



**ST. PETER & ST. PAUL
UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**105 CLIFTON AVE
ANSONIA, CT 06401**

Rectory Phone 203-734-3895

Church Hall 203-732-2414

Fax 203-732-3191

Fr. Ed Cell 413-218-6404

Email: YoungE8073@aol.com



Leaders of the Apostles and teachers of the world, pray to the Master of all to grant peace to the world and great mercy to our souls.

Web Site: www.stspucc.org.

Very Rev. Archpriest Edward Canon Young, Pastor

August 1, 2021

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost, The Procession with the Holy Relics of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross of the Lord; the Seven Holy Martyred Maccabees, Their Mother Solome and Their Teacher Eleazar; Beginning of the Dormition Fast (Spasivka); Dormition Fast.

Epistle: 1 CORINTHIANS 4: 9 - 16 Gospel: MATTHEW 17: 14 - 23 Tone: 1

DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE

WEEKDAYS: MONDAY-FRIDAY 10:00AM

SATURDAY: Not Now! 4:00PM (Vigil Sunday-Eng.)

SUNDAY: 8:30 AM (Ukr.) & 10:00 AM (Eng.)

Confessions are heard before each Divine Liturgy:

Saturday 3:00PM to 3:30 PM

**Sunday 8:00AM to 8:30AM and
9:30AM until 10:00AM**

Religious Education – Saturday 10:00AM – 11:00AM
Call Alice O'Doy @203-734-3055 for more information.

Preservation – Please use the form in church vestibule, mail it to the church or bring it to Bob Jaskilka, Michael Wysowski, Jr. or Fr. Edward Young

Address or Name Change/New Phone Number –

Please update your records. See Bob Jaskilka, or Michael Wysowski, Jr. to update this info.

Returned checks are subject to a **\$35.00 fee**.

Bulletin Notices – Notices for the bulletin must be **in writing** by Wednesday @6PM to be included in that week's bulletin.

Parish Council meets every 3rd Wednesday of every month @7:15pm in the church hall.

Rectory Office Hours - Thursday 10AM – Noon
or by Appointment on other days

******Please Note ******

Mass Offerings, Sorokousty

Mother's Day, Father's Day

**Checks must be made out to the Fr. Young
not the Church ! Thank You...**

Baptism Arrangement for baptism is to be made personally at the Parish Office. Please call rectory for an appointment.

Marriage – Arrangements for marriage are to be made at least **6 months prior** to the Wedding date. Please call rectory for an appointment.

Sick Calls – To arrange for Sacraments for the elderly and sick at home, please call Parish Office Fr. Young at 203-734-3895, **Please advise the rectory of any hospitalization.**

In your Estate planning – Remember Sts. Peter & Paul Church in your will.

Stewardship - "As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace" (1 Peter 4:10). All Catholics, should give generous support—time, money, prayers, and personal service according to their circumstances—to parish and diocesan programs and to the universal Church

Special Share in the Eucharist *- Bread & Wine

offered for a week, month, or year. Donations: one week - \$20.00 Donors/intentions will be listed.

Bob Jaskilka, or Michael Wysowski, Jr or Fr. Edward Young

Eternal Light *- offered to light for a week \$10.00.

Bob Jaskilka, or Michael Wysowski, Jr. or Fr. Edward Young

Virgin Mary's Lamp and Sacred Heart Lamp* also available for offering! Offered to light for a week is 10.00, each.

Bob Jaskilka, or Michael Wysowski, Jr. or Fr. Edward Young

All start on Monday to Sunday!

***Offering must be made when dates are reserved!**

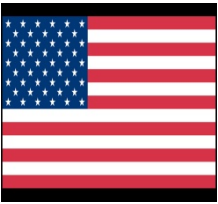
A **Welcome to St. Peter and St. Paul Parish** to all who are worshipping with us today. If you are over twenty-one years of age and have not yet registered, have moved or will be moving, or have a new telephone number, **please fill out the form below**. Each household **must be registered** at St. Peter and St. Paul and every adult receives a set of stewardship envelopes. Registration also entails an annual dues to the parish. If a parishioner is not registered, it is difficult for church authorities to issue him or her a sponsor certificate, reference, or any other certification.

