

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

~ a Pan-Orthodox parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese ~

His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH, Archbishop of New York
and Metropolitan of all North America

His Grace Bishop NICHOLAS, Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Miami
Archpriest Joseph Bittle, Pastor



GREAT-MARTYR PROCOPIUS OF CAESAREA IN PALESTINE

SIXTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW

JULY 8, 2018

Preparing to Worship the Thrice-Holy God

Upon Entering the Church

I will come into thy house in the multitude of thy mercy;
and in thy fear I will worship toward thy holy temple.

(Ps. 5:7)

A Prayer before Holy Communion

Come, O you people, let us sing a song to Christ our God, Who divided the sea, and made a way for the nation which He had brought up out of the bondage of Egypt; for He is glorious.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

May Thy holy Body be for me the bread of eternal life, O gracious Lord, and may Thy precious Blood be a remedy for my many forms of sickness.

Cast me not away from Thy Face, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

Defiled by misguided deeds, wretched as I am, I am unworthy, O Christ, to partake of Thy immaculate Body and divine Blood, but make me worthy of them.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O blessed Bride of God, O good land which produced the unploughed Corn which saves the world, grant that I may be saved by eating it.

(Canon of Preparation for Holy Communion, Ode 1)

A Word for Newcomers

A warm welcome to all those worshiping with us at Holy Trinity! If you are from a non-Orthodox background you may see many new and unfamiliar things. Rest assured that everything has a solid biblical foundation and a long history among Christian people. Please join us for coffee after the service. And feel free to ask Fr. Joseph any questions you may have.

About receiving Holy Communion: The Orthodox Church understands the Eucharist, or Lord's Supper, to be – among other things – the paramount expression of Christian unity. Since participation in the Eucharist expresses a formal unity with all the dogma and practice and discipline of the Orthodox Church, **non-Orthodox** guests do not receive Holy Communion. **Orthodox** communicants are reminded that we approach the Chalice with due preparation including recent Confession, keeping the appointed fasts of the Church, and appropriate prayers of *preparation* for the reception of Holy Communion and *thanksgiving* after.

**DIVINE LITURGY of
ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM**

Variable Hymns and Readings



FIRST ANTIPHON

*Verse: It is good to give praise unto the Lord, and to chant unto Thy name,
O Most High.*

Refrain: Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

Verse: To proclaim in the morning Thy mercy, and Thy truth by night.

Verse: Upright is the Lord our God, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.

Glory to the . . . Now and Ever . . .

SECOND ANTIPHON

Verse: The Lord is King, He is clothed with majesty;

the Lord is clothed with strength and He hath girt Himself.

Refrain: O Son of God, who arose from the dead, save us who sing to Thee.
Alleluia.

Verse: For He established the world which shall not be shaken.

Verse: Holiness becometh Thy house, O Lord, unto length of days.

Glory to the . . . Now and ever . . . Only begotten Son ...

THIRD ANTIPHON

The Beatitudes: In Thy kingdom remember us, O Lord,
when thou comest in Thy kingdom.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness,
for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when men shall revile you and shall persecute you
and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely for my sake;
Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven.

AFTER LITTLE ENTRANCE

Troparion for Resurrection (Tone 5)

Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

Troparion for St. Procopius the Great-Martyr (Tone 4)

Thy Martyr, O Lord, in his courageous contest for Thee received as the prize the crowns of incorruption and life from Thee, our immortal God. For since he possessed Thy strength, he cast down the tyrants and wholly destroyed the demons' strengthless presumption. O Christ God, by his prayers, save our souls, since Thou art merciful.

Troparion for Pentecost, patronal feast of the parish (Tone 8)

Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God, who hast revealed the fisherman as most wise, by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit; through them Thou didst draw the world into Thy net. O Lover of Man, glory to Thee!

Kontakion for Theotokos (Tone 2)

O undisputed intercessor of Christians, O mediatrix who is unrejected by the Creator, turn not away from the voice of our petitions though we be sinners. Come to us with aid in time, who cry unto thee in faith, for thou art good. Hasten to us with intercessions, O Theotokos, who didst ever intercede for those who honor thee.

EPISTLE: Romans 12:6-14 (*Sixth Sun. after Pentecost*)

Brethren, having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; he who teaches, in his teaching; he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who contributes, in liberality; he who gives aid, with zeal; he who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, and serve the Lord. Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints, practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

GOSPEL: St. Matthew 9:1-8 (*Sixth Sun. of Matthew*)

At that time, Jesus got into a boat, crossed over and came to His own city. And behold, they brought to Him a paralytic, lying on his bed; and when Jesus saw their faith He said to the paralytic, "Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven." And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil

in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise and walk’? But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—He then said to the paralytic—“Rise, take up your bed and go home.” And he rose and went home. When the crowds saw it, they marveled, and they glorified God, Who had given such authority to men.

