

Holy Trinity Russian Orthodox Church

1723 E. Fairmount Avenue, Baltimore, MD. 21231
 410-276-6171 www.HolyTrinityOrthodox.com



12th Sunday after Pentecost
Tone 3

August 26/September 8, 2019

Commemoration of the Meeting of the “Vladimir” Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos and the deliverance of Moscow from the Invasion of Tamerlane in 1395; **Martyrs Adrian and Natalia and 23 companions at Nicomedia (4th c.)**; Blessed Mary Diveyevo (1931); Venerable Adrian, abbot of Ondrusov (Valaam) (1549); Synaxis of the Saints of Nizhe-Novgorod; Hieromartyr Peter priest (1918); St. Gregory confessor, priest (1928); Hieromartyr Victor priest, Martyrs Demetrius, Peter and confessor priest Roman (1937); Finding of the relics (2000) of the Holy Hierarch Nicholas, confessor, Metropolitan of Alma-Alta. Pskov-Pechersky “Tenderness” Icon of the Mother of God (1524).

Today’s Scriptural Readings:

1 Corinthians 15: 1-11 / Matthew 19: 16-26
 Philippians 2: 5-11 / Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28

This Week’s Liturgical Calendar	
Tuesday, September 10 th – 6:00 PM <i>Eve of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist</i>	Vigil Service in the Chapel
Wednesday, September 11 th – 9:00 AM <i>Beheading of St. John the Baptist</i>	Divine Liturgy in Church <i>Litya for Orthodox Soldiers and 9/11 victims</i> Strict Fast Day
Saturday, September 14 th – 6:00 PM	Vigil Service in the Chapel
Sunday, September 15 th – 10:00 AM <i>Private Confessions start at 9:15 AM</i>	Divine Liturgy in Church

Saints Peter & Paul Chapel
Holy Trinity Orthodox Cemetery at Cathedral Gardens
6480 Elibank Drive, Elkridge, MD. 21075

Divine Services at Holy Trinity are live-streamed at
<https://www.youtube.com/user/HolyTrinitySermons>

Please Join us for Coffee Hour – Today after Services

Today's sponsors: Victor and Jill Marinich

Sunday School Registration

Sunday School Registration is now open for the 2019/20 Sunday School classes. Please register your child/children and submit your registration form(s) to Fr. John. It is necessary that a form be filled out for each child so that we can plan class size, teachers, etc. **The first day of Sunday School is Sunday, September 15th.**

Dear Parents and Sunday School Teachers, it is important for all of our children to attend Divine Services and classes every Sunday. We parents teach our children about the importance of going to school every day in order to do well in this life. So too, we must teach the importance of keeping the Lord's day holy and of studying Scriptures and Church life, in order for them to know God and to inherit eternal life, a much loftier and crucial endeavor! Let us give them heavenly food for the soul...

Sunday School Parents/Teachers – September 8th

On Sunday, September 8th, the parents, teachers and volunteers will conduct a short meeting to begin planning for the new school year. For more information contact Olga Hansen 410-967-6738.

Challenge Grant – Matching Donations – Will close on October 27

Three families in our parish have pledged to match all donations for the flooring and altar icons on a 1:1 ratio. For every dollar you donate, they will match one dollar, up to \$30,000, towards the Church Restoration Fund. Double the value of your donation: \$20 becomes \$40, \$50 becomes \$100, and \$100 becomes \$200! Special donation forms are on the candle stand in the vestibule of the church.

Cleaning Group – Group #1 / Join a Group – Help your brothers and sisters

Group #1 will clean the week of Sept 9-14: Elena Loyko (captain), Ludmila Maltsev, Tamara Lipatova, Alla Gordon, Nikolai Tkeshelashvili and Victor Marinich. Please join a group. We always need more members.

Cleaning Groups Need More Volunteers...please help!

We need more volunteers for our cleaning groups. Only 38 individuals work in eight groups. With a new floor the cleaning responsibilities have changed. Please help your fellow brothers and sisters; join a group. Please contact Larisa Hidar for more information: 443-986-0047

Convocation of the Patriarchal Parishes

The 14th Convocation of the Patriarchal Parishes is scheduled for September 30 – October 3, 2019 at Antiochian Village in Western PA. Fr. John, Fr. Deacon Michael and Martin Masiuk as lay delegate will represent our parish. At this conference we will discuss plans for celebrating in 2020 the 50th Anniversary of the Patriarchal Parishes in the USA. All parishes are requested to present proposals on how best to mark this milestone. Please discuss your ideas with any member of the parish council. Contact Fr. John for more information.

Birthday / Anniversary Celebrations: September 8-14

We offer our best wishes and birthday congratulations to Yelena Radchenko (9/08), and Angel Day wishes to Natalie Burbelo, Natallia Makarava, Natalia Volkova, Natalie Blaszk, Natalia Gerachenko (9/08) God bless them with health, prosperity and many years. To include your birthday /anniversary in the bulletin please call Fr. John.

