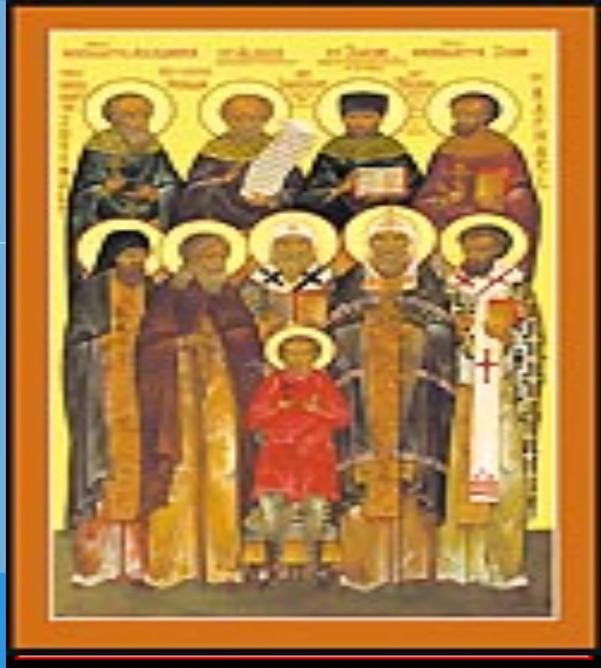


Holy Nativity of the Lord

*Christ Is in our
Midst*

June 16, 2014,



As the bountiful harvest of
Your sowing of salvation,
The lands of North
America offer to You, O
Lord, all the saints who
have shone in them. By
their prayers keep the
Church and our land in
abiding peace Through
the Theotokos, O most
Merciful One.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

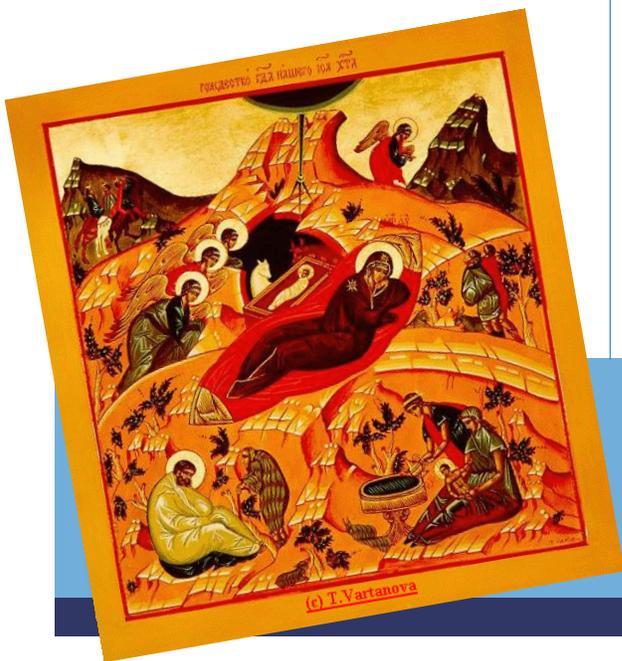
Blessings in the Name of our Lord!

On the second Sunday after Pentecost, each local Orthodox Church commemorates all the saints, known and unknown, who have shone forth in its territory. Accordingly, the Orthodox Church in America remembers the saints of North America on this day.

Saints of all times, and in every country are seen as the fulfillment of God's promise to redeem fallen humanity. Their example encourages us to "lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily besets us" and to "run with patience the race that is set before us" (Hebrews 12:1). The saints of North America also teach us how we should live, and what we must expect to endure as Christians. May God grant us the grace and strength we need to follow their example as they followed that of Christ.

With pastoral blessings,

fr Jason



Your Nativity, O Christ our God, has shone to the world the Light of wisdom! For by it, those who worshipped the stars, were taught by a star to adore You, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know You, the Orient from on High. O Lord, glory to You!

