



“ORTHODOX 9” PARISHES BULLETIN

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH IN CANADA

Monthly Newsletter for the family of Orthodox Churches including:



St. Mary’s (the Nativity of the Holy Virgin) - NISKU

Sts. Peter & Paul - BONNYVILLE

St. John the Baptist - HOREN

Holy Ascension - CALMAR

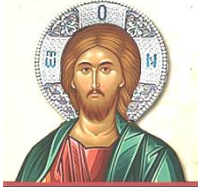
St. Onuphrius - FOAM LAKE (SK)

Whitsuntide (Holy Trinity) - THORSBY

Dormition of Theotokos -MACNUTT (SK)

St. John the Baptist - VEGREVILLE

Sts. Peter & Paul - INSINGER (SK)



Very Rev. Evheniy Protsenko, Parish Priest

10812 - 108 Street NW, Edmonton, Alberta, T5H 3A6

Home Phone: (780) 426-5163 Cell Phone: (780) 818-7343

Facebook.com/St. Mary's Russian Greek Orthodox Church

E-mail: pokrova70@gmail.com; web: <http://www.orthodox-canada.com>



Volume 67, Issue 11

November 2024

Synaxis of the Archangels Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, Uriel, Salaphiel, Jegudiel, Barachiel, and Jeremiel and the Other Bodiless Powers



The synaxis of the holy Archangel Michael and the other bodiless powers, commemorated on **November 21st** (the 8th, old style), is the major feast in honor of the holy angels, and was already celebrated in the 4th century as an established holiday.

According to the Holy Tradition, satan, formerly the brightest of all the heavenly spirits created by God, and usually called Lucifer or lightbearer, but who became filled with self-love, pride and evil, - fell from his archangelic power and lured away a multitude of other spirits. Then the Archangel Michael, as God’s faithful servant, assembled the entire angelic host that had not been enticed by the ruinous example of satanic pride, and said: “Let us attend and stand aright before our Creator, and let us bear no ill towards Him.” Appealing thus to the entire angelic host, he began to glorify the Most-holy, One-in-Essence, Indivisible Trinity – the One God, triumphantly singing: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth.

Such an assembly of holy angels is called a “synaxis of the angels,” and expresses attentiveness, like-mindedness, concord, unity. The words of the angels’ declaration – “Who is like God?” – mean **MI-CHA-EL** in ancient Hebrew, and have become the name of the greatest of the angels who had remained on the side of good, - the celestial warrior and the leader of the angelic host – the **Archangel Michael**.

Besides the Archangel Michael, the names of several other archangels are known to us from the Scriptures. We know the **Archangel Gabriel**, God’s messenger, who announced to the Holy Virgin Mary that She would give birth to the Saviour, and who also announced to Zacharias the birth of St. John the Baptist.

We know the **Archangel Raphael**, whose name means “God’s healer,” who is the healer of illnesses in mankind, and who is mentioned in the Book of Tobias.

We also know the **Archangel Uriel**, whose name means “the fire or light of God,” and who has been referred to in the Book of Ezra.

We know the **Archangel Salaphiel**, “the one who prays to God” and who urges mankind to prayer, also mentioned in the Book of Ezra.

We know the **Archangel Jegudiel**, “the one who glorifies God” and who strengthens those that work for the glory of God.

We also know the **Archangel Barachiel**, “the blessing of God,” who intercedes before God to shower His blessings upon men.

Besides these seven archangels, mentioned in the Book of Tobias, we also know the name of the **Archangel Jeremiel**, whose name means “the exaltation of God”, who is mentioned by the Prophet Ezra, even though his position in the Heavenly Hierarchy has not been revealed to us.

All these holy angelic ranks live one common life, helping one another in the sacred and joyous process of attaining greater and greater knowledge of God, of becoming more and more like Him. The disciple of the great Apostle Paul, Saint Dionysius the Areopagite, to whom the Lord revealed the entire angelic world, writes about it thus: **“The heavenly hierarchy is established in such a way that the lesser spiritual beings receive enlightenment from the higher ones, and represent for each other a ladder of ascension to supreme perfection.”**

The higher hierarchy and the closest to the Holy Trinity is composed of the **seraphim, cherubim and thrones**. Closest to God are the six-winged fiery seraphim. They are aflame with love for God and arouse in others the same fervent feeling. The very name “seraphim” in Hebrew means “fiery, flaming.” After the seraphim come the many-eyed cherubim, who shine with the knowledge of God’s mysteries and the depth of His wisdom, and who enlighten others with their knowledge. Through the cherubim comes the wisdom and the enlightenment of spiritual eyes that is needed for knowing God. The Lord Himself sits on the thrones and passes His righteous judgment.

