

- **Service Streaming:** To view livestreams of our services, please visit https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGp9uDgdYDw_sqUBWP_8zeQ.
- **Agape Meal:** We will have lunch downstairs in the parish hall immediately after Divine Liturgy today. Please join your fellow parishioners for lunch and to catch up with those you know as well as to get to know our newcomers.
- **Vacation Family Camp This Week:** VFC will run from Monday-Friday (August 16-20). Each evening will feature dinner (5:30-6:30 PM), a talk by Fr. Christopher (6:30-7 PM), and a special fellowship activity (7-8 PM).

Monday – Prayer Rope Making

Tuesday – Games

Wednesday – Sushi Making with Dr. Fran

Thursday – Burgers and Beer Tasting

Friday – Movie Night

- **Fall Episcopal Visit Luncheon (RSVP for September 12):** Thank you to all who have RSVP'd already for the luncheon for His Grace Bishop Thomas on September 12. If you have not done so yet, we need to know if you *are* attending or if you *are not* attending. Please see Parish Council Secretary Fran H. today after church or email her today. Thank you!
- **2021 Sunday School for Children:** With the Liturgical New Year (September 1) right around the corner, we are gearing up for Sunday school, which will start on Sunday, September 19. All parents are asked to complete a registration form for their children as soon as possible. Please pick up your form this Sunday after church (they are next to the collection basket in the nave) and return the completed forms to Father Christopher. Please contact Fr. Christopher if you have any questions.
- **Events for Youth:** We plan to offer Teen SOYO activities and events in the future. For Youth Month in October, there will be opportunities to learn to read the Epistle and participate in other church activities. Further details will follow.
- **Church Etiquette:** In anticipation of the visit of His Grace Bishop Thomas in September and ensuring that we put our best foot forward, it is time to review some basic church etiquette items for us to implement during and after services.

All agree that after a long week at work or school, it is nice to see our friends and church family members on Sunday mornings. However, when we are in the nave, we are in the House of the Lord. Because of this, we all need to remember the following: All conversations, greeting friends, waving, etc. should be limited to time *after* the service, when we have exited the nave (outside the double glass doors). Additionally, when the presiding clergy (be it the priest or the bishop) step outside the altar for any reason (during either the Small or the Great Entrance, for the sermon, to bring communion, or otherwise), all talking/chanting/singing ceases.

If we take the next few weeks to practice these important items, this discipline will become a habit of loving behaviour not only towards Bishop Thomas and Father Christopher but also towards our fellow parishioners as they worship the Lord.



HOLY ASCENSION

Orthodox Christian Church

**Antiochian Orthodox Christian Diocese of
Charleston, Oakland, and the Mid-Atlantic**

**Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch
and All the East**

Primate

His Eminence, the Most Rev. Metropolitan Joseph
(Al-Zehlaoui)

Diocesan Hierarch

His Grace, the Right Rev. Bishop Thomas (Joseph)

Pastor

Rev. Fr. Christopher Eid

Subdeacon

Vladimir Moses

Saturday Vespers - 5:00 PM

Sunday Orthros - 8:25 AM

Sunday Liturgy - 9:30 AM

**Confessions - Saturday evenings,
following most divine services,
and by appointment**

*For an updated service and event
schedule, visit our online calendar:*

HolyAscension.net/calendar

Divine Liturgy Variables

Resurrectional Apolytikion in Tone Seven

Thou didst shatter death by Thy Cross; Thou didst open paradise to the thief; Thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment-bearing women into joy – and didst bid Thine Apostles proclaim a warning, that Thou hast risen O Christ, granting to the world the Great Mercy.

Apolytikion of the Dormition in Tone One

In thy birth-giving, O Theotokos, thou didst keep and preserve virginity; and in thy falling asleep, thou hast not forsaken the world, for thou wast translated into life, being the Mother of Life – wherefore, by thine intercessions, deliver our souls from death.

Kontakion of the Dormition in Tone Two

Verily, the Theotokos, who is ever watchful in intercessions and whose prayers are never rejected, neither tomb nor death could control – but since she is the Mother of Life, He Who dwelt in her ever-virgin womb did translate her to life.

Prayer Requests

LIVING:

Catechumen John R.; Catechumen Dan S.; Vicki M. (health); Della (Jeanne K.'s friend); David K. (Vicki M.'s nephew); Carol (Vicki M.'s sister, health); Maggie (Fran H.'s sister-in-law, health); Thomas (Fran H.'s husband, health); Jean (Lisa K.'s friend, cancer); Sophia (infant granddaughter of Lisa K.'s coworker, leukemia); Marlan A.; Mitri, Tina, and family; Courtney M. (health); Maggie W. (health); Ariel (Barbara H.'s daughter-in-law) and baby; Barbara H. (shoulder); Bp. Alexander (health); Met. Hilarion (cancer); Jeanne K. (health); Dorothy (Fran's mother); Elizabeth G. (heart); Fiona (Jane S.'s family friend); Elias (Lisa K.'s cousin, tumor); Mary (Jeff K.'s cousin, cancer); Christina (Lisa K.'s mother); Suad and Nasri (ill); Jack (Coleen's dad, for continued healing); Daniel (Mark R.'s son); Orthodox suffering from persecution; those suffering from war, illness, and disasters

DEPARTED:

Those lost to illness or natural disasters
Orthodox Christians and others recently murdered and killed during the fighting in the Middle East, Africa, and elsewhere in the world



Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos

Today's Scripture Readings

THE EPISTLE

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Philippians (2:5-11)

Brethren, let this mind be in you, which is also in Christ Jesus; who, being in the form of God, did not think it robbery to be equal with God, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, becoming Himself in the likeness of men; and being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, becoming obedient unto death, even the death of the Cross. For this cause also God highly exalted Him, and gave Him a Name which is above every name; that in the Name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven, and those who are on earth, and those who are under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke (10:38-42; 11:27-28)

At that time, Jesus entered a certain village; and a woman named Martha received Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to His teaching. But Martha was distracted with much serving; and she went to Him and said, "Lord, dost Thou not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things; one thing is needful. Mary has chosen the good portion, which shall not be taken away from her." As He said this, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, "Blessed is the womb that bore Thee, and the breasts that Thou didst suck!" But He said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

Words from the Saints

Preparation for the meeting of the heavenly King... is essentially the person's preparation throughout the whole of his life... a change in all his thoughts, and the moral change of all his being, so that the whole man would be pure and white as snow...

The heavenly King desires souls adorned with immutable virtue, souls prepared so that the Very Lord Himself could abide in them. Do not marvel that the Very Lord wants to live in us. In fact the human soul is more spacious than the heavens and the earth, for it exists in the image of God. And if one removes sins from the soul, the Lord of all will settle in it and will fill it with Himself.



St. John of Kronstadt (Sermon on the Dormition)

