February 5, 2017

Publican & Pharisee

Holy Virgin Martyr Agatha

The Holy Virgin Martyr Agatha was the fifteen-year-old daughter of rich and respected Christian parents from the city of Palermo (formerly Panormos) in Sicily. During the persecution under the emperor Decius (249-251), the city prefect of Catania, Quintianus, having heard about Agatha's wealth and beauty, sent his soldiers after her to bring her to trial as a Christian.

At Catania they housed the saint with a certain rich woman, who had five daughters. They all attempted to tempt Saint Agatha with fine clothes, amusements and entertainment, urging her to offer sacrifice to the pagan gods, but the saint disdained all these things. The more they tried to move her, the more resolute she became. She prayed that she might soon face martyrdom.

During her interrogation under Quintianus, the holy martyr was swayed neither by the flattery, nor by the threats, and she was subjected to cruel torments. They also tried to remove her breasts with metal tongs, and when this failed, they used knives.

The holy Apostle Peter appeared to her in prison and healed her wounds. Saint Agatha was led to torture again, and Quintianus was astonished to see her completely healed, with no trace of cutting. Then the torture began once more.

At this moment an earthquake took place in the city, and many buildings were destroyed. Among those killed were two of Quintianus's advisors. The terrified inhabitants rushed to Quintianus, demanding an end to Agatha's tortures. Fearing a revolt by the people, Quintianus sent Saint Agatha back to prison. There the martyr, offering thanks to God, peacefully surrendered her soul to the Lord.

Text & Image from https://oca.org/saints/lives/2017/02/05/100431-martyr-agatha-of-palermo-in-sicily

OUTREACH COLLECTION:
Paper products

WISDOM FROM FATHER B:
A Holy Task for you …

The disciples were called Christians first in Antioch (Acts 11:26)

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Office Hours:
Monday through Thursday 8:30 - 4:00

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COMMEMORATIONS:

Martyr Agatha of Palermo in Sicily (251)
Martyr Theodoula of Anazarbus in Cilicia (304)
Venerable Theodosios of Skopelos in Cilicia (ca. 421)
St. Avitus, bishop of Vienne (525)
Polyeuktos, patriarch of Constantinople (970)
repose of Theodosios, archbishop of Chernigov (1696)
New-martyr Anthony of Athens (1774)
New Martyrs Matushka Agatha (1938), Schemamonk Eugene (1939), and Righteous Paramon (1941) of Belo-Russia

Tone 8
Eothinon 11

Matins Gospel: St. John 21:14-25
Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15
Liturgy Gospel: Luke 18:11-32

RESURRECTION TROPARION - Tone 8 - From the heights Thou didst descend, O Compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the three -day burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion. Thou art our Life and our Resurrection, O Lord. Glory to Thee!

TODAY: Coffee Hour, Sunday School, & Teens after Liturgy. Women of St Philip's meet.

SAINT PHILIP'S is a "Pan-Orthodox" parish of the Antiochian Archdiocese, serving Orthodox Christians of all backgrounds in the English language. If you are a newcomer to our community, please sign our guest book, and stay with us for the Coffee Hour today. AND, WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU AGAIN!

PLEASE NOTE: Holy Communion is only for practicing Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves through fasting, prayer, and recent confession, and who are dressed modestly and arrived on time for the Liturgy. All are welcome to kiss the Cross and receive Blessed Bread at the end of the Divine Liturgy.

THE ALTAR CANDLES are lighted today by the Acker family in thanksgiving for blessings received (Simeon's birthday - MANY YEARS!).

MANY THANKS to Fr James Thayer for sponsoring today's coffee hour in celebration of his 70th birthday. EVERYONE is invited to stay for refreshments after the Divine Liturgy.

THIS WEEK'S GREETERS: Heveran family

THIS WEEK'S CLEANING TEAM: Young adults.

THANK YOU to all who fulfill these ministries!

HOME BLESSING SCHEDULES available in the Narthex.
Or email or call Fr Noah, Fr James, or Fr Herman.

Mark Your Calendar:

Sunday of Judgment (Meatfare) - *February 19*
Donation Luncheon benefits Antiochian Women's Project
"Strengthening the Ministries of our Church"

Soul Saturday, *February 18* - Divine Liturgy 10 a.m.
Forgiveness Sunday, *February 26* - Forgiveness Vespers 1 p.m.

Bp Thomas visit - *March 3-5*

Youth Choir
Rehearsals: Saturdays at 5 pm, March 4-18
Singing 2nd Akathist (Mar 10) and 4th Presanctified (Mar 22)

Services for Annunciation
Friday, March 24 - Vespers & Artoklasia 6 pm, Matins 7 pm
Saturday, March 25 - Liturgy 9 am, potluck (fish, wine, oil)

Lenten Retreat
Saturday, March 25
Dr Christopher Veniamin - St Silouan of Mt Athos

PASCHA - April 16, 2017

FR NOAH, FR JAMES, & FR HERMAN are available for hospital visits. If you or anyone you know is in the hospital and would like a visit, please call the church office.

PLEASE PARK ONLY IN DESIGNATED PARKING SPACES; OTHER AREAS MUST REMAIN FREE FOR EMERGENCY VEHICLE ACCESS.

AMPLE PARKING is always available for Church Services in lots just across Clearview Rd, thanks to our good neighbors at Solar Atmospheres. Thank you.

PLEASE PRAY FOR
Naomi C. - Ken H. - Steve B.
Newly-departed Helen S. - Chris H.

This Week: Fast-Free Week!

Monday, Feb 6: **MORNING PRAYERS & Bible Study, 10 a.m.**

Tuesday, Feb 7: Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 11 a.m.
6th HOUR, 12 noon

Wednesday, Feb 8: **COMPLINE & Adult Study, 7 p.m.**

Thursday, Feb 9: **DIVINE LITURGY, 10 a.m.**
Desert Fathers reading group, 12 p.m.

Friday, Feb 10: **PARAKLESIS, 7 p.m.**
Men's Fellowship 8 p.m.

Saturday, Feb 11: Intro to Orthodoxy 4:30 p.m.
VESPERS 6 p.m.
Bible Bowl Study 7 p.m.

Sunday, Feb 12: ***Prodigal Son***
MATINS 8:50 a.m., DIVINE LITURGY 10 a.m.
Coffee Hour, Sunday School, Teens

Everyday Evangelist

"As the Father has sent me, so I send you." (Jn 20:21)

Become a creature of habit. Frequent the same coffee shop, gas station, restaurant, and so on, and build relationships with people there.

ATTANDANCE: At Vespers on Jan 28: 53 Liturgy on Jan 29: 181 **OFFERINGS:** Candles, $283.10 Collections, $164. Bookshelf, $113. Needy, $78. Pastoral Discr, $200. Smerkanich Schol, $315. St. Andrew, $675. Stewardship, $3,605. Total received: $5,333.10

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY