

September 7th, 2025
13th Sunday after Pentecost - Tone 4
Forefeast of the Nativity of the Mother of God

Scripture Readings

1 Corinthians 16:13-24 (Epistle)

Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. Let all that you do be done with love. I urge you, brethren – you know the household of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to the ministry of the saints – that you also submit to such, and to everyone who works and labors with us. I am glad about the coming of Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus, for what was lacking on your part they supplied. For they refreshed my spirit and yours. Therefore acknowledge such men. The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house. All the brethren greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. The salutation with my own hand – Paul's. If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. O Lord, come! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Matthew 21:33-42 (Gospel)

Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit. And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them. Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.' So they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him. Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers?' They said to Him, 'He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons.' Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?'

Many Years!

anniversaries

2nd - Austin & Tori Jackson
6th - Victor & Terri Volosin
23rd - Rick & Shirley Sandbothe

birthdays

5th - Linda Deak
12th - Ken Denson
13th - Doreen Himelrick
14th - Cassandra Head
17th - Trevor Hendrix
20th - Noah Scott
22nd - Bill Stevens
24th - Dave Guy
29th - Michael Mikita
29th - Bodie Glover
29th - Eilidh Robinson

Calendar

Church School Begins
Following Liturgy Today!

Slavic Fest Prep Begins
Following Coffee Hour Today!

Special Services This Week
Nativity of the Theotokos ☩

☩ September 7th Great Vespers
— Tonight 6:30p (Nativity of
the Theotokos)

☩ September 8th Divine Liturgy
— Monday 8:00a (Nativity of
the Theotokos)

September 10th Moleben
Followed by Adult Study
— Wednesday 6:30p

September 13th Great Vespers
— Saturday 6:30p

September 14th Divine Liturgy
— Sunday 9:30a

Sanctify those who love the beauty of Thy House!

The liturgy is, before everything else, the joyous gathering of those who are to meet the risen Lord and to enter with him into the bridal chamber. And it is this joy of expectation and this expectation of joy that are expressed in singing and ritual, in vestments and in censuring, in that whole 'beauty' of the liturgy which has so often been denounced as unnecessary and even sinful. Unnecessary it is indeed, for we are beyond the categories of the 'necessary.' Beauty is never 'necessary,' 'functional' or 'useful.' And when, expecting someone whom we love, we put a beautiful tablecloth on the table and decorate it with candles and flowers, we do all this not out of necessity, but out of love. And the Church is love, expectation and joy. It is heaven on earth... it is the air of the 'New Day,' the day of his coming when we shall be with him forever. —Alexander Schmemmann, *For the Life of the World*

At a recent church fellowship, the priest remarked that the beauty of Orthodox worship saves us. To Reformed ears, trained to value minimalism and to recoil from anything that appears "Catholic," such a claim may sound scandalous—an undue emphasis on outward forms, seemingly directed toward human pleasure rather than God's truth. Yet this perception misunderstands the Orthodox vision, in which beauty is never an end in itself but a theophany—a revelation of God's presence that draws the soul to truth.

The 10th-century conversion of Prince Vladimir of Kievan Rus' is tied to the overwhelming beauty of Orthodox worship. His envoys, sent to observe various faiths, reported back from Hagia Sophia: "We knew not whether we were in heaven or on earth. For on earth there is no such splendor or such beauty, and we are at a loss how to describe it. We only know that God dwells there among men." This encounter with liturgical beauty inclined their souls toward embracing Orthodox Christianity, illustrating how aesthetic experience can open the heart to faith and salvation.

St. Gregory of Nyssa, a 4th-century Church Father, linked beauty to wonder and humility, suggesting it expands the soul and brings it to its knees in awe, facilitating a transformative encounter with God that aligns with salvation.

The defense of icons in the 8th century by St. John of Damascus also underscores this, arguing that visual beauty in sacred images honors the incarnate Christ and aids in contemplation, elevating the soul toward divine realities.

Inspired by Alexander Schmemmann, Orthodox author Timothy Patitsas (in *The Ethics of Beauty*) asserts that beauty heals trauma, reorients the passions, and integrates the person for fuller participation in the sacraments and communal life.

