



# FROM THE AMBON

## ST MICHAEL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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**September 22nd, 2024 13th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 4.** Hieromartyr Phocas, Bishop of Sinopè (117). Prophet Jonah (8th c. B.C.). St. Jonah the Presbyter (9th c.), father of Ss. Theophanes the Hymnographer and Theodore Graptus. Ven. Jonah, Abbot of Yashezérsk (1589-92). Martyr Phokas the Gardener, of Sinopè (ca. 320). St. Peter the Tax-collector (6th c.). "Hearer" Icon of the Mother of God.

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### **Birthdays & Anniversaries for September**

**Birthdays:** Michael Keklak (9/4); Judah Hart (9/8); Nadia Hart (9/10); Gregory Krevko (9/14); Emily Hart (9/21); Michael Jadick (9/26)

**Nameday:** Nadia/Nadezhda Macheska (9/17); Nadia/Hope Hart (9/17)

**Baptism:**

**Anniversary:** Uriel & Maura Vo (9/17); Danny & Sandy Pregmon

**Travelers:** Jason, Emily, Silas, Judah, & Hope;

**Prospora Schedule: PLEASE HELP! We have now signed up for prospora and we need families to start baking prospora at home. Please sign up. *The Church has a prospora kit if you would like to borrow it.* Thank you all for your offering "for the people by the people" and thank you to Maura & Uriel for today's offering.**

Sept 29 Marie Pasternak

**Counting: HELP! Please sign up to help us count weekly donations! We need help counting today.**

Sept 29 Tammy

**Visitors: PLEASE JOIN US DOWNSTAIRS for an Agape Meal. Thank you to everyone who donated. Please donate what you would spend for lunch at the agape meal to replenish our supplies.**

**PLEASE SING ALONG! Singing the hymns and responses to the litanies throughout the services is encouraged!**

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**DEAR GUESTS AND FRIENDS:** *A most sincere and heartfelt welcome to you from our community.*

*According to the ancient traditions of the Orthodox Church, the Sacrament of Holy Communion is to be administered only to Orthodox Christians who have prepared to receive themselves by prayer, fasting, and a recent (monthly) confession. If you have questions please ask Fr Michael! Visitors, if you did not introduce yourself to Fr Michael at Vespers, please refrain from Holy Communion.*



## Service Schedule

SAT, Sep 28th @ 5:00 PM Great Vespers

SUN, Sep 29th: Hours @ 9:10 AM Hours, 14th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST —  
Tone 5.

SAT, Oct 5th @ 5:00 PM Great Vespers

SUN, Oct 6th: Hours @ 9:10 AM Hours, 15th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 6.



## *Words of Wisdom From the Saints & Teachers*

### **Today's Readings**

**Epistles:** (166) 1 Corinthians 16:13-24 **Gospels:** (17) Luke 5:1-11

#### **EPISTLE**

Deacon: Let us attend!

Priest: Peace be unto all!

Reader: And to thy spirit.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Prokeimenon in the 4th Tone, a Psalm of David: O Lord, how manifold are Thy works, in wisdom hast Thou made them all.

Choir: O Lord, how manifold are Thy works, in wisdom hast Thou made them all.

Reader: Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my God, Thou art very great.

Choir: O Lord, how manifold are Thy works, in wisdom hast Thou made them all.

Reader: O Lord, how manifold are Thy works,

Choir: in wisdom hast Thou made them all.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the First Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Corinthians.

Deacon: Let us attend!

[(166) 1 Corinthians 16:13-24] Brethren: Be watchful, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. \* Let all that you do be done in love. \* Now, brethren, you know that the household of Stephanas were the first converts in Achaia, and they have devoted themselves to the service of the saints; \* I urge you to be subject to such men and to every fellow worker and laborer. \* I rejoice at the coming of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus, because they have made up for your absence; \* for they refreshed my spirit as well as yours. Give recognition to such men. \* The churches of Asia send greetings. Aquila and Prisca, together with the church in their house, send you hearty greetings in the Lord. \* All the brethren send greetings. Greet one another with a holy kiss. \* I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. \* If any one has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Maranatha! Our Lord, come! \* The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. \* My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Priest: Peace be unto thee, Reader.

