



THE PROTOMARTYR



*A Weekly Bulletin of St. Stephen Cathedral,
Orthodox Church in America*

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**GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST
SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION**

**GLORY FOREVER!
TONE 6**

7th SUNDAY OF PASCHA — Tone 6. Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council.
Afterfeast of Ascension. Hieromartyr Dorotheus, Bishop of Tyre (ca. 362). Translation of the Relics of Bl. Igor (George), tonsured Gabriel, Grand Prince of Chernígov and Kiev (1150). Bl. Constantine, Metropolitan of Kiev (1159). Repose of St. Theodore Yaroslavich, older brother of St. Alexander Nevsky (Novgorod—1233). Finding of the Relics of Ven. Bassian and Jonah, Monks of Pertomsk (Solovétsky Monastery—1599). Martyrs Marcian, Nicander, Hyperechius, Appolonius, Leonidas, Arius, Gorgias, Selenias, Irenius, and Pambo, of Egypt (4th c.). Ven. Theodore the Wonderworker, Hermit of the Jordan (ca. 6th c.). Ven. Anubius, Confessor and Anchorite, of Egypt (5th c.). Ven. Abba Dorotheus of Palestine (6th c.). St. Peter of Korcha (Albanian).

EPISTLE: Acts 20:16-18, 28-36

GOSPEL: John 17:1-13

Schedule of services and events of the upcoming week:

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Thursday, June 9	Vespers 7:00 PM Bible Study 7:30 PM
Saturday, June 11	Memorial Saturday Divine Liturgy 9:00 AM Vigil of Pentecost 5 PM Confessions heard during the service
Sunday, June 12	Holy Pentecost Divine Liturgy (Slavonic) 8:30 AM Divine Liturgy and Vespers of Pentecost with kneeling prayers 10 AM

Graduate Recognition Sunday: today is Graduate Recognition Sunday on which we honor all our parishioners that have completed their education either in High School or received degrees in other educational institutions. We congratulate them on their achievements and wish them Many Years. We are also presenting a special Graduation Grant to our High School Graduates to help them with their continuous education.

Sisterhood meeting: will take place today after Liturgy to discuss the activities for the rest of the year. All ladies of the parish are welcome to attend!

Summer Educational Events: with summer coming up, we will break from our regular Sunday School classes and Bible Study. Yet we have scheduled few events for the summer months to give our parishioners opportunity for continuing education. There will be a Vacation Church School on July 13-15 for the children of our parish. There will also be a number of Summer Seminars following Sunday Divine Liturgy when we will watch a documentary related to various aspect of Church life and teaching and with a following discussion. First such Seminar will take place on Sun. June 26.

A Guide for Proper Church Etiquette

In the next few issues of Protomartyr we will print certain guidelines for proper etiquette that we should observe while attending church services. Please take time to read these guidelines in the next few weeks. Even though you might think that you already know the rules of proper conduct, there might be few things that you can still discover for yourself.

Church Clothing

Whenever we are preparing to come to church, we should remember that we will be entering the House of God. This requires that we dress modestly and with reverence. Generally this will mean that we want to wear our best clothing. At any age it is not appropriate to wear shorts, pants that are too casual, short skirts, tight-fitting or transparent garments, garments with low necklines, or strapless tops. Some Orthodox traditions require women to wear dresses or skirts with covered shoulders and backs. Although men are not required to wear a suit and tie, they will want to make an effort to dress as if they were going to an important event. Clothing with logos or printed material distracts others from praying. Some women have the pious tradition of covering their heads. Men and boys must remove their hats when entering the church. What could be a more important meeting than that with God Himself? The purpose in choosing our clothing wisely is that we model what is important to us by how we dress.

Leaving Church

The respectful protocol is to leave the church only after the final blessing, and after kissing or venerating the cross held by the priest at the end of the Divine Liturgy. It is not acceptable to be in the church hall, kitchen, or an administrative office during Liturgy. Some parishes have church school at the end of the Liturgy. This is the only exception allowed. Those who leave early deprive themselves of a blessing. After walking to the back of the nave of the church, it is customary to face the altar, bow, and make the sign of the cross.

Greeting the Priest and Bishop

In our modern culture, we greet one another with a handshake. The exception to this is when we greet a member of the clergy. We do not shake a bishop's or priest's hand; we kiss it with reverence and ask for a blessing. The proper way to do this is to approach the hierarch or priest with right hand over left, palms facing up, and then bow while saying, "Master, bless" to the hierarch, or "Father, bless" to the priest. If either places his hand in yours while blessing you, this is an appropriate time to kiss his hand. We kiss his hand because we are honoring Christ, whom he represents, and because we honor the gifts of the Eucharist that the hand of the priest elevates and distributes during the service of Divine Liturgy.