



October 19th, 2025

19th Sunday after Pentecost (4th of Luke) - Tone 2
Prophet Joel, Martyr Varus, and with him six Monk Martyrs

Scripture Readings

2 Corinthians 11:31-12:9 (Epistle 194)

The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying. In Damascus the governor, under Aretas the king, was guarding the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desiring to arrest me; but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped from his hands. It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord: I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago – whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows – such a one was caught up to the third heaven. And I know such a man – whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows – how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. Of such a one I will boast; yet of myself I will not boast, except in my infirmities. For though I might desire to boast, I will not be a fool; for I will speak the truth. But I refrain, lest anyone should think of me above what he sees me to be or hears from me. And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Luke 8:5-15 (Gospel 35)

“A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was trampled down, and the birds of the air devoured it. Some fell on rock; and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it. But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold.” When He had said these things He cried, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear!” Then His disciples asked Him, saying, “What does this parable mean?” And He said, “To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is given in parables, that ‘Seeing they may not see, And hearing they may not understand.’ Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity. But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.

Many Years!

anniversaries

12th - Steven & Sarah Dumler
16th - Kevin & Brandy Buchner
21st - Dan & Vickie Tipton

birthdays

2nd - Daryl Mikita
3rd - Michael Hlatki
8th - Rita Evanoika
11th - Fr. Stephen Osburn
13th - Theo Nelson
22nd - Luke Fischer
25th - Brady Billmire
27th - Brody Burnside
29th - Steven Dumler

Calendar

October 22nd Moleben
Followed by Adult Study

October 25th Great Vespers
— Saturday 6:30p

October 26th Divine Liturgy
— Sunday 9:30a

Wisdom

“Some, without fulfilling the commandments, think that they possess true faith. Others, fulfilling them, expect the kingdom as a reward owed to them. Both are mistaken. Faith without works is dead, as the Apostle says (James 2:26), and works without the humility of faith are empty. The kingdom is given to those who, in poverty of spirit, seek it with a heart purified by love and obedience to God.”

—St. Mark the Ascetic

Prophet Joel

The Prophet Joel (800 B.C.) predicted the desolation of Jerusalem. He also prophesied that the Holy Spirit would be poured out upon all people, through the Savior of the world (Joel 2:28-32).

The hymnographer Anatolius links Joel's prophecy to the Nativity of the Lord. In the Praises at Matins on the Sunday following the Nativity, he refers to Joel 2:30, saying that the blood refers to the Incarnation, the fire to the Divinity, and the pillars of smoke to the Holy Spirit.

Martyr Varus, and seven Monastic Martyrs with him

Martyr Varus lived in Egypt during the period of several persecutions against Christians (late third to early fourth century). Varus (Ouaros) was a military commander and secretly a Christian. He gave assistance to many of the persecuted and imprisoned Christians, and he visited the prisoners at night. He also brought food to the prisoners, dressed their wounds, and gave them encouragement.

Once Varus spent a whole night talking with seven imprisoned monks. These men were Christian teachers who had been beaten and starved. Varus marched with the teachers when they were led to their execution. The judge, seeing Varus' strong faith, had him fiercely beaten. Varus died during the beating. After his death, the monks were beheaded.

St. Theophylact of Ochrid (*Explanation today's Gospel*)

"The parable teaches us that the word of God is always fruitful, but our response determines its harvest. The wayside, the rock, the thorns—they all receive the seed, yet fail to produce. Only the good soil, prepared by repentance and humility, yields fruit thirty, sixty, or a hundredfold. Let us till our hearts with prayer and good works to receive the divine seed." —St. Theophylact

St. Theophylact stresses the transformative power of the Gospel when received with a repentant and humble heart, calling for active spiritual effort. These reflections from the Church Fathers emphasize the universal call of the Gospel and the personal responsibility to cultivate a heart receptive to God's Word.

The Parable of the Sower challenges us to examine our spiritual state, remove obstacles like worldly cares or superficial faith, and strive to be "good soil" that yields abundant fruit through patience, repentance, and devotion. As Jesus explains, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear" (Luke 8:8).

May we heed this call and live fruitfully in Christ!

Troparion | Tone 2 (*Ressurrection*)

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!"

Troparion | Tone 2 (*Prophet Joel*)

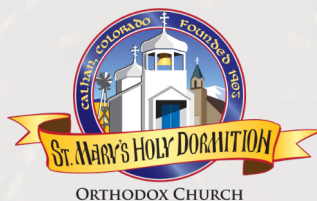
We celebrate the memory of Thy prophet Joel, O Lord; through him we beseech You: "Save our souls!"

Kontakion | Tone 2 (*Ressurrection*)

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, my Savior, praises Thee forever.

Kontakion | Tone 2 (*St. Varus*)

Following Christ, O Martyr Varus, thou didst drink of His chalice; thou didst receive the crown of martyrdom and now rejoicest with the Angels. Pray for our souls unceasingly!



Prayer List

living

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

Toni Dell, Tyler, David, Victor, Kyla, Emily, Tony, 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, Makenzie, 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

Commemorations

Prophet Joel, Martyr Varus and seven Monastic Martyrs with him, Translation of the relics of Venerable John Abbot of Rila Bulgaria, Blessed Cleopatra with her son John in Egypt, Hieromartyr Sadoc (Sadoth) Bishop of Persia and 128 Martyrs with him

Coffee Hour

Thank you to all who so tirelessly gave of their time and talents to make this year's Slavic Fest a success, Many Years! Today's Coffee Hour is provided by Jennifer Pinnell. 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.

October 26th
—Bob and Jen

November 2nd
—AVAILABLE

November 9th
—AVAILABLE

November 16th
—AVAILABLE

November 23rd
—AVAILABLE

Adult Study Book

We've received several inquiries about where to find the book for our Wednesday Adult Study Class. This book, along with other great resources, is available on the OCA website. Visit the link below and download the title:

Essential Christian Beliefs

www.oca.org/orthodoxy