Blessed Theodore Romzha

November 1, 2020

22nd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Saints Cyril and Methodius
Byzantine Catholic Church

2510 Piney Plains Road
Cary, NC 27518-6870
919-239-4877

Rev. Fr. Vasyl Sokolovych
Parochial Administrator
908-404-0777

Sunday
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
(If unable to attend in person, our Divine Liturgy is streamed via our Facebook page.)

E-Mail: sscyrilmethodius@gmail.com
Web Site: sscyrilmethodius.org
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<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>22nd Sunday after Pentecost</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>November 1</td>
<td>Gal 6:11-18 &amp; Lk 8:26-39</td>
<td>8:30 AM: Confession</td>
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<td>Tone 5</td>
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<td>9:00 AM: Divine Liturgy (for the Intention of the Parishioners)</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>Akindynos &amp; Others Martyrs</td>
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<td>November 2</td>
<td>1 Thess 1:1-5 &amp; Lk 11:29-33</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Acepsimas and Others Martyrs</td>
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<td>November 3</td>
<td>1 Thess 1:6-10 &amp; Lk 11:34-41</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Joannacius Venerable</td>
<td>6:00 PM Divine Liturgy</td>
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<td>November 4</td>
<td>1 Thess 2:1-8 &amp; Lk 11:42-46</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Galaction and Episteme Martyrs</td>
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<td>November 5</td>
<td>1 Thess 2:9-14 &amp; Lk 11:47-12:1</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>Paul the Confessor Archbishop</td>
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<td>November 6</td>
<td>1 Thess 2:14-19 &amp; Lk 12:2-12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>33 Martyrs of Melitene</td>
<td>8:00 AM -12:00 PM: Eritrean Orthodox Divine Liturgy</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 7</td>
<td>2 Cor 8:1-5 &amp; Lk 9:1-6</td>
<td>4:00 PM: St. Nicholas Mission Divine Liturgy</td>
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**SUNDAY November 8**

Tone 6

**23rd Sunday after Pentecost**

Archangel Michael and All Angels

Eph 2:4-10 & Heb 2:2-10 & Lk 8:41-56 & Lk 10:16-22

Call the parish office (919-239-4877) to make an appointment or to speak with Fr. Vasyl (908-404-0777).

**SSCM CHURCH/HALL SCHEDULE**

The **St. Nicholas Mission** celebrate their Divine Liturgy in our church every Saturday at 4:00 PM.

The **Eritrean Orthodox** celebrate their Divine Liturgy in our church from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month.

The **Coptic Orthodox** celebrate their Divine Liturgy in our church from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month.

**CHURCH CLEANING:** If you would like to help, please contact Joe Deaton or Michelle Rubush. We need to have enough volunteers so no one is cleaning more than once every three months. Volunteers may do the cleaning anytime during the week when the church is not in use. Thank you to our current volunteers!

| Nov 1-6   | Lorraine  | Nov 22-27 | M. Taylor |
| Nov 8-13  | Rose      | Nov 29-Dec 4 | E. Tsakanikas |
| Nov 15-20 | Deaton/Cwik | Dec 6-11 | G. Tsakanikas |
22nd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
November 1, 2020

If you are new to our area or just visiting, please stop and introduce yourself. We are happy you are joining us to share in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. If you do not have a church home, or your church is not a home for you, we warmly invite you to become part of our parish family.

If you wish to register with our parish, please email Michelle Rubush at sscyrilmethodius@gmail.com

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST!
GLORY FOREVER!

SLAVONIC:
SLAVA ISUSU CHRISTU!
SLAVA NA VIKI!!

Please remember in your prayers:
The Morgan Family: Lance, Michael, Tina, Elena and John; John Patrick Rose; Elizabeth Macario; Fr. Mark and family, and Fr. Vasyl and family

Please pray for the repose of the souls of our faithful departed:


In Blessed Repose, Grant O Lord, Eternal Rest to the Soul of Your Departed Servants and may their Memory be Eternal.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Our Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) will be meeting the second Tuesday of every month. If you have any questions or concerns you would like addressed at the next meeting, please contact one of the members: Mike Carpenter, Marie Taylor, Paul Tooley, Lance Morgan, Dan Pope, Lou Gigliotti and Mike Sapsara.

