



The preaching of **Holy Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John** was of short duration. Having prepared people to receive the Saviour, he ended his life with a martyr's death. Soon after the baptism of the Lord, St John was put in prison by the Galilean King Herod. This Galilean King, Herod Antipas, was the son of Herod the Great, who slaughtered the fourteen thousand Bethlehem infants.

John upbraided King Herod for marrying his brother Philip's wife, Herodias, even though his brother was still alive. Herodias became embittered and wanted Herod to kill him. But Herod would not agree to this because he considered St John to be a great prophet and feared the people. However, to appease her, he put St John in prison. Herodias was not satisfied with this, especially as Herod himself listened with pleasure to the admonitions of the saint and often acted on his words.

About a year passed after the Forerunner's imprisonment, when Herod, celebrating his birthday, gave a banquet for his courtiers and a thousand leading men of Galilee. Salome, the daughter of Herodias and stepdaughter of Herod, danced for him, thus pleasing him and his guests. Herod said to her, "Ask me for whatever you wish," and he swore he would have given her even half of his kingdom. She went and asked her mother, "What shall I ask for?" Herodias answered, "The head of John the Baptist." Salome with haste returned to Herod and said, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." Herod was exceedingly sorry; but because of his oaths and his guests, he did not want to break his word to her, and sent a soldier to the prison to cut off the head of St John. The soldier fulfilled the order of the king, brought the head of John the Baptist on a platter and gave it to Salome, and Salome gave it to her mother Herodias. When St John's disciples heard of his death, they came, and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

The day of the martyrdom of St. John the Baptist is commemorated by the Holy Orthodox Church on Aug. 29 /Sept. 11. A strict fast is prescribed on this day in order to remind us of the strict life of St. John the Baptist for which he was blessed by God and to avoid the excesses of Herod which led to such a terrible sin. The Holy Church teaches that St. John the Forerunner is the greatest of all saints after the Mother of God.

Sunday, September 11

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Divine Liturgy 9:30 A.M.

Beheading of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John

Day of Fasting

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Wednesday, September 14

Moleben for the New Liturgical Year 5:30 P.M.

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Sunday, September 18

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Divine Liturgy 9:30 A.M.

Commemoration of Prophet Zachariah and Righteous Elizabeth, parents of St John the Forerunner, and Venerable Martyr Athanasios of Brest (†1648)

We continue introduction of the saints depicted on the icons in our temple

Life of Right-believing Prince Peter and Princess Fevronia of Murom (†1228)

II

Having heard that there were many physicians in the region of Riazan, Prince Peter told his servants to convey him there. Weakened by his illness, Prince Peter was no longer able to mount his horse. When he arrived in the land of Riazan, he sent all the men of his retinue to look for physicians.



One of the young men of his retinue came accidentally to a village called Charity. In this village he approached the gate of a house in which apparently no one was at home. He entered the house and found no one. Finally, he entered a room in which he found a beautiful maiden who was weaving. Before her a hare was jumping and playing about. The maiden said to the young soldier: “It is indeed unfortunate when the yard is without ears and the house without eyes.”



The young man didn't understand the meaning of these words, but asked where the master of the house was. The maiden answered: "My father and mother have gone alone to weep so as to pay their debt in advance, and my brother has gone to view death between his feet."

Once more the young soldier did not understand the maiden's words, and things appeared to be strange to him. He again spoke to the maiden: "I came to your place and I saw you weaving and a hare jumping about before you. Now I hear strange words from your lips which I cannot understand. First you told me that it is unfortunate when a yard is without ears and a house without eyes. Then you told me that your mother and father have gone to weep alone so as to pay their debt in advance and that your brother has gone to view death between his feet. I have not understood a word that you have told me."

The maiden smiled, and said: "Well, it is not too difficult to understand. You came into the house and found me sitting here weaving and dressed in house clothes. If we had a dog, it might have heard you and started barking. In such a case the yard would have had ears. If my brother were at home, he might have seen you coming here and warned me. In this case the house would have eyes. I told you that my parents went to weep alone so as to pay their debt in advance. Actually, they went to a burial and wept there. Once death has come to them, others will weep after them, and therefore they weep now to pay their debt in advance.

As for my brother, I told you that he had gone to view death between his feet. Actually, he and my father climb trees and collect pitch. He went just now to climb trees, and when he does so, he must watch his feet so that he will not fall. If he should fall, it would be his death. Therefore I said that my brother had gone to view death between his feet."

The young soldier then said to the maiden: "I see that you are very wise. Please tell me your name." Upon learning that the maiden's name was Fevronia, the young soldier explained why he had come there: "I have come here on behalf of my lord, Prince Peter of Murom. My prince is sick and covered with sores and ulcers. He received these afflictions from the blood of an evil serpent which he killed with his own hands. Since that time many doctors have treated him, but none has been able to cure him. Therefore, he ordered us to bring him to this land, for he heard that there are many physicians here. But we know neither where they live nor what are their names."