Vigil Candles: On the Altar and near St. Barbara

September 8-14: Candles offered by Larisa Hidar for the health/salvation of the servants of God: Valentina, Julia and Alexandra. A \$15 donation will keep all three candles lit for one week. Please schedule your candle offering with Elena Loyko 443-537-8978.

Russian Festival 2019 – October 18, 19, 20

www.russfest.org

Plan your vacations accordingly so you have the time to help your parish during these important days.

On the following days we will prepare food for the Russian Festival in the hall.

Saturday, Aug. 31 st	<i>Bread Baking</i>	Saturday, Sept. 28 th	<i>Bread Baking</i>
Saturday, Sept. 7 th	<i>Bread Baking</i>	Sunday, Sept. 29 th	<i>Goluptsi (Stuffed cabbage)</i>
Sunday, Sept. 8 th	<i>Chicken Kotlety</i>	Saturday, Oct. 5 th	<i>Bread Baking</i>
Saturday, Sept. 14 th	<i>Bread Baking</i>	Sunday, Oct. 6 th	<i>Baking Desserts</i>
Sunday, Sept. 15 th	<i>Vareniki</i>	Saturday, Oct. 12 th	<i>Bread Baking</i>
Sunday, Sept. 22 nd	<i>Vareniki</i>	Sunday, Oct. 13 th	<i>Baking Tea Balls</i>
<i>For details contact Albert Blaszk 410-799-3226 We need everyone's help.</i>			

1. Soda / Water Donation Drive Underway ! Please help us reduce our Festival expenses...buy a few cases of soft drinks (12 oz. cans) and bottled water (½ liter) over the next several weeks as they go on sale in area supermarkets. We need Coke, Pepsi, Diet Coke, Diet Pepsi, Sprite, Fanta (**no generics**). Water: Deer Park, Aquafina, etc. Thank you for your generosity.

2. Festival Desserts Table We need donations of desserts to supply our desserts table. This year we ask your help to increase both the quantity and variety of items. We need your ideas on what new dessert items we can offer this year. Please contact co-captains: Tania Masiuk 410-987-4850 or Alla Gordon 410-718-3046.

3. We are accepting ads for the **2019 Russian Festival Program Booklet**. Parishioners and friends are asked to purchase ads to commemorate the memory of their departed loved ones and/or to offer the congratulations on behalf of their living family members. And we need everyone's help with asking local businesses to purchase advertisements. Ad contract forms are available in church and the hall. Please contact Michael Mickel at 410-666-2870 for more information.

4. Festival Raffle Tickets have been distributed to parishioners and friends. We need everyone's cooperation to make this segment of our annual festival a success. Please send the money and the sold ticket stubs by September 29th to Michael Mickel 4042 Stansbury Mill Rd Monkton, MD 21111 or hand them back to Michael Mickel after church each Sunday.

5. Volunteer Schedules – New Procedure. All Festival Volunteers returning from last year need to contact their booth captains to schedule their work times. Please go to

<http://www.russfest.org/chairpersons.htm> to find contact information for your booth captains. **Tentative schedules must be made by September 8th.**

6. New Volunteers. All new volunteers who are interested in working at the Festival need to register with the Volunteer Coordinator, Lyudmila Maltsev 443-392-4028

7. Bread Baking Days have begun. In addition to the volunteers who bake breads on Saturdays, we need volunteers who can help with the clean up after the baking is done. So, if you are not much of a baker, but would like to help, please offer your assistance with the cleanup on any or every Saturday.

8. Russian Festival Meeting for ALL Captains – September 18. The Russian Festival Committee will conduct a MANDATORY meeting for all captains of the festival on Wednesday, September 18th at 7:00 PM. Captains, bring the list of supplies you need. Menu prices will be discussed.

9. Facebook: Holy-Trinity-Russian-Festival – “Like us” & “Share” Are you on Facebook?: Go to our Facebook page (**Holy-Trinity-Russian-Festival**) “Like us” and “Share” the page. This will help us advertise the event. Pass it along to your friends as well.

Special Petitions for the Unity of the Orthodox Church

Again we pray to the Lord and our Savior to preserve the Orthodox Church abiding in the whole world in unity and right belief, and to grant her peace and tranquility, love and consent, let us all say, Lord, hearken and have mercy.

Again we pray to look upon the Holy Orthodox Church with the goodness of heart and with mercy, and to preserve her from divisions and schisms, from hostility and disorder, so her unity will not be diminished or shaken, but Thine Thrice-Holy name be glorified in her, let us all say, Lord, hearken and have mercy.