Reader: And to thy spirit.

#### **ALLELUIA**

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Alleluia in the 4th Tone: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Reader: Go forth, prosper and reign, for the sake of truth, meekness, and righteousness.

Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Reader: For Thou lovest righteousness and dost hate iniquity.

Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

## GOSPELS

[(17) Luke 5:1-11] At that time, Jesus was standing by the lake of Gennesaret. \* And He saw two boats by the lake; but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. \* Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, He asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the people from the boat. \* And when He had ceased speaking, He said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." \* And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at Thy word I will let down the nets." \* And when they had done this, they enclosed a great shoal of fish; and as their nets were breaking, \* they beckoned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. \* But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." \* For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the catch of fish which they had taken; \* and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; henceforth thou shalt be catching men." \* And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed Him.

### Luke 5:1-3 Teaching the Crowds

**FIRST CATCH OF FISH THE CHURCH IN THE PRESENT TIME.** St AUGUSTINE: So let me recall with you those two catches of fish made by the disciples at the command of the Lord Jesus Christ: one before his passion, the other after his resurrection. These two catches of fish stand for the whole church, both as it is now and as it will be at the resurrection of the dead. Now, as you can see, it contains countless numbers, both good and bad. After the resurrection it will contain only the good, and a definite number of them.

So call to mind that first catch, where we may see the church as it is in this present time. The Lord Jesus found his disciples fishing, when he first called them to follow him. They had caught nothing all night. But when they saw him, they heard him telling them, "Let down your nets." "Master," they said, "we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." They cast them at the command of the Almighty. What else could happen, but that which he intended? But all the same, he was pleased, as I said, to indicate something to us that he knew would be to our advantage.

The nets were cast. The Lord had not yet suffered, not yet risen again. The nets were cast. They caught so many fish that two boats were filled, and the very nets were torn by that vast quantity of fish. Then he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." They received from him the nets of the Word of God, they cast them into the world as into a deep sea, and they caught the vast multitude of Christians that we can see and marvel at. Those two boats, though, stood for the two peoples, Jews and Gentiles, synagogue and church, those circumcised and those uncircumcised. SERMON 248.2.

Just, A. A., ed. (2005). *Luke* (pp. 87-88). InterVarsity Press.



## Treasury

*"... but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. n+ Jesus Christ +++*

### How Much is my tithe

| Weekly       | 2%   | 4%   | 5%   | 10%  |
|--------------|------|------|------|------|
| <b>\$200</b> | \$4  | \$8  | \$10 | \$20 |
| <b>\$500</b> | \$10 | \$20 | \$25 | \$50 |
| <b>\$750</b> | \$15 | \$30 | \$37 | \$75 |

**WEEKLY GIVING UPDATE:** We thank you for your continued giving in gratitude for all that our loving God does for each of us, for His Holy Church, and all the blessings we receive through her.

**September Income:** \$10,889.00

**September Expense:** \$19,848.07 (\$2000 Fallen Tree & \$8,800 in Cemetery Maintenance)

**Average Weekly Cost to Keep the Church Open:** \$3,740.85

**Average Monthly Cost to Keep the Church Open:** \$14,963.58

|        |      |      |      |       |
|--------|------|------|------|-------|
| \$1000 | \$20 | \$40 | \$50 | \$100 |
| \$1500 | \$30 | \$60 | \$75 | \$150 |



## **Announcements - Upcoming Parish & Diocesan Events**

**Silent Prayers and Confession:** Every Wednesday 11:00AM - 1:30PM or before/after vespers. Or you can make an appt for confession.

**Monthly Panikhida:** September 28th, 4PM prior to Vespers

**Church Work Day:** Every Day is Church Maintenance day! I will begin a list of items that we will need to work on. If you are free and would like to work at the church let me know. Just check the list and when you finish the task, initial off that it has been done.

