***ASSUMPTION OF THE VIRGIN MARY UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH***

***ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE OF CONSTANTINOPLE AND NEW ROME***

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**Sun. 03 Oct. FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. TONE 6. AFTERFEAST of the EXALTATION of the CROSS. Great Martyr EUSTATHIUS, his wife, the Martyr THEOPISTES & their children, AGAPIUS & THEOPISTUS of Rome (118). Holy Martyr & Confessor MICHAEL and councilor THEODORE, wonderworkers of Chernihiv (1245). St. Oleg, Prince of Bryansk(1285)**

**2 Corinthians 4:6-15 Matthew 22:35-46**

**Galatians 2:16-20 Mark 8:34-9:1**

**Liturgical Meneion & Scripture Readings**

**Mon. 04 Oct.** Apostle Quadratus of the Seventy (130).

**Gal. 4:28–5:10 Lk. 3:19-22**

**Tue. 05 Oct.** Prophet Jonah (9th c. B.C.). Hieromartyr Phocas, bishop of Sinope (117).

**Gal. 5:11-21 Lk. 3:23-4:1**

**Wed. 06 Oct. The Conception of the Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John.**

**Gal. 6:2-10 Lk. 4:1–15**

**Thu. 07 Oct.** Holy Protomartyr and Equal-to-the-Apostles Thecla of Iconium (1st c.).

**Eph. 1:1-9 Lk. 4:16-22**

**Fri. 08 Oct.** Ven. Euphrosyne, nun, of Alexandria (445).

**Eph. 1:7-17 Lk. 4:22-30**

**Sat. 09 Oct. Repose of the Holy Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian.**

**1 Jn. 4:12–19 Jn. 19:25-27; 21:24-25**

***5:00 PM Great Vespers.***

**Sun. 10 Oct. *9:00 AM Divine Liturgy.***

**Great Martyr Eustathius** (before his Baptism - Plakidas). He was a Roman General in the reigns of Emperors Titus (79-81) and Trajan (98-117). Even before he came to know Christ, Plakidas devoted himself to charitable endeavors, helping the poor and destitute. Therefore, the Lord did not allow this virtuous pagan to continue in the darkness of idolatry. One day, while hunting in a forest, he saw a remarkable stag which stopped now and then to stare at him. Plakidas pursued it on horseback, but could not catch up. The stag jumped over a chasm and stood on the other side facing him. Suddenly, Plakidas saw a radiant Cross between its antlers. The General was astonished to hear a voice coming from the Cross saying, “Why do you pursue me, Plakidas?”

“Who are You, Master?” asked Plakidas. The voice replied, “I am Jesus Christ, Whom you do not know, but by your good deeds, you honor me. I have appeared here on this creature for your sake, to draw you into the net of my love for mankind. It is not fitting that one as righteous as you should worship idols and remain ignorant of the truth. It was to save mankind that I came into the world.”

Plakidas cried out, “Lord, I believe that You are the God of Heaven and earth, the Creator of all things. Master, teach me what I should do.” Again the Lord replied, “Go to the bishop of your country and receive Baptism from him, and he will instruct you.”

Plakidas returned home and joyfully recounted everything to his wife Theopistes. She in turn told him of a strange dream she had the evening before, in which she had been told, “Tomorrow you, your husband and your sons shall come to me and know that I am the true God.” The couple then proceeded to do as they had been told.

They hastened to the Christian bishop, who baptized all their family, and then communed them with the Holy Mysteries. Plakidas was renamed Eustathius, his wife was called Theopistes, and their children, Agapius and Theopistus.

On the following day, Saint Eustathius went to the place of his miraculous conversion and there he gave thanks to the Lord for having called him to the path of salvation.

Saint Eustathius received another a miraculous revelation. The Lord Himself predicted his impending tribulations: “Eustathius, you shall suffer many misfortunes, as did Job, but in the end you will conquer the devil.”

Soon Saint Eustathius was afflicted with misfortune: all of his servants died of the plague, and his cattle perished. Brought to ruin, but not despairing in spirit, Saint Eustáthios and his family secretly abandoned their home, to live in poverty unknown, humble, and poor.

They went to Egypt to board a ship bound for Jerusalem. During the voyage the Saint experienced more sorrow. Captivated by Theopistes’ beauty, the ship owner cruelly set Eustáthios and his children ashore, keeping the wife for himself.

