

4th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 3. Ven. Athanasius, Founder of the Great Lavra and Cœnobitic Monasticism on Mt. Athos, and his six disciples (1000). Uncovering of the Relics of Ven. Sergius (Sérgii) of Rádonezh (1422). Martyr Anna at Rome (304) and Martyr Cyrilla, of Cyrene in Libya, a widow (304). Ven. Lampados of Irenopolis (10th c.). Hieromartyr Cyprian of Mt. Athos (1679).

Romans 6:18-23

Matthew 8:5-13

"We who in a mystery represent the Cherubim..."

What enigmatic words are sung at the Liturgy! Who can hear them unmoved? Think; in a mystery we represent the Cherubim! Is it not for like to represent like? This means that in each one of us there is something similar to the Cherubim, who, like conscience, is a many-eyed angel of God...

Our spirit has a cherubic core, an angelic nucleus of great significance. But it is buried in the secret depths and invisible to the eyes of the flesh. God has placed in man His best gift - the image of God - but this gift, this pearl of great price, lies hidden in the inmost recess of the soul...

How great man is! Made a little lower than the angels, and crowned with glory and honor (Ps. 8:6)! He has received nothing less than the power of angelic understanding, for the measure of man is the same as the measure of an angel (Rev. 21:17). Man is holy in the depths of his soul, not to be overcome by external filth but sanctified because the Lord makes him holy.

Have you heard, temple-bearers, how the diamond, the most precious of stones, is found? It is covered with a coarse crust, an extremely hard, black coating... But in the course of months or even years, the diamond cutter removes the outer crust from the stone, polishes it, and reveals the inner kernel, transparent as a dewdrop; it catches light and sparkles in the sunlight with all the colors of the rainbow. Such are human beings. Outwardly they are filthy, but inwardly they are so beautiful that when God had made man He rested from all His labors. And when man fell, God in His great love for creation did not spare His Only-begotten Son, but gave Him up, even to torment and death, in order to save the creatures He had made.

O Brethren, if you would only think how beautiful you all are! When the priest turns to you with the censor, is it not the Holy Spirit within you that he incenses and the altar of your inner temple that he wreathes with incense smoke? As in an icon the gracious power of God lies hidden beneath the paint and the boards, so behind the human body and its sinful soul the many-eyed Holy Spirit lives in the interior temple, the conscience... The Lord said truly, "The Kingdom of Heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field, the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field" (Mt 13:44). Each one's treasure is buried in the field of his soul, and anyone who finds his own hidden treasure holds his breath and abandons all his affairs in order to dig it

out. For in this lies our greatest happiness and our greatest good. In this is our eternal joy. -- *By Fr Pavel Florensky*

SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, JULY 5.....9:00am Third Hour
9:15am St. Xenia Prayers
9:003m Divine Liturgy

SUNDAY, JULY 12.....9:00am Third Hour
9:15am General Confession
9:30am Divine Liturgy

Many Years to all those celebrating during the month of July!

Birthdays: Jerry Adair, Chase Anderson, Ana Bohensky, George Bohensky, David Bryson, Fanya Clifton, Scott Czesak, Lauren Farbanish, D.Nikolai Fox, Maximos Fox, Alexandra Gakos, Nancy Gulbin, Julia Hasenecz, Amanda Kaufman, Brenden Kelly, August Kirchdoerffer, J.Michael Krill, Mark Krawchuk, Jonathan Moore, Andrew Nosal, Lauren Olszowy, Helen Prymak, Anna Romanofsky, Christina Timpani, Carol Wetmore

Anniversaries: Andrea & Gene Bohensky, Mary Ellen & Bill Cullinan, Anastasia & Victor O'Malley, Miriam & Andy Stachow

Name Days: Olga Nosal-July 11, Sandra Masklee-July 17

CHURCH OPENING- Church is open for services but with restrictions. Please contact Patty Kaufman at patriciakaufman71@gmail.com to reserve a spot for Liturgy and communion and to discuss the restrictions. Please note that there is no air conditioning in the church and, even with fans and the windows open, it is uncomfortable. Weather permitting, services may be held outdoors.

DONATIONS: Please don't forget to support the church during these summer months.

Several useful **publications** are available on the Diocesan website www.nynjoca.org. Jacobs Well, the official publication of the Diocese is there with supplemental articles. There's a link for subscribing to receive it as an email. Also, the June 2020 quarterly issue of Koinonia is there; it is the publication of the Diocesan Commission on Missions and Evangelization and has timely articles such as "When the Going Gets Tough," and an account by St Cyprian of Carthage of the plague that occurred during his lifetime.

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Diocese of New York and New Jersey

PO Box 630, Ironia, NJ 07845; 120 Dover-Chester Road, Randolph, NJ 07869

973-366-8360 / www.holytrinityrandolph.com

Very Rev. David R. Fox, Rector

(c) 201-841-7590 – fatherdavid@holytrinityrandolph.com

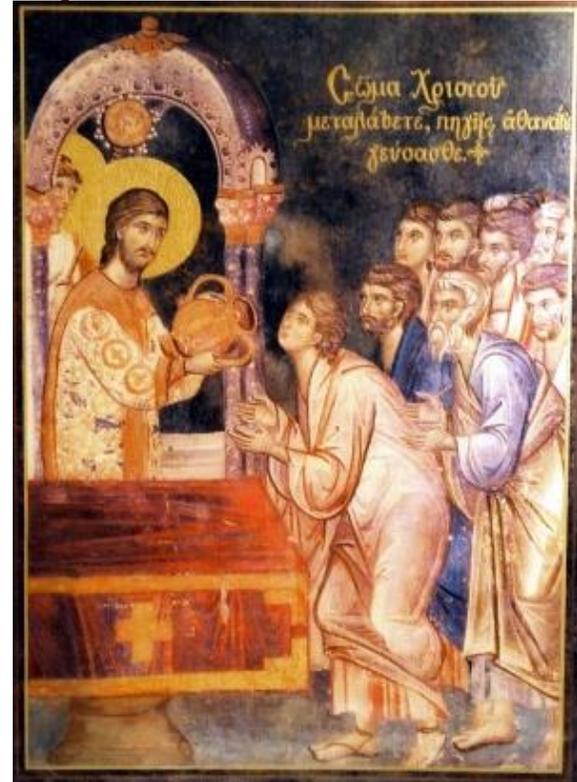
Very Rev. George Hasencz, Attached – Carol Wetmore, Choir Director

"The Most Holy Mother of God prays for us ceaselessly. She is always visiting us. Whenever we turn to her in our heart, she is there. After the Lord, she is the greatest protection for mankind. How many churches there are in the world that are dedicated to the Most Holy Mother of God! How many healing springs where people are cured of their ailments have sprung up in places where the Most Holy Theotokos appeared and blessed those springs to heal both the sick and the healthy! She is constantly, by our side, and all too often we forget her."

+ Elder Thaddeus

"Prayer is food for the soul. Do not starve the soul, it is better to let the body go hungry. Do not judge anyone, forgive everyone. Consider yourself worse than everyone in the world and you will be saved. As much as possible, be more quiet."

+ St. Joseph of Optina



Icon of the Holy Eucharist

July 5, 2020