

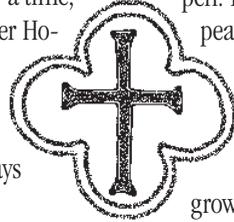
## ON THE SUNDAY OF ALL AMERICAN SAINTS

Sermon Preached by Fr. Antony Hughes

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, one God. Amen.

Glory to Jesus Christ!

On the second Sunday after Pentecost the Church asks us to remember all our local saints. We have ten officially and eleven unofficially. Some of them lived and died on American soil. Let me name them for you: St. Herman of Alaska, St. Innocent the Apostle to America, St. Raphael of Brooklyn, St. Alexis Toth of Wilkesbarre, PA, St. Jacob of Alaska, St. Juvenaly the Martyr and St. Peter the Aleut, also a martyr. Three lived and ministered in America for a time, but died in post-revolutionary Russia: St. John Kochurov, St. Alexander Hotovitzky and St. Tikon, Patriarch of Moscow and All-Russia. The eleventh, St. John Maximovitch, was recognized by the Russian Church in Exile, but due to canonical problems never by the whole Church. Whether or not he is a saint is not really in question. The Church always produces saints wherever She goes. It is only a matter of time.



The famous Pilgrim in THE WAY OF A PILGRIM relates what happened when he finally discovers the way to pray without ceasing,

I felt there was no happier person on earth than I, and I doubted if there could be greater and fuller happiness in the kingdom of heaven. The whole outside world also seemed to me full of charm and delight. Everything drew me to love and thank God: people, trees, plants and animals. I saw them all as my kinfolk; I found in all of them the magic of the name of Jesus.

To become a saint two things are necessary. The first is to learn to pray in a way that turns prayer more into what we are than something we do. What we discover when we begin to make the effort is that prayer is actually what we are! The first step is to begin to consciously pay attention to the development of a rich, interior life of concentrated spiritual effort not just every so often, but as often as possible. Effort must be exerted frequently. Energy must be wisely expended repeatedly. The mind must be trained, the heart must be cleansed. There is work to be done. It is the work of a lifetime. This work with the help of the Holy Spirit leads to freedom from the unruly mind, from ignorance and from tyrannical passions. The freedom attained allows us to see things as they really are. That is the classic definition of “enlightenment”. St. Paul experienced it. He wrote that he had learned “To be content in all things.” In other words, he had learned to be happy on good and bad days.

This demands a very simple discipline, that is, to develop in ourselves a love of prayer and silence. From this is born a life of continual, unceasing prayer. The still, small voice of God cannot be heard when the mind is in chaos. His still, small voice sustains us even when we are not listening, but how very wonderful it would be if we should ever exert ourselves to listen! The Word of God, intimate and personal, the river of living water, the fountain of life, the Truth

Himself is speaking within, but he cannot be heard until we learn to rest our weary minds and listen to the Voice of God beneath all the other voices. “Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.”

The second element is the conscious nurturing of a virtuous life. We use the word “virtue” sometimes to refer to a life lived according to ethical rules and norms, but there is a deeper, more spiritual meaning. “Virtue” refers to a life lived skillfully and wisely, a life lived intelligently and consciously, a life that utilizes the gifts of God effectively, in short, a life lived for the sake of others, a life of love.

The truth is that virtuous qualities must be cultivated. They do not just happen. If we do not practice love, then there will be no love. If we do not practice peace, then there will be no peace. God is love and God is peace. We have been created with the capacity to be by grace what God is by nature. Am I really at peace? Do I love enough? If we say, “not always,” then we must not despair. Here is rich soil for spiritual growth. Clearly, every moment provides an opportunity to practice virtuous living. If we do, then we will grow to be more like God. This is an immensely spiritual practice.

In THE WAY OF THE ASCETICS Tito Colliander says it is as simple as consciously deciding to drink one cup of coffee in the morning when what we really want is two. That is how we begin to restrain ourselves to be loving rather than selfish. It is simple. Start saying no to the petulant child we call the ego and we start saying yes to the image of God, watering the seeds of holiness and uprooting the weeds of desire and craving. From little, positive actions grow lives of miraculous virtue if the effort is sustained day in and day out. This is what real love of self is because we turn our attention away from the selfish ego toward the true self, the image and likeness of God.