With great sadness the Saint continued on his way, and new calamity befell him. Coming to a tempestuous river, he went to carry his two sons across in turn. When he brought the first one across, the other was seized by a lion and was carried off into the wilderness. As he turned back to shore, a wolf dragged the other child into the forest.

Saint Eustathius wept bitterly, but he realized that Divine Providence had sent him these misfortunes in order to test his endurance and devotion to God. Saint Eustáthios prepared himself for even more sorrows, knowing that one who endures temptations and has been tested will receive the crown of life which God has promised to those who love Him (James 1:12).

In the village of Badessos he found work and spent five years in ceaseless toil. Saint Eustáthios did not know at the time that by God's mercy, shepherds and farmers had rescued his sons, and they were living near him. He was also unaware that the impudent shipowner had been struck down with a terrible disease and died, leaving Saint Theopistes untouched. She lived in peace and freedom at the place where the ship landed.

During this time it had become difficult for Emperor Trajan to raise an army for Rome to deal with a rebellion, for the soldiers refused to go into battle without Plakidas. They advised Trajan to send men out to all the cities to search for him.

Antiochos and Akakios, who were friends of Plakidas, sought him in various places. Finally, they arrived in the village where Saint Eustáthios lived. The soldiers found him, but they did not recognize him. They began telling him about the person they sought, asking for his help and promising him a large reward. Saint Eustathius recognized his friends right away, but he did not disclose his identity to them.

Borrowing money from one of his friends, he prepared a meal for his visitors. As they looked at him, they noticed that he resembled their former commander. When they saw a scar on his shoulder from a deep wound made by a sword, they realized that it was their friend who stood before them. They embraced him with tears and told him why they had been looking for him.

Saint Eustáthios returned to Rome with them and was restored to his former rank. Many new recruits were drafted into the army from all over the Empire. He did not know that the two young soldiers who served him, and whom he loved for their skill and daring, were actually his own sons. They did not realize that they were serving under the command of their own father, nor that they were brothers by birth.

While on campaign, the army led by Eustathius halted at a certain place. One night, the brothers were talking in their tent. The elder spoke about his life, how he had lost his mother and brother, and how he had been parted from his father. The younger brother then realized that the other man was his own brother, and revealed how he had been rescued from the wolf.

A woman overheard their conversation, since their tent was pitched right next to her house, and she realized that these were her sons. Without identifying herself to them, but not wishing to be separated from them, she went to their general, Saint Eustathius, and asked that he take her to Rome with him. She said she had been a prisoner, and wanted to go home. Then she came to recognize the general as her husband, and with tears she told him about herself, and about the two soldiers who were their sons. Thus, through God's great mercy, the entire family was reunited.

Soon thereafter, the rebellion was crushed, and Saint Eustathius returned to Rome with honor and glory. Emperor Trajan had died in the meantime, and his successor Hadrian (117-138) wanted to celebrate the victory with a solemn sacrifice to their "gods." To everyone's amazement, Saint Eustathius did not go to the pagan temple. The Emperor ordered them to find him and bring him to the temple.

“Why don’t you want to worship the gods?” the Emperor inquired. “You, above all others, should offer thanks to them. Not only did they preserve you in war and grant you victory, but they also helped you to find your wife and children.” Saint Eustáthios replied: “I am a Christian and I glorify and give thanks to Christ, and I offer sacrifice to Him. I owe my life to Him. I do not know or believe in any other God.”

Outraged, the Emperor ordered him to remove his military belt and brought Eustathius and his family before him. They did not succeed in persuading the steadfast confessors of Christ to offer sacrifice to idols. The Saint's family was sentenced to be torn to pieces by wild beasts, but the animals would not touch the holy martyrs.

Then the cruel Emperor ordered that they be thrown alive into a red-hot brass bull, and Saint Eustathius, his wife Theopistes, and their sons Agapius and Theopistus suffered martyrdom.

Three days later, they opened the brass bull, and the bodies of the holy martyrs were found unscathed. Not one hair of their heads was singed, and their faces shone with an unearthly beauty. Many who witnessed this miracle came to believe in Christ.

**PROPERS FOR THE LITURGY ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM**

**Tropar of the Resurrection, Tone 6**

The angelic powers were at Your tomb. The guards became as dead men. Mary stood by Your grave seeking Your Most Pure Body. You captured Hell, not being tempted by it. You came to the Virgin, granting Life. Lord risen from the dead, glory to You.

