The Seven Holy Youths of Ephesus

There was a great persecution of Christians during the reign of Decius. The emperor himself went to Ephesus, and there arranged a boisterous and noisy celebration in honor of the lifeless idols—as well as a terrible slaughter of Christians. Seven young men, soldiers, refrained from the impure offering of sacrifices. They earnestly prayed to the one God to save the Christian people. They were the sons of the most influential elders of Ephesus. Their names were Maximilian, Jamblicus, Martin [Martian], John, Dionysius, Exacustodianus, and Antonin [Antoninus]. When they were accused before the emperor, they retreated to a hill outside of Ephesus called Celion, and there they hid in a cave. When the emperor learned of this, he commanded that the cave be walled shut. Yet, God—according to His far-reaching providence—caused a miraculous and long-lasting sleep to fall upon the young men. The imperial courtiers Theodore and Rufinus (themselves secret Christians) built a small copper box into the wall. It contained lead plaques on which were written the names of these young men, and which recorded their martyric deaths during the reign of Emperor Decius. More than two hundred years passed. During the reign of Emperor Theodosius the Younger (408-450 A.D.), there was a great dispute about the resurrection of the dead, and there were some that doubted in it. Emperor Theodosius was in great sorrow as a result of this dispute among the faithful, and prayed to God that He, in some way, would reveal the truth to men. Then some shepherds of Adolius, who owned the hill Celion, were building folds for their sheep, using stones from the cave. They removed stone after stone. Suddenly, the youths awoke from their sleep, as youthful and healthy as on the day they fell asleep. The news of this miracle was spread abroad in every direction, so that Theodosius himself came with a great entourage and conversed with the youths, to his delight. After a week, they again fell into the deep repose from which they had awakened, to await the General Resurrection. Emperor Theodosius wanted to place their bodies in gold caskets; but they appeared to him in a dream, and told him to leave them in the earth as they had been laid there.

Prologue from Ochrid

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Subdeacon Joseph Freve
Subdeacon Gabriel Corey

August 4, 2019 – Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

The Holy Seven Sleeping Youths of Ephesus;
Recovery of the relics of Martyr Eudokia of Persia

Matins Gospel Reading: John 20:1-10

Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 6)

When Mary stood at Thy grave, looking for Thy sacred body, angelic powers shone above Thy revered tomb; and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led Hades captive and wast not tempted thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world, O Thou, Who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee.
Kontakion of the Transfiguration of Christ (Tone 7)
On the mountain wast Thou transfigured, O Christ God, and Thy disciples beheld Thy glory as far as they could see it; so that when they would behold Thee crucified, they would understand that Thy suffering was voluntary, and would proclaim to the world that Thou art truly the Radiance of the Father!

Troparion of All Saints (Tone 4):
Adorned in the blood of Thy martyrs, throughout all the world as in purple and fine linen, Thy Church through them doth cry unto Thee, O Christ God: Send down Thy compassion upon Thy people; grant peace to Thy habitation and great mercy to our souls.

Prokeimenon Psalm:
O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance. Until Thee will I cry, O Lord my God.

Epistle Reading:
The Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans 15:1-7

Gospel Reading: Matthew 9:27-35

Monday, August 5: Vesperal Divine Liturgy, Feast of the Transfiguration, 7 PM

Saturday, August 10: Vespers, 7:30 PM (Confession available before and after)

Volunteers

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Reader</th>
<th>Prospora</th>
<th>Greeter</th>
<th>Flowers</th>
<th>Coffee</th>
<th>Food</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday Aug 5</td>
<td>Jim K.</td>
<td>Pat. K.</td>
<td>Nancy L.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Volunteer</td>
<td>Potluck</td>
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<td>Sunday Aug 11</td>
<td>Joseph L.</td>
<td>Debbie K.</td>
<td>Jerry C.</td>
<td>Debbie K.</td>
<td>Paul &amp; Elizabeth K.</td>
<td>A - F</td>
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<td>Wednesday Aug 14</td>
<td>Sd. Gabe</td>
<td>Dn. Walid</td>
<td>Ofelia I.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Volunteer</td>
<td>Potluck</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday Aug 25</td>
<td>Sd. Joseph</td>
<td>Eva W.</td>
<td>Hal O.</td>
<td>JoAnne T.</td>
<td>Phil &amp; Rowena L.</td>
<td>L - P</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday Sept 1</td>
<td>Doug J.</td>
<td>Dn. Walid</td>
<td>Roberta P.</td>
<td>Pat K.</td>
<td>Robert H.</td>
<td>R - W</td>
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News and Announcements

School Supplies Drive for St. Pius V: Once again we here at All Saints are having our annual school supplies drive for St. Pius V School from July 7 to August 4, 2019. St. Pius is a needy Catholic school on the west side of Chicago that has received donations from us in past years. There is a list of specific items that the school has requested on the Greeters’ table. Please place all of the donated supplies at the back of the church or near the table. If you make a monetary donation, please make it out to All Saints Church and on the memo line state that it is for St. Pius. If you have any questions about this project, please contact Pat Kushiner.

Vacation Church School: VCS is a weeklong (August 6-9, 9:30 AM – 12:30 pm) summer camp program available to kids age 3-12 from Christ the Savior (933 N. LaSalle). Join us for a fun week, learning about the Saints of the Orthodox Church. To register you can email alinamarinca@hotmail.com with your child’s registration info or you can fill out the registration form and mail to Christ the Savior or bring with you on the first day of VCS. Forms are available at the greeter’s table. If you chose to bring the form on the first day of VCS, please email Alina Gansca at alinamarinca@hotmail.com so she can order t-shirts.

Today we are glorifying the most holy Theotokos, who carried her own cross throughout her life and showed us an example of holiness, purity of mind and heart, love, patience, and fortitude. She was taken up to heaven not only because she revealed in herself the greatest gift of divine grace, but also because she preserved this gift throughout her whole life. Through her patience, suffering, and sorrow, she multiplied this gift and offered a great sacrifice to God.

Today as we glorify the most pure heavenly queen, we find her our example for how to bear our salvific crosses. We praise her as the intercessor for mankind who, having followed the sorrowful path of her earthly life, now stands in glory before her Son and our Lord and prays for us. Through her prayers, we are strengthened to bear the cross and helped along our path to salvation.

--Patriarch Kirill: In His Own Words