

Variations in the Divine Liturgy

Before/After the Little Entrance we sing:

**The Resurrection from the Octoechos (Nassar, 193; Kazan, Sun. Mat., 30)
Tone 8**

From the heights thou didst descend O Compassionate One, and thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that thou might deliver us from passion. Thou art our Life and our Resurrection, O Lord, glory to thee.

Dormition of the Righteous Anna (Men. July 25, Vesp.) Tone 4

O Godly-minded Anne, thou midst give birth to the Theotokos, the spotless Mother of Life. Wherefore, thou best been translated now in gladness to thy heavenly end, which is the abode of all who rejoice seeking forgiveness of sins for those who eagerly honor thee, O ever-blessed one.

Troparion of the Holy Forty Great Martyrs of Sebaste

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.

Dormition of the Righteous Anna (Liturgical Guide.) Tone 4

Let us celebrate with faith, the memory of the righteous ancestors of Christ, requesting their help in faith for our deliverance from all tribulations. We who cry unto thee, be with us O Lord as thou were pleased to glorify them.

The Epistle

Galations 4:22-27 (The Righteous Anna)

God is wonderful among his saints.

Verse. Bless God in the congregations.

BRETHREN, Abraham had two sons, one by a slave and one by a free woman. But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, the son of the free woman through promise. Now this is an allegory: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. For it is written, "Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear; break forth and shout, you who are not in travail; for the children of the desolate one are many more than the children of her that is married."

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 14:22-34 (9th Sunday of Matthew)

At that time: Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but the boat by this time was out on the sea, beaten by the waves; for the wind was against them. And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately he

spoke to them, saying, "Take heart, it is I; have no fear."

And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, bid me come to you on the water." He said, "Come," So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus; but when he saw the strong wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "O man of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

And when they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret.

Celebrated This Week

Dormition of St. Anna, mother of the Theotokos – 24th July

According to tradition, Anna, the ancestor of God, lived for sixty-nine years, and her spouse Joachim, for eighty; according to one account, Saint Joachim died two years before Saint Anna. The Theotokos had been orphaned of both her parents already when she was eleven years of age, when she was living in the Temple. Saint Anna is invoked for conceiving children, and for help in difficult childbirth.

Paraskevi the Righteous Martyr of Rome – 26th July

Saint Paraskevi, who was from a certain village near Rome, was born to pious parents, Agatho and Politia. Since she was born on a Friday (in Greek, Paraskevi), she was given this name, which means "preparation" or "preparedness" (compare Matt. 27:62, Mark 15:42, Luke 23:54, and John 19:31, where 'Friday' is called "the day of the preparation"). From childhood she was instructed in the sacred letters and devoted herself to the study of the divine Scriptures, while leading a monastic life and guiding many to the Faith of Christ. During the reign of the Emperor Antoninus Pius, she was apprehended because she was a Christian and was urged to worship the idols, but she answered with the words of Jeremias: "Let the gods that have not made heaven and the earth perish from off the earth" (Jer. 10:11). Because of this she endured exceedingly painful torments, and was beheaded in the year 140. The faithful pray to her for the healing of eye ailments.

Panteleimon the Great Marytr & Healer – 27th July

This Saint, who had Nicomedia as his homeland, was the son of Eustorgius and Eubula. His father was an idolater, but his mother was a Christian from her ancestors. It was through her that he was instructed in piety, and still later, he was catechized in the Faith of Christ by Saint Hermolaus (see July 26) and baptized by him. Being proficient in the physician's vocation, he practiced it in a philanthropic manner, healing every illness more by the grace of Christ than by medicines. Thus, although his parents had named him Pantoleon ("in all things a lion"), because of the compassion he showed for the souls and bodies of all, he was worthily renamed Panteleimon, meaning "all-merciful." On one occasion, when he restored the sight of a certain blind man by calling on the Divine Name, he enlightened also the eyes of this man's soul to the knowledge of the truth. This also became the cause for the martyrdom of him who had been blind, since when he was asked by whom and in what manner his eyes had been opened, in imitation of that blind man of the Gospel he confessed with boldness both who the physician was and the manner of his healing. For this he was put to death immediately. Panteleimon was arrested also, and having endured many wounds, he was finally beheaded in the year 305, during the reign of Maximian. Saint Panteleimon is one of the Holy Unmercenaries, and is held in special honor among them, even as Saint George is among the Martyrs.

Announcements

The Fast for Dormition of our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary will start 1st August.

Bible Study: The next bible study will take place after Vespers on August, 28th.

SAINT TIMON SUNDAY 2010: Today, 25th July has been designated as Saint Timon Sunday when we will offer our prayers as one community to St. Timon, one of our Saviour's Holy Seventy Apostles and patron of the Archdiocese of Bosra-Hauran, asking his intercessions with Christ our God on behalf of the clergy and people of our Sister Diocese, the Archdiocese of Bosra-Hauran. There will be a special collection offered to help support our Sister Diocese. More information can be obtained on the web site (www.antiochian.org/hauran).

Forty Martyrs 10th Anniversary Gala: A gala will be held to celebrate our 10th anniversary during November and it will be attended by His Grace Bishop Basil. Everyone is invited to help us prepare for this great event. If you would like to volunteer, please see Raed Salti as soon as possible.

Catechumen Classes: Classes continue after Liturgy today. If you would like to join, or know of anyone who may like to attend, please let father know soonest.

Choir Rehearsal and Liturgical Guidance: Tuesday evening at 7:00pm. All are invited to learn our Liturgical music and join the choir.

Arabic Liturgy: Arabic Liturgy will be held each Thursday evening at 7:00pm.

Office Hours: As Father may have to leave the office during normal hours, please call either the office (281-240-4845), or Father's cell phone (713-357-8871) to arrange an appointment.

Confessions: Father is available on Saturday, or at any time by prior appointment. Confessions will not be heard on Sundays.

Visitors and Guests: We welcome you to The Forty Holy Martyrs Mission; a growing pan-Orthodox community in Sugar Land. At the end of the Divine Liturgy you are invited to venerate the Holy Cross and to receive the andidoron (blessed bread). You are also invited to our coffee hour immediately following the Divine Liturgy in the Hall. Please remember that Orthodox Christians practice a closed communion, which means that only baptized or chrismated Orthodox faithful, who have properly prepared themselves, may approach the chalice to receive the Holy Eucharist.

THE FORTY HOLY MARTYRS OF SEBASTE ORTHODOX MISSION

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REGULAR SERVICES

Great Vespers: Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Matins/Orthros: Sunday 8:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy: Sunday 10:00 a.m.
Arabic Liturgy: Thursday 7:00 p.m.
Please see our website for other services

25th July 2010

9th Sunday after Pentecost and the
Dormition of the Righteous Anna

Celebrated today:

The Dormition of Righteous Anna, the mother of the Theotokos. Olympias, the deaconess of Constantinople; Venerable Eupraxia of Tabenna; Four Martyrs of Lyons; Venerable Makarios of Zheltovodsk and Unzha

Fasting guidelines for this week:

Strict fast on Wednesday and Friday; all other days are fast free.

*A Mission of the
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America and
The Diocese of Wichita and Mid-America*