The middle hierarchy is composed of **dominions, forces and powers**. Dominions give strength to God-appointed rulers on earth, to rule over their domains wisely and sensibly. Dominions also teach men to dominate their will and passions, to subjugate flesh to spirit and to rise above all temptations. Forces are filled with God’s strength and carry out His will. They work great miracles and instill the same grace of wonder-working and divination into saints, giving them the power of healing and foreseeing the future.

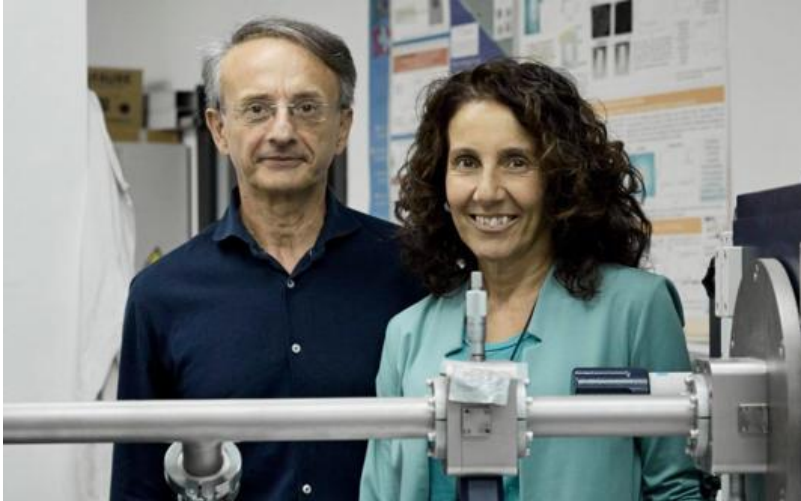
The lower hierarchy and the closest to mankind is composed of **principalities, archangels and angels**. Principalities rule over the universe and are the guardians of all earthly kingdoms and peoples. Archangels are the messengers of great and glorious events, reveal prophecies and the will of God to people, and also fortify them in their faith. Angels are the closest of all to people, instruct them in virtue and righteousness, and guard all the faithful. In the sacrament of baptism, all the newly-baptized receive their own guardian angel, who protects them throughout their entire life on earth and helps them in crossing over to the other world.

Many Fathers and preachers say that **this celebration has great significance**. What can it teach us?

It can reveal the idea of ascending from glory to glory in seeking God! And this ascension has its hierarchy, symbolized and revealed to us by this Heavenly Hierarchy of the Bodiless Powers that reflect to each other and eventually to us a safer amount of God’s glory, that we can bear. Not it is the question of equality, but the condescension of the Greater to the minor! As it was in Heaven before the fall of Satan, and as it was on good Earth before the fall of people. But the deadly way of pride is just to yield to the temptation and madness of claiming the equality from the one Who just condescends to our weakness for us to have a glimpse of His glory that we *can bear now*, as it happened during both tragedies, of the war with God of the fallen angels, and the rebellion of people. And even the tragedy of our people, who in search of this equality destroyed the traditional forms of government – the Orthodox monarchy, and sacrificed countless victims. This is instead of being, through love and meekness uplifted from glory to glory in humble and thankful communion with Heaven.

We proved how old the Shroud of Turin really is – the rest is a matter of faith

Since the days of Galileo, science and faith have frequently been at odds with each other. But inside Professor Liberato De Caro's laboratory, they seem to be in union.



Nestled in an unprepossessing, modern office block on a busy road in the Italian town of Bari, on the Adriatic coast of Puglia, his team of scientists have come up with evidence which they say dispels centuries of speculation on the most disputed holy relic in Christendom. In fact, they claim to have produced evidence which proves what the faithful have long believed – that the Turin Shroud did indeed once cover the body of Christ.

Measuring 4.3 metres (14 feet 3 inches) long and 1.1 metres (3 feet 7 inches) wide, the cloth

bears the image, eerily reversed like a photographic negative, of a crucified man whom the faithful insist is Christ. It appears to show the back and front of a gaunt, bearded man with long hair and sunken eyes, his arms crossed on his chest. There appear to be blood stains emanating from wounds in his wrists, feet and side.

