

THE MANTLE

Saint Michael's Orthodox Church

7313 N. Waukegan Road Niles, Illinois 60714-4321

August 13, 2017

*Leave-taking of the Transfiguration of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
10th Sunday after Pentecost*

Very Rev. Protopresbyter Samuel J. Sherry, Pastor ~ E-mail: FrSam@juno.com
Rev. Deacon Peter E. Sodini

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Schedule of Events

Today:

- 9:00 A.M. *Confessions heard by appointment!*
- 10:00 A.M. **Divine Liturgy begins!**

Panachida for God's Departed Servants:

Parents **Michael and Martha Pavlik**
on their 101st Wedding Anniversary (8/13) offered by
Nicholas Pavlik, Helen Janowiak and her family

Sister **Ann Kochevar**
on her Birthday (8/13) offered by Nicholas Pavlik,
Helen Janowiak and her family

Dear friend **Mary Thelma Davis**
on the first anniversary of her repose (7/6)
offered by Helen Janowiak and her family

Dear friend **Mary Suga Parry**
on the first anniversary of her repose (8/13) offered by
Nicholas Pavlik, Helen Janowiak and her family

- The Coffee Social will be held and is sponsored by **David and Monika Waligora**. All of our Faithful and Guests are invited to attend and join in fellowship!

Tuesday Morning:

- 9:30 A.M. Holy Day Divine Liturgy commemorating the **Dormition (Falling Asleep) of the Theotokos**. *The Solemn Blessing of Flowers and Herbs will take place before the Final Blessing!*

Tuesday Evening:

- 7:00 P.M. The **Moleben to the Most Holy Theotokos** will be celebrated. *The Solemn Blessing of Flowers and Herbs will take place before the Final Blessing!*

Schedule of Events

Sunday, August 20:

- 9:00 A.M. *Confessions heard by appointment!*
- 10:00 A.M. **Divine Liturgy begins!**
- A Combined Panachida is scheduled to be served.
- A sponsor is needed for the Coffee Social to be held on August 20th!

The Easy Life?

Wouldn't it be great to spend your whole life relaxing, kicking back, eating good food, and enjoying the easy life? A happy, comfortable, pain-free life. Sounds good at first...but would it really be so good?

Today's epistle reading is a letter Saint Paul wrote to the people of Corinth. The new Christians there were getting too comfortable. They wanted an easy life, while other people did all the work! In the epistle, we hear Saint Paul telling them how easy life is for them, but how hard it is for the apostles. "For I think that God has displayed us, the apostles, last... We have been made as the filth of the world, the offscouring of all things until now." The apostles often felt like they were the lowest people in the world!

Sometimes we might hear other Christians talking about how God will give us the easy life as long as we just pray for it. But we know that life as a Christian can be hard. Just ask Saint Paul! He was hungry, hurt, lost, made fun of, put in prison, and hurt some more. Life definitely wasn't easy for him.

As Christians, we know God loves us and wants us to be happy. But let's remember that God wants to give us the joyous, comfortable, pain-free life forever... with Him in heaven!

By [Presvytera Alexandra Houck](#) in [The Children's Word](#)

Today's Epistle Reading

St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 4:9-16. Brethren, God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are ill-clad and buffeted and homeless, and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become, and are now, as the refuse of the world, the off-scouring of all things. I do not write this to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. I urge you, then, be imitators of me.

Today's Gospel Reading

Gospel Reading: Saint Matthew 17:14-23. At that time, a man came up to Jesus and kneeling before him said, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly; for often he falls into the fire, and often into the water. And I brought him to your disciples, and they could not heal him." And Jesus answered, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me." And Jesus rebuked him, and the demon came out of him, and the boy was cured instantly. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" He said to them, "Because of your little faith. For truly I say to you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you. But this kind never comes out except by prayer and fasting." As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of man is to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him, and he will be raised on the third day."

Wisdom of the Fathers

Here Christ is not speaking of that faith which believes in Him undoubtingly and knows Him to be true God, but of the faith (needed) to work miracles. If you have faith, He said, so exceedingly warm and burning as a grain of mustard seed (for these are its qualities), and if it is believed without a doubt that you will perform signs, then you will receive such power, that if you desire to move the very mountains, you will move them.

St. John Chrysostom

Saints and Feasts

Maximus the Confessor. The divine Maximus, who was from Constantinople, sprang from an illustrious family. He was a lover of wisdom and an eminent theologian. At first, he was the chief private secretary of the Emperor Heraclius and his grandson Constans. But when the Monothelite heresy became predominant in the royal court, out of hatred for this error the Saint departed for the Monastery at Chrysopolis (Scutari), of which he later became the abbot. When Constans tried to constrain him either to accept the Monothelite teaching, or to stop speaking and writing against it - neither of which the Saint accepted to do - his tongue was uprooted and his right hand was cut off, and he was sent into exile, where he reposed in 662. At the time only he and his few disciples were Orthodox in the East.

Our Righteous Fathers Sergius, Stephanus, Castor and Palamonus

Dorotheus, Abba of Gaza. Saint Dorotheos was born in Antioch, Syria, in the year 506 or 508 A.D. He began his education very early in life and profited from the social status of his parents. He received a classical education in the Greco-Roman world, which included medical studies, thus allowing him to work as a physician. Despite his great mind, Dorotheos yearned for a life of seclusion in the monastery. He inquired through letters with the holy men Barsanuphius and John (see February 6th) as how to begin the process towards monasticism. Many of these letters exist to this day and provide insight to the life of Dorotheos and his relationship with his mentors. Dorotheos entered the monastery of Thawatha where Barsanuphius and John lived. His quick mind and advanced education made life in the monastery difficult as he struggled with social encounters and even challenged his abbot when he knew of better ways to run the monastery. This struggle against pride lasted a great while and served as an ongoing lesson for Dorotheos. He worked as assistant to the holy father John and enjoyed this position of communication between John and the rest of the community. As he progressed in the spiritual life, Dorotheos was given spiritual charge over younger monks to which he was hesitant to accept as he struggled with interactions with others. Despite his reservations, Dorotheos took charge over a young man named Dositheos and taught him the monastic life, a relationship which proved to be difficult but beneficial for both. When John died, Dorotheos left the monastery of Thawatha and founded his own monastery where he took charge of many young monks, training them in the spiritual art.