Fevronia answered, saying: "The only one who can cure the prince is the one who would order that your prince be brought to this place."

"Who would that be? What do you mean by these words?" the young man inquired. "The prince will lavishly reward the physician who will cure him. Tell me the name of such a physician — who he is and where he lives."



The maiden then told him: “Bring your prince to this place. If he is kind of heart and not proud in answering my questions, he will be cured.” The young soldier listened to these words and then returned to Prince Peter and told him in detail all that he had seen and heard.

Prince Peter then enjoined his retinue to take him immediately to this wise maiden. And they took him to the house wherein lived the maiden. The prince sent a page to the maiden asking: “Tell me, maiden, who is the man who can cure me? Let him cure me, and he will receive a large part of my wealth!” Without hesitation the maiden answered the page: “I am the physician who is able to cure your prince, but I do not desire any part of his wealth. However, if I do not become his wife, I shall have no reason to cure him.”

To be continued

..... News From All The Ends Of The Earth

Hobart, IN: In October, First United Methodist Church is hosting 7th Annual Fall Prayer Workshop. It is interesting that *a rabbi* was chosen as the keynote speaker who *would instruct Christians how to pray*. One is left to wonder to *whom* the rabbi is going to teach his audience to pray? Obviously, not to Jesus Christ, for the Jews regard Him a son of a prostitute and a Roman legionary; they teach He practiced black magic (“*And the master said: ‘Yeshu (i.e. Jesus) practiced magic and deceived and led Israel astray’ (Talmud Sanhedrin 107b, Sotah 47a)*”). It is sad to see how the Protestant world departs ever farther from the traditional Christian mindset, how the focus is getting ever blurrier, and what would be unthinkable for any Christian even a hundred years ago becomes a reality in the Christ-less secular ‘Christianity’.



Michigan City, IN: On Sunday, September 4, His Grace Bishop Peter of Cleveland (administrator of the Diocese of Chicago and the Midwest) celebrated Divine Liturgy at Saint George Orthodox Church in Michigan City. The hierarchical service marked the 100th anniversary of the parish, which was established on August 27, 1911 by Arab Orthodox Christian immigrants from Syria (now

Lebanon). The church itself was consecrated by Holy Hierarch Raphael of Brooklyn, vicar of the Syro-Arabian Mission of the Russian Orthodox Church, exactly 97 years prior to the day. The parish's first pastor was Fr. Anthony Bohlin. Joining Bishop Peter in concelebration were local clergy. Also, Fr. George Dahdouh, of Spring, TX, made a special trip on this occasion and beautified the service by proclaiming the Holy Gospel from the original Arabic text given to the late Fr. Anthony as a gift from St. Raphael. Another gift to the parish was a large icon of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker, given by Tsar-Martyr Nicholas II. The Divine Service was attended by many descendants of Fr. Anthony Bohlin. Guests at the celebration included nuns from the nearby Serbian Orthodox Monastery in New Carlisle, IN, and from the Holy Annunciation Hermitage in Westville, IN. Members of the Holy Virgin Protection Cathedral (Des Plaines, IL) choir sang and many visitors came from neighboring Orthodox parishes to join in the feast. Holy Communion was received from two chalices. After the Liturgy, a Procession of the Cross took place around the church. A festive meal was hosted by members of the parish on the grounds next to the church. Bishop Peter also visited the grave of Fr. Anthony where a Litia was served for the departed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. September bulletin covers' sponsor is Robert Hamady — in memory of mother Mary Hamady.
2. This Sunday, two candles by the Holy Altar Table are offered by Anne Springman, Helen Urban and Madge Petri in memory of Pauline Anthony on the 20th anniversary of her repose (9/05/1991). May her memory be eternal!
3. This Sunday, as well as the following Sunday, the Eternal Light is offered in memory of Joseph Fesko, Barbara Feczko, Michael Feczko, Anna Feczko and for health of the Feczko family.
4. On Sunday, September 25, besides our usual Hobart Food Pantry non-perishable food items collection, we are having our last off-season Bake Sale. Please plan to participate.
5. Holy Archangel Michael Church in Niles, IL, is hosting a DDD Dinner this year. The dinner is on Sunday, Oct. 30. DDD donation forms and dinner information can be found in the narthex.
6. We have just found out that Jenny Yacko, the winner of Lakefront raffle, gave her rightfully won money back to the church. This is written not to praise Jenny — May God Himself recognize her generosity in the ways known to Him — we simply want our faithful to be aware of the treasures we all may acquire in our hearts through love of God. We thank Jenny for giving us this precious lesson.