**Tropar to the Holy Cross, Tone 1**

O Lord, save Your people and bless Your inheritance. Grant victories to Orthodox Christians over their adversaries. And by virtue of Your Cross, preserve Your community.

**Tropar of the Dormition of the Mother of God, Tone 1**

In giving birth, you preserved your virginity. In falling asleep you did not forsake the world, Birth-Giver of God. You were translated to Life, Mother of Life, and through your prayers you deliver our souls from death.

**Tropar to the Great Martyr Eusthatius, Tone 4**

Your holy martyr Eusthatius, his wife and sons, O Lord, through their sufferings have received incorruptible crowns from You, our God. For having Your strength, they laid low their adversaries and shattered the powerless boldness of demons. Through their intercessions, save our souls.

**Tropar to St. Oleg of Bryansk, Tone 8**

In you the image was preserved with exactness, O Father, for taking up your cross, you followed after Christ. By so doing, you taught us to disregard the flesh, for it passes away, but to care instead for the soul, since it is immortal. Therefore, most Venerable Father Vasyl your spirit rejoices with the angels.

**Kondak of the Resurrection, Tone 6**

When Christ God, the Giver of Life, with His Life-giving Hand raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery. He bestowed Resurrection on the human race. He is the Savior, the Resurrection, the Life and the God of all.

**Kondak of the Holy Cross, Tone 4**

As You were voluntarily raised upon the Cross for our sake, grant mercy to those who are called by Your Name, O Christ God. Make all Orthodox Christians glad by Your power, granting them victories over their adversaries, by bestowing on them the invincible trophy, Your weapon of Peace.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.**

**Kondak to the Great Martyrs, Tone 2**

Clearly emulating the Passion of Christ, and faithfully drinking of His cup, O communicant Eustathius, you became a partaker and joint heir of His glory, receiving divine forgiveness from on high from the God of all.

**Now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.**

**Kondak of the Dormition, Tone 2**

Neither the tomb nor death had power over the Birth-Giver of God, she is ever watchful in her prayers, and in her intercession lies unfailing hope, for as the Mother of Life, she has been translated to Life, by the One Who dwelt within her ever virginal-womb.

**Prokimen of the Resurrection, Tone 7**

Exalt the Lord Our God and worship at His footstool for He is Holy.

**Verse:** The Lord reigns, let the people exult.

**Prokimen to the Saints, Tone 4**

In the saints who are in His earth the Lord has been wondrous. He has wrought all His desires in them.

**Epistles: 2 Corinthians 4:6-15 & Galatians 2:16-20**

**Alleluia Verses, Tone 1**

Remember Your congregation which You have gathered up from old.

God is our King of old. He has fashioned salvation in the midst of the earth.

The Righteous cried and the Lord heard them. He delivered them out of all their tribulations.

**Gospels: Matthew 22:35-46 & Mark 8:34-9:1**

**In place of “It is right in truth”…** Magnify my soul, the Most Precious Cross of the Lord.

**“Irmos, Tone 8”** You are the Mystical Paradise, Birth-Giver of God, in which Christ blossomed. Through Him the Life bearing Wood of the Cross was planted on the earth. Now at its exaltation, as we venerate it, we magnify you.

**Communion Hymn:** Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest. Illumine us, Lord, with the light of Your Countenance. Alleluia (3X)

**We’re back! Pierogi schedule:**  October 21, November 4, November 18, December 2, December 16. 300 dozen limit. We strongly need your help as a volunteer. For orders or volunteers please call Helen: 610-261-4575.

**Second collection is for our Metropolia Center in South Bound Brook, NJ to help to restore the property after the flood.**

**For the food banks**: We were assigned baby foods, but they also need cans of potatoes, tuna fish, canned meats, pasta, spaghetti sauce, mac & cheese.

