



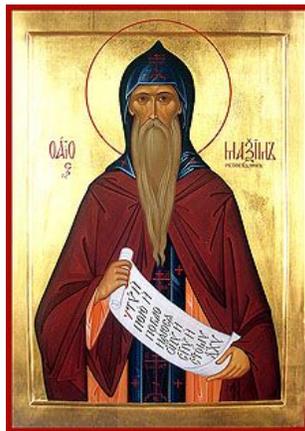
NEWSLETTER & DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

35th Week after Pentecost

Monday, February 1 — Sunday, February 7, 2021



**Venerable Macarius the
Great of Egypt**



**Venerable Maximus the
Confessor**



**New Martyrs and
Confessors of Russia**

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~ A NOTE FROM FATHER JOHN ~

St. Anthony the Great was a spiritual superstar, an incredible man. He went out 60 miles from the nearest location, entered into a cave, and wouldn't come out. His followers at times would literally pull him out of his cave because they were worried about him, and St. Anthony would say, “No, I am going in for more.”

The demons were terrified of him. He would make them show themselves as they really are. You know, in modern times, we have sports celebrities who can do things that apparently no one else has ever done, but with St. Anthony, he was deeply spiritual. In these latter times, for us to keep faith is like St. Anthony the Great going into that cave. And above all things, we must keep faith in God and trust Him with everything in our life and everything around us. In doing this, we are terrifying the demons. They want to ransack us, to drag us down to hell. It is their goal in life to make us suffer, like they will suffer.

But our goal in life is to acquire the Holy Spirit, and we do this through faithfulness—faithfulness to God in everything and every action we take, in every prayer we utter on behalf of ourselves and others. Faithfulness is the true mark of an Orthodox Christian, faith that God will prevail.

We don't need to tune in to all the negative messages online about this or that, or on Facebook, or YouTube with all the myriads of videos that are posted every single day. We don't need to concern ourselves with so many people trying to refute what others say and do.

In truth, we do not need the internet to have faith in God. We simply need to pay attention to what is in our hearts, our souls, and our minds—to be focused on Christ. Everything else will take care of itself. The rumors, the innuendos, the information, all of this is out there, and we don't need to worry about it.

Dwell with God! Have faith in Him to help us persevere through these dark times—because there have been darker times than these, trust this, even darker times. And may God give us the strength as we approach the holy chalice to receive His Body and Blood, and to carry the faithfulness we have in the Divine Liturgy out into the world, so that we can give to our brothers and sisters in the world something they can find solace in, something they can find peace in. That is what will make the difference.

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory forever!

~ “TWITTER SUMMARY” ~

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

We are lost without the Lord. Every day we must ask for forgiveness and guidance. Reading the lives of Saints will help us direct our lives. They are examples for us as temples of the Holy Spirit. Our goal is to be with them in Heaven; may God give us the strength.