In spite of the pandemic, the needs of our church continue and bills still must be paid. Many have worked behind the scenes to fulfill some of those needs. Thanks to our parishioner who faithfully takes our garbage and recycling carts to the curb and returns them to their location behind the Hall. Thank you to all who continue to share your time, talent and treasure. May God bless you abundantly!

“Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you.” (Luke 6:38)

You honor God and our Church by continuing to tithe each week. A collection basket is under the Tetrapod for your weekly donation. You may also mail in your donation or donate online via our website.

Saturday, November 7
Join us at 9:00 AM to make Halupki and chop cabbage and onions for Halushki for the Market. RSVP to mariannesapsara@gmail.com to confirm your attendance and to reserve your spot for lunch.

GROWING A VIBRANT BYZANTINE CHURCH

Virtual Convention Presentations Available Online Sunday, November 1st Website: byzantineconvention.com Live Event Panel Discussions on Saturday, November 14th from 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM
A MESSAGE FROM FATHER VASYL FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Do you ever feel driven by forces beyond your strength? A man driven mad by the evil force of a legion found refuge in the one person who could set him free. A legion is no small force—but an army 6,000 strong! For the people of Palestine, hemmed in by occupied forces, a legion, whether spiritual or human, struck terror! Legions at their wildest committed unmentionable atrocities.

Our age has also witnessed untold crimes and mass destruction at the hands of possessed rulers and their armies. What is more remarkable—the destructive force of this driven and possessed man, or the bended knee at Jesus’ feet imploring mercy and release? God’s word reminds us that no destructive force can keep anyone from the peace and safety which God offers to those who seek his help. A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand; but it will not come near you. ..Because you have made the Lord your refuge, the Most High your habitation (Psalm 91:7,9).

Jesus took pity on the man who was overtaken by a legion of evil spirits. The destructive force of these demons is evident for all who can see as they flee and destroy a herd of swine. After Jesus freed the demoniac the whole city came out to meet him. No one had demonstrated such power and authority against the forces of Satan as Jesus did. They feared Jesus as a result and begged him to leave them. Why would they not want Jesus to stay? Perhaps the price for such liberation from the power of evil and sin was more than they wanted to pay.

Jesus is ready and willing to free us from anything that binds us and that keeps us from the love of God. Are you willing to part with anything that might keep you from his love and saving grace? Lord, unbind me that I may love you wholly and walk in the freedom of your w

THE BYZANTEENS

Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it. (Proverbs 22:6)

ByzanTEENS is an official ministry of the Catholic Metropolitan Church of the USA. The ministry is a function of the Interparchial Youth Commission, whose members serve in each of the four eparchies of the Byzantine Catholic Church and is guided by an episcopal moderator. Our ByzanTEENS are under the leadership of Rachel Blair.

The Byzant-Teen Youth Rally 2021 is scheduled for July 1st through 4th, 2021, at Mt. St. Mary University in Emmitsburg, Md. The keynote speaker will be Super Bowl Champion Matt Birk. The theme of the Rally will be “Soar as on Eagle’s Wings” in reference to Isaiah 39:29-30. Registration info will be available next spring. Any teens who were 18 last year and planned to attend the San Diego Rally will be allowed to attend the 2021 Rally, even if they are 19 at the time of the Rally (per Metropolitan William). Guidelines will be sent on what will be required. We are trying to arrange the Closing Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Shrine and teens will have an opportunity to learn about the first American Saint.

ST. NICHOLAS MARKET!

Our website, saintnicholasmarket.com, has now been live for just over a week and we’ve begun to get orders for our food offerings. Retail will be added shortly as well. We need everyone’s support to make this, our first virtual market, a success. Please share the website across your social media and encourage family, friends, and co-workers to take a look. Reserve the dates of Dec. 11-12 to be on hand to help with packaging and managing pickups of orders. Remember that this is our only fund raiser and it’s getting us closer to our goal of a new church. Look for an announcement soon for ways to volunteer the week of the market.

Parishioners who are considered “high risk,” and more vulnerable to the virus should consider not attending Liturgy in the church and continue to participate via Facebook.