The Holy Orthodox Spiritual Fathers and Mothers tell us plainly that the saints see everything as holy. They say that only the sinful see the sins of others. What strange statements. How counter-intuitive! But what this means is that the holy see the deepest realities. With their enlightened senses they look with compassion on everything and see things as they really are like the Pilgrim who was delighted with all things. If we are not yet able to see like that, to the essential heart of things, then we know we are far from where we should be. Only holiness leads to real happiness.

All of us are capable of ascending the heights of holiness. Since this is the will of God for everyone so his help is assured, whether or not we do depends entirely us.

<http://www.stmaryorthodoxchurch.org/orthodoxy/sermons/2007/all-american-saints>

### HYMN FOR HOLY COMMUNION IN ROMANIAN

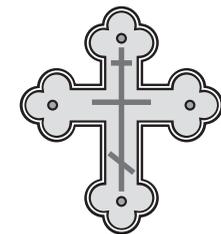
Trupul lui Hristos primiți și din izvorul cel fără de moarte gustați.  
Aliluia, aliluia, aliluia!

# SS. Constantine and Elena Orthodox Church

June 10, 2018



## ALL AMERICAN AND ROMANIAN SAINTS



Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America, OCA  
3237 West 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46222  
317.638.4162 • [saintsconstantineandelena.org](http://saintsconstantineandelena.org)

The Reverend Father David T. Wey, *Parish Priest*  
317.484.1288 (home) • 317.627.2282 (cell)  
Rev. Dn. Paul McDonald, *attached* 317.696.0079 (cell)

## PARISH LIFE

### JUNE 4–28 APOSTLES FAST

#### JUNE 10, 2018: SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST: SUNDAY OF AMERICAN & ROMANIAN SAINTS

(TONE 1, MATINS GOSPEL 2)

8:40 am Matins

10:00 am Divine Liturgy

#### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13

(No service or class this week)

#### SATURDAY, JUNE 16:

5:00 pm Mystery of Confession (by appointment, please)

6:00 pm Great Vespers (followed by confessions)

#### PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND OF OUR PARISH:

Victor Cosgarea, Jay Hanko, Jan Isham, Philomena Vraicu, Zachary Waltz, Margaret Wey.

#### PRAY FOR OUR CATECHUMENS:

Sophie Cannon and Miriam Fakhoury

#### LOOKING AHEAD...

*Next Sunday's readings (3rd Sunday after Pentecost): Romans 5:1-10; Matthew 6: 22-33.*

#### Sunday, June 17

1:30 pm Mystery of Holy Baptism

(Wampler children and Wilson grandchildren)

#### Thursday, June 28

6:30 pm Vigil for Ss. Peter and Paul

#### Friday, June 29

10:00 am Pan-Orthodox Divine Liturgy for Ss. Peter and Paul  
at St. George Church, Fishers

#### Sunday, July 1

1:30 pm Mystery of Holy Matrimony: Jesse and Laura Wey

#### July 12–22

Pilgrimage to the Monastery of All Celtic Saints, Mull, Scotland

#### HYMNS FOR ALL SAINTS OF AMERICA

##### Tropar

*As the bountiful harvest of your sowing of salvation, the lands of North America offer to you, O Lord, all the saints who have shone in them. By their prayers, keep the Church and our land in abiding peace, through the Theotokos, O most merciful One!*



#### Kontak

*Today, the choir of saints who were pleasing to God in the lands of North America now stands before us in the Church and invisibly prays to God for us. With them the angels glorify him, and all the saints of the church of Christ keep festival with them, and together they all pray for us to the pre-eternal God.*

#### THANK YOU, FR. GABRIEL

We appreciate and give thanks for Fr. Gabriel Monforte once again being present to serve while Fr. David is away. Many years, Father!

