

Today's Scripture Readings

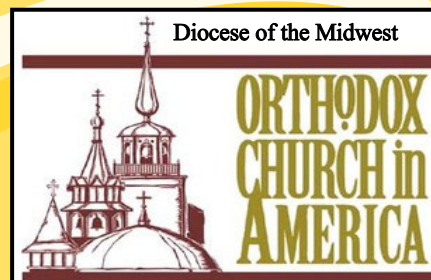
Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1

And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people." Therefore "Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you." "I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty." Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Gospel: Luke 6:31-36

And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise. But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.

Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee!



Ss Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

2238 E. 32nd St
Lorain, OH 44055
www.OrthodoxLorain.org

Archpriest Joseph McCartney, Rector
440-668-2209 (cell)
FrJosephMcCartney@gmail.com

Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

October 1, 2023

Tone 8



17th Sunday After Pentecost

*Protection of the Most Holy
Theotokos (Pokrov)*

St. Romanus the Melodist

Divine Liturgy Readings

(Readings on Back)

- ♦ 2 Cor. 6:16-17:1
- ♦ Luke 6:31-36

Announcements:

Church Musician Sunday

The Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America has designated the Sunday on or following the commemoration of Saint Romanus the Melodist (October 1) as "Church Musician Sunday." Church Musician Sunday highlights the essential role of liturgical music in Orthodox Christian worship and the important role of church musicians in the life of the Church. Following the Divine Liturgy, join us in coffee hour as we congratulate and celebrate our wonderful choir members!

Holy Land Pilgrimage Presentation

Last year, a handful of our parishioners made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, and would like to share photos and memories of their trip with us. A brief presentation will be given following/during coffee hour on October 22. Lunch will be provided. All are welcome.

Panikhida

Today's Panikhida is being said for all of the departed members of our Parish Choir. May their memory be eternal, and may they continue their melodious praise of God in His Heavenly Kingdom.

This Week

Saturday, October 7

6:00pm - Great Vespers

Sunday, October 8

9:00am - 3rd & 6th Hours

9:30am - Divine Liturgy



Meditation on Today's Feast

The Protection of the Mother of God is one of the most beloved feast days on the Orthodox calendar among the Slavic peoples, commemorated on October 1. The feast is celebrated additionally on October 28 in the Greek tradition. It is also known as the feast of the Virgin Mary's Cerement.

In most Slavic languages the word "cerement" has a dual meaning of "veil" and "protection." The Russian word Pokrov (Покров), like the Greek Skepi (Σκέπη), has a complex meaning. First of all, it refers to a cloak or shroud, but it also means protection or intercession. For this reason, the name of the feast is variously translated as the Veil of Our Lady, the Protecting Veil of the Theotokos, the Protection of the Theotokos, or the Intercession of the Theotokos.

The feast day celebrates the appearance of the Mother of God at Blachernae in the tenth century. At the end of St. Andrew of Constantinople's life, he, with his disciple St. Epiphanius, and a group of people, saw the Mother of God, St. John the Baptist, and several other saints and angels during a vigil in the Church of Blachernae, nearby the city gates. The Blachernae Palace church was where several of her relics were kept. The relics were her robe, veil, and part of her belt that had been transferred from Palestine during the fifth century.

The Theotokos approached the center of the church, knelt down and remained in prayer for a long time. Her face was drowned in tears. Then she took her veil (cerement) off and spread it over the people as a sign of protection. During the time, the people in the city were threatened by a barbarian invasion. After the appearance of the Mother of God, the danger was averted and the city was spared from bloodshed and suffering.

The Protection is commemorated most fervently in Slavic churches, probably because St. Andrew was a Slav. The first celebration of the Theotokos's cerement in the Russian Orthodox Church dates back from the 12th century and today is celebrated throughout the Orthodox Church.



famous hymnographer whose feast is also celebrated on the same day, October 1. He is with his choir attended by the Emperor Leo the Wise together with the Empress and the Patriarch of Constantinople.

The feast day commemorating the miracle is celebrated with an All-Night Vigil, with many of the same elements as occur on Great Feasts of the Theotokos. However, this feast has no afterfeast.

Two different events that took place four hundred years apart are combined in this one icon. Both events took place in the former Church of Blachernae in Constantinople.