Name _____ Phone# _____

Address _____ E-mail _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____




(Please come down to the Basement to be properly registered after or before liturgy)



Prayer for Our Country USA: Almighty God, bless our nation and make it true to the ideas of freedom and justice and brotherhood for all who make it great. Guard us from war, from fire and wind, from compromise, fear, confusion. Be close to our president and our statesmen; give them vision and courage, as they ponder decisions affecting peace and the future of the world. Make me more deeply aware of my heritage; realizing not only my rights but also my duties and responsibilities as a citizen. Make this great land and all its people know clearly Your will, that they may fulfill the destiny ordained for us in the salvation of the nations, and the restoring of all things in Christ our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ.

Bread and Wine Offering - None Offered

07/31	Saturday		No Liturgy
08/01	Sunday	8:30 AM 10:00 AM	Pro Populo (For Parishioners) - За Всix Парафіян +Richard George Kral req. by Mrs. Susan Monks & Family
08/02	Monday		No Liturgy
08/03	Tuesday	10:00 AM	+Adele Comcovich
08/04	Wednesday	10: 00 AM	+John Klimkowsky
08/05	Thursday	10:00 AM	+Barbara & Jacob Lypen req. by Sylia Cirkot & Fred Foster
08/06	Friday	10:00 AM	FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD +Stefania Gebuza req. by Wasil & Jaroslawa Sembrat Following Liturgy the Blessing of Fruit
08/07	Saturday		NO Liturgy
08/08	Sunday	8:30 AM 10:00 AM	Pro Populo (For Parishioners) - За Всix Парафіян +Waldemar Cwiklinski req. by Luba Lypen & family

ETERNAL LIGHT		<i>In loving memory +Shirley Drake by Drake Family</i>	
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY LAMP		<i>In loving memory of +Jacob &+ Mary Nyscot by Patricia & Earl Holtz & Family</i>	
SACRED HEART of JESUS LAMP		<i>Good Health Leonila Gebuza by Micheal & Lisa Warycha & Family</i>	
BREAD & WINE OFFERING RESERVED DATES 8/30/21-9/5/21 10/25/21-10/31/21 11/1/21-11/7/21		ETERNAL LIGHT LAMP OFFERING RESERVED DATES 8/9/21-8/15/21 8/16/21-8/22/21 8/23/21-8/29/21 8/30/21-9/5/21 9/6/21-9/12-21 9/20/21-9/26/21 11/8/21-11/14/21 11/22/21-11/28/21	
		BLESSED VIRGIN MARY LAMP OFFERING RESERVED DATES 8/9/21-8/15/21 8/16/21-8/22/21 8/23/21-8/29/21 8/30/21-9/5/21 9/6/21-9/12-21 9/20/21-9/26/21 10/4/21-10/10/21 11/1/21-11/7/21 11/8/21-11/14/21	
		SACRED HEART OF JESUS LAMP OFFERING RESERVED DATES 8/9/21-8/15/21 8/16/21-8/22/21 9/6/21-9/12/21 9/13/21-9/19/21 9/20/21-9/26/21 11/15/21-11/21/21	

2021 & Past Church Dues (Blue Book) (Kollekta)

During Lent & every Saturday & Sunday dues current & past will be collected in the church hall after 8:30 AM & 10AM Sunday Liturgies.

Please bring your dues book to the church hall dues will not be collected in the rectory Back on January 25, 2005 the Parish Council voted to increase the yearly dues to \$75.00 per member. This is the first increase since 1998. The number of upcoming projects that are needed to keep the church building in good repairs, such as painting, doors, walls, fixing the roof, warranted this increase.

Do not place dues in your weekly envelope offering !
Please remember - this is not our church but YOUR church!
Please fulfill your responsibility to your Church!!

Friendly Reminder - 2021 & Past Church Dues are due during lent to support your church to pay our obligations to keep the church running such as salaries; electricity; oil ; gas; water ; and continual maintenance; repair of the church, rectory and cemetery; insurance ; chancery fees; and telephone just to name a few.

**At Divine Liturgy and All other Services
Masks are required and social distancing will be enforced !!!**

2021 BISHOPS APPEAL
as of 7-25-2021

2021 STAMFORD CHARITIES DIOCESE APPEAL

The month of August 2021 continues the Stamford Diocese Charities Appeal for **2021**. This fund provides support for many programs in the Diocese as indicated in the Sower. Our offering reminds us that we are members of a greater body of the Church that operates beyond the barriers of our local parish and that each one of us has a role to play in the Church's mission of evangelization and sanctification. Please note: that at this time our seminary in Stamford is growing and needs your support.

