obedience to the civil authorities and out of love for neighbor, we are closing the church services again temporarily so that, at least, we may continue providing the services online for viewing and prayer at home.

Thank God, Holy Communion is available for all who are properly prepared and wish to receive it! Like before, we ask you only to call ahead if possible and that you come to the back door of the church at the time of communion (one at a time, with your mask, and observing social distancing) to receive.

Please remember to tune in to our services this week either on Facebook or YouTube. As many of us experienced on Pascha, God will bless us with peace and joy when we pray together in spirit even though we are separated by physical distance.

You are welcome to attend the Wednesday night class (7:05 p.m., after the Akathist to St. Nicholas) in person since there will be no singing during that time.

Please continue to call either myself or Matushka Deborah to arrange for Confession or to tell us of any pastoral needs or concerns.

BLESSED FAST! GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST! GLORY FOREVER!

~ “TWITTER SUMMARY” ~

The main points from Sunday’s sermon, in 280 characters or less!

Though regulations have again prevented us from meeting in the church building for Divine Liturgy, we must continue to have faith in Christ and practice obedience to the bishops and local authorities. We should also keep the current inconveniences in context with the historical persecution faced by many Christians.

~ THOUGHTS FOR EVERY DAY ~

Scripture and liturgical readings to enrich your prayer life every day of the week

<p align="center">~ MONDAY ~ (7/6)</p> <p>Holy Scripture: Romans 12:4-5, 15-21; Matthew 12:9-13</p> <p>Excerpt from the Menaion: <i>“Today the most glorious city of Moscow is adorned, * having received thy wonder-working icon like the radiance of the sun; * and we, hastening to it and entreating thee, O Sovereign Lady, do thus cry aloud: * O most wondrous Lady Theotokos, * entreat Christ our God, Who became incarnate through thee, * that He deliver this city, and all cities and lands where Christians dwell, * unharmed by all the assaults of the enemy, * and save thou our souls, ** in that thou art compassionate.”</i> (Dismissal Hymn for the Icon, Tone 4)</p> <p>Commemoration of the Day: Meeting of the Vladimir Icon of the Mother of God.</p> <p>To read more: https://www.holytrinityorthodox.com/calendar</p>	<p align="center">~ TUESDAY ~ (7/7)</p> <p>Holy Scripture: Romans 13:11-14; Luke 1:1-25, 57-68, 76, 80</p> <p>Excerpt from the Menaion: <i>“O prophet and forerunner of the coming of Christ, * we who honor thee with love * are at a loss how to worthily praise thee; * for by thy glorious and honored nativity * thou didst loose the barrenness of her who gave birth to thee * and the muteness of thy father, ** and proclaimed to the world the incarnation of the Son of God.”</i> (Dismissal Hymn for the Saint, Tone 4, Vespers)</p> <p>Commemoration of the Day: NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST.</p> <p>To read more: https://www.holytrinityorthodox.com/calendar/</p>
<p align="center">~ WEDNESDAY ~ (7/8)</p> <p>Holy Scripture: romans 15:7-16; Matthew 12:38-45</p> <p>Excerpt from the Menaion: <i>“Having lived thy good life in piety, O blessed Peter, * thou wast a most precious offspring of the pious root; * and thus</i></p>	<p align="center">~ THURSDAY ~ (7/9)</p> <p>Holy Scripture: Romans 15:17-29; Matthew 12:46-13:3</p> <p>Excerpt from the Menaion: <i>“Today thy most precious icon hath shone forth upon us in the air * like the most radiant sun O Lady, * illumining the</i></p>

having pleased God in peace with thy spouse, the all-wise Febronia, * the holy monastic life was vouchsafed unto you. * Beseech the Lord, that He preserve our homeland unharmed, * that we may honor your memory unceasingly.” (Dismissal Hymn for the Saints, Tone 8)

Commemoration of the Day:

Sts. Peter & Febronia.

To read more:

<https://www.holytrinityorthodox.com/calendar/>

world with rays of mercy; * and Russia, reverently receiving it from on high as a gift of God, * doth glorify thee O Mother of God as the Sovereign Lady of all, * joyously magnifying Christ our God Who was born of thee. * Him do thou entreat, O Lady, Queen and Theotokos, * that He preserve all cities and lands where Orthodox Christians dwell, * unharmed by all the assaults of the enemy, * saving those who with faith worship before the all-honored image of Him and thee, ** O Virgin who knewest not wedlock.” (Dismissal Hymn for the Icon, Tone 4)

Commemoration of the Day:

Tikhvin Icon of the Mother of God.

To read more:

<https://www.holytrinityorthodox.com/calendar/>

**~ FRIDAY ~
(7/10)**

Holy Scripture:

Romans 16:1-16; Matthew 13:3-9

Excerpt from the Menaion:

“In thy patience, O venerable father, thou didst acquire thy reward, * having endured in prayer without ceasing, and loved the poor and provided for them. * Beseech Christ God, O merciful and blessed Sampson, ** that our souls be saved.” (Dismissal Hymn for Saint, Tone 8)

Commemoration of the Day:

St. Sampson the Hospitable.

To read more:

<https://www.holytrinityorthodox.com/calendar/>

**~ SATURDAY ~
(7/11)**

Holy Scripture:

Romans 8:14-21; Matthew 9:9-13

Excerpt from the Menaion:

“Fulfilling the Gospel of Christ and loving him alone, / Despising earthly cares you settled on an island. / There you fought against the invisible foe, / Subjecting your bodies to the Spirit by fasting, vigil and prayer. / Crowned with glory and now standing before the Trinity, / Pray, O Fathers Sergius and Herman, / That our souls may be saved!” (Dismissal Hymn for the Saints, Tone 4)

Commemoration of the Day:

Sts. Sergius & Herman of Valaam.