Today’s Saint: The Great-Martyr Procopius of Caesarea in Palestine

The Holy Great Martyr Procopius, in the world Neanius, a native of Jerusalem, lived and suffered during the reign of the emperor Diocletian (284-305). His father, an eminent Roman by the name of Christopher, was a Christian, but the mother of the saint, Theodosia, remained a pagan. He was early deprived of his father, and the young child was raised by his mother. Having received an excellent secular education, he was introduced to Diocletian in the very first year of the emperor’s accession to the throne, and he quickly advanced in government service. Towards the year 303, when open persecution against Christians began, Neanius was sent as a proconsul to Alexandria with orders to mercilessly persecute the Church of God.

On the way to Egypt, near the Syrian city of Apamea, Neanius had a vision of the Lord Jesus, similar to the vision of Saul on the road to Damascus. A divine voice exclaimed, “Neanius, why do you persecute Me?”

Neanius asked, “Who are you, Lord?”

“I am the crucified Jesus, the Son of God.”

At that moment a radiant Cross appeared in the air. Neanius felt an inexpressible joy and spiritual happiness in his heart and he was transformed from being a persecutor into a zealous follower of Christ. From this point in time Neanius became favorably disposed towards Christians and fought victoriously against the barbarians.

The words of the Savior came true for the saint, “A man’s foes shall be those of his own household” (Mt. 10:36). His mother, a pagan herself, went to the emperor to complain that her son did not worship the ancestral gods. Neanius was summoned to the procurator Judaeus Justus, where he was solemnly handed the decree of Diocletian. Having read through the blasphemous directive, Neanius quietly tore it up before the eyes of everyone. This was a crime, which the Romans regarded as an “insult to authority.” Neanius was held under guard and in chains sent to Caesarea of Palestine, where the Apostle Paul once languished. After terrible torments, they threw the saint into a dark prison. That night, a light shone in the prison, and the Lord Jesus Christ Himself baptized the suffering confessor, and gave him the name Procopius.

Repeatedly they led Saint Procopius to the courtroom, demanding that he renounce Christ, and they subjected him to more tortures. The stolidity of the martyr and his fiery faith brought down God’s abundant grace on those who witnessed the execution.

Inspired by the example of Procopius, many of the holy martyr’s former guards and Roman soldiers went beneath the executioner’s sword together with their tribunes Nikostrates and Antiochus. Twelve Christian women received martyr’s crowns, after they came to the gates of the Caesarea Praetorium.

Struck by the great faith and courage of the Christians, and seeing the firmness of her son in bearing terrible sufferings, Theodosia became repentant and stood in the line of confessors and was executed. Finally the new procurator, Flavian, convinced of the futility of the tortures, sentenced the holy Great Martyr Procopius to beheading by the sword. By night Christians took up his much-tortured body, and with tears and prayers, they committed it to the earth. This was the first martyrdom at Caesarea (303).

THIS WEEK

Wednesday and Friday Fast

Monday, July 9	Hieromartyr Pankratios, bishop of Taormina in Sicily; Methodios, bishop; New-martyr Michael; Venerable Photios; Venerable Dionysios the Orator, first settler of Small St. Anne skete on Athos, and his disciple Venerable Metrophanes
Tuesday, July 10	The 45 martyrs at Nikopolis in Armenia; Venerable Anthony of the Kiev Caves; Venerable-martyrs Nikodemos the Albanian and Nektarios of the St. Anne skete on Athos; Hieromartyr Joseph the Damascene and his companions
Wednesday, July 11	Great-martyr Euphemia the all-praised; Olga (Helen), princess of Kiev
6:00 pm	Vespers
Thursday, July 12	Martyrs Proklos and Hilarion of Ancyra; Veronica, the woman with the issue of blood who was healed by our Lord
Friday, July 13	The synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel. Venerable Stephen of Mar Sabbas monastery and Heliophotos; Martyr Golinduch
Saturday, July 14	Apostle Aquila of the Seventy; Joseph the Confessor, archbishop of Thessalonika; Peter, bishop of Crete; Venerable Onesimos of Magnesia and Nikodemos of the Holy Mountain (Hagiorite)
6:00 pm	Great Vespers
6:45 pm	Confessions
Sunday, July 15	Martyrs Kyrikos and his mother Julietta of Tarsus; Great Prince Vladimir (Basil) of Kiev, equal-to-the-Apostles
9:00 am	Orthros
10:00 am	Divine Liturgy
11:30 am	Coffee Hour

BLESSING OF VEHICLES in honor of Prophet Elijah will take place after Divine Liturgy on Sunday, July 22.

FOCUS Backpack Program – This year our Antiochian Women are leading the way with the backpack and school supply project to help give the kids at Meadowcliff Elementary a good start for their academic year. We are all invited to participate! Backpacks for filling will be available beginning July 22.