You have received by mail your request for support.
Please help this fund as you have in the past.

Please do not send your donation to Stamford!!! Do not use Paypal !!!

Donations \$5,990 or 85.6% to go \$1,010 This week \$75.00

PETER	&	KAY	POZUCEK	\$75.00
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The 2021 Stamford Diocesan Charities Appeal form has been sent. **Please make checks payable to: "The Byzantine Rite Diocese of Stamford" and send or bring your donation to the church.** Cash is acceptable form for payment.

Do not use Paypal for your donation !

Since every parish in the diocese has been assigned a Goal for this campaign, **please do not send your gift directly to Stamford.** Our parish needs to be properly credited to meet its goal of seven thousand dollars. **We did not meet our goal in 2020.** While many of our regular contributors have fallen asleep in the Lord, it is even more essential that every parishioner consider such diocesan programs as vocations, religious education, evangelization, and stewardship worthy of personal charity.

The Sunday of the Dormition Pilgrimage Sunday 15 August 2021 there will be one Divine Liturgy Celebrated at 10:00 AM by Monsignor Roman Golemba. Thank you for your cooperation in this important spiritual event in our Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy. Hopefully many of you join in this grace filled time.

Dormition Pilgrimage 2021

Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate St. Mary's Villa / Sloatsburg, New York
Theme: "Mary, Mother of the Savior & Joseph, Righteous Spouse, sustain us in God's Providence"
Sunday, August 15th *Confessions will be available throughout the day beginning at 8:00 am*
8:30 – 9:30 am Materi Molitvy / Mothers in Prayer – Rosary / Singing
10:30 am Pontifical Divine Liturgy with procession to the Grotto - blessing of flowers Most Rev. Borys Gudziak – Metropolitan Archbishop Most Rev. Paul Chomnycky, OSBM, Bishop of the Eparchy of Stamford Most Rev. Bohdan Danylo – Bishop of the Eparchy of Parma Most Rev. Andriy Raby – Auxiliary Bishop of the Archeparchy of Philadelphia Most Rev. Basil Losten, Bishop Emeritus of the Eparchy of Stamford - *homilist* Choir: *St. Vladimir Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral, Stamford, CT*
1:30 pm Blessing of the Sick – Grotto steps
Blessing of Religious Articles - front of St. Joseph's Home
2:00 pm Presentation – Rev. Bohdan Tymchyshyn, Rector of St. Basil Seminary
2:30 pm Stations of the Cross – Basilian Fathers
3:30 pm Moleben to the Mother of God – Grotto altar – Bishop Bohdan Danylo, homilist Blessing of cars and buses
 Display – Bishop Basil Losten's 50th Episcopal Consecration
 Rev. Taras Chaparin - Pilgrimage Spiritual Moderator Notice to All Pilgrims NY State Guidelines on the pandemic will be followed.
 All Liturgical Services and Food Services will be outside.

Church Up Keep and Restoration Donations: Donations \$2,200.00 by

MICHAEL	&	JOLANTA	KOWAL JR	\$200.00	LAURANCE	MUDRY	\$1,000.00
FLOYD	&	JANICE	MOIR	\$500.00	AUDREY	SOKOL	\$500.00

Volunteers needed for Our 125th Anniversary

The parish will be celebrating Our 125th Anniversary in June 2022.
 A committee needs to be formed to discuss ideas for this event.

If your interested please contact Bill Platosz platosz@hotmail.com or Scott Walker sjjawalk@aol.com

Thanks to Little Angels Home Care for renewing their bulletin ad

SAINT PETER & SAINT PAUL UKRAINIAN
CATHOLIC CHURCH
105 CLIFTON AVE.
ANSONIA, CT 06401

One Hundred & Twenty Four Years 1897-2021
PHONE 203-734-3895

Sanctify those who love the beauty of Your house.

June 28, 2021

Subject: **Need for Church upkeep and restoration**

Dear Parishioners:

In the year 2022, it will be the 125th Anniversary of the establishment of Saint Peter and Saint Paul Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church. His Excellency Bishop Paul Chomnycky, O.S.B.M., Eparch of Stamford, has approved Sunday June 5, 2022 to be present with us to celebrate this significant moment in the history of this parish.