#### THE APOSTLES FAST

Each year, beginning on the Monday after All Saints Sunday (the Sunday after Pentecost), the Church prescribes a fasting period until the Feast of Peter and Paul (June 29), in honour and memory of the Holy Apostles. Though it is still essentially a “vegan” fast (no animal products), this Fast is somewhat “lighter” in character, in that oil and wine are allowed on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and fish on Saturdays and Sundays (as well as oil and wine). It is yet another opportunity to focus our lives on eternal things, to struggle with overcoming the passions that beset us, and to seek to conform our lives with that of the Lord and his Saints. Let us make an effort, with faith and rejoicing, to participate in this grace.

#### NEW FELLOWSHIP HALL FUNDRAISING UPDATE

From our Treasurer, Isaac Lashbrook: We have very exciting news to share. Your parish council has been in continuous discussion about the bids received for the construction of our new fellowship hall which have come in (predictably) higher than we had hoped. In short, we need \$300k more before we can begin construction. Meanwhile, one of our parishioners has generously agreed to match (dollar-for-dollar) up to \$50k toward any capital improvement donations made this year! So, as we look to formally begin our capital campaign, we ask all parishioners and any other interested parties to consider pledging an amount toward this matching offer. With God's help, we will move steadily ahead with our much-needed expansion.

#### TRAVELS THIS SPRING

Fr. David and P'sa. Janene are away on vacation from June 2 through June 11. Prayers for their safe travels, and for those who serve our parish while they are away, are deeply appreciated. If there is an urgent need for the services of a priest, please contact Dn. Paul at (317) 696-0079.

#### NOTES FOR TRAVELING

During this season of vacations and other travel, faithful Orthodox should strive to find a way to attend Liturgy on Sunday when away from home. A good

resource for finding Orthodox parishes in any city is [www.orthodoxyinamerica.org](http://www.orthodoxyinamerica.org), a site which provides a locator and mapping for parishes of all jurisdictions throughout our country. Remember also that it is polite “church protocol” to contact the priest of a parish you plan to visit ahead of time, to let him know who you are and to what parish you belong, and to request participation in Holy Communion. Fr. David can provide a letter of recommendation if desired. Let us never “take a vacation from God,” even when away from home.

#### SUMMER DRESS FOR CHURCH

Warmer weather means lighter— and many times, less— clothing. Let us not be disrespectful, however, to God or to others, when we come to the church. The following article from the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese website says it very well:

##### Attire - Using Good Judgment

Remember the time when people put on their “Sunday best” to go to church? In fact, dress clothes were often referred to as “Sunday clothes.” This is not all that common today; in fact all too often the dress in our temples has become too casual. In all the areas of our lives, we should offer Christ our best; and the same is true of our dress. We should offer Christ our “Sunday best,” not our everyday or common wear. And we should dress modestly, not in a flashy way that would bring attention to ourselves - and certainly not in a provocative or alluring way. Our dress should always be becoming to a Christian— especially in the temple. Here are some general guidelines:

Children: Only young children (under 10) can wear shorts to the services— and then only dress shorts. Athletic shoes, cut-offs, spandex shorts, etc., are never appropriate for wear in the temple (for children or adults!). Shoes or sandals should be clean and tied. No one should wear a T-shirt with any kind of writing on it.

Women: Dresses should be modest. No tank tops (or dresses with only straps at the shoulders), no short skirts (mini-skirts), and no skin-tight dresses. Dresses should have backs and should not be low-cut in the front. If women wear pants to the services, they should be dress pants (not jeans or leggings). Shorts of any type are inappropriate.

Men: Men should also dress modestly. Coats and ties are not mandatory, but certainly always appropriate. Shirts should have collars and be buttoned to the collar (the actual collar button may be undone, but two or three buttons undone is inappropriate). Trousers should be clean. Blue (or black, or khaki, etc.) jeans are usually too casual for wear at the services (especially those with patches or holes). Again, shorts of any type are inappropriate.

If you are going someplace after the services where you need to dress casually, bring a change of clothing with you and change after the fellowship hour. Remember to use your best judgment and good taste when dressing for the services. After all, you do not need to be seen by everyone else - you go to meet and worship God.

