

MARTYR SUSANNA, QUEEN OF GEORGIA

Sunday 28th of August

Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:2-12; Galatians 5:22-6:2

Gospel Reading: Matthew 18:23-35; Luke 6:17-23

Troparion — Tone 3

Your holy martyr Susanna, O Lord, / through her sufferings has received an incorruptible crown from You, our God. / For having Your strength, she laid low her adversaries, / and shattered the powerless boldness of demons. / Through her intercessions, save our souls!

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 Archpriests Samuel and Joseph, Archimandrite Joseph, Protospesbyter Christos, the priest Gregory, Mark Benda, Matushka Ellen, Emily Anastasia, Gabriel, Zoe, Nadine Olsen, Anastasia, Sophia Eptamenitis, Edward, Taisa, Konstance & Elaine 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, Helen Schweizer, Zoran Pejovic, Sunny Hunsicker, Ioana, Carmen, Michael and John. Amen!!!

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

Follow us on



And remember to use:



Holy Spirit Orthodox Church

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www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org

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

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THE WEEKLY BULLETIN

HOLY SPIRIT ORTHODOX CHURCH

www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org

August 28th of 2022

MARTYR SUSANNA, QUEEN OF GEORGIA - Saint Shushanik (Susanna) was the wife of the Georgian prince Varsken, the ruler of Hereti.¹ Having been raised in a pious Christian family, she was deeply penetrated with love and the fear of God. At that time Kartli was under heavy political pressure from Persia, and Prince Varsken visited the Persian king Peroz in hopes of encouraging more friendly relations between the two countries. He willingly denied the true Faith, converted to the worship of fire, and promised the king to convert his wife and children upon his return to Hereti. Having approached the border of Hereti, Varsken sent messengers to Tsurtavi, the city in which he ruled, to ensure that his subjects met him with due respect. The blessed Shushanik, having learned of her husband's betrayal, fell to the ground and wept over him with bitter tears. Then she took her four children, deserted the palace, and sought refuge in a nearby church. That evening Shushanik was visited by her spiritual father, the elder Jacob, who predicted, "Varsken's cruelty and mercilessness are unmistakable. Know that terrible trials await you. Will you be firm and unbending in your position?" "I would rather die than unite with him and destroy my soul!" she answered. Three days later the prince arrived in Tsurtavi. As promised, he tried to persuade his wife to convert, but Saint Shushanik firmly answered, "As you have renounced your Creator, so I am renouncing you. I will no longer take part in your affairs, no matter what suffering I must endure!" The next time, Varsken sent his younger brother Jojik and Bishop Apots to convince Shushanik to return to the palace. Shushanik refused for some time, but in the end, she yielded to their persuasion. She set off for the palace with the Holy Gospel and the Lives of the holy martyrs, and when she arrived, she locked herself in a squalid cell. Two days later Varsken returned to the palace and invited Shushanik, his brother Jojik, and his sister-in-law for supper. The queen, however, could not bring herself to share a meal with one who had betrayed Christ: she pushed away the cup that Jojik's wife had offered her, thus further angering her husband. The furious Varsken beat his wife mercilessly, fettered her in irons, locked her in prison, and forbade the guards to let anyone in to see her. Saint Shushanik spent six years in captivity. While she was serving her sentence, she helped the poor that came to her. Through her prayers the sick were healed, and children were born to the childless. Before her death, Holy Martyr Shushanik blessed those around her and requested that she be buried at the place from which her unbelieving husband had dragged her out of the palace. This happened in the year 475. The clergy and people alike wept bitterly over Shushanik's tragic fate. Her holy relics were buried in accordance with her will.

Service Schedule

Great Vespers: 5 pm 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 27th of August
Great Vespers at 5 pm

Sunday 28th of August
Divine Liturgy at 10 am
Great Vespers following Divine Liturgy

Monday 29th of August
**THE BEHEADING OF THE HOLY GLORIOUS PROPHET,
FORERUNNER AND BAPTIST JOHN**
Divine Liturgy at 9 am

Saturday 3rd of August
Great Vespers at 5 pm

Sunday 4th of August
Divine Liturgy at 10 am

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Welcome!

Everyone is welcome to visit and worship with us at Holy Spirit Church and to experience the beauty of Vespers each Saturday at 5 pm and/or Divine Liturgy each Sunday at 10 am. Fellowship and light refreshments follow Divine Liturgy

The Feast of Beheading of the Holy Forerunner and Baptist John

The beheading of John the Baptist is a biblical event and is commemorated as a feast day. Please plan to worship with us at Divine Liturgy on Monday, August 29th, at 9 am. This feast day is a strict fast day.

Memorial Or Panikhida Service

You are most welcome to remember a loved one with the offering of a Memorial or Panikhida service. Speak with me at the coffee social or contact me via email or text to schedule the service.

Ethnic Food For Sale!

There's frozen food remaining from the NJ State Fair and it's for sale! Tray of Stuffed Cabbage: \$20 – Pierogies: \$10 per dozen. Following Divine Liturgy please see Mark Benda during the coffee social to purchase either the stuffed cabbage and/or pierogies. Delicious! Support our Church by making a purchase and having an easy and enjoyable dinner.

9/11 MEMORIAL

On Sunday, September 11, 2022, His Eminence Archbishop Michael will serve Divine Liturgy. Following Divine Liturgy, a Panikhida (Memorial) service for the victims of the 9/11 attack will be served. As in past years, Archbishop Michael will bless local fire engines. Following the service and blessing, there will be light refreshments and fellowship in the Parish Hall.

Applefest, Warwick, NY – Sunday, October 2nd, 2022

It's wonderful to announce that the Applefest is back for 2022. Holy Spirit Orthodox Church will again participate. This event is a big fundraiser for our Church. More than 30,000 visitors attend this event and HSOC will be there selling our delicious pierogies. We need your help! Speak with Nadine Olsen and/or Mark Benda to volunteer at this one-day fundraiser event. On this day, Divine Liturgy will be at 9:00 am. This will give everyone the opportunity to volunteer or participate at the Applefest.

Have an item for the bulletin?

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