This parish community has been blessed and has much to be proud of in its long history. *Sanctify those who love the beauty of Your House* is quoted from the prayer from the end of Divine Liturgy. It speaks measurably of how the founders of this parish understood the importance of the beauty of God's Holy House.

We, as a parish family, will begin preparation for our 125th Anniversary. There are many needs to be met in our church because of its age. One is our church kneelers. The pads need to be replaced and the kneelers repaired. This is a very costly project, a goal of at least \$50,000. In addition, there are a number of structural issues with the upstairs church and downstairs that need to be addressed. For example, we just received a quote for \$10,000 for repairs that need to be done due to water damage.

In the past year, our church financial situation has been greatly affected because of the Covid19 pandemic. We have been unable to have fundraisers and weekly donations were tremendously low. Therefore, we are launching a fundraising initiative to attend to the many needs of our church.

All members of the parish are called to assist and be as generous as possible in this fundraising effort, following the example of the founding fathers and mothers of this parish, who gave selflessly to build our beautiful church building. We pray our efforts will help sustain our church building for us and future generations.

Enclosed you will find an envelope to make your donation and a stamped return envelope.

Do not use PayPal !

Please make checks payable to:

Saint Peter & Saint Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church.

We thank you in advance for your generosity and wish God's blessings on you and your families.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Very Rev. Archpriest Edward P. Young, Pastor

Mr. Scott Walker, Parish President

You have received this letter in the mail. Please be so kind as to use the enclosed return envelope to the parish with your gift to your parish church. God Bless and Protect.

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SUNDAY OF THE PROCESSION OF THE HOLY RELICS OF THE
PRECIOUS & LIFE GIVING CROSS OF THE LORD

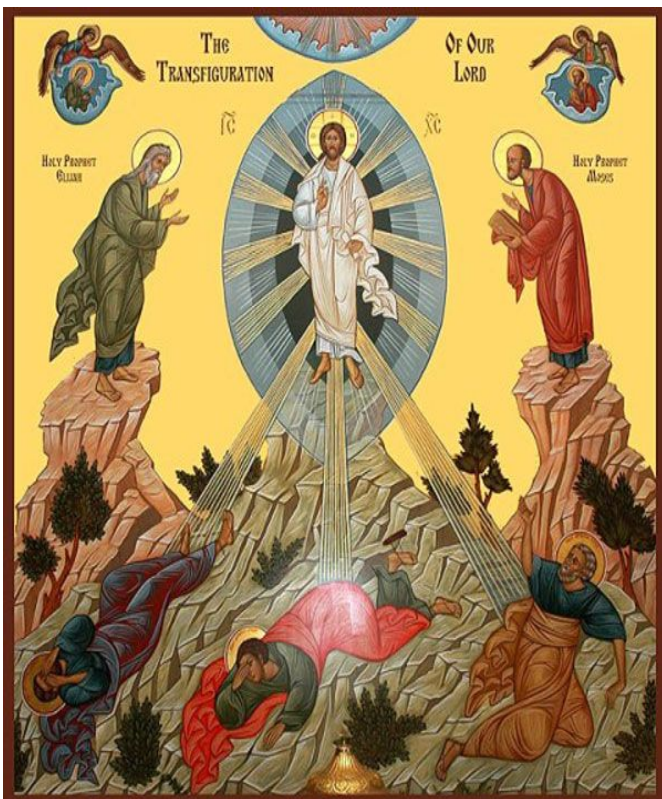
Epistle - 1 CORINTHIANS 4: 9 - 16 ~ Gospel - MATTHEW 17: 14 - 23
TONE 1

In our gospel reading today, the Lord challenged the wounded pride of the disciples, who were disappointed that they had lacked the spiritual authority to cast out the demon and heal the boy. Imagine how humbling it must have been for them to hear the Messiah say, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you?" He set them straight by saying that they had no faith, not even as much as a tiny mustard seed. Instead of wondering why they could not work miracles, they needed to humble themselves through prayer and fasting if they were to be transfigured such that they would gain authority over the powers of evil.