For hundreds of years, it has been regarded by many as a mediaeval hoax. But De Caro's team have cast new light on the artefact, indicating it dates back 2,000 years after all, to the days of the New Testament.

The hallelujah moment was reached in the humble surroundings of their small, third-floor laboratory, which belongs to the Institute of Crystallography (part of the state-funded Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, or National Research Council). It is here that a tiny fibre plucked from the Turin Shroud – which is kept under lock and key in the royal chapel of the Cathedral of San Giovanni Battista in Turin – was placed in an apparatus called an X-ray micro-imaging machine.

The contraption consists of a long steel tube connected to wires, sensors and an ominous looking emergency red light. It also features an incongruous mascot: a tiny soft toy monkey dangling from a key ring. "He's our lucky charm," says Rocco Lassandro, the lab's chief technician. "We've had him for years."

Scientists led by Professor Liberato De Caro decided to subject the tiny Shroud sample, which at 0.5 mm × 1 mm is smaller than a grain of rice, to a new dating method called Wide-Angle X-ray Scattering (WAXS) which measures the structural degradation and ageing of ancient materials.

"It's a sort of radiography, similar to the type of scan that you would do on a bone to see if there is a fracture. But this X-ray penetrates the material very deeply to analyze it at a microscopic level," Prof De Caro says.

"Over time, the structure of the material degrades. We can tell from that how much time has passed and therefore date the object."

Cinzia Giannini, the director of the institute, likens the approach to using “a tiny laser beam”. “It is a technique that has a huge range of applications. But this is the first time that it’s been used on a sample from the Shroud,” she says.



When the fibre was analyzed by the powerful X-ray machine, the scientists were astounded at the result that emerged. The Shroud did not originate, as has long been thought, in the 13th century, but from 1,300 years earlier.

In age, it matched a similarly minute shred of linen that came from the Siege of Masada in AD73, when a band of Jews who had sought sanctuary on a sheer-sided outcrop in the desert were

besieged by a Roman army. Rather than wait to be chopped to pieces by the swords of the advancing legions, who built a giant ramp so that they could access the cliff-top fortress, they took their own lives en masse. The scrap of cloth from Masada has been dated to 55–74AD.

“There was a sense of joy, of shock,” says Prof De Caro. “Why? Because we had verified that it could be authentic. We know for sure that the sample from the fortress of Masada is 2,000 years old. The results from the Turin Shroud sample were highly compatible. The direct comparison verified that the Turin Shroud sample is 2,000 years old.”

The scientists used slightly more sober language when they announced their extraordinary findings in the peer-reviewed journal *Heritage* in August. “The degree of natural aging of the cellulose that constitutes the linen of the investigated sample, obtained by X-ray analysis, showed that the Turin Shroud fabric is much older than the seven centuries proposed by the 1988 radiocarbon dating. The experimental results are compatible with the hypothesis that the Turin Shroud is a 2000-year-old relic, as supposed by Christian tradition.”

The provenance and authenticity of the Turin Shroud have divided opinion for centuries. It first emerges in the historical record in 1354 in mediaeval France [670 years ago]. In a tale that could have come straight from the pages of a Dan Brown novel, a knight named Geoffroi de Charny presented it to a church in Lirey near Nantes in northern France. Nobody knows how he acquired it.

Not long afterwards, in 1389, the bishop of Troyes denounced the Shroud as a forgery. Pope Clement VII declared that it was a man-made religious icon rather than a relic. In 1453, the royal House of Savoy acquired the cloth, moving it to a chapel in Chambéry, where it was damaged in a fire in 1532. Nearly 50 years later, in 1578, it was moved to Turin, the new Savoyard capital, where it has been ever since. It is exhibited only rarely.

Story by Nick Squires
The Telegraph – MSN (www.msn.com)
(continuation – in December bulletin)

The traditional Fall Social Puschenia with Silent Auction

St. Mary's Parish Fall Social – Puschenia – will be held on Sunday November 17, 2024, at St. Mary Parish Hall after the service of the Liturgy (at about 11.30-12)



We are again excited to announce that we will once again be holding our traditional Fall Social - Puschenia, with the joy of spiritual and family communication, a good meal and our generous and friendly lottery (silent auction and ruffle) for the benefits of our Church and the participants!

Let us have some joyous time and a good meal before the fasting period occurs, the period of some, especially spiritual, abstinence and temperance.

