Commemoration: The Holy Seven Maccabee Children, Solomone their Mother, and Eleazar their Teacher; Procession of the Precious Cross; Timothy the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Priconissus; Elesa the Righteous-Martyr of Kythira.

Variable Hymns and Readings in the Liturgy

At the Small Entrance

Hymn for the Cross, First Tone
Save, O Lord, Your people and bless Your inheritance, granting victory to the faithful over the enemy, and by Your Cross protecting Your commonwealth.

Hymn of Entrance
Save us, O Son of God, who are wondrous among Your saints, save us who sing to you: Alleluia!

Repeat Hymn for the Cross (above).

Hymn of the Dormition of the Theotokos, First Tone
In giving birth, you preserved your virginity, O Theotokos; in falling asleep you did not forsake the world. You passed over into life, O Mother of Life; and by your prayers you deliver our souls from death!

Hymn of the Seven Maccabee Children, Fourth Tone
Let us acclaim the seven Maccabee children with their mother, the holy Solomone, and their teacher Eleazar; for they excelled in lawful contest as guardians and keepers of the teachings of the Law. And now, as gloriously triumphant Martyrs of Christ, they intercede unceasingly for the world.
Kontakion, Fourth Tone

You who were lifted on the cross voluntarily, O Christ our God, bestow Your tender compassions upon Your new community to which You gave Your name. Cause our faithful emperors to be glad in Your power, granting them the victories against their adversaries. And for an ally, Lord, may they have You, peace as their armor, the trophy invincible.

Instead of “Holy God”

We venerate Your Cross, O Master, and we glorify Your Holy Resurrection.

Epistle

Brethren, all the saints through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated - of whom the world was not worthy - wandering over deserts and mountains and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect. Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

Gospel

The Lord said to his disciples, “Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of men; for they will deliver you up to councils, and flog you in their synagogues, and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear testimony before them and the Gentiles. When they deliver you up, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will deliver up brother to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; and you will be hated by all for my name’s sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved.”

Communion Hymn

O Lord, the light of Your face was stamped upon us. Alleluia.
Sunday, August 2, 2020

Commemoration: Eighth Sunday of Matthew; Translation of the Relics of Stephen the Protomartyr; Holy Glorious New Martyr Theodore of Dardanelles; Phocas the Martyr; Plegmund, Archbishop of Canterbury.

Morning Gospel: Eighth Tone: Grave

Variable Hymns and Readings in the Liturgy

At the Small Entrance

Resurrection Hymn, Grave Tone
By your cross, O Lord, you destroyed death; to the thief you opened paradise. The myrrhbearers’ sorrow you transformed into joy, and you sent your apostles forth to proclaim that you had risen from the dead, Christ our God, bestowing on all the world your great mercy.

Entrance Hymn
Come, let us worship and bow down before Christ. Save us, O Son of God, who rose from the dead, save us who sing to you: Alleluia!

Repeat the Resurrection Hymn, above.

Hymn of Saint Stephen, Protomartyr, Fourth Tone
O Stephen, a crown of royalty was laid on your head for contests you courageously endured for Christ our God, as first among Martyr saints. You stood in accusation of the raging Judeans; and you saw your Savior at the right hand of the Father. We pray that you will ever entreat Him to save our souls.

Hymn of the Dormition of the Theotokos, First Tone
In giving birth, you preserved your virginity, O Theotokos; in falling asleep you did not forsake the world. You passed over into life, O Mother of Life; and by your prayers you deliver our souls from death!

Kontakion of the Transfiguration of Christ, Grave Tone
You were transfigured on the mountain, O Christ our God, showing your disciples as much of your glory as they could bear, so that when they see you crucified they will know that you suffer freely, and they will tell all the world that you are truly the radiance of the Father.
Brethren, I appeal to you by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no dissensions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. For it has been reported to me by Chloe’s people that there is quarreling among you, my brethren. What I mean is that each one of you says, “I belong to Paul,” or “I belong to Apollos,” or “I belong to Cephas,” or “I belong to Christ.” Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispos and Gaius; lest any one should say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized any one else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

At that time, Jesus saw a great throng; and he had compassion on them, and healed their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a lonely place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” Jesus said, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” They said to him, “We have only five loaves here and two fish.” And he said, “Bring them here to me.” Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass; and taking the five loaves and the two fish he looked up to heaven, and blessed, and broke and gave the loaves to the crowds. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children. Then he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds.

Lord Jesus Christ, our God, accept our offerings as You have accepted the gifts of Your people throughout the ages. We offer these gifts to Your glory, for the support of the ministries of Your holy Church, for the alleviation of suffering and hunger, and for the proclamation of Your Gospel to the whole world.