These examples affirm that beauty isn't salvific in isolation but serves as a grace-filled pathway that softens the heart, awakens desire for God, and enables more effective worship and moral striving.

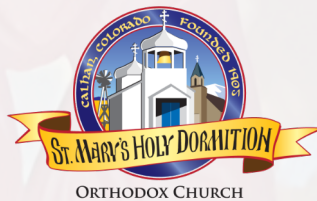
What then of our participation in this beautiful worship? If beauty draws us heavenward, it demands that we respond accordingly, as co-creators in this sacred symphony. Entering the narthex with reverence, our presence becomes a beautiful offering, setting the tone for worship. Singing with hearts aflame, our voices echo the angels, uplifting the faithful. Ornate vestments call those who serve to do so with humility and care, reflecting the heavenly banquet's splendor. This is our collective calling—to manifest beauty in our labors, honoring the incarnate Christ. By participating in God's saving beauty, we ascend deeper into communion with Him who is Beauty incarnate, deepening our repentance because Heaven has come upon us.

Troparion | Tone 4

Today from the stem of Jesse and from the loins of David, the handmaid of God Mary is being born for us. Therefore all creation is renewed and rejoices! Heaven and earth rejoice together. Praise her, you families of nations, for Joachim rejoices and Anna celebrates crying out: "The barren one gives birth to the Theotokos, the Nourisher of our life!"

Kontakion | Tone 3

Today the Virgin Theotokos Mary the bridal chamber of the Heavenly Bridegroom by the will of God is born of a barren woman, being prepared as the chariot of God the Word. She was fore-ordained for this, since she is the divine gate and the true Mother of Life.



Prayer List

living

Clergy: Met. Tikhon, Abp. Benjamin, Bp. Vasily, Fr. Andreas, Fr. Anthony, Fr. Zechariah, Fr. Dennis, Fr. Silouan, Mother Cassiana

Community: Diane, Bourg Family, Betty, Muriel, Child Gerhard & Meryl, Harold, Tammy, Litsa, Lilliana, Carl, Christina, Lindy, John, Alicia, Patricia, Danny, Jerry, Roberta, Wendy, Judy, Michael, Jill, Beverly, Infant Dominic, Joseph, Jackie Joan, Trisha, Lee, Carol, Ethan, infant AdaLynn, Nauvlet, Leilah, Austin, Brian, Josh, Mother Magdalena, Kodiak, Miriham, Cheri, infant Gus, April, Madalyn, McKenzie, MaKiya, Hannah, Haylee, Keith, Samantha, Christina, Jake, Jetlyn, Lauren, Bob, Georgianna, Clint, Murl, Carolyn, Millie, child Charlotte, Cathy, Michael.

Those with child: Libbie

Those who are confined: Ethen, Casey, Basil, Mark, Hannah, Theodore

departed

Bob Selle, Brian Molner, Avier Cruz

Commemorations

Martyr Sozón of Cilicia (ca. 304). St. John the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Novgorod (1186). Ven. Serapion of Spaso-Eleazar Monastery (Pskov—1481). Martyrdom of St. Makáry, Archimandrite of Kanev (Pereyaslavl—1678). Apostles Evodia (Euodias) and Onesiphorus of the Seventy (66). Martyr Eupychius of Caesarea in Cappadocia (2nd c.). Venerable Luke, Abbot of Batheos Ryako (10th c.). Ven. Cloud (Clodoald), Abbot, founder of Nogent-sur-Seine near Paris (560). Venerable Cassiani the Hymnographer.

Coffee Hour

A heartfelt thank you to Terri and Millie who sponsored last week's coffee hour - Many Years! Today's Coffee Hour is provided by Butch, Helen, Harold and Dee. Please join us in the hall across the street for a time of fellowship and a light meal. If you would like to sign up to sponsor a coffee hour, please use the form in the parish hall to select a date and sign up.

September 14th
—Kelly Glover

September 21st
—AVAILABLE

September 28th
—Linda & Colleen Hendrix

September 28th
—Linda & Colleen Hendrix

October 5th
—AVAILABLE

October 12th
—Slavic Fest!