To read more:

<https://www.holytrinityorthodox.com/calendar/>

~ SUNDAY ~

**HOLY APOSTLES PETER & PAUL
(7/12)**

Holy Scripture:

Romans 10:1-10; Matthew 8:28-9:1

“Their sound hath gone forth into all the earth, * their words unto the ends of the world.”

Excerpt from the Menaion :

*“O first enthroned among the apostles * and teachers of the whole world: * entreat the Master of all, * that He grant peace to the world ** and great mercy to our souls.”*

(Dismissal Hymn for the Saints, Tone 4)

Commemoration of the Day:

HOLY APOSTLES PETER & PAUL.

To read more:

<https://www.holytrinityorthodox.com/calendar/>

[Prokeimenon of Pentecost, Tone 8, Liturgy]

~ PONDER THIS ~

A few thoughts to ponder in light of this week's lessons and sermons.

<http://orthochristian.com/94820.html>

The Hieromartyr Eusebius, Bishop of Samosata, stood firmly for the Orthodox Confession of Faith proclaimed at the First Ecumenical Council at Nicea in the year 325. For this he underwent persecution by the Arians, being repeatedly deprived of his see and banished. The emperor Constantius (337-361), patron of the Arians, learned that St Eusebius kept a conciliar decree regarding the election of the Orthodox Archbishop Meletius to the See of Antioch. He commanded him to give up the decree. The saint boldly refused to do as ordered. The enraged emperor sent a message that if he did not give up the decree, then his right hand would be cut off. St Eusebius stretched out both hands to the emissary saying, “Cut them off, but I will not give up the Decree of the Council, which denounces the wickedness and iniquity of the Arians.” The emperor Constantius marveled at the audacity of the bishop, but did not harm him.

During the reign of Julian the Apostate (361-363), even more difficult times ensued, and an open persecution against Christians began. St Eusebius, having concealed his identity, went about in the garb of a soldier across the whole of Syria, Phoenicia and Palestine, urging Christians to the Orthodox Faith. He established priests and deacons in desolated churches, and he consecrated bishops who renounced the Arian heresy. After Julian the Apostate's death, he was succeeded by the pious emperor Jovian (363-364), during whose reign the persecutions stopped. Returning from exile, St Meletius (February 12) convened a local Council at Antioch in the year 379 on the advice of St Eusebius. Twenty-seven bishops participated, and it reaffirmed the Orthodox teaching of the First Ecumenical Council. The Arians signed the conciliar definition, fearing the steadfast defenders of Orthodoxy, the holy hierarchs Meletius, Eusebius and Pelagios, who had great influence with the emperor. After the death of Jovian the Arian Valentius (364-378) came to power.

The Orthodox were again subjected to persecution. St Meletius was banished to Armenia, St Pelagius to Arabia, and St Eusebius was condemned to exile in Thrace. Having

received the imperial decree, St Eusebius left Samosata by night so as to prevent tumult among the people that esteemed him. Having learned of the bishop's departure, believers followed after him and with tears entreated him to return. The saint refused the entreaty of those who had come, saying that he had to obey the authorities. The saint urged his flock to hold firm to Orthodoxy, blessed them and set off to the place of exile. The Arian Eunomios became Bishop of Samosata, but the people did not accept the heretic. The Orthodox would not go to the church and avoided meeting with him. The heretical Arian perceived that it was impossible to attract the independent flock to him.

The emperor Gracian (375-383) came upon the throne, and all the Orthodox hierarchs banished under the Arians were brought back from exile. St Eusebius also returned to Samosata and continued with the task of building up the Church. Together with St Meletius he supplied Orthodox hierarchs and clergy to Arian places. In the year 380 he arrived in the Arian city of Dolikhina to establish the Orthodox bishop Marinus there. An Arian woman threw a roof tile at the holy bishop's head. As he lay dying, he asked her for wine and requested those around not to do her any harm. The body of St Eusebius was taken to Samosata and was buried by his flock. The saint's nephew, Antiochus, succeeded him and the Samosata Church continued to confess the Orthodox Faith, firmly spread through the efforts of the holy Hieromartyr Eusebius.

~LOOK IT UP~

Saints Peter and Febronia are regarded by many Orthodox Christians as special intercessors for and patrons of marriage. In fact their feast day is regarded as a holiday in honor of marriage and family in Russia. Do you know their lives?

Suggested Sources:

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2020/06/25/101811-saints-peter-and-fevronia-tonsured-david-and-euphrosyne-wonderwo>; <http://orthochristian.com/80531.html>

~ PRAYER CORNER ~

- Please keep in prayer our older parishioners who, if they contract the COVID-19 virus, will be in greater risk of serious health complications.
- Please keep in prayer our heroic parishioners who work in the health care profession and are on the front lines of our society's fight against the Novel Corona Virus and COVID-19 disease.

To submit **commemorations for the next Divine Liturgy**, to make an appointment with Fr. John to give **confession by telephone**, to alert us to any pastoral needs, to submit an item for the **Prayer Corner**, or just to chat, please contact Fr. John or Mat. Deborah using the following contact information:

Archpriest John Tomasi * (310) 749-0524 * frjohn_tomasi@yahoo.com

Matushka Deborah Tomasi * (310) 849-9451 * deborah_tomasi@yahoo.com

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!