

Sunday, 18th of August 2024

MARTYRS FLORUS AND LAURUS OF ILLYRIA

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Gospel: Matthew 14:14-22

Kontakion – Tone 4

Today all the world honors in glory the divinely wise Florus and Laurus, / as pious martyrs who suffered for Christ. / Through their prayers may we receive grace and mercy / and be delivered from calamity and temptation, / and from wrath and sorrow on the Day of Judgment.

We pray for our entire church family and those who do not have a family or church family, and our special prayers are for the sick and suffering and for the health and salvation of others:

The Archbishop Melchizedek, Archpriest Joseph, Archpriest Samuel, Archimandrite Joseph, Archpriest Paul, Protopresbyter Christos, the priest Gregory, Protodeacon John, Mark, Matushka Ellen, Matushka Svetlana, Matushka Irene, Matushka Katherine, Catherine Xenia, Karen, Nadine Olsen, Michael Olsen, Michelle, Alexander, Anastasia, Sophia Eptamenitis, Edward, Taisa, Engelsman, Maria Higginbotham, Valentina Bobrowski, Anna Konoleva, Erika Dobrzynski, Douglas Dobrzynski, Andrew John Lihou, Marie Biancarelli, Joshua and Daniel Buccieri, Emma Matthews, Stephanie, Kristy, Victor Szemetylo, Helen, Bonnie Shaffner, Zoran Pejovic, Sunny Hunsicker, Ioana, Carmen, Michael, John, Sarah, Linda, Pamela Anne and Kimberly Marie, JoAnne, Beatrice, Christina, Orestes, Julia, Adrian, Sonya, Biljana, Dorothy, Pauline, Brandy, Makenzie, Tyler, Anna, Aleksei, Elena, Denis, Nadezhda, Izabella, Olga, Rita, Olga, Olga, Sofia, Iosif, John, Dawn, Pavel, Elena, Avery, Halyna (Klima) and Sergey. Amen!

***** To amend the prayer list, speak with Mary Osinski*****

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www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org
<https://www.holyspiritorthodox.org/>
<https://www.holyspiritorthodox.org/weeklybulletins>

THE WEEKLY BULLETIN
HOLY SPIRIT
ORTHODOX CHURCH

www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org

August 18th, 2024

MARTYRS FLORUS AND LAURUS OF ILLYRIA - The Martyrs Florus and Laurus were brothers by birth not only in flesh but in spirit. They lived in the second century at Byzantium, and afterwards they settled in Illyria [now Yugoslavia]. By occupation they were stone-masons (their teachers in this craft were the Christians Proclus and Maximus, from whom also the brothers learned about life pleasing to God). The prefect of Illyria, Likaion, sent the brothers to a nearby district for work on the construction of a pagan temple. The saints toiled at the structure, distributing to the poor the money they earned, while they kept strict fast and prayed without ceasing. Once, the son of the local pagan-priest Mamertin carelessly approached the structure, and a chip of stone hit him in the eye, severely injuring him. Saints Florus and Laurus assured the upset father, that his son would be healed. They brought the youth to consciousness and told him to have faith in Christ. After this, as the youth confessed Jesus Christ as the true God, the brothers prayed for him, and the eye was healed. In view of such a miracle, even the father of the youth believed in Christ. When the construction of the temple was completed, the brothers gathered the Christians together, and going through the temple, they smashed the idols. In the eastern part of the temple they set up the holy Cross. They spent all night in prayer, illumined with heavenly light. Having learned of this, the head of the district condemned to burning the former pagan priest Mamertin and his son and 300 Christians. The martyrs Florus and Laurus, having been sent back to the prefect Likaion, were thrown down an empty well and covered over with earth. After many years, the relics of the holy martyrs were uncovered incorrupt, and transferred to Constantinople. In the year 1200 the Novgorod pilgrim Anthony saw them. Stephen of Novgorod saw the heads of the martyrs in the Pantokrator monastery around the year 1350.

Service Schedule

Great Vespers: 5pm Saturdays

Hours: 9:45am Sundays

Divine Liturgy: 10:00am Sundays

Confessions: Will be heard every Saturday evening after Vespers or by appointment.

Call, text or email Father Michael at (848)228-1563 or holyspiritwantagenj@gmail.com

Monthly calendar at www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org

Dates to Remember

Saturday 17th of August

Great Vespers at 5 pm

Sunday 18th of August

Divine Liturgy at 10 am

Saturday 24th of August

Great Vespers at 5 pm

Sunday 25th of August

Divine Liturgy at 10 am

Saturday 31st of August

Baptism of Isla and Christopher Spies

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Visitors Welcome

Glory be to Jesus Christ! Everyone is welcome to visit and worship with us. Following Divine Liturgy, please join us for light refreshments in the church hall.

A Message from Father Michael

On behalf of myself, Nadine and Michael Olsen, Mark Benda, NJ State Fair Chairpersons, and HSOC's Council members, please accept our gratitude and thanks as we shared many wonderful times at the NJ State Fair, August 2-10, 2024, and the recent gathering at the Firehouse to make the delicious cabbage casseroles. Our thanks to the individuals who worked at the firehouse and to those who funded the rental fee for the firehouse, and all who worked and gave time to this major fundraiser event for our church. Your dedication, participation and support of our church is a blessing. The amount derived from this event will be forthcoming shortly. Our blessings and God Grant You Many Years!

Prayers and Financial Assistance Needed

The mayhem caused by Hurricane Debby had damaged St. Olympia Orthodox Church in Norwood, NY. One unofficial preliminary assessment now predict that damages may go to \$50,000 or above. Your generosity is sincerely appreciated! Checks can be made payable, and sent, to the Diocese of New York and New Jersey, 33 Hewitt Avenue, Bronxville, NY 10708. Please write "St. Olympia Recovery" in the memo line. Alternatively, online donations can be offered at the newly posted GoFundMe page: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-st-olympia-orthodox-church-flood-recovery>

Join us for the Baptism

On Saturday, August 31st, 2024, we will witness the baptism of Isla Magdalene Spies and Christopher Matthew Spies, children of Christopher Michael Spies and Alyssa Nicole Ross. Following the service the family is inviting you to the Parish Hall for light meal. Everyone is welcome.

Orthodox Church in America's Office Announcement

Orthodox Church in America's Office of Pastoral Life Awarded \$1.25 Million Grant to Address Economic Challenges Facing Pastoral Leaders. For more information please follow the link: [Orthodox Church in America's Office of Pastoral Life Awarded \\$1.25 Million Grant to Address Economic Challenges Facing Pastoral Leaders - Orthodox Church in America \(oca.org\)](https://oca.org)

HSOC Cleaning Help Needed

Now with more families attending Holy Spirit Orthodox Church, we are in need of anyone and everyone who is willing to help clean the Church. Many hands make for light work. For a cleaning schedule and any questions, please call or text Maritsa Farren at (973)670-8728.

Have an item for the bulletin?

Please email Father Michael at holyspiritwantagenj@gmail.com or Mary Osinski at mary.osinski@gmail.com.