

SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN OF MAY 21, 2017

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

SUNDAY/MAY 21

6th Sunday of Pascha

Ss. Constantine & Helen

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy

Church School; Coffee Hour

TUESDAY/MAY 23

7:00p.m. Paschal Matins

WEDNESDAY/MAY 24

7:00p.m. Paschal Hours &

Vigil for Feast of Ascension

THURSDAY/MAY 25

ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

(40th Day of Pascha)

One of "the 12 Great Feasts"

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy

SATURDAY/MAY 27

St. John the Russian

9:30a.m. Akathist; Confession

5:30p.m. Vigil; Confession

SUNDAY/MAY 28

Fathers of the First Council

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy

Coffee Hour; Question & Answer Period



Offerings Weeks of May 14 & 21

Olive Oil: in memory of Michael, Justina, Rosalia, and Anastasia; in memory of Sarchisian and Bocai families; for the health and protection of Rebecca, Nicholas, Sarah & Rachael; for the health of Constantine (Names Day); for the health and protection of Mirela and Panayiota; for the health of Michael (Birthday).

Wine: for safe travel and protection of Daniel and Maria; for the health of Robert; in thanksgiving to God, for health and salvation of Marian, Simona, Gabriel, Tabitha, Kurt and Stefan.

Flowers: in honor of the Holy Ascension.

Litya Breads: for health of Katherine.

Synodicon: Memory Eternal!

May 15, 1925 Maria Barna
May 15, 2005 Olga Shemansky
May 16, 1953 Michael Hobora
May 16, 1962 Theodore Janushenko
May 18, 1975 Wasil Kosticz
May 19, 1939 Gregory Halkovich
May 21, 1985 Julia Grigorieff
May 22, 1939 Ephraim Demianov
May 22, 1951 Joseph Fenuck
May 23, 1925 John Korolovich
May 23, 1954 Wasyl Mlinetz
May 23, 1962 Thomas Cimpko
May 24, 1941 Semeon Kozak
May 27, 1977 Julian Sudillo
May 27, 1988 Tatiana Shviridrik

Coffee Hour Schedule

May 21 Peterson, Bakaletz, Mattei, Erkman & Stone
May 28 Kita, Nevitt, Keller, Turri, Torrisi & Kachek
June 04 Inga, Eka, Marina & Nona

Counters Schedule

May 21 Irina S. & Lisa K.
May 28 Larissa M. & Paulina N.
June 04 Rebecca O. & Ekaterini M.

Ushers Schedule

May 21 Dennis F. & Robert E.
May 28 Edward S. & Kahka K.
June 04 Timothy S. & Peter B.

Sunday Readers Schedule

May 21 – Ciprian C. / May 28 – Daniel T.

Liturgical Notations for Paschal Season

- The Paschal Season is 50 days, until the Feast of Pentecost.
- During the first 40 days, that is until the eve of Ascension Thursday (May 25); we greet each other with the Paschal Salutation: "Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!"
- We do not kneel or make prostrations at church services or in our homes until the Feast of Pentecost.
- The Paschal Troparion, "Christ is Risen from the dead..." is sung or said at the beginning and ending of all prayers until the eve of Ascension.
- The Prayer, "O Heavenly King" is omitted until Pentecost, being replaced with the Troparion of Pascha and later of Ascension.
- Wine & oil are permitted on all Wednesday and Fridays.

Names Day Greetings:

St. Constantine/May 21: Constantine Gorbaturk
St. Helen/May 21: Helen Lapchuk
Many Blessed Years!

The St. George Gazebo

Is a great place to sit, talk, read, pray or rest. It is NOT a place for eating. Parents please advise your children.

The Holy Fire From Jerusalem

The Holy Fire is available after any service. Ask.

May Month Cemetery Care Appeal

In this month of May, we make our annual appeal for the up-keep of our cemetery. The Lord bless your offering.

