



Weekly Bulletin

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church

A Community of the Orthodox Church in America

Witnessing to the Ancient Faith in Trumbull County for over 80 Years

Father Brian Crivella, Pastor

2021

Number 31

The Friend of the Bridegroom: "He Must Increase and I Must Decrease."

Sunday	Aug 15th	<i>8th Sun after Pntcst / Tone 7 / Dormition of The Theotokos.</i>
		Readings: Philippians 2:5-11 Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28
		9:30 am Divine Liturgy
Wednesday	Aug 18th	<i>Martyrs Florus and Laurus of Illyria</i>
		Readings: 1 Corinthians 13:4-14:5 Matthew 20:1-16
		9:30 am Divine Liturgy
		7:00 pm Molieben followed by Anointing
Saturday	Aug 21st	<i>Apostle Thaddæus of the Seventy</i>
		5:00 pm Great Vespers followed by Confessions

ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP / August 8th

Attendance: (Adults: 57, Children 16)	73
Weekly Offering	\$1730.00
Candle Offerings	\$162.00
Project Mexico	\$325.00

COVID-19 POLICY REMINDER

With the uptick in new COVID cases and concerns over the spread of new variants of the virus, we'd like to gently remind the faithful of our COVID-19 policies to make good use of hand sanitizer provided and practice good hygiene. While not mandated, masks and social distancing are still permitted if you desire, and are recommended if you are not vaccinated. If you feel ill, especially with any symptoms related to COVID, stay home until you feel better. Above all, do all things with love for your brothers and sisters, putting them first, and continue to pray for each other!

CELEBRATING GRADUATES

With summer coming to an end, our parish would like to honor and celebrate all those who have graduated from Highschool, College, or Tradeschools both this school year, and last year when restrictions in place prevented us from doing so. If you or a loved one graduated this year or last year please let Fr. Brian or Mark Malacky know.

FOCUS BACKPACKS

In addition to our charity of the month, our parish is also supporting school children through FOCUS Back to School program by filling backpacks with donated school supplies. There are 24 backpacks located at the candlestand with lists of school supplies needed by the children for us to fill. If you're interested in blessing a child in need, please consider

taking a backpack to fill and return it to the church for us to send out next week.

PRAYER CORNER + + + + +

Fr. Mark Leasure / Fr. Dcn. John Tutoki / Brother Andrew / Victor Chuka / Jeremiah Roscoe / Dana Ronyak/ Donnie & Cherie Davidson / Jennifer Brainard / Michael, Catherine, & Zoe Stan / Dana Lutz / Ellen Marie / Leslie / Joanne Kaschak / Lilian / Alice & Matthew / Magie & Kenny Sanders / Bill Paluch / Nina Lowry / Alyssa Angle / Josephine Grabko / James Livermore / Helen Skovan / Sarah Crivella / Juliana and her unborn child (Fr. Andrew's Daughter) / Our Catechumen Christopher / The Faculty, Teachers, and Students of Holy Trinity Orthodox Academy

Expecting: Juliana, Lauren Mihalyo, Matushka Carly Koranda & Their unborn Children

Memory Eternal: Joseph Laychak (7/24) Helen Skovran (8/2)

Birthdays: John DiGiacobe & Nadine Sedall (Sun), Daniel Ellis (Mon), MaryAnn Skovran (Tues), Donna Bobosh, Melania Browder & Paula Chang (Wed) Zoe Carpenter & Michelle Rinehart (Thurs), Jason Brown (Fri), & Karen Campbell (Sat)

Anniversaries: Patty & Fred DiGiacobe & Stephanie & John Zimomra (Tues)

Candle Commemorations

Theotokos	For the Health of Nadine Sedall
Altar	For Ann, John, & Kaitlyn Teachout
Christ	In Memory of Archimandrite Pitirim

The Dormition of our Most Holy Lady the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary

The circumstances of the Dormition of the Mother of God were known in the Orthodox Church from apostolic times. Already in the first century, the Hieromartyr Dionysius the Areopagite wrote about Her "Falling-Asleep."

At the time of Her blessed Falling Asleep, the Most Holy Virgin Mary was again at Jerusalem. Her fame as the Mother of God had already spread throughout the land and had aroused many of the envious and the spiteful against Her. They wanted to make attempts on Her life; but God preserved Her from enemies. Day and night She spent her time in prayer. The Most Holy Theotokos went often to the Holy Sepulchre of the Lord, and here She offered up fervent prayer. More than once, enemies of the Savior sought to hinder Her from visiting her holy place, and they asked the High Priest for a guard to watch over the Grave of the Lord. The Holy Virgin continued to pray right in front of them, yet unseen by anyone.