~ THOUGHTS FOR EVERY DAY ~

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

<p>~ MONDAY~ (2/1)</p> <p>Holy Scripture: Hebrews 11:17-23, 27-31 Mark 9:42-10:1</p> <p>Excerpt from the Menaion: St. Macarius the Egyptian, Troparion, Tone I — <i>A desert dweller, an angel in the flesh, and a wonderworker wast thou shown to be, O our God-bearing father Macarius, for having acquired heavenly gifts through fasting, vigilance, and prayer, thou dost heal the infirm, and the souls of those who have recourse to thee with faith. Glory to Him Who hath given thee strength! Glory to Him Who hath crowned thee! Glory to Him Who worketh healings for all through thee!</i></p>	<p>~ TUESDAY~ (2/2)</p> <p>Holy Scripture: Hebrews 13:17-21 Venerable Euthymius Luke 6:17-23 Venerable Euthymius</p> <p>Excerpt from the Menaion: St. Euthymius the Great, Troparion, Tone IV — <i>Rejoice, O desert who hast not given birth! Be of good cheer, thou who hast not felt the pangs of travail! For the man of spiritual desires hath multiplied children for thee, planting them with piety and nurturing them with abstinence unto the perfection of the virtues. By his prayers, O Christ God, bring peace to our life.</i></p> <p>Commemoration of the Day:</p>
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<p>Commemoration of the Day: Venerable Macarius the Great of Egypt (390)</p>	<p>Venerable Euthymius the Great (473)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">~ WEDNESDAY~ (2/3)</p> <p>Holy Scripture: James 1:1-18 Mark 10:11-16 Galatians 5:22-6:2 Venerable Maximus Luke 6:17-23 Venerable Maximus</p> <p>Excerpt from the Menaion: St. Maximus the Confessor, Troparion, Tone VIII — O instructor of Orthodoxy, teacher of piety and purity,/ beacon for the whole world, divinely inspired adornment of monastics./ O most wise Maximus by thy doctrines thou hast illumined all.// O harp of the Spirit, entreat Christ God that our souls be saved.</p> <p>Commemoration of the Day: Venerable Maximus the Confessor (662)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">~ THURSDAY~ (2/4)</p> <p>Holy Scripture: James 1:19-27 Mark 10:17-27</p> <p>Excerpt from the Menaion: Holy Apostle Timothy, Troparion, Tone IV — Having learned goodness and been watchful in all things, arrayed as befitteth a priest, in a good conscience, thou didst draw forth ineffable things from the chosen vessel; and, having kept the Faith, thou didst complete a course like unto his. O Apostle Timothy, entreat Christ God, that our souls be saved.</p> <p>Commemoration of the Day: Apostle Timothy of the Seventy (ca. 96)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">~ FRIDAY~ (2/5)</p> <p>Holy Scripture: James 2:1-13 Mark 10:23-32</p> <p>Excerpt from the Menaion: Hieromartyr Clement, Bishop of Ancyra, Troparion, Tone IV — Thou hast been given to the faithful, O most sacred one, as a branch of holiness and a stem of struggle, a most sacred flower and divinely bestowed and everblossoming fruit. As a fellow sufferer of the martyrs and a fellow-prelate of hierarchs, entreat Christ God, that our souls be saved.</p> <p>Commemoration of the Day: Hieromartyr Clement, bishop of Ancyra, and Martyr Agathangelus (296)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">~ SATURDAY ~ (2/6)</p> <p>Holy Scripture: Colossians 1:3-6 Luke 16:10-15 Galatians 5:22-6:2 Venerable Xenia Luke 6:17-23 Venerable Xenia</p> <p>Excerpt from the Menaion: St. Xenia, Troparion, Tone VIII — In thee, O mother, that which was created according to the image of God was manifestly saved./ For accepting thy cross thou didst follow after Christ,/ and praying thou didst learn to disdain the flesh,/ for thou didst transcend it to take care of thine immortal soul.// Wherefore, with the angels doth thy soul rejoice, O venerable Xenia.</p> <p>Commemoration of the Day: Venerable Xenia of Rome and her two female slaves (5th c.).</p>

	St. Xenia of Petersburg, fool-for-Christ (18th c.)
<p style="text-align: center;">~ SUNDAY ~ (2/7)</p> <p>Holy Scripture: 1 Timothy 1:15-17 Luke 18:35-43 Romans 8:28-39 Martyrs Luke 21:8-19 Martyrs</p> <p>Excerpt from the Menaion : 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!</p> <p>Commemoration of the Day: New Martyrs and Confessors of Russian Church</p>	<p><i>“Their sound hath gone forth into all the earth, their words unto the ends of the world.”</i></p> <p>[Prokeimenon of Pentecost, Tone 8, Liturgy]</p> <p>To read more: https://www.holytrinityorthodox.com/calendar/</p>

~ PONDER THIS ~

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

New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2021/01/24/205310-new-martyrs-and-confessors-of-russia>

On the Sunday closest to January 25, the Church commemorates the Synaxis of the Holy New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia, remembering all those Orthodox Christians who suffered for Christ at the hands of the godless Soviets during the years of persecution. These include the royal Passion Bearers Tsar Nicholas II and his family, and the Grand Duchess Elizabeth. Countless thousands of martyrs, both clergy and laity also suffered, some of whose names are known, as well as millions of simple believers whose names have been lost to history.

It is estimated that the number of the New Martyrs of Russia, who were glorified by the Russian Orthodox Church at the Jubilee Council of 2000, far exceeds that of all the martyrs who died for Christ during the first three centuries of Christianity. The Russian Church lost millions of its sons and daughters, not only at the hands of external enemies, but also those of their own country. Among those who were murdered and tortured in the years of persecution were countless Orthodox: laity, monks, priests, and bishops, whose only “crime” was their unshakable faith in God.

In the long history of the world, never have so many new heavenly intercessors been glorified by the Church in such a way (more than one thousand New Martyrs were numbered among the saints). Among those who suffered for their faith were some who labored in America before the Russian Revolution: St. Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia (April 7); St. Alexander Hotovitzky (Dec. 4); St. John Kochurov (Oct. 31).

~LOOK IT UP~

Did you know: Three candles appeared over the grave of Saint Maximus and burned miraculously. This was a sign that Saint Maximus was a beacon of Orthodoxy during his lifetime, and continues to shine forth as an example of virtue for all. Many healings occurred at his tomb.

Read more:

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2021/01/21/100249-venerable-maximus-the-confessor>

~ PRAYER CORNER ~

- Father John and Matushka Deborah.
- Please keep in prayer our older parishioners who, if they contract the COVID-19 virus, will be in greater risk of serious health complications.
- Anna and her family
- 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.