Since we are preparing through fasting to celebrate the Feast of the Dormition of the Mother of God, it is especially fitting today to remember her extraordinary example of humility and obedience. The Theotokos agreed to become the Virgin Mother of the Son of God, something that made absolutely no sense according to normal ways of thinking in our world. She became His Temple in a unique way when Christ was in her womb, and then she loved and served Him throughout His life and ministry, including through His death and resurrection. She is the first and model Christian. At the end of the Mother of God's earthly life, the Apostles were miraculously assembled in her presence. St. Thomas, however, arrived three days late. When her tomb was opened for him to pay his last respects, her body was not there. Even as she was the first to accept Christ into her life, she was the first to follow Him as a whole, complete person into the Kingdom of Heaven. She leads the way for us as Christians in this world and in the world to come.

We pray and fast in preparation for the Feast of the Dormition because we want to become more like her. There is surely no better way to become transfigured by the gracious divine energies of our Savior than to imitate His Mother. She grew up in purity in the Temple at Jerusalem, where she was fed by angels. She is the epitome of the prayer and fasting that the Lord said His disciples needed in order to open themselves to His divine power. That is how she developed the spiritual clarity and strength to say "yes" to the astounding message that she was to become the Virgin Mother of the Son of God. Of course, her story makes no sense according to the conventional standards of the world. Even more so than St. Paul, the Theotokos is a "fool for Christ's sake" because many people then, as now, scoff at her virgin conception of the Savior. The same is surely true about the miraculous characteristics of her Dormition.

The question that we all face is whether we will proudly cling to our own illusions about ourselves and our place in the world as we stand before the holy mystery of Jesus Christ, the Son of God Who shines eternally with brilliant light that we do not yet have the eyes behold. His glory is not yet obvious to us. That is why it requires faith to fall before Him in humble repentance as we open ourselves to His gracious healing power from the depths of our souls through prayer and fasting.



In order to turn away from self-centeredness to Christ-centeredness, we must become fools who devote time and energy each day to commune with a Lord we do not see with our eyes in the world as we know it. So we must pray. We must go against society's expectations and our own desires by regularly refusing to indulge our taste buds and stomachs with the richest and most satisfying foods. In other words, we must fast. No matter what may be popular or appealing, we must sacrifice to live as those being transfigured in holiness by God's grace. (Excerpts from <https://blogs.ancientfaith.com/easternchristianinsights>)

CATECHISM - CHRIST OUR PASCHA - TODAY'S EPISTLE / GOSPEL LESSON :

DEMONS: Page 55, Section 142; Page 112, Section 318; Page 203, Section 616

PRAYER: Page 218, Section 672

FASTING: Page 189, Section 568; Page 229, Section 702; Page 255, Section 785

FRIDAY, AUGUST 6 - FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD The feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord Jesus Christ celebrates the revelation of Christ's divine glory on Mount Tabor in

Galilee. After revealing to His disciples that He would be put to death in Jerusalem, Christ, along with Peter, James, and John, went up the mountain. There he was transfigured before them with Elijah on one side and Moses on the other. And his face did shine as the sun: and his garments became white as snow.” Jesus is then called “Son” by a voice in the sky, understood to be God the Father. The Transfiguration was clearly intended to reveal the divinity of Christ to Peter, James, and John so they would understand who it was that would be crucified for them and that his Passion was voluntary. The Transfiguration comes forty days before the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (September 14). The two feasts are thus connected to remind us of Christ’s voluntary suffering. Eastern theology also tells us that the Transfiguration shows the possibility of our own theosis, or transformative process whose goal is likeness to or union with God. We accomplish this through the effects of katharsis, the purification of mind and body. Moreover, we are taught that theosis is the purpose of human life. It is a pious custom to offer fruits to be blessed at this feast; and this offering of thanksgiving to God contains a spiritual sign, too. Just as fruits ripen and are transformed under the action of the summer sun, so is

man called to a spiritual transfiguration through the light of God’s word by means of the Sacraments.