The luncheon will be again provided by the church with donations greatly appreciated. Anyone joining is welcome to bring a special

salad, side dish or dessert of yours! Thank you so much!

During the event we encourage you to join in on bidding on the silent auction items available.

All that proceeds from the silent auction and dinner will be going towards future improvements of the church.

If you are so inclined, please feel free to donate an item to the silent auction. You can do so by messaging the Facebook page (see the link on the first page of the bulletin!) to get in contact with any board member.

Please share this event with friends and family. We look forward to seeing you and families here again!

We cordially congratulate our young parishioners, David and Nathan Hoddinott – the father and the son, with - the Holy Baptism event that took part at St. Mary's Church in October 2024!



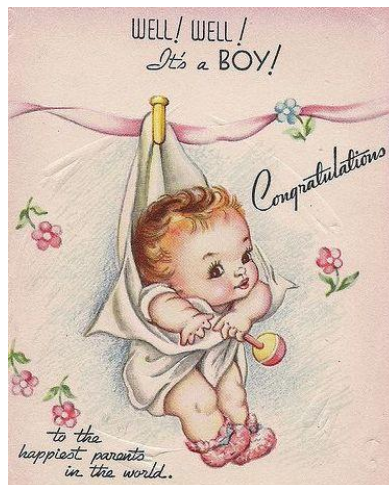
Though the father and the son, by the grace of God, they have been born again and given the remission of sins and the life of regeneration on the same day and time!

We are very much grateful to God for you, and for your blessed obtaining the unperishable treasure of the Orthodox Faith

at our humble Orthodox community!

May God keep you and grant you all necessary for a good and peaceful life and the salvation of soul!

We extend sincere congratulations to Matthias and Ryleigh Impey on the birth of their son and the younger brother of their daughter Florence – Thomas Sterling Impey on October 30, 2024!



Thy hands have made and fashioned me! Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee!

May God bless, guide and watch over His newborn child and servant, and your entire family!

May the newborn be found worthy to flee

unto the holy name of the Lord, and to take refuge under the shelter of His wings - in the Holy Baptism!

We wish God's help, furtherance in all things, good health and peace from Above to the parents, the sister Florence and the newly born Thomas!

Why are the Dead Commemorated on Saturday?



The Saturdays of commemorations of the dead are called ancestral Saturdays (the first universal commemoration on Meat Fare Saturday, the second, third, and fourth Saturdays of Great Lent, Trinity Saturday, and St. Demetrius Saturday [– November 2nd in 2024]). Why do these take place specifically on Saturdays? What are the historical roots of this tradition?

God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it he ceased from all His works which God began to do (Gen. 2:3). Saturday (Sabbath) for the Jews was a day of festive rest.

Christ's resurrection placed the beginning of the new Israel: *a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light* (1 Pet. 2:9). The resurrection day of the Savior of the World became the seventh, festive day that completes the week. Sunday, the day of Resurrection, is a day of prayer in church at Divine Liturgy and pious rest. From a day of earthly rest, Saturday became a symbol of joyous rest in the Kingdom of Heaven: *There remains therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also has ceased from his own works, as God did from his* (Heb. 4:9–10). This is where the custom, fixed by the Church Typicon (Statute), came from of having special services on Saturday for the commemoration of the dead.

Hieromonk Job (Gumerov)

In Memoriam

The parishioners of Orthodox IX Parishes extend our deepest condolences to the relatives of the departed servant of God Walter. May God comfort you, and may God settle His servant, where the light of His countenance shall visit!

Walter Sych

Sept. 27, 1925 – Apr. 13, 2023



Walter Sych, born at GlideHurst (Leduc County), Alberta, passed away on April 13, 2023, at the age of 97. Walter was pre-deceased by his parents, William and Mary Sycz and six sisters Sandra Halwa, Anne Pyrch, Nettie Manchuk, Elizabeth Sartore, Emily Clarke and Margaret Forster.

Walter will be lovingly remembered and greatly missed by his daughters Roxanne and Gaylis, his daughter-in-law Carmen Sych, his grandsons Brooker and Brandon Tralenberg, and Brandons' wife Carleen Tralenberg, Dustin and Damon Formos, great grandchildren Brighton, Heath, Jake and Tristan Formos, Kieran and Soren Tralenberg.

Walter spent his first 22 years working his parents farm, in the Devon area, with his Father. At approximately 22 years of age Walter left the farm and started his own business in 1953. The business was named American Brass and Aluminum Foundry located in Edmonton, Alberta which Walter, later in life, passed on to his son. Walter had taken over the land at Devon, when his father no longer farmed.