Saints and Feasts

Tikhon of Zadonsk. Saint Tikhon of Zadonsk was born in 1724 into a very poor family of the Novgorod province, and was named Timothy in holy Baptism. In his youth he was sent to seminary in Novgorod where he received a good education and later taught Greek and other subjects. Having received the monastic tonsure with the name Tikhon, in the same year he was ordained deacon and priest, and appointed two years later as rector of the Seminary in Tver. In 1761 he was consecrated Bishop of Kexholm and Ladoga, and in 1763 nominated Bishop of Voronezh, a difficult diocese to administer because of its large size and transient population, which included many schismatics. Feeling the burden of the episcopacy to be beyond his strength, the Saint resigned in 1767, retiring first to the Monastery of Tolshevo, and later to the monastery at Zadonsk, where he remained until his blessed repose. In retirement, he devoted all his time to fervent prayer and the writing of books. His treasury of books earned him the title of "the Russian Chrysostom", whose writings he employed extensively; simple in style, replete with quotes from the Holy Scriptures, they treat mostly of the duties of Christians, with many parables taken from daily life. In them the Christian is taught how to oppose the passions and cultivate the virtues. A large collection of the Saint's letters are included in his works, and these give a wealth of spiritual guidance directed both to the laity and monastics. Saint Tikhon reposed in peace in 1783, at the age of fifty-nine. Over sixty years later, in 1845, when a new church was built in Zadonsk in place of the church where he was buried, it was necessary to remove his body. Although interred in a damp place, his relics were found to be whole and incorrupt; even his vestments were untouched by decay. Many miracles were worked by Saint Tikhon after his death, and some three hundred thousand pilgrims attended his glorification on August 13, 1863. He is one of the most beloved Russian Saints, and is invoked particularly for the protection and upbringing of children.

Walk for Wishes

Steve Smandra will once again join a Make-a-Wish 5K Team participating in the Walk for Wishes on Saturday, August 26th in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He would appreciate any support for this fundraising effort to enable courageous and deserving children to experience their wish. Checks should be made payable to "Make-a-Wish Wisconsin". Please give your donation directly to Steve.

Save the Date: Please plan to attend the **Archon Presentation on Religious Freedom** here at Saint Michael's Church on Sunday, September 24th, following the Divine Liturgy. There will be a light luncheon, followed by a slide presentation by the Midwest Regional Commanders. All of the Midwest Archons have been invited to attend and be guests of our beautiful church. Contact our Archon Wes Stinich for further information.

Thanks and Appreciation

Helen Janowiak expresses her appreciation for the many kind birthday greetings and for the prayers of Saint Michael's parish family. Thank you to Helen for her \$90 donation to Saint Michael's Church in honor of her 90th Birthday.

Vigil Candles at the Iconostas Today

In Loving Memory of **Lawrence Zydowsky**
(8/23/12) offered by Children & Grandchildren

In Loving Memory of **Joseph Zydowsky**
in Remembrance of his Birthday (8/23/15)
offered by Niece Kathleen Holyk & Family

In Memory of Parents **Michael and Martha Pavlik**
on their 101st Wedding Anniversary (8/13) offered by
Nicholas Pavlik, Helen Janowiak and her family

In Memory of Sister **Ann Kochevar**
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The MANTLE is sponsored by

Wesley A. Stinich, Funeral Director

Call direct 773-844-3032 or 708-222-8669
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Family Connections

Faith as a Grain of Mustard Seed
I Corinthians 4:9-16 and Matthew 17:14-2

There are two ways to live. Completely legitimately and respectably it is possible to walk on dry land: to measure, to weigh and to plan ahead. But it is also possible to walk on the waters. Then it becomes impossible to measure or to plan ahead, the one thing necessary is to believe all the time. An instant of doubt, and you begin to sink.

—St. Maria of Paris

EXPLORE TOGETHER:

Media Fast—Many of us are constantly attached to our smartphones, computers, and tablets—we're constantly 'connected.' And, certainly, these devices

enable efficient access to communication, information, and entertainment.

However, some level of measured use is generally a good idea. In our current society, there is an unfortunate tendency to sacrifice valuable face-to-face connections with family and friends for excessive—and isolating—'screen time.'

Just as the Church prescribes fasting as a self-denying way to grow closer to God, propose for your family to occasionally 'fast' from electronics to be with one another. Use the time for indoor or outdoor activities that encourage healthy socializing and recreation. The duration of the technology break can be as short or long as you choose. Just make the objective clear and only allow for truly demanding circumstances to suspend the activity. When the break is over, discuss how it went. For instance, ask your teenager if it was difficult to stay off of social media...or your grade-schooler if the pause from video games was rough. Consider how a 'fast' of this type could become a more regular practice in an effort to initiate overall healthier habits of technology consumption in the home—ones that prioritize personal connections over electronic ones.

**Before church next week, read the scripture passages for the
11th Sunday of Matthew
I Corinthians 9:2-12 and Matthew 18:23-35**

FOR MORE INFORMATION FOR COUPLES AND FAMILIES, VISIT:



Center for Family Care of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America
www.family.goarch.org