Prayer for the Blessing of First-Fruits: O Lord God Jesus Christ, You said to Your disciples: ***“Whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.”*** We now humbly beseech You, bless + and sanctify these first-fruits which Your faithful servants have brought into Your temple today. Preserve the life and health of all those who partake of them, those who are present here and those who absent. Grant that

these blessed first-fruits be an effective medicine for those who are sick and ailing, and a protection against the assaults of the enemy for those who keep them in their homes. May all those who partake of them enjoy the fullness of Your goodness and blessing. For You, O Christ God, are our true nourishment and the Giver of all that is good, and we send up glory to You, together with Your Father, Who is without beginning, and with Your all-holy, good, and live-giving Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

FAST FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE DORMITION OF THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD - AUGUST 1 - AUGUST 14 The Feast of the Dormition is preceded by a two-week fast, referred to as the Dormition Fast. The Eastern churches (both Catholic and Orthodox) traditionally observe a period of fasting prior to the Great Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos (August 15) – one of the four great fasts that are part of the Church year in the East, the others being the Nativity Fast, the Great Lent Fast and the Apostles Fast. This fast is also called **“Our Lady’s Fast”** or the **“Assumption Fast.”** The faithful fast from red meat, poultry, meat products, dairy products (eggs and milk products), fish, oil, and wine. The Dormition Fast is a stricter fast than either the Nativity Fast or the Apostles’ Fast, with only wine and oil (but no fish) allowed on weekends. As with the other Fasts of the Church year, there is a Great Feast that falls during the Fast; in this case, the Transfiguration (August 6), on which fish, wine and oil are allowed.

SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM ON FASTING: It is necessary for a Christian to fast, in order to clear his mind, to rouse and develop his feelings, and to stimulate his will to useful activity. To what end do fasting and penitence lead? For what purpose is this trouble taken? They lead to the cleansing of the soul from sins, to peace of heart, to union with God; they fill us with devotion and sonship, and give us boldness before God. There are, indeed, very important reasons for fasting and for confession from the whole heart. There shall be an inestimable reward given for conscientious labor. ***“Fasting of the body is food for the soul “ - “Fasting is the change of every part of our life, because the sacrifice of the fast is not the abstinence but the distancing from sin.” St. John Chrysostom***

LIVING THE YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH: Let us turn our prayers and devotion to St. Joseph, entrust our daily work to him, an opportunity “to encourage us to implore his intercession and to imitate his virtues and his zeal”. Remember our Fathers, living and deceased and also our Spiritual Fathers, our Clergy.

PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH: *“Great St. Joseph, whose protection is so strong and prompt before the Throne of God, I place in you all my interests and desires. Assist me by your most powerful intercession to obtain all spiritual blessings, in Jesus Christ, our Lord. And, by gaining here below your Heavenly favor, I offer my thanksgiving and homage to God, the most loving of Fathers. Oh Great St. Joseph, I never weary in thinking of you, with the Child Jesus asleep in your arms. Ask for me the favor of His love, when I draw my dying breath! St. Joseph, the Patron of departing souls — Pray for me”.*

LET US CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR VOCATIONS: Our awareness and prayer for vocations should continue even more fervently and with the commitment to keep our prayers focused on the Vocation Crisis. We ask you to continue to fully commit to deep, sincere prayer for vocations to the priesthood, the diaconate, the monastic and religious life. As a community we should strive that our prayers be raised in unity ~ unity in mind, heart and soul, praying that the will of God will send workers into His vineyard.

Whoever serves Me, must follow Me, and where I am, there also will My servant be.

John 12:26

SUMMER VACATION REMINDER: Many of you will be making plans to travel in the coming weeks. Wishing everyone a Holy and Safe Summer. Remember that there is no vacation from your Sunday obligation of attending Liturgy on Sunday's and Holy Days. A quick 'google' search will help you find a Ukrainian Church in the area you are visiting or a local Roman Catholic parish where you may go and worship.

Prayer to Our Lady While Traveling: "Hail Mary full of Grace, help me find a parking space" !
 "Hail Holy Queen, Please make the light turn green"! **SAFE AND HAPPY TRAVELS !**
 Always turn to Our Lady and her Son Jesus ~ Remember your daily prayers !



The Seven Holy Martyred Maccabees, Their Mother Solome and Their Teacher Eleazar;
On the first of this month [August], we commemorate the Holy Seven Maccabee Martyrs: Abim, Antonius, Gurias, Eleazar, Eusebonus, Alimus and Marcellus, together with their mother Solomone, and their teacher Eleazar.