The icon of the feast, Protection of the Mother of God, shows the Theotokos standing above the faithful with her arms outstretched in prayer and draped with a veil. On both sides of her are angels. On the lower right of most icons of this feast, are saints Andrew and his disciple Epiphanius who saw this vision of the Mother of God, with the twelve apostles, bishops, holy women, monks and martyrs, spreading her veil in protection over the congregation. St. Epiphanius is wearing a tunic under his cloak and gestures in astonishment at the miraculous appearance, while St. Andrew, Fool-for-Christ, is dressed only in a cloak.

Below the Theotokos, in the center of the icon, stands a young man with a halo, he is clothed in a deacon's sticharion. In his left hand, he is holding an open scroll with the text of the Kontakion for Nativity in honor of the Mother of God. This is St. Romanus the Melodist, the

Today's Saint

St. Romanus the Melodist was a Greek hymn-writer and was born at Emesa (Hems) in Syria. His feast day is October 1 with the feast of the Protection of the Mother of God.

The patron of church singers, St. Romanus, was born in Emesa in the latter part of the fifth century. When he came of age he served as a verger, lighting the lamps and preparing the censer. After moving to Beirut, he was ordained to the diaconate and assigned to the Church of the Resurrection. He had a rather mediocre voice, but his pure and simple heart was filled with love for God, and to assist at the church services gave him the greatest joy.

During the reign of Emperor Anastasius I, the young deacon moved to Constantinople. He led an ascetic life of prayer and fasting, but in his humility he thought of himself as being rather worldly. He had a special love for the Mother of God, and would go at night to pray in the Blachernae Church, which housed the precious veil of the Holy Virgin. The saintly Patriarch Euthemius loved Romanus for his many virtues, and paid him the same wage as those singers and readers who were more educated and more talented. The latter resented this and derided Romanus for his evident lack of musical and theological training. Romanus himself was painfully aware of these defects; he longed for a melodious voice worthy of leading the faithful in praising God.

It was the day before the Feast of Our Lord's Nativity, and St. Romanus was assigned to lead the singing that evening at the All-Night Vigil. He was responsible not only for the singing but also for the text of the hymns. After everyone had left, he remained in the Blachernae Church and tearfully entreated the Mother of God to help him. Exhausted, he fell asleep with his sorrow. In answer to his prayer, the Mother of God appeared to him in a dream. She handed him a scroll and said to him gently, "Here, eat this." Romanus did so and awoke, overcome with joy and the lingering presence of the heavenly visitor.

When it came time that night for him to sing, St. Romanus received the patriarch's blessing and, vested in a special garment reserved for the principal singer, he stepped onto the ambo. He began to sing: "Today the Virgin gives birth to Him

Prayers Appreciated for:

Living:

Marge
Tina, Katherine,
Paula, Marianne,
Suleiman, Steve
All Members of our
Parish Choir

Departed:

Matushka Priscilla Shipley
All Departed Members of
our Parish Chior

Tall Candles

Tall candles are available to
sponsor for \$15ea.
Contact Fr. Joseph for details.

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday, Oct. 2

Bl. Andrew, Fool-for-Christ, at
Constantinople
Ephesians 4:25-32
Luke 6:24-30

Tuesday, Oct. 3

St. Dionysius the Areopagite
Ephesians 5:20-26
Luke 6:37-45

Wed, Oct. 4

Hieromartyr Hierotheus
Ephesians 5:25-33
Luke 6:46-7:1

Thurs, Oct. 5

Martyr Charitina of Amisos
Ephesians 5:33-6:9
Luke 7:17-30

Friday, Oct. 6

St. Innocent, Apostle to America
Ephesians 6:18-24
Luke 7:31-35

Saturday, Oct. 7

Martyrs Sergius and Bacchus
1 Cor. 15:39-45
Luke 5:27-32

Who is above all being . . ." The emperor, the patriarch, the clergy - the entire congregation listened in wonder at the profound theology and the clear, sonorous voice which issued forth. They all joined in the refrain, "A new-born Babe, the pre-eternal God." Later, St. Romanus told the patriarch about his vision, and the singers who had made fun of him prostrated themselves in repentance and humbly asked his forgiveness. Romanus is said to have composed more than 8000 kontakia celebrating the feasts of the ecclesiastical year, the lives of the saints, and other sacred subjects.