- Parishioners are dispensed from attending Divine Liturgy on Sunday and Holy Days.
- A face mask covering mouth and nose MUST be worn during Divine Liturgy, which should be removed before receiving Holy Communion.
- Please bring your own mask as the church has a limited number available.
- Social distancing (six feet) of people not living in the same household should be followed. A family living together can sit in the same area.
- Please refrain from physical contact.
- Please sanitize hands when entering and leaving church.
- There will be no Agape meal in the hall after Liturgy.
- Please maintain social distancing after Liturgy.
- A collection basket is under the Tetrapod for your weekly donation. You may also mail in your donation or donate online via our website.
- As you approach Fr. Vasyl for communion, please state your name.
In March, 1939, the Hungarians occupied Subcarpathian Ruthenia by force, precipitating both political and ecclesiastical changes. Bishop Stojka was forced by the Hungarian government to reorganize the seminary; and in the fall of 1939, Father Romzha was appointed Spiritual Director and Professor of Philosophy at the Eparchial Seminary in Uzhhorod. One of his students later recalled: "He was strict and demanding as a Professor, but as a Spiritual Director he was fatherly and kind. He knew how to inspire us and to bring out the best in us. Staying in close contact with us, his students, he was able to transplant into our hearts the main features of his strong priestly character: his dedication, genuine piety and generosity of heart."

Even at the seminary, Father Romzha found time for pastoral work by assisting in neighboring parishes, and conducting missions and retreats for young students. Every penny he earned he generously distributed to the poor. To the mentioned friend in Rome he wrote: "I am living very unpretentiously, and yet my pockets are always empty. But I am not discouraged, since I am working not for the money but to please God." Bishop Stojka greatly appreciated the dedicated work of Father Romzha, and in 1942 obtained for him Papal honors. Even so, he remained a humble and dedicated priest, inspiring and winning the admiration and respect of all those who met him.

On May 31, 1943, during a critical time during the war, Bishop Alexander Stojka suddenly died. In view of the uncertainties of the time, the Holy See appointed Bishop Nicholas Dudash, OSBM, of Hajdudorog, as the temporary administrator of the Mukachevo Eparchy. While the Soviet army was rapidly approaching the Carpathian Mountains, the Holy See promptly appointed Archbishop Theodore G. Romzha to succeed Bishop Dudash as the Apostolic Administrator of Mukachevo; and his episcopal consecration took place in Uzhhorod, September 24, 1944. A month later, the entire territory of the Mukachevo Eparchy was occupied by the Red Army. Bishop Romzha was informed that Subcarpathian Ruthenia would be incorporated into postwar Czechoslovakia as an autonomous province; however, it soon became evident that the Soviets would not relinquish this politically strategic region. Consequently, on June 29, 1945, Subcarpathian Ruthenia was officially incorporated into Soviet Ukraine; and the young and inexperienced Bishop Romzha found himself and his flock under Soviet rule.

At first, Bishop Romzha tried not to antagonize the Soviet authorities, in spite of abusive and violent actions committed by the Soviet soldiers against the clergy; but when the Soviet authorities started to expel priests from their parishes at random and confiscate church property, he was forced to protest. The Soviets had a ready answer: to ensure the continuance of his ministry and the safety of his clergy, Bishop Romzha must renounce all allegiance to the Holy See, place himself under the jurisdiction of the Patriarch of Moscow and encourage his flock to do the same. Bishop Romzha immediately replied: "I would rather die than betray my Church!" Thus began the open persecution of the Byzantine Catholic
Church in Subcarpathia. In the fall of 1945, Patriarch Alexis of Moscow appointed Bishop Nestor Sydoruk of Umany to head the Orthodox Eparchy of Mukachevo. Nestor was announced by the Soviet press to be the only legally appointed bishop, and received full support from the Soviet authorities. Intimidation and imprisonment of Byzantine Catholic priests followed; and the officialliquidation the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Mukachevo was underway.

Rather than flee, Bishop Romzha decided to fight. Although the Soviet authorities confiscated his car, he traveled long distances by horse and buggy, just to reassure his faithful and to encourage them to persevere until death, saying, “They are taking from us our own priests and churches, but they will never be able to take away our faith from us.” During these extensive and dangerous visitations, Bishop Romzha tried to sustain the faith of the weak, to reassure the wavering, and to plead with those intimidated: “Faith is our greatest treasure on this earth. To preserve our faith we must even be ready to lay down our life. If we must die, then let us die as true martyrs, defending our faith. One thing is sure: that we never will abandon our faith nor betray our Church.” The faithful, supported by dedicated clergy, responded enthusiastically, and stood united behind their fearless shepherd. Even some Orthodox parishes, seeing the violence and injustice perpetrated by the Soviets, asked Bishop Romzha to accept them back into the Catholic fold.