Verses To leazar: *You were*

the.first before Christ who

endured the flames

Eleazar ,Your contest was an example to those who followed yourfootsteps.

To Salomone We have another first contestant even before Thekla, Salomone, who was consumed by fire before Christ. To the Seven Maccabees On the sixth of the seventh the seven children were sent, Through the assault of flames and wheels towards the eighth. On the first Salomone and her seven sons were consumed.

These Saints lived during the reign of King Antiochus (175-164 BC) of the Seleucid Empire. On the 5327th year from the creation of the world, or 173 years before

Christ, they were compelled by the above mentioned Antiochus (who killed and enslaved the entire Hebrew race) to deny the customs and orders that had been handed down by the law and their ancestors, namely to not eat pork. Therefore, because they were compelled to do so by the tyrant, they were not persuaded, along with their teacher Eleazar, keeping the command of the divine law, which says: "And the pig, though it has a divided hoof, does not chew the cud; it is unclean for you. You shall not eat of their flesh nor touch their carcasses; they are unclean to you" (Lev. 11:7-8).

For this reason they tied the hands of Saint Eleazar behind his back, and beat him harshly. They then poured in his nose some dirty and pungent liquid. Then he was cast into the fire, where he prayed that his blood and death become the means by which is accomplished the redemption and liberation of his race, thereby delivering his soul into the hands of God.

This was followed by the Holy Seven Children being brought before the tyrant, and he punished them, each according to their age, with wheels, poles, fires and other instruments of torture, which disjointed their body. Hence these blessed children died by means of these torments, showing that our

thoughts are lord and emperor over our passions. And if we are willing, it is impossible to be conquered by them. * They therefore received from the Lord the crowns of the contest.

After these things their mother Solomone, seeing how bravely her seven children were perfected, rejoiced. Wherefore without anyone placing their hands on her, she went of her own accord and cast herself in the burning fire, thus delivering her soul into the hands of God.** Their Synaxis is celebrated in their martyric Temple, located in the portico of Domninos, and beyond Elaia.

Troparion in the Fourth Tone: Let us praise the seven Maccabees, with their mother Solomone, and their teacher Eleazar; they were splendid in lawful contest, as guardians of the teachings of the Law. Now as Christ's Holy Martyrs they are interceding unceasingly for the world.

Kontakion in Plagal of the Second Tone: You seven pillars of the wisdom of God, you seven-branched candlesticks of the Divine Light, you were great martyrs before the time of the martyrs, O supremely-wise Maccabees. Together with them pray to the God of all, that those who venerate you may be saved.



August 1: Procession of the Venerable and Life-giving Cross: Today begins the fast in preparation for the Holy Dormition of our Most Holy Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary. To avert the illnesses which were most prevalent during the month of August from the most distant times, the practice in Constantinople was to carry the venerable Wood of the Holy Cross through the city's streets and public places in order to sanctify these places and to ward off illnesses. On the pre-festive day the Wood of the Holy Cross was carried from the Imperial Treasury Chamber and placed on the Holy Table of the Great Church, Holy Wisdom.

From August 1 until the feast of the Dormition of our Most Holy Lady, the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary, it was carried about throughout the entire city, then it was exposed for the people's veneration. This is the origin of the Procession of the Venerable and Life-giving Cross that we commemorate today. "Because of the illnesses that occur in August, it was customary, in former times, to carry the Venerable Wood of the Cross through the streets and squares of Constantinople for the sanctification of the city, and for relief from sickness. On the eve (July 31), it was taken out of the imperial treasury, and laid upon the altar of the Great Church of Hagia Sophia (the Wisdom of God). From this Feast until the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos, they carried the Cross throughout the city in procession, offering it to the people to venerate. This is the Procession of the Venerable Cross." Throughout the period of the Dormition Fast beginning on August 1 through the 14th we simultaneously celebrate the Feast of the Procession of the Venerable Wood of the Cross. Unlike the September 14 observance, this commemoration is considered to be a minor feast in comparison and significance, but it does have the bringing out of the Cross and veneration by the faithful like the September feast. It is the first of three "Feasts of the Lord" in the month of August, the other two being the Transfiguration (August 6) and the Icon of Christ "Not Made by Hands" otherwise known as the Holy Mandylin (August 16). We call this time Spasivka because of the three feast of the Savior.

**CUTTING EDGE
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