

7 Holy Youths “Seven Sleepers” of Ephesus

The Seven Youths of Ephesus: Maximilian, Iamblicus, Martinian, John, Dionysius, Exacustodianus (Constantine) and Antoninus, lived in the third century. Saint Maximilian was the son of the Ephesus city administrator, and the other six youths were sons of illustrious citizens of Ephesus. The youths were friends from childhood, and all were in military service together.

When the emperor Decius (249-251) arrived in Ephesus, he commanded all the citizens to offer sacrifice to the pagan gods. Torture and death awaited anyone who disobeyed. The seven youths were denounced by informants, and were summoned to reply to the charges. Appearing before the emperor, the young men confessed their faith in Christ.

Their military belts and insignia were quickly taken from them. Decius permitted them to go free, however, hoping that they would change their minds while he was off on a military campaign. The youths fled from the city and hid in a cave on Mount Ochlon, where they passed their time in prayer, preparing for martyrdom.

Learning where the young men were hidden, the emperor ordered that the entrance of the cave be sealed with stones so that the saints would perish from hunger and thirst. Two of the dignitaries at the blocked entrance to the cave were secret Christians. Desiring to preserve the memory of the saints, they placed in the cave a sealed container containing two metal plaques. On them were inscribed the names of the seven youths and the details of their suffering and death.

The owner of the land on which Mount Ochlon was situated, discovered the stone construction, and his workers opened up the entrance to the cave. The Lord had kept the youths alive, and they awoke from their sleep, unaware that almost two hundred years had passed. Their bodies and clothing were completely undecayed.

Soon the emperor himself arrived in Ephesus and spoke with the young men in the cave. Then the holy youths, in sight of everyone, lay their heads upon the ground and fell asleep again, this time until the General Resurrection.

The emperor wanted to place each of the youths into a jeweled coffin, but they appeared to him in a dream and said that their bodies were to be left upon the ground in the cave. In the twelfth century the Russian pilgrim Igumen Daniel saw the holy relics of the seven youths in the cave.

There is a prayer of the Seven Sleepers of Ephesus in the *Great Book of Needs* (Trebnik) for those who are ill and cannot sleep. The Seven Sleepers are also mentioned in the service for the Church New Year, September 1.

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church

2220 Reeves Road NE

Warren, OH 44483

www.stjohnswarren.org

Friend of the Bridegroom: “He must increase, but I must decrease.” (John 3:30)



Sunday, Aug 4th, 2024

Seven Holy Sleeping Youths of Ephesus

Fr. Brian Crivella, Rector.....330-372-3895 / BrianCrivella@gmail.com

Dn. John Tutoki, Hall Coordinator 330-720-3541

Sunday, Aug 4th 6th Sun AFTR PNTCST / Tone 5 / Holy Youths of Ephesus
9:30 am Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour

Monday, Aug 5th Forefeast of Transfiguration
6:00 pm Great Vespers with Litya followed by Blessing of Fruit

Tuesday, Aug 6th Holy Transfiguration of our God and Savior Jesus Christ
ALL SERVICES AT HOLY TRANSFIGURATION MONESTARY

9:00 am Akathist

9:30 am Procession & Hierarchical Liturgy

12:00 pm Lunch

2:30 pm Holy Unction with Paraklisis

Friday, Aug 9th Saint Herman of Alaska

6:00 pm Akathist to Saint Herman of Alaska

Saturday, Aug 10th Holy Martyrs Lawrence, Sixtus, Felicissimus, & Agapitus

5:00 pm Great Vespers followed Game Night

Sunday, Aug 11th 7th Sun AFTR PNTCST / Tone 6 / Aftrfst of Transfiguration

9:30 am Youth Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour

Attendance/Stewardship July 28th

Attendance: 62 Adults and 12 children

74

Prayer Corner

Fr. Emil (Fr. Brian’s friend)	Sbdcn Joseph (Clyde)
Sarah Crivella	Anna Mae Stehnach
James & Eugene	Renee, Anna & Michael
Tracey Fedak (Daria’s Cousin)	Shawn Ferry (Fr. Bri & Cheryl’s Friend)
Patty DiGiacobbe	Barb Datish
James Livermore	Rinehart Family
William Angle	David Campbell
Azouria	Donna (Cheryl’s Friend)
Greg & John Kornmaker (Sbdcn John’s Friend)	Jeffrey Tsipis (Miklos Friend)
Claudine & Joe (Laura Miklos’ Sis & Husband)	Eleanor (Sbdcn John’s In-Law)
Daniel (Mat. Deb’s son)	George (Cheryl’s Frined)
Patty, Gayland, Casandra, Patrick, & Elizabeth (Sonya Lee’s Friends)	
The Faculty, Teachers, and Students of Holy Trinity Orthodox Academy	
The Suffering Christians in Ukraine, Russia, & the Middle East	

Newly Illumined: Tom & Abigail Kirk

Newborns: Madeline & her parents Elana & Nicholas Giannakos, Luke & his parents Kati & Andrew Sawyer

Catechumens: Lucian & Lilliana Vasil, Thomas Sacca, & Kelly, Carter, Emma, & Bennett Worley, Kayla, Alexander, & Cesar Ventura, Kayla, Donald, Elizabeth, Rebecca, Robert, Timothy, Melissa, Ian, Christopher, & William Cunningham, & Matthew Rose, & Nickie

Newly Departed: Josephine Grabko (7/13) Mat. Annice Oleynik (7/6)

Birthdays: Rebecca McVeigh (4th), Jeff Dellimuti (5th), Floyd Reed & Fr. Dcn John Tutoki (6th), Dean Fickes (7th), Mary Ann Zylka (8th), & Dale Cironi (9th)

Anniversaries: xxx

Candle Commemorations

Theotokos	For the Health of Anna Mae Stehnach
Altar	For the Health of Anna Mae Stehnach
Christ	In Memory of Archpriest Steven Bolonick

Announcements

Game Night & Youth Sunday

Due to a scheduling conflict, our Parish’s game night will be next Saturday after Great Vespers, and our Youth Sunday will be next Sunday. A sign up sheet for the children is on the candlestand!

Bulletin Prayer List

If you’d like a name placed on the bulletin prayer list, please talk to or e-mail Nina Harvey at treasurerstjohnsorthodoxchurch@gmail.com . Names will be removed every 40 days but can be placed back on if needed.

Thank you From Subdeacon Joseph

Subdeacon Joseph wants to thank everyone for their well wishes, prayers, and cards.

Church School Meeting

A meeting for next year’s Sunday School will be held next Sunday during coffee hour with Fr. Brian and Mary Neimi. Parents, teachers, and anyone interested is welcome to attend!

Parish Council Opening

Due to the moving of a council member, there is an open spot on the council. If you are interested in filling the position for the remainder of the year, please contact Fr. Brian or any member of Council.

Left Over Fish & Shrimp for Sale

There is leftover frozen fish and Shrimp from the fish fry for sale. If you’re interested please see Nina or Fr. Dcn John.

CHURCH BEAUTIFICATION

In preparation for Abp. Daniel’s visit, we will have an Iconostasis touch up/cleaning day on Friday September 27 @ 6:00 PM, and finishing up any remaining work on Saturday September 28 at 8:00 AM. The focus is reapplying liquid gold paint across the entire iconostasis and side shrines where the relics and candle boxes are, which calls for roughly 8-10 volunteers. A sign up sheet will be placed at the candle stand closer to the iconostasis touch up date.