

- THE LOVE OF GOD:

For the soul to repent, it must first awake. It is in this awakening that the miracle of repentance occurs. This is where human will plays its role. The awakening, however, is not something that rests only with the individual man or woman. The individual on his own is unable to bring it about. God intervenes. Then divine grace comes. Without grace, a person cannot repent. The love of God does everything. He may use something—an illness, or something else, it depends—in order to bring a person to repentance. Accordingly, repentance is achieved through divine grace. We simply make a move towards God and from then onwards grace supervenes.

—*St. Porphyrios in Wounded by Love*

- THOUGHTS ON LONELINESS:

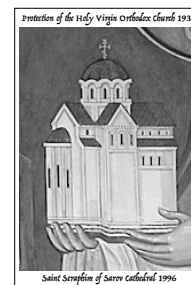
On Thursday I attended a four-hour [Parish Development Symposium on Zoom](#) organized by the OCA. His Beatitude, [Metropolitan Tikhon](#), remarked in his keynote address that so many people are dealing with a desperate sense of loneliness. This is a loneliness experienced by so many now because of being separated from others during the pandemic, but is not at all new to our society. Social media cannot fill the void, and perhaps makes it worse. For some, friendships are strained, and in others, completely lacking. His Beatitude told us our “friendship with Christ” in prayer (I no longer call you servants, but friends, [John 15:15](#)) is a foundation for other relationships. My own thoughts are that as this pandemic/shut-down continues to drag on, now is a good time to deepen prayer with a serious, regular and nourishing prayer rule, something we do each and every day, even if it costs us our sweat and blood to get to it. Christ is our Lord—Who loves us with an infinite and unwavering love—let’s enter into that embrace. It will take a little work on our part to get there. Our mind and attention is so fragmented and distracted, we have nothing left for the Savior. We beg the Holy Spirit to enable us to pray, and then begin, making a little progress each in glorifying God, supplicating Him to help those around us, and thanking Him for the blessings He has given us. And then, we just sit with Him for a while, giving Him our time. —*Fr Lawrence*

- A PRAYER:

Lord, love the Other in me. Let me love the Other through You, and be loved by You through the Other. —[Deacon Stephen Muse](#)

ST. SERAPHIM CATHEDRAL

PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN ORTHODOX CHURCH



July 12, 2020

Venerable Father Paisios of the Holy Mountain



- RESURRECTIONAL TROPARION, Tone Four:

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the joyous message of the Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse, and elatedly told the Apostles: death is overthrown, Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy.

- TROPARION FOR ST. PAISIOS, Tone One:

The offspring of Farasa, and the adornment of Athos, and the imitator and equal in honor of the venerable ones from ages past; let us honor Paisios, O faithful, the vessel full of graces, who hastens speedily to the pious faithful who cry out: Glory to Him Who gave thee strength; Glory to Him Who crowned thee; Glory to Him Who grants healings through thee for all.

- RESURRECTIONAL KONTAKION, Tone Four:

My Savior and Redeemer as God rose from the tomb, and delivered the earth-born from their chains. He has shattered the gates of hades, and as Master, He has risen on the third day.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, July 11: 9:30 AM, **Divine Liturgy** in the Protection
3:30 PM, Catechism, Zoom and in Parish Hall
5 PM, Great Vespers
- Sunday, July 12: 9:30 AM, **Divine Liturgy**
- Tuesday, July 14: 5 PM, Vespers for Sts. Vladimir and Olga
- Wednesday, July 15: 9 AM, **Divine Liturgy** for the Feast of Sts.
Vladimir and Olga, [Read the Life here](#)
5 PM, Vespers
7 PM, *Epistle to the Romans study* via Zoom
- Friday, July 17: 9 AM, **Divine Liturgy** for the [Royal Passion Bearers Tsar Nicholas](#) and family, in the
Cathedral (*added on to the schedule*)
11:30–1 PM, Confessions
- Saturday, July 18: 9:30 AM, **Divine Liturgy**, Feast of the Royal
[New Martyrs Elizabeth and Barbara](#)
3:30 PM, Catechism, Zoom and in Parish Hall
5 PM, VIGIL for St. Seraphim
- Sunday, July 19: 9:30 AM, **Divine Liturgy** and Cross Pro-
cession, Feast of St. Seraphim
1:30 PM, Vespers for [Prophet Elijah](#) (*Divine Liturgy on Monday, July 20 at 9:30 AM*)

• JOYOUS FEAST:

We send our greetings and love to Father Alexander Krassovsky and his God-protected community [Sts. Peter and Paul Russian Orthodox Church](#) on the occasion of their parish feast, July 12. Many Years.

• ST SERAPHIM DAY:

The summer feast of St. Seraphim is on July 19. It commemorates both the date of St. Seraphim's birth on July 19, 1754 and his [Glorification in 1903](#). This year we will not have our usual festivities with many visiting clergy and faithful, nevertheless, it is still the feast of St. Seraphim! The Vigil will be served on Saturday, July 18, at 5 PM. Currently, we allow 25 people in to the Cathedral for Vespers/Vigils and weekday Liturgies. On Sunday, we will serve the Liturgy at 9:30 AM, followed by a Cross Procession and abbreviat-

ed *Molieben* (service of supplication). In anticipation, I wish all of you a blessed feast of St. Seraphim. See photos from last year.

• SAINT PAISIOS OF THE HOLY MOUNTAIN:

The future [Elder Paisius](#) was born in 1924 and baptized by St. Arsenius of Cappadocia. He spent his youth as a carpenter until WW II, during which he repeatedly distinguished himself in the army by his bravery and self-sacrifice as a radio operator. In 1950 he went to Mount Athos for eight years, where he was tonsured. Then he was asked to spend some time in his home village of Epirus in order to defend the faithful against Protestant proselytism. He returned to Mount Athos in 1964 and stayed in several monasteries, eventually settling in the *Panagouda Hermitage* of [Koutloumousiou Monastery](#), where he remained for fifteen years. Here, his reputation as a holy elder and guide grew, and he tirelessly received those thirsting for spiritual direction, allowing himself only two or three hours of sleep each day. He reposed in 1994, one of the most well-known and beloved contemporary elders. Many of his counsels and other writings have been published. Elder Paisios was glorified by the Church in 2015; he is commemorated on the anniversary of his repose, July 12, 1994. [See a video here.](#)

• HOPE IN GOD:

We should not despair when we struggle but see no progress, remaining continuously at zero. All people earn zeros with their human strength, some more and some less. Christ, seeing our small human effort, places the number one before our zeros, and thus they acquire value and we can detect some improvement. Thus, we must not despair, but hope in God. —*St. Paisios*

• FROM THE GULAG ARCHIPELAGO:

If only there were evil people somewhere insidiously committing evil deeds, and it were necessary only to separate them from the rest of us and destroy them. But the line dividing good and evil cuts through the heart of every human being. And who is willing to destroy a piece of his own heart? During the life of any heart this line keeps changing place; sometimes it is squeezed one way by exuberant evil and sometimes it shifts to allow enough space for good to flourish. One and the same human being is, at various ages, under various circumstances, a totally different human being. At times he is close to being a devil, at times to sainthood. But his name doesn't change, and to that name we ascribe the whole lot, good and evil.

— See about [Alexandr Solzhenitsyn](#)