Weekly Service Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Apostle's Fast	Apostle's Fast	Apostle's Fast Vespers, Meal, Bible Study at Cosse's House 5:30	Apostle's Fast Ladies Night Meet at St. George 5:30	Fast Day Men's Lunch at Shanes 12:00	Apostle's Fast (Fish allowed) Vespers Foster's House 5:00	Apostle's Fast (Fish Allowed) Divine Liturgy (Barksdale) 10:00

Birthdays, Anniversaries & Name Days: Please Keep in Your Prayers:

Sick & Suffering: Faud Hamdan, Jenny Booras, Nick, Alan, Ettie, Horne Family, Met Paul, Mar Gregorius, those suffering in Egypt, Crimea & the Ukraine.

Catechumens: Travis, Jennifer, Jack, Jane, and Murray Henley, Kevin & Mara Alexander, Dane, Elizabeth, Aubré, and Jude Shillings, Steve, Jennifer, Charleigh, David Gillum, Katie Cohen, Bryce

Expecting/ New Mothers: Reneé Collins

Newly Departed: Metropolitan Philip, Fr. Alexander, Sofia, Laura and infant Nina.

(If anyone is left off the list please let Fr. Jason know!)

Service

A reminder to those who serve Holy Nativity this week. Your service is greatly appreciated!

Wednesday night meal -Laura Taylor

Sunday Coffee Hour - Stephanie May

"The truth that is found within Orthodoxy must be shared by living our faith in love, not in judging or correcting others. Truth, where ever it is found, is Orthodox Truth... They may not have the fullness of Apostolic Truth, but if they are believers in God and are trying to live a life pleasing to God, we must give thanks to Christ for what they do have."

Choir Practice
Saturday, 4:15 at
Foster's House.

The Apostle's Fast in the Eastern Churches

The Apostles' Fast, also called the Fast of the Holy Apostles, the Fast of Peter and Paul, or sometimes simply St. Peter's Fast, is a fast observed by the faithful of the Eastern Churches (both Catholics and Orthodox). It is one of the four periods of fasting handed down through Holy Tradition. The others being the Great Lent Fast, the Nativity Fast and the Dormition Fast. The Apostles' Fast begins on the second Monday after Pentecost (the day following All Saints' Sunday) and continues until the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul on June 29.

Having rejoiced for fifty days following Pascha, the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Apostles began to prepare for their departure from Jerusalem to spread Christ's message throughout the world. According to Sacred Tradition, as part of their preparation, they began a fast with prayer to ask God to strengthen their resolve and to be with them during their missionary efforts as they spread the Gospel.

The Biblical foundation for the Fast is found in the Synoptic Gospels, when the Pharisees criticized the Apostles for not fasting, Jesus said to them, ***"Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come, when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast."*** Our Lord, in this passage, was referring to his being taken to be crucified; but in the larger sense these words of the Lord are understood in terms of his Ascension into heaven, and his command to preach the Gospel, which can only be accomplished with prayer and fasting. The New Testament mentions the practice of fasting many times.

The tradition of the Apostles' Fast has existed at least since Pope Leo I (461 AD), as is evidenced by his homilies, though it has subsequently passed from practice in the West. The Fast is thought to have been instituted out of thanksgiving to God for the witness of the Apostles of Our Lord. With this Fast, the faithful express their thanks for the Apostles' endurance of persecution during their mission.

The Apostles' Fast is not as severe as Great Lent or the Dormition Fast, but mandates fasting from red meat, poultry, meat products, eggs, dairy products, fish, oil, and wine. Fish, wine and oil are allowed on Saturdays and Sundays, and oil and wine are allowed on Tuesdays and Thursdays. These fasting rules are similar to those observed during the Nativity Fast.



The Great Physician

Vacation Bible School

In this one week adventure, kids will learn how the Church is like a hospital through Bible lessons, crafts, music, and games.

July 8-11 (Tuesday - Friday) 9-12pm

Preschool - 5th grade

St. George Orthodox Church

Family Day - Saturday, July 12th at 12:00

We need your help! Please contact
Pres. Ashley (Shreveportjf@aol.com) Stacy Cosse (stacycosse@me.com)

Why Do We Need to Go to Church?

Many people who rarely attend church have a kind of consumer's attitude towards church. They come to church, for instance, before a long trip – to light a candle just for the sake of it, so that nothing would happen on the road. They come for two or three minutes, hurriedly cross themselves and, having lit a candle, go on their way. Some, entering a church, say: “I want to pay money so that Batiushka would pray for such-and-such” – and pay money and leave. The priest needs to pray, but these people themselves do not participate in the prayer.