Having his own business opened many opportunities for Walter to travel throughout Europe and North America. It was on one of these trips that Walter discovered his passion for Mexico and for the next 50 years, Walter travelled to his favorite location, in Mexico.

It is during Walters' life, he entered into important, full-filling, life- long friendships. One was with Maurice Sychuk whom he thought of as a son, George Bogowich, his accountant, and Ed Fandrick, with whom Walter shared a common interest, farming his land.

It is with great sadness and much love that we say goodbye to our beloved Father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, Walter.

The mercy of God and Heavenly Kingdom!

On November 21 we celebrate the greatest feast of all Bodiless Powers of Heaven created by God even before us.

They are called bodiless, because unlike us they are pure spirits with no body. They are called powers because God grants them, especially, the good of them, great strength and power of His Holy Grace.

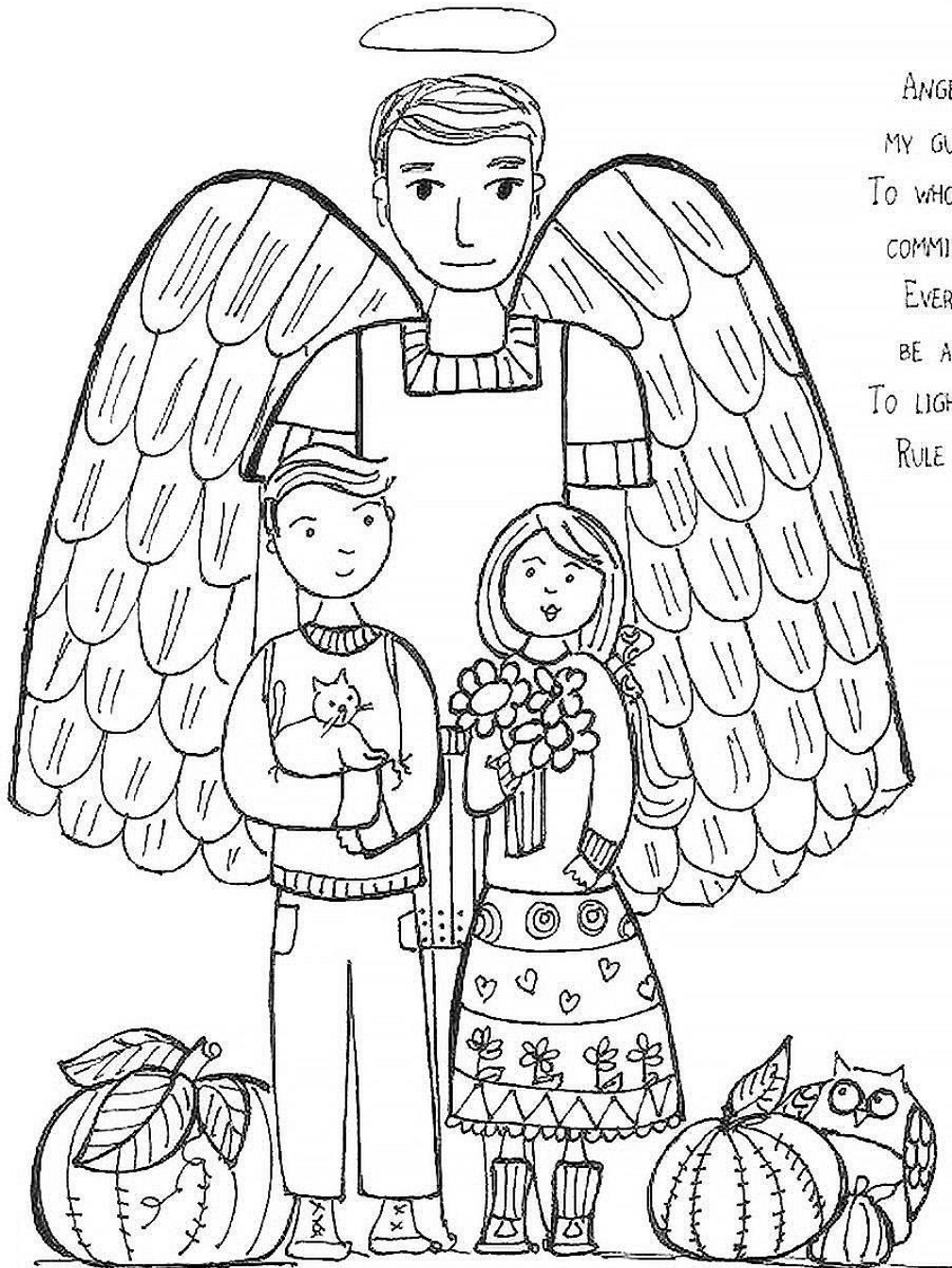
We also call them the heaven inhabitants, and among all of them, who are different in power and service, are those who are not the most powerful, but who are very close to us - our guardian angels, given to us by God to guard our Christian soul especially from the day of our Baptism.