Recognition of Graduates 2017

On Sunday, June 11th, we will honor our graduates. Please be sure that Fr. James has the particulars as soon as possible

Pilgrimage to St. Tikhon Monastery

May 27 thru May 29th. See schedule on Bulletin Board.

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD INTO HEAVEN

When the day of the Jewish Pentecost drew near, the disciples of Christ returned from Galilee to Jerusalem. On the fortieth day after the resurrection of Jesus Christ they were all together in one house. Jesus Christ appeared to them and spoke with them saying, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to all creation. He who believes and is baptized will be saved, but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs shall accompany those who believe: in My name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover."

Then the Savior said to the disciples that soon the Holy Spirit would come upon them, and until that time He charged them not to depart from Jerusalem. He said, "I send the promise of My Father upon you; but stay in the city, until you are clothed with power from on high; for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

Conversing with the disciples, the Savior led them out of the city as far as Bethany, to the Mount of Olives. The disciples, overjoyed with the words of the Savior, surrounded Him and started to ask, "Lord will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" The Savior said to them, "It is not for you to know the times or seasons which the Father has fixed by His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth."

When He had said this, Jesus Christ lifted up His hands and blessed His disciples. While He blessed them, He parted from them and He was lifted up to Heaven, and soon a cloud took Him out of their sight. Thus our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ ascended in His physical body to Heaven and sat

down at the right Hand of God the Father. His human soul and body took on the indivisible glory with His divinity. In His divinity, He always is and will be in Heaven and everywhere.

The disciples worshipped the ascended Lord and for a long time continued to stand and gaze into Heaven after Him. Then two angels in white robes appeared before them and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into Heaven? This Jesus, Who was taken up from you into Heaven, will come to earth in the same way (that is, in the flesh), as you saw Him go into heaven." After this the disciples of Christ returned to Jerusalem with great joy and stayed there together, awaiting the descent of the Holy Spirit. All of them, together in soul, spent the

time in prayer and were continually in the Temple of God, praising and thanking God. With them were several women and Mary, the Most-holy Mother of the Lord Jesus Christ, with

their relatives. In those days the apostles, prayerfully, by casting lots, chose from among the disciples of Christ the twelfth apostle, Matthias, to take the place of Judas the betrayer, who perished.

Ascended into Heaven, Jesus Christ, according to His own promise, invisibly always comes to earth among those who believe in Him and will come again to earth in visible form to judge the living and the dead, who will then rise from the dead. After this will begin the life of the next age, another, eternal life which for true believers and pious people will be completely blessed, but for disbelievers and sinners will be a time of great torment.

Troparion

Thou hast ascended in glory, O Christ our God, granting joy to Thy disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit. Through the blessing they were assured that Thou art the Son of God, the Redeemer of the world!

Kontakion

When Thou didst fulfill the dispensation for our sake and unite earth to heaven, Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God, not being parted from those who love Thee, but remaining with them and crying, "I am with you and no one will be against you!"



LIBERTYVILLE, IL: May 16, 2017

The Opening of the Relics of Our Father Among the Saints Mardarije

With the blessing of His Grace, Bishop Longin of New Gracanica and Midwestern America, the relics of St. Mardarije, which have laid in the Church of St. Sava Monastery in Libertyville, Illinois, since his internment in December 1935, were uncovered. The opening revealed St. Mardarije's holy relics to be incorrupt.

On Thursday, May 4, 2017, His Grace Bishop Longin served Divine Liturgy at St. Sava Monastery with Sindjel Serafim (Milojkovic), Priest Nikolaj Kostur and Hierodeacon Nektarije (Tesanovic), in preparation for uncovering the relics. Following the Divine Liturgy, Bishop Longin and the other clergy served a Moleban with the Akathist written to St. Mardarije. Upon completion, the crew organized to remove the tombstone and flooring in order to exhume the relics arrived, under the guidance of Mr. Dusan Djordjevic of Sveta Gora Funeral Home in Chicago. After removal of the stone, it was revealed that the casket of St. Mardarije was in a cement vault. This caused the opening to be delayed one additional day in order to organize a team to open the vault.