This is a wrong attitude. The Church is not a machine for buying “sneakers”: drop your coin and candy falls out. The Church is a place to go to live and study. If you are experiencing certain difficulties or if one of your neighbors has fallen ill, do not limit yourself to going and putting up a candle. Come to church for the divine service, immerse yourself in the elements of prayer, and lift up your prayer for your need along with the priest and the community.

It is important that attendance at church be regular. It is good to attend church every Sunday. The Sunday Divine Liturgy, as well as the Liturgy on great feasts, is the time when we can, by giving up two hours of our earthly affairs, plunge ourselves into the elements of prayer. It is good to come to church with one's entire family, in order to receive Confession and Communion.

If one learns to live from Sunday to Sunday, in the rhythm of the church services, in the rhythm of the Divine Liturgy, then one's whole life will change dramatically. Above all, it will become disciplined. The believer knows that next Sunday he will have to give an answer to God, and he lives differently: he does not allow himself many sins that he would otherwise allow himself if he did not go to church. Moreover, the Divine Liturgy itself is an opportunity to receive Holy Communion, that is, to unite with God not only spiritually, but also physically. Finally, the Divine Liturgy is a comprehensive service at which the entire church community and each of its members can pray for everyone that troubles or worries him or her. The faithful during the Liturgy can pray for themselves, and for their neighbors, and for their future, bringing repentance for their sins and asking God's blessing for their further ministry. It is very important to learn to participate fully in the Liturgy. In Church there are also other services, for example, the All-Night Vigil – a preparatory service for Communion. One can order molebens [supplicatory services] for the health of one person or another. But no so-called “private” services – that is, services ordered for someone's specific needs – can take the place of the Divine Liturgy, because the Liturgy is the center of church prayer, and it should become the center of the spiritual life of every Christian and every Christian family. (content taken from Pravmir).

2014 DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY

Diocese of the South, Orthodox Church in America

The St Seraphim Cathedral is pleased to announce the registration of the 2014 Diocesan Assembly in Dallas, TX. The Assembly will take place in Dallas from Monday, July 21st through Friday, July 25th. Registration forms are to be found on the Diocese of the South website. Please print out and submit with payment. Please register promptly to help us meet your needs. We have arranged a special rate at the DoubleTree by Hilton Dallas—Market Center Hotel. The DoubleTree is located several miles from the St Seraphim Cathedral. Please use this link to register at the DoubleTree Hotel <http://doubletree.hilton.com>

We will hold a reception and banquet there on Thursday evening, July 24th.

A youth program will take place concurrently with Diocesan Assembly. In order to better plan the youth events, please register soon. There is a \$110.00 registration fee per participant. Youth meet each day from 9-5.

This is open to anyone that would like to attend. If you are interested in you & your family attending please visit with Fr. Jason. You can also find the schedule, cost, and registration forms at <http://www.dosoca.org>

A few of the topics include:

“Critical Reflections on the Use of the Body in a Post-Christian Age”

“The U.S. Healthcare Crisis and the Prohibition of Traditional Christian Caregiving”

“Priest, Parish, and Pastoral Care”

