

St. Demetrius Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral



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Rev. Fr. James Cairns, Pastor

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Protopresbyter Dr. Taras Chubenko, Pastor Emeritus



Epistle: 1 Cor. 9:2-12;

Tone 2

Gospel: Mt. 18:23-35

August 23rd, 2020 – 11th Sunday after Pentecost

TODAY'S SERVICES: *Today's Greeter: Stan Nartowicz*

- Sun. 8:30am Memorial Service – for Andrew and Barbara Hedesh by their son Robert.
- Sun. 9:00am Divine Liturgy – 11th Sunday after Pentecost - Holy Martyrs Archdeacon Laurence and Pope Sixtus, Felicissimus and Agapitus, deacons, and others with them (258).
- Sun. 10:30am Memorial Service – for Catherine and Stanley Bylinski by their daughter Catherine.

SERVICES FOR THE WEEK:

- Sun. 9:00am Divine Liturgy – 12th Sunday after Pentecost
- Sun. 10:30am Memorial Service – for Joseph Symonifka on the 30th anniversary of his passing by his granddaughter Michelle.

NEXT WEEK's Greeter: TBD

Altar Servers: Subdeacon J.D. Cairns, Qorey Carter, Ryan Fealy

Reader: Subdeacon Thomas Bodnar or Subdeacon J.D. Cairns

PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR: Joseph Nardi, Olga Piropato, Nancy Grabie, Robert Cousins, Chester Bohanek Jr., Metropolitan Antony, Mary Wrubleski, Margaret York, Ronald York, Ann Holoob, John Zelenak, Jeanette Stokes, Pani Mary Ann, Bruce Wadiak, Stella Meka, Eva Cerkevich, Patty Tucker, Michelle Goldberg, Alan Toth, Raymond Wizna, Catherine Ann Bylinski, Anna Muzyka, Kathleen Ward, Olivia Zazworsky, George Terebush, Andrew, Christopher, Marci, Sarah, David, Alice, Mark, Andy, Ian, Timothy, Louis, John, John, Kathleen, Jean, Barbara, Charles, Vida, Michael, Debra & children Oskar, Tessa, Robert, Jacob, and Jonathan, remembering all the sick, the suffering, those in hospitals and

nursing homes, and all the men and women in the US Military, especially Vitaly Pacej, who serve our country and all of us. Please keep them in your prayers daily, asking God's protection upon them all.

Ukrainian Independence Day – Monday August 24th marks the 29th Anniversary of the Independence of Ukraine. Please join us at Borough Hall at 11 AM as the Borough will raise the Ukrainian National Flag in honor of this event. The event is outdoors, but social distancing and CDC recommendations will be followed..

The Martyrs Archdeacon Laurence, Pope Sixtus, Deacons Felicissimus and Agapitus, and the soldier Romanus were citizens of Rome, and suffered in the year 258 during the reign of Emperor Valerian (253-260). Saint Sixtus was born in the city of Athens, and at first he was a philosopher, but later he became a follower of Christ. Over a period of time, he passed through the various ranks of the clergy, and became the Bishop of Rome following the martyric death of Saint Stephen (August 2). Several Roman Hierarchs preferred to die rather than offer sacrifice to idols. Soon, Saint Sixtus was also arrested and imprisoned together with his deacons Felicissimus and Agapitus.

When Archdeacon Laurence visited Saint Sixtus in prison, he cried out with tears, "Where are you going, Father, without your son? Where do you hasten without your Archdeacon? Never have you offered the Bloodless Sacrifice without me. Take me with you, so that I may join you in shedding our blood for Christ!"

Saint Sixtus replied, "I am not forsaking you, my son. I am old and I accept the lesser battle, but greater suffering awaits you. You must achieve the greater victory and triumph over your tormentors. Three days after my death, you shall follow after me."

Then he entrusted Archdeacon Laurence with the Church's treasures and sacred vessels, telling him to distribute these to the poor. He gathered them up and went around the city on foot, to the clergy and impoverished Christians who were in hiding, helping them according to their needs.

When he heard that Saint Sixtus had been brought to trial with his deacons, Saint Laurence went there in order to witness the outcome. Seeing that the martyrs were obstinate in their refusal to offer sacrifice to the idols, Valerian ordered them to be taken to the temple of Mars outside the city walls, and put to death if they did not offer incense to the idols. When he saw the pagan temple, Saint Sixtus prayed for it to be destroyed. There was an earthquake which caused part of the temple to collapse, and the statue of Mars was shattered to pieces. Saint Laurence cried out, "Father, I have fulfilled your command, and have distributed the treasures of the Church which you entrusted to me."

After hearing about treasure, the soldiers placed him under guard. Saint Sixtus and the other martyrs were beheaded in front of the temple on August 6, 258. Afterward, the soldiers brought Saint Laurence to the Emperor, informing him that they had heard the Archdeacon mention something about the Church's hidden treasures. The Emperor ordered him to reveal where the treasures were, and the Archdeacon asked for three days in order to collect them. Then Saint Laurence gathered all the poor and the needy, and brought them to the Prefect, saying, "Behold the treasures of the Church"

ALL EMERGENCIES: PLEASE MAKE SURE TO CALL FATHER JAMES for any and all emergencies – for hospital, nursing home, or home visitations. PLEASE call his Cell number 732-619-3259, if necessary, please leave a voice message, Father will return your call. THANK YOU.