

APOLYTIKION OF THE RESURRECTION IN TONE 2

When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal One, then Thou didst destroy hell with Thy Godly power. And when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of Heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: O Christ, Thou giver of life, glory to Thee.

APOLYTIKION OF THE NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST⁴

O prophet and Forerunner of Christ God's coming to us, * all we who with longing now extol thee are at a loss to honor thee worthily. * For thy mother's barrenness and father's long silence, * by thine all-renowned and hallowed birth, were both ended, * and the Incarnation of the Son of God is preached unto all the world.

TROPARIAN OF THE FORTY HOLY MARTYRS TONE 1

Those noble soldiers of the Master of all let us honor, for they were united by their faith as they passed through fire and water, and being enlisted by Christ they entered to divine refreshment. Now those pious warriors stand and intercede with Christ God for those who cry out. Glory to Him that hath given you strength, Glory to Him that hath crowned you, Glory to Him that made you wondrous, Holy Forty Martyrs.

KONTAKION FOR ORDINARY SUNDAYS IN TONE 2

O protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the Creator most constant, O despise not the suppliant voices of those who have sinned; but be thou quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession, and speed thou to make supplication, thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.

THE EPISTLE

The Lord is my strength and my song. The Lord has chastened me sorely.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans. (5:1-11)

Brethren, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through Him we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in our hope of sharing the glory of God. More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us. While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Why, one will hardly die for a righteous man—though perhaps for a good man one will dare even to die. But God shows His love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we are now justified by His blood, much more shall we be saved by Him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled

to God by the death of His Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. Not only so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received our reconciliation.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (6:22-33)

The Lord said, "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is sound, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is evil, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore, I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink; nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not the soul more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of heaven: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add one cubit to his stature? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon himself in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O men of little faith? Therefore, do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek all these things; and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well."

Celebrating today

On June 25 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we take leave of the commemoration of the Nativity of the Forerunner and Baptist John; and we commemorate the holy Venerable Martyr and much-suffering Febronia of Nisibis.

Febronia betrothed herself to Christ and was tonsured a nun in Assyria, in a convent where her aunt Bryaena was abbess. Lysimachus, the son of a nobleman, desired to wed Febronia, but since Emperor Diocletian suspected him to be a secret Christian, he sent Lysimachus to the east with his uncle Silenus to apprehend and kill Christians. Silenus did this everywhere without mercy. Lysimachus, on the contrary, spared the Christians wherever he could and hid them from his beast-like uncle. Silenus came to Nisibis and Febronia's convent. Hearing about her great

wisdom and meekness, Silenus ordered that Febronia be brought to him. When the holy virgin refused to deny Christ, Silenus ordered her to be cruelly beaten and killed. However, a horrible punishment and death from God befell Silenus the same day. Lysimachus ordered that Febronia's miracle-working body be honorably buried and he, with many other soldiers, were baptized. Febronia suffered and took up habitation in eternal blessedness in 302.

On this day, we also commemorate the Venerable Prokopios of the Iviron skete on Athos; Venerable Dionysios the Hagidrite, founder of Forerunner Monastery on Athos; Venerable Dometios, abbot of Dionysiou monastery on Athos; and Prince Peter (David) and Princess Febronia (Euphrosyne), wonderworkers of Murom. By their intercessions, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+Please remember in your prayers*The kidnapped Hierarchs, Metropolitan Paul, and Archbishop Yohanna.

*The servants of God, for their healing: Sonia, Wassim, Amira, Mariam, Vanda, Fouad, Najwa, Maria, and Mireille.

***The Departed.** Metropolitan Antonio of Mexico. Hisham and Akram

+The Holy Bread & Coffee hour are offered today by Mrs. Irina Gololobova and her family.

And for the rest of the soul of **Metropolitan Antonio** of Mexico, Central America and Venezuela. A Trisagion prayer will be offered at the end of the Divine Liturgy.

+The Apostles Lent: Started on Monday June 12. Until the 29th. Of this month. Seafood is allowed except on Wednesday and Friday.

+Feast of the Apostles Peter & Paul. Thursday 29th. Orthros @ 6 pm
Divine Liturgy @ 7pm.

+July 23rd-30th, 2017 .53rd Biennial Archdiocesan Convention Hosted by St George Cathedral/Coral Gables, FL www.AC2017Miami.org

+Guests and visitors are always welcome at Forty Holy Martyrs church, and you are invited to join us after the liturgy for coffee and Refreshments

It is an indubitable truth that the highest Divine Providence arranges all of creation. God considers all things beforehand and takes care for all things. This is the Divine fatherly care of which the blessed apostle Peter speaks: "Cast all of your cares upon Him, because He is concerned for you." (1 Pet. 5:7)

(St. Elias Minjatios. Sermon on the Great Fast, 1)

THE FORTY HOLY MARTYRS ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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REGULAR SERVICES

Divine

LiturgyThursday@7pm

Great Vespers: Saturday
5:00 PM(English)

Matins/Orthros: Sunday
8:45 AM(English)

Divine Liturgy: Sunday
10:00 AM(English)

Please visit our website for
additional information.

www.40martyrs.org

 forty Holy Martyrs Sugar
Land

Divine Liturgy

SUNDAY, JUNE 25 -2017

TOPE 2/ EOTHINON 3

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER

PENTECOST

**APODOSIS (LEAVE-TAKING) OF
THE FORERUNNER'S NATIVITY**



340 Eldridge Rd.

Sugar Land, TX 77478

The Apostles Lent.