**Sunday Parking:** With the increase in parish attendance on Sundays we are asking that the parking row across the street be reserved for elderly, those with difficulty walking, handicap, and parish visitors. If you do not fall into one of those categories, please use the parking lot kitty-corner to us with the stairs so we can keep plenty of parking free for those who need to be closer. Thanks so much!

**Parish Council Meeting:** October 5th, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM - All are invited. Nov 2nd, Dec 7th are the following meetings.

**Choir practice: Saturday's @ 4pm prior to vespers.** PLEASE, it is important to go to choir practice if you would like to sing. The Choir rehearses the variable parts on Saturday and if you miss the practice and try to sing it will sometimes throw the rest of the choir off as you may be a beat too slow, too fast, or do not know how the piece is to be sung.

**WISH LIST!** Thank you for the purchase of Incense and a pitcher. Please consider purchasing from our wish list as this will reduce our cost of expenses and will allow us to increase and focus our giving in other vital areas needed.

<https://www.myregistry.com/giftlist/stmichaelsorthodoxchurcholdforgewishlist>

**St. Michael's Greeters Ministry** *"I was a stranger, and you welcomed me."* Matthew 25:35 Our objective is to welcome visitors to the Parish, help them "feel at home" during the worship service, provide them with information about Orthodoxy and the Parish, invite them to Parish activities, introduce them to people of like interests, invite them back, follow-up to thank them for visiting us, and identifying whether we can help them in the future. Most people leave a church once they enter because no one greeted them. Please sign up to greet people.

**2nd Annual Veteran's Day Pasta Dinner NOV 9th!** It was a huge success last year and we want to go BIGGER! A portion of the proceeds will go to an organization that assists veterans. This year we have selected Camp Freedom in Carbondale. Check it out <https://campfreedompa.org/> Tammy and Sandy have already begun the process of getting volunteers to make baskets and local businesses to donate their product. We also need people to help bake the desserts and to donate drinks. Please see Tamara Wytovich to help volunteer, donate baskets or drinks, or to bake desserts.

**Parish Census:** Our yearly parish census is due. The parish chair has scrubbed it and sent it to me with her updates and I will now look at it to discern who is a member and who is not. Reminder that to be counted as a member of the Church, one should sign the Statement of Intent which explains above all else that membership

is counted as taking part of the sacraments Communion and Confession regularly along with Time, Talent, and Treasure for those who are able. Please do not get this confused with our home bound or those in nursing homes. Also, we will start reviewing our financials.

## **Parish Prayer List**

### **NEWLY DEPARTED:**

**DEPARTED:** *William Macheska (9/2); Nancy Jurnak (9/7); Natasha Stavisky (9/16); Mary Shrive 9/30;*

### **Please remember in your prayers LIVING**

Ill-afflicted *Archpriests Michael Evans, John Nightingale, & Theodore Orzolek*

**All those caring for the sick and suffering at this time throughout the world, especially our families and friends:** *Christine Sevensky, Mike Jadick, Margaret Pregmon, Daniel Jones, Michael Sokol; Michael Krenitsky; Bernie Elko; The children of God Abigail and Nathan.*

**Servants of God** *Mark Bezhuly, David Barsigian, Patricia Jones, Anne Buday, Emily Krenitsky, Gregory Krenitsky, Barbara Sevensky, Beverly Elko, Sandra Condon, Marie Pasternak, Nicole Earl, Anna Tyrpak, Sandy & Danny Pregmon, Walter Pritchky, Michael & Euphemia Keklak, Justin & Elisabeth Kane, Maria & Vitaliy Rakovsky, Ekaterina & Anna, Joe & Kelly Cigna, George, Natasha, Rosa, & Lucia Coyoy, Mat. Emilia, Blaise, Maximus, Rodion, Savina Shepherd, Joseph, Emilia, Judah, Nadezda, & Silas Hart, Eli & Paula Stavisky, Helen Wytovich, Tammy Wytovich, Sharissa & Debra, Nadia Macheska, Paulette Ezbiansky, Jason Vo & Maura Elko, Mary Krevko*