Life on earth can be difficult and

sometimes it may seem like we are all alone. This is not the case, however. Because God gave us a special angel to be our constant and life-long friend and companion. This special angel is known as our Guardian Angel. Our Guardian Angels watch over us, pray for us, intercede for us, and guide us along the way. We should pray often to our Guardian Angels and speak to them as if we were speaking to a friend here on earth.

In the Orthodox prayer book, there is a special prayer to a Guardian Angel, both in the morning and in the evening prayers. And here is also a short prayer on this picture that you can also say, and you can, in giving thanks to your Heavenly friend, give beautiful colors to this picture!


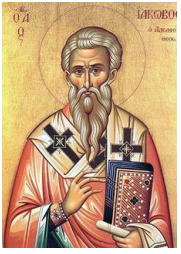



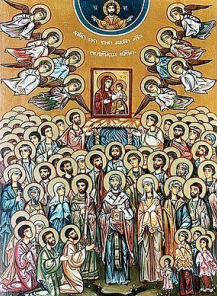

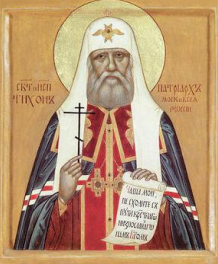




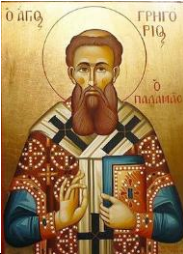

Guardian Angel Coloring Page



Verneda Jaski
2016

ANGEL OF GOD,
MY GUARDIAN DEAR,
TO WHOM GOD'S LOVE
COMMITS ME HERE,
EVER THIS DAY,
BE AT MY SIDE,
TO LIGHT AND GUARD,
RULE AND GUIDE.
AMEN.

November 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p><u>3</u> 10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy – NISKU</p> <p><i>Daylight Saving Time Ends: 2:00 a.m. clocks are turned backward 1 hour</i></p>	<p><u>4</u> The Kazan Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos</p> 	<p><u>5</u> Holy Apostle James, the Brother of the Lord</p> 	<p><u>6</u></p>	<p><u>7</u></p>	<p><u>8</u> Martyr Lupus, slave of St. Demetrius (306)</p> 	<p><u>9</u></p>
<p><u>10</u> 10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy – St. Barbara Cathedral</p>	<p><u>11</u></p> 	<p><u>12</u> Martyr Zenobia (285)</p> 	<p><u>13</u> 100,000 Mar- tyrns of Tbilisi</p> 	<p><u>14</u></p>	<p><u>15</u> Five Martyrs of Persia (341)</p> 	<p><u>16</u></p>
<p><u>17</u> 10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy – NISKU</p> <p><i>Fall Social / Puschenia after the Service in the Parish Hall, with a luncheon and silent auction!</i></p>	<p><u>18</u> Hiero-confessor Tikhon, patriarch of Moscow</p> 	<p><u>19</u> St. Barlaam, founder of Khutyn Monastery</p> 	<p><u>20</u></p>	<p><u>21</u> Archangel Michael and all the Bodiless Powers</p> 	<p><u>22</u></p>	<p><u>23</u> St. Justus, archbishop of Canterbury (627- 631)</p> 
<p><u>24</u> 10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy – St. Barbara Cathedral</p>	<p><u>25</u> St. Nilus the Faster, of Sinai (451)</p> 	<p><u>26</u></p>	<p><u>27</u> St. Gregory Palamas, archbishop of Thessalonica (1360)</p> 	<p><u>28</u> Beginning of the Nativity Fasting</p> <p>LENT</p> 	<p><u>29</u></p>	<p><u>30</u> Archimandrite Sebastian (Dabovich), missionary in America, 1940</p> 