Grant us Your blessing, Lord our Savior, that we may always be faithful stewards, continuing to share the gifts you have given us, by the power of Your grace, mercy, and love. May Your name be glorified forever. Amen.
Please remember the sick, the suffering, and those in need, especially: Those suffering from COVID-19 and those who care for them; Our brothers and sisters living through the aftermath of disaster; For the victims of violence; Families Moving Forward; Metro Hope Ministries; Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry; FOCUS Minnesota; Our brothers and sisters serving in the Armed Forces throughout the world especially John Ellis; San Miguel Del Lago Orphanage; Deb, Peter, Sarah, Maia, Judith, Jeanette, Travis, Kristina, Kassie, Tahnlee, Lois, Kalli, Alex, Presvytera Pat Tsagalakis, Quinn, Annie, Sue & Jim, Steve, Sue, Jane, Carole, Rafka, Pat, Nancy, Mary Muzetras, Dave, Pam Katie, Bri, Gilbert, Christina, George P., Barbara, Thespina, Danielle, Jenny, John L., Steven E., Samir and Samira, Julia, Presvytera Janis, Sandra, Sophia, George, Rick, Bryn, Phil, Karen, Kristina, Phil, Marnie and family; Joyce, Dorla, Linda, Fr. Elias, Vicki, Bill, Diana, Elpis Potini, Dina, Landon, Luke, Aemiliane, Doria, Mike, Stephanie, Tyler, Ben, Brittany, Amy, Shinia, Chelsea, Christy, Karen, Anastasia, Jamie, Alex and Alexander, Zoe Kakos, Sibe, Saleh & Deanna, Kristine, Henry, Toni, Gina, Julie, R.J., Allie, Elena, Speranta, Alexander, Stephanie, John, Vickie, Petra, Bob, Christina, Joseph, Avgi, Christopher, Alki, Elizabeth, Jaxon, Olle, Judi, Bodil, Ole, and others known to you.

Baptism this weekend:
August 1 – Sarah, parents: Fr. Jason & Presvytera Alexandra Houck

The Dormition of the Theotokos ~ Our Parish Feast Day

Dormition Retreat
Kids in kindergarten through grade 12 are invited to attend our annual Dormition Retreat on Friday, August 14, 5:00-6:00 p.m. We plan to decorate the Kouvouklion for the Theotokos and have a lesson about the Theotokos and other fun events leading up to Great Vespers. Please watch your e-mails for the RSVP link for this event.

Feast Day Worship
Friday, August 14
   6:00 p.m. – Great Vespers
Saturday, August 15
   9:00 a.m. – Orthros; 10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy
(Registration required for August 15)

In observance of the Feast, the Church and Office will be closed on Monday, August 17.
Calendar of the Week

**Sunday, August 2**
7:00 p.m. – Virtual Town Hall Meeting
   *Advance registration needed.*

**Monday, August 3**
6:00 p.m. – Paraklesis *

**Tuesday, August 4**
4:00 p.m. – HOPE/JOY Storytime
6:00 p.m. – Paraklesis *

**Wednesday, August 5**
6:00 p.m. – Great Vespers *

**Thursday, August 6: Holy Transfiguration**
8:30 a.m. – Orthros; 9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy *
6:00 p.m. – Paraklesis *

**Friday, August 7**
7:00 a.m. – Men’s Fellowship
6:00 p.m. – Paraklesis *

**Saturday, August 8**
9:00 a.m. – Orthros; 10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy
   *Registration requested.*
5:00 p.m. – Great Vespers *

**Sunday, August 9: Ninth Sunday of Matthew**
8:30 a.m. – Orthros; 9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy
   *Registration requested.*

* = services when advance registration is not asked.
Virtual Town Hall Meeting  
Sunday, August 2, 7:00 p.m.

Thank you to all of our parishioners who responded to our “Returning to Worship Survey.” Your heartfelt comments were very much appreciated and will allow us to continue adjusting our message and procedures as we progress on this journey together. Now that the survey is closed, we wish to share the results with you, virtually, at a Parish Town Hall meeting on Sunday, August 2, 7:00 p.m.

From the comfort of your homes and cabins, you can learn more about the survey results, the procedures the church has been taking, and additional plans for the fall.

If you haven’t done so already, please register no later than 12:00 noon this Sunday for the meeting by copying and pasting the link below into your internet browser. After registering, you will receive a confirmation e-mail containing information about joining the meeting.

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMocumvrTojHdZ5vjp8_4HXNtjtNeVVr7

Virtual Women’s Book Club Discussion: Tuesday, August 4, 7:00 p.m.

The Zoom discussion of “The Holy Angels” by Mother Alexandra will be on Tuesday, August 4, and all women are welcome. An e-mail with Zoom credentials will be provided closer to the date. Copies of the book can be purchased from the St. Mary’s office for $20.

In the Bookstore...

Father George’s new book Made for Union has arrived! Because the bookstore is closed indefinitely due to the pandemic, copies are available in the church office. Charge card payments are accepted.

Food Shelf Needs for Next Week

Diapers, size 5

August’s recipient is Community Emergency Service. Please do not bring opened packages. They will be discarded.
From the Fathers... on Miracles

Let us ask the miracles themselves what they tell us of Christ; for if they be understood, they have a tongue of their own. For because Christ Himself is the Word of God, even the deed of the Word is word for us.

—Saint Augustine, “Homilies on John”

Daily Bible Readings

Monday, July 27: Saint Panteleimon
1 Corinthians 11:31 – 12:6 • Matthew 18:1-11

Tuesday, July 28
I Corinthians 12:12-26 • Matthew 18:18-22;19:1-2;13-15

Wednesday, July 29
I Peter 1:1 – 2:10 • Matthew 20:1-1

Thursday, July 30
II Peter 1:10-19 • Matthew 17:1-9

Friday, July 31
I Corinthians 14:26-40 • Mark 9:2-9

Saturday, August 1: Dormition Fast Begins
Romans 14:6-9 • Matthew 15:32-39

Sunday, August 9: Ninth Sunday of Matthew
I Corinthians 3:9-17 • Matthew 14:22-34