**ANNIVERSARIES:**

**05 Oct…Keith & Yulia Rippey**

**08 Oct…Taras & Rosemarie Pypiuk**

**BIRTHDAYS:**

**06 Oct…Paul Dworakivsky**

**08 Oct…Yulia Rippey**

**MNOHAYA LITA! MANY YEARS!**

**NECROLOGY:**

**05 Oct…John Werbicky ’34, Nadia Yaremchuk ’50, Ahafia Kury ’66, Anna Seremula’94,**

**Stephen Kowalchuk ’97, John (Jimmy) Werbicky ‘08**

**06 Oct...John Korutz ‘61**

**07 Oct…Mykola Micio ‘43, Stanley Teply ’16**

**08 Oct…Helen Minnich ’89, Anna Pristash ’12**

**09 Oct…John Kryklywj ’26, Michael Sawka ‘30**

**VICHNAYA PAMYAT! MEMORY ETERNAL!**

**PRAYER FOR THE HEALTH & SALVATION OF THE AFFLICTED:** Helen Crayosky, priest Vasyl Dovgan, Stephanie Donnelly, Nicholas Alexander, Paulette Mecherly, Steve Sivulich, child Alexandria, Elizabeth Pastushenko, Halyna Kucharchuk, Joan Molnar, Bill Ketterer, Brandon and Stacy Snyder, Aaliyah Osmun, Ihor Broda, James Osmun, William Savitz, Vladimir & Emma Krasnopera, Brendan Phillips, Jessie Hnatow, Jessica Meashock, Adam Hewko, Andrew Thaxton, Susan Ferretti, Judy Albright, Rob Hewko, Daniel Kochenash, Christopher Mack, Norman Betrous, Justine Schubert.

**St. Oleg Of Bryansk.** Today, we commemorate Prince Oleg Romanovich of Bryansk, the patron saint of our parish Priest. Oleg in the Slavic language means holy or blessed. The female version is Olga. St. Oleg lived in the 13th century, was baptized Leontius. He was the grandson of the martyr, St. Mychail of Chernihiv and Novhorod and a descendant of Grand Prince Volodymyr of Kyiv. He is considered one of the saints of Volyniya. After a with Lithuania, he resigned from the throne in 1274 and became a monk, being tonsured with the name, Vasyl, at the monastery in Bryansk which be built. He fell asleep in the Lord in 1285 after years of strict ascetical practice.

Many blessed years to Father Oleg Kravchenko. Protodeacon Mikhail

**The story is told in Japan** of a priest who sought to have the great teachings printed in the Japanese language for all to read and learn. He assembled the texts, translated them into Japanese, and then traveled the length and breadth of Japan to solicit funds for the project. Occasionally he would receive a gift as large as 100 pieces of gold from wealthy donors; but mostly he received small coins from peasants. The priest expressed equal gratitude to each donor, regardless of the amount.

After ten long years of travel, the priest finally collected the funds necessary to begin the time-consuming work of printing the book. But just as the engravings were to begin, a great flood destroyed the homes of thousands of people. The priest used the money he had collected for his cherished project to help the homeless and starving victims.

The priest then began once again the task of raising the funds for his volume of the great teachings. Again he spent many years traveling throughout Japan soliciting the money needed for the printing. But when the engraving was to start the second time, a great epidemic plagued the land. The priest gave away all the money he had collected to buy medicine and food for the sick and dying.

A third time the priest set out to raise the needed funds - and 20 years later, his dream of a book of the great teachings, written in Japanese, was finally realized.

The printing blocks that produced this edition are on display in a monastery in Kyoto. The Japanese tell their children that the old priest is actually responsible for three editions of the great teachings: the first two are invisible -and far superior to the third.

All of the great teachings of the prophets, all of the great teachings of Jesus in the Gospel, are taught most eloquently and perfectly in the compassion of the human heart. If we really understand the depth of God's great love for us, if we have any sense at all of what the death and resurrection of his Son mean to us, then we cannot help but embrace his Spirit of love - love that is unconditional and selfless, love that gives joyfully and thankfully.

Years ago there was a movie called **Little Lord Fauntleroy**. It was about a seven-year-old boy who went to live with his grandfather, who was a wealthy man and had many people working under him.

The old man was basically selfish and mean. But the little boy idolized him so much that he couldn't see this. He thought his grandfather was generous and kind. Over and over he would say to him, "Grandfather! How people must love you! I bet they love you almost as much as I do."

To make a long story short, the little boy's love gradually softens the old man's heart, and he becomes the kind of person his grandson thinks him to be. This story is like a parable of Jesus. It shows how His love for us can change us and give us the power to become the kind of loving people He sees we can be!