During these days of violence and open persecution Bishop Romzha offered his prayers and sufferings for the perseverance of his clergy and the faithful he risked so much to serve. He was sustained by his unshakable confidence in God’s Providence; and down deep in his courageous heart he vividly felt the protection of the Theotokos, the Mother of God. There was no power that could shake his loyalty to the Holy See; in his mind there was only “one, holy, Catholic and apostolic Church,” established by our Lord on the rock of Peter and governed by His Vicar on the earth. For this truth Bishop Romzha was ready to sacrifice his own life.

Unable to intimidate Bishop Romzha, the Soviets decided to liquidate him, and staged a highway accident. The horse drawn carriage in which the Bishop was returning home from the rededication of the parish church of Lavki, near Mukachevo, was rammed by a military truck. Bishop Romzha was badly injured, but survived; and passersby took him to the hospital in Mukachevo where, after a few days, he began to regain his strength. Then suddenly, early on the morning of November 1, 1947, he was found dead.

The night before Bishop Romzha’s death, the director of the hospital and a strange nurse, who had disappeared the next day, were seen entering the Bishop’s room about midnight. The Soviet authorities announced that Bishop Romzha died from injuries suffered in his highway accident; but a later investigation showed that he had, in fact, been poisoned.

Blessed Theodore Romzha was beatified by Pope John Paul II on June 27, 2001. His relics are enshrined in Holy Cross Cathedral in Uzhhorod, Transcarpathia.

**TWO PRAYERS IN TIME OF COVID-19**

Almighty Master, Holy King, Creator of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible, we are unable to grasp the fullness of your wisdom. You have filled your creation with blessings for us, that we may have an abundance of life, but also with elements dangerous to us, for you have given us a short life because of the weakness and frailty of our nature. In these days, O Lord, we cry out to you in our suffering from an invisible viral enemy. Grant, O Lord that we may endure this affliction in faith, remembering your name day and night, knowing that you are compassionate, merciful and loving. Be present and comfort those for whom this illness may lead to death; be present with the doctors and nurses and all who are called to aid in the fight against this disease; and be present with those of us who may suffer bodily weakness and pain and humble us in our proud sense of invincibility. Strengthen us in our spiritual struggle, even as we walk through the valley of the shadow of death. With your prophet David, we pray, “we are greatly distressed. But let us fall into the hand of God, whose mercy is great, rather than into human hands.” O Physician of souls and bodies, you chastise yet raise up those who fall, and restore those who have been cast down. You cure the afflictions of our bodies. We ask you, our God, visit with your mercy your fearfully afflicted servants. Forgive them every transgression, whether committed voluntarily or involuntarily. Yes, O Lord and lover of humanity, send down from heaven your healing power, touch their bodies, quench their fever, soothe their suffering, and drive out every hidden ailment. Be the Physician of your servants, raise them from their illness. Grant that we may be well-pleasing to you and do your will through your Church, and completely restore all to health, for it is you who have mercy and save us. For you are our God and we give glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever, and forever. Amen.

(Rev. David Petras)

O God Almighty, Lord of heaven and earth, and of all creation visible and invisible, in Your ineffable goodness, look down upon Your people gathered in Your name. Be our helper and defender in this day of affliction. You know our weakness. You hear our cry of repentance and contrition of heart. O Lord who loveth mankind, deliver us from the impending threat of the Coronavirus. Send Your Angel to watch over us and protect us. Grant health and recovery to those suffering from this virus. Guide the hands of physicians, and preserve those who are healthy that we may continue to serve you in peace and glorify Your most honorable and majestic Name, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

(Bishop Alexis of Bethesda, MD, Orthodox Church in America)
Go and Tell

“Return home and tell how much God has done for you.” So the man went away and told all over town how much Jesus had done for him. Luke 8:39 (NIV)

Puzzle is based on Luke 8:26-39

ACROSS
3. To be filled with fear
5. To be freed from illness or injury
6. To die from being submerged in water
7. Farm animals with a fat body flat nose, short legs and tail

DOWN
1. A group of cattle or other animals
2. Something above average size
4. A cruel and wicked spirit
5. A series of connected metal links

AFRAID DEMON FEAR LARGE DROWN CHAIN PIGS HERD CURED

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