On Friday morning, May 5, 2017, the workers broke the seal of the vault, while Priest Nikolaj Kostur and Hierodeacon Nektarije (Tesanovic) served a Moleban to St. Mardarije at the tomb in the presence of Bishop Longin and Hieromonk Serafim (Milojkovic). Throughout the entire process of exhumation, "Christ is Risen" and other Paschal hymns were sung, both in Serbian and Russian tones, knowing St. Mardarije's deep love and dedication to both Slavic traditions.

Once the seal of the vault was broken, every effort was taken to lift the cover. During this process, the cover of the vault shifted and fell on the casket, breaking its cover. At this moment, a sweet smelling fragrance arose from the tomb, quickly dissipating. However, it became evident that the Saint was buried facing the west instead of east. This in and of itself is miraculous. It manifested the Providence of God. Had St. Mardarije been buried in the proper direction, the vault cover would have fallen on the side of the casket where his holy head rested. It was visible that his feet had decayed and were bones.

Frs. Serafim and Nikolaj lifted the relics out of the tomb during the singing of "Christ is Risen." The relics were light in weight and easily placed in a temporary metal coffin. Hereupon the feet were examined, which at this point were the only visible part of the remains. The bones of the feet were goldish-yellow in color. Then, Fr. Nikolaj Kostur proceeded to examine the mid-section of the body. St. Mardarije's Holy hands were holding the cross which was firmly in place and immovable. As Fr. Nikolaj pulled back the sleeve of the saccos, it was revealed that the hands of St. Mardarije were completely intact. Clearly visible were his skin, fingernails and hair. At this point, it was evident that the relics were more than just bones.

The holy relics of St. Mardarije were lifted out of the metal coffin and placed on two tables which were prepared for the examination and washing of the holy relics. All of the vestments and clothing were carefully removed, cutting that which could not easily be taken off in order to not disturb the holy relics. Most reverent and diligent care and utmost attention were given to the work that was being done; the clergy continuously sang the troparion to St. Mardarije and other Paschal hymns.

After all the vestments were removed, it was revealed that the holy relics, from the knee upward, were intact, although very fragile. The Saint's anatomy was intact with his skin and hair visible. When the mitre was removed, his long, dark hair flowed out, confirming his continued monastic struggle until the end of his days. The hair on his head and beard looked as though he had just reposed; it was very soft. The eyebrows and eyelashes of his closed eyes were visible. Also, his ears were still intact. The body was easily lifted and moved. There was a great deal of dust which had accumulated in the grave from the nearly eighty-two years since the burial. Upon the removal of the dust from the entire body, the holy relics were washed with warm water and white wine. Hereupon spikenard oil was used to anoint the body, according to the instructions received from the Holy Monastery of Hilandar. After the anointing, the color of the skin changed from tan to a dark brown.

After the washing and anointing, the legs, hands and torso were all wrapped in cotton and linen, making the holy relics more easily movable. Following this process, the holy relics were temporarily vested in a stiharion until his vesting takes place before his Glorification in July 2017. His face was covered with linen, and he was returned to the temporary metal coffin and covered.

Truly, God is wondrous in His Saints, showing us all His Divine power and that nature is subject to God's grace. All of those that partook in this experience, from the clergy to the workers, were moved with the joy and spiritual peace that filled the church during the uncovering of the holy relics. St. Mardarije lives on, not only in his legacy, but now through his incorrupt relics which will be a renewed rudder for the Serbian Orthodox Church in North and South America, guiding us to move into the future, being directed by the past. May we follow St. Mardarije on the path of St. Sava, which lead him to sanctity.

Our Holy Hierarch, Father Mardarije, pray unto God for us! Christ is risen!

Priest Nikolaj Kostur

Chairman of the Liturgical Sub-Committee for the Glorification of St. Mardarije

stsavamonastery.org