In one such visit to Golgotha, the Archangel Gabriel appeared to Her and announced Her approaching departure from this life to eternal life. In pledge of this, the Archangel gave Her a palm branch. With these heavenly tidings the Mother of God returned to Bethlehem with the three girls attending Her (Sepphora, Abigail, and Jael). She summoned Righteous Joseph of Arimathea and other disciples of the Lord, and told them of Her impending Repose.

The Most Holy Virgin prayed also that the Lord would have the Apostle John come to Her. The Holy Spirit transported him from Ephesus, setting him in that very place where the Mother of God lay.

The faithful, whose number by then was impossible to count, gathered together, says Saint John of Damascus, like clouds and eagles, to listen to the Mother of God. Seeing one another, the Disciples rejoiced, but in their confusion they asked each other why the Lord had gathered them together in one place. Saint John the Theologian, greeting them with tears of joy, said that the time of the Virgin's repose was at hand.

Going in to the Mother of God, they beheld Her lying upon the bed, and filled with spiritual joy. The Disciples greeted Her, and then they told her how they had been carried miraculously from their places of preaching. The Most Holy Virgin Mary glorified God, because He had heard Her prayer and fulfilled Her heart's desire, and She began speaking about Her imminent end. She called each of them to Herself by name, She blessed them and extolled them for their faith and the hardships they endured in preaching the Gospel of Christ. To each She wished eternal bliss, and prayed with them for the peace and welfare of the whole world.

Then came the third hour (9 A.M.), when the Dormition of the Mother of God was to occur. A number of candles were burning. The holy Disciples surrounded her beautifully adorned bed, offering praise to God. She prayed in anticipation of Her demise and of the arrival of Her longed-for Son and Lord. Suddenly, the inexpressible Light of Divine Glory shone forth, before which the blazing candles paled in comparison. All who saw it took fright. Descending from Heaven was Christ, the King of Glory, surrounded by hosts of Angels and Archangels and other Heavenly Powers, together with the souls of the Forefathers and the Prophets, who had prophesied in ages past concerning the Most Holy Virgin Mary.

Seeing Her Son, the Mother of God exclaimed: "My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God My Savior, for He hath regarded the low estate of His Handmaiden" (Luke 1:46-48) and, rising from Her bed to meet the Lord, She bowed down to Him, and the Lord bid Her enter into Life Eternal. Without any bodily suffering, as though in a happy sleep, the Most Holy Virgin Mary gave Her soul into the hands of Her Son and God.

Kissing the all-pure body with reverence and in awe, the Disciples in turn were blessed by it and filled with grace and spiritual joy. Through the great glorification of the Most Holy Theotokos, the almighty power of God healed the sick, who with faith and love touched the holy bed.

Bewailing their separation from the Mother of God, the Apostles prepared to bury Her all-pure body. The holy Apostles Peter, Paul, James and others of the Twelve Apostles carried the funeral bier upon their shoulders, and upon it lay the body of the Ever-Virgin Mary. Saint John the Theologian went at the head with the resplendent palm-branch from Paradise. The other saints and a multitude of the faithful accompanied the funeral bier with candles and censers, singing sacred songs. This solemn procession went from Sion through Jerusalem to the Garden of Gethsemane.

Unbelieving inhabitants of Jerusalem, taken aback by the extraordinarily grand funeral procession and vexed at the honor accorded the Mother of Jesus, complained of this to the High Priest and scribes. Burning with envy and vengefulness toward everything that reminded them of Christ, they sent out their own servants to disrupt the procession and to set the body of the Mother of God afire.

An angry crowd and soldiers set off against the Christians, but the circular cloud accompanying the procession descended and surrounded them like a wall. The pursuers heard the footsteps and the singing, but could not see any of those accompanying the procession. Indeed, many of them were struck blind.

The Jewish priest Athonios, out of spite and hatred for the Mother of Jesus of Nazareth, wanted to topple the funeral bier on which lay the body of the Most Holy Virgin Mary, but an angel of God invisibly cut off his hands, which had touched the bier. Seeing such a wonder, Athonios repented and with faith confessed the majesty of the Mother of God. He received healing and joined the crowd accompanying the body of the Mother of God, and he became a zealous follower of Christ.

When the procession reached the Garden of Gethsemane, then amidst the weeping and the wailing began the last kiss to the all-pure body. Only towards evening were the Apostles able to place it in the tomb and seal the entrance to the cave with a large stone.

For three days they did not depart from the place of burial, praying and chanting Psalms. Through the wise providence of God, the Apostle Thomas was not to be present at the burial of the Mother of God. Arriving late on the third day at Gethsemane, he lay down at the tomb and with bitter tears asked that he might be permitted to look once more upon the Mother of God and bid her farewell. The Apostles out of heartfelt pity for him decided to open the grave and permit him the comfort of venerating the holy relics of the Ever-Virgin Mary. Having opened the grave, they found in it only the grave wrappings and were thus convinced of the bodily ascent of the Most Holy Virgin Mary to Heaven.

Most Holy Theotokos Save Us!