**Seekers -** *Christopher, Eugene, & Mike*

**Catechumens -** *Paul Dunay*

## **Build a Community, Not Just a Church**

Published by Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis on July 3, 2019

*“For a whole year they met with the church, and taught a large company of people; and in Antioch the disciples were for the first time called Christians.” ~ Acts 11:26*

It is a blessing that the church I serve presently in Tampa has a large physical plant. We have our church, a beautiful gymnasium/hall, a huge kitchen, an office building, a school building, a soccer field and parking lots. If someone came on our property, they might be wowed by our facilities. A closer look at the facilities, however, shows a church that is presently too small for our congregation (a good problem—the church is over capacity most Sundays), not enough parking (because of the large number of people who attend), and a school we need to rent because we have a large mortgage to pay off. This is a source of frustration at times to our community and to me. However, the “community” aspect of the church is much more than the physical plant. Imagine if our church was much bigger but empty on Sundays. Imagine if we bought more land and made bigger parking lots that were empty. So the end point of the community is not the kind of facilities the community has, but the kind of community that it is. That doesn’t mean that the facilities are not important or necessary. It means, however, that we don’t obsess about them to the exclusion of a sense of community. I’d rather have meager facilities and a great “community” than fantastic facilities with no sense of “community.”

Going back to something we touched on at the beginning of this series, the word “ekklesia” is used 113 times in the New Testament. This is the Greek word that we translate as “church.” However, each time the word “ekklesia” is used in the New Testament, it refers to the community of believers, not the physical structure in which they were worshiping. The “temple” was the location of worship. The “ekklesia” was the group of people who worshiped in the temple, but who also did lots of other things—such as feeding the hungry (the daily distribution), religious instruction, and looking out for the general welfare of the people of the community.

The idea of a community is a group of people who love God, who worship Him together, who learn about Him together. After this, they love each other, they take care of each other. One benefit of being part of a church community has to be a sense of belonging in the community. This goes two ways. Each member of the community has to be open to joining the “community,” they have to make an investment in the community, they can’t just come to church and leave, remaining unknown to the community. And each member of the community has to be welcoming to other members of the community, to reach out and embrace the others in the community. So that there is a sense of unity, oneness, and purposefulness in the community.

The first step is hard—it’s hard to get people to love God and desire to worship Him and learn about Him. This is made easier in the context of a community, which encourages members to do these things. The second step of building community is also challenging, because you have to do intentional community building. The community does not build itself. It has to be intentionally built. That means doing activities that build community, whether that is a small group (which we will discuss), building community through fellowship hour after Divine Liturgy, in various ministries, or doing community wide activities like a picnic where members have the opportunity to get to know one another. The third step of community building is even harder—which is caring for the greater community. Because the work of the church community is not done once worship and fellowship have been established. The work of the church continues outside the confines of the church community. And it happens in two ways—It happens simply in service to the greater community in which the church community finds itself. It includes outreach to the poor, visitation to the sick, and help for those who need help. And it happens in intentional witness for the faith, inviting others to come and join the church community.

Here is a simple, but beautiful analogy. Imagine all the members of the church community come together. We’re not talking about only the ones who come each Sunday. Let’s say that the Pascha and Christmas crowd comes together, so that all members of the community are present. Imagine they all get in a line on the side of the basketball court in the community gym. And then imagine that all were asked to take a step forward. Just that, take a step forward. Some would probably argue. Why should I do that? Some might take a step backward, just to see what would happen. Some wouldn’t understand the directions. And some wouldn’t follow them. But imagine if everyone took a step forward at the same time. The “power” and “grace” that would come from everyone taking a step forward together, in unity, in sync, would be a sight to behold.

This is what a church community is supposed to do—to move forward, together, in unity, in sync, to change the world by spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and showing His love to all. So the community is about more than just the church building. It’s about what we do in the church building, and it’s about what we do outside of the church building. Because when Christ told us to build a church, He was not talking about a temple but about a community, a community of believers who would love Him, and would lead others to Him. Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives to his beloved sleep. Lo, sons are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the sons of one’s

youth. Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.

Psalm 127 Focus on building community, not just the church (temple) the community worships in!