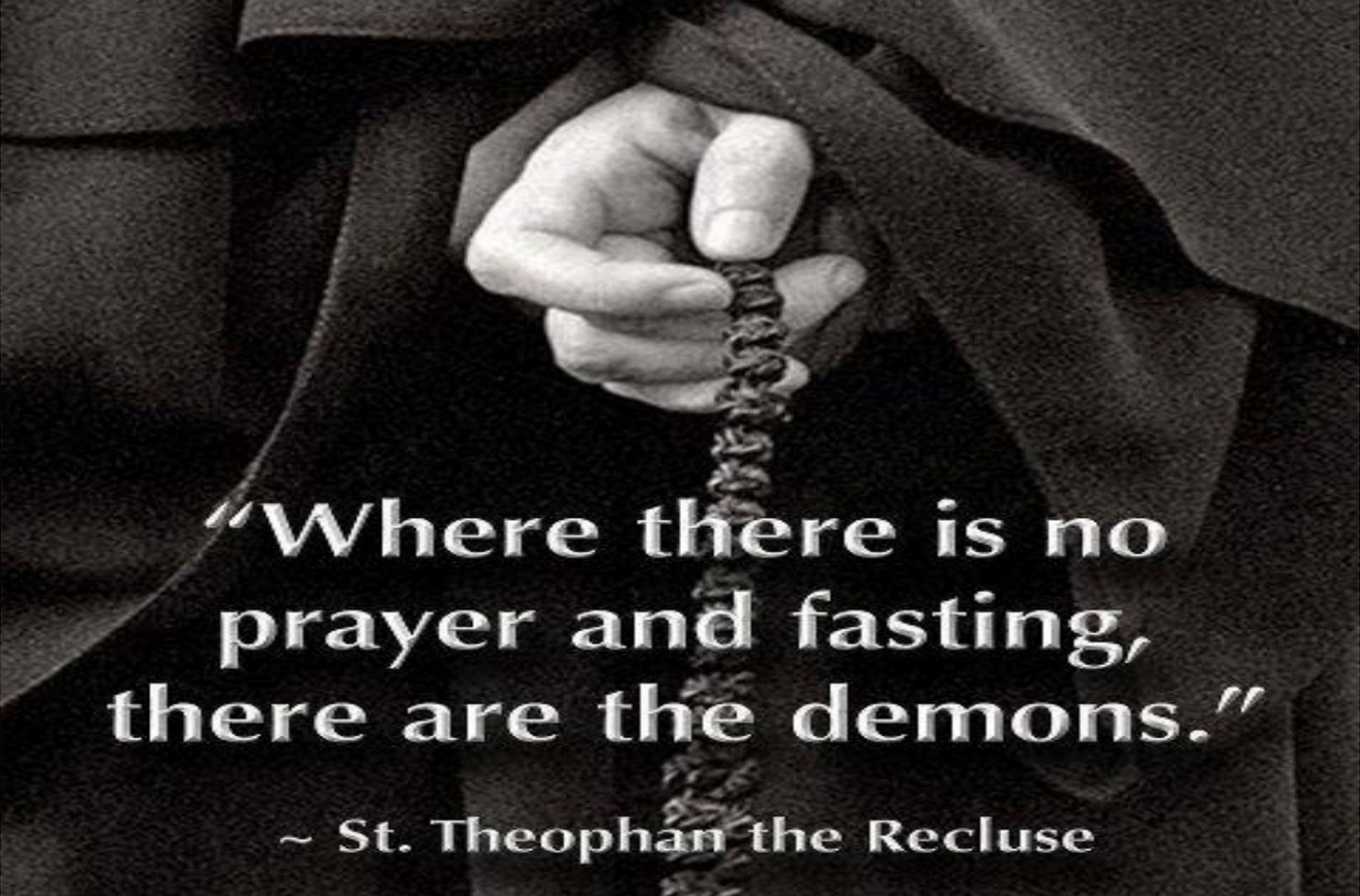
Men's Work Day – Saturday 7am

This Saturday the men will gather on our Southern Loop property at 7am to mark trees and the boundary for the future temple and parking lot. By doing this, it will help the contractors move forward with clearing the underbrush and clearing the land. This is quite a bit of work to do. It will probably take us into lunchtime to finish. If this is the case, we will all eat afterwards.

If you have a pair of snake boots, please bring them. Also, I do not recommend anyone wearing shorts as the mosquitos and chiggers are hungry and plentiful this time of year. Off is highly recommended!

St. Emilia Women's Ministry

This Thursday Night, St. Emilia Women will be meeting at St. George where Fr. Jason will take us on a tour of the church and will also explain the Iconography. We will begin at 5:30. Afterwards we will head over to Monjuni's to eat.



“Where there is no prayer and fasting, there are the demons.”

~ St. Theophan the Recluse

Holy Nativity of the Lord Mission

Rev. Fr. Jason Foster, Pastor

Visit or contact us at:

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Email: frjasonfoster@gmail.com, 318-455-4219