Submit your 2019 Pledge

The mission of our parish is to spread the Word of God, to grow, to expand, to improve and not just to preserve our traditions. Our parish shouldn't become stale, but pursue holiness. We strive to fulfill the mission of our parish, through prayer, work and sacrifice. Prayer – because we are called to “pray without ceasing” (1 Thess. 5:17); work – because we are taught to increase the talents given to us (Matt. 25: 14-30); and sacrifice – because "everyone to whom much is given, from him will much be required" (Luke 12:48).

*When you are generous, you are not bestowing a gift, but repaying a debt. Everything you possess materially comes from God, who created all things. And every spiritual and moral virtue you possess is through divine grace. Thus you owe everything to God. More than that, God has given you his Son, to show you how to live: how to use your material possessions, and how to grow in moral and spiritual virtue. **St. John Chrysostom***

Please Remember in Your Prayers...

Archpriest George Konyev; **Archpriest Michael** Hatrak; **Deacon Michael** Bishop; **Mat. Myra** Kovalak; **Mat. Klavdiya** Burbelo; **Kh. Frederica** Mathewes-Green; **Nun Elizabeth**; **Nun Magdalena**; **Mat. Natalia** Kosich; **Priest Gregory** and **Mat. Diane** Winsky; **Mat. Catherine** Kowalchik; **Marie** Vass; **Charles** Snipes; **Arthur-Stephen** Lisowsky; **Yelena** Radchenko; **Lydia** Zorina; **Tatiana**; **Katherine** Plaskowitz; **Philip** Plaskowitz; **Bernadine** Borawick; **Julia** Aymold; **Lilli Ann** Hoffman; **Lara** Marinich; **Oleg** Marinich; **Ioann** and **Galina** Zernetkin; **Monika-Anastasia** & **Stephanie** Handley; **Blanche-Julia** Stolkovich; **Ekaterina** Koroleva; **Nina** Lewis; **Maryann** Black; **Lyudmila, Anton** & **Aleksander** Karnup; **John Alexander** Bylen; **Katherine** Garrett; **Stephen** Kaminitzky; **John-Thomas** Planinshek; **Kenneth** Pukita; **William** and **Ann** Ferkile; **Irina** Kononova; **Petr** and **Lyudmila** Borodkin; **Anthony** Bakie; **Svetlana** & **Aleksey**; **Alla**; **Anna**; **Alla**; **Raisa, Zinaida**; **Joseph** Germano; **Pavel, Vladimir, Valentina, Nina,** and **Maria**; **Maria** Pappas; **Bonnie** Duke; **Joseph** Lacomy; **Diana** Radchenko; **Aleksey** & **Lidia** Potapov; **Oleg** and **Andrei**; **Vitaliy, Tatiana, Olena** & **Nicholas** Berchuk; **David, Selina-Sophia, John, Maryann, David, Joseph, Lisa Ann** Eichelberger; **Cynthia** and **Bill (Basil)** Popomaronis; **Andrei, Marina, Valentina** and **Vladimir**; **Archpriest Cezar, Mat. Christina, Cezara-Maria, Darius, Justina, Christian**; **Victoria** Lardiero; **Richard** Wright; **Valentina** Shultieva; **Shanna, Stephen, Trent-Michael, Grant-Alexander, Adalynn** Lisowsky; **Julie** Smith; **Tayisia** Solvieva; **Lubov** Pavuk; **Leonid** and **Zoya**; **Jayne** Sudol; **Rita** and **Richard** Herber, **Mary** Orzolek, **Shane-Michael** Sierakowski; **George** Matassov; **Janice** DesLauriers; **John** DesLauriers; **Nicholas** Rodzianko.

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, September 24th – 7:00 PM in the Church Hall

Fr. John Vass, Rector 443-527-7067	Fr. Deacon Michael Bishop: 410-563-0472
Victor Marinich, <i>Council President:</i> 443-512-0985	Vadim Radchenko, <i>Vice President:</i> 410-465-6172
Andrei Burbelo, <i>Recording Secretary:</i> 443-567-6031	Albert Blaszak, <i>Treasurer:</i> 410-799-3226
Oxana Chumak-Strianese, <i>Stewardship Chair:</i> 831-673-1937	Anna-Zumrat Shkurba <i>Member-At-Large:</i> 443-857-8541
Natallia Makarava <i>Sisterhood President:</i> 443-625-8470	Michael Mickel, <i>Cemetery Manager:</i> 410-666-2870

The Martyrs Adrian and Natalia

The Martyrs Adrian and Natalia were married in their youth for one year prior to their martyrdom. They lived in Bithynian Nicomedia during the time of the emperor Maximian (305-311). Having started his persecution, the emperor promised a reward to whomever would inform on Christians to bring them to trial. There began the denunciations, and through one of these there were seized 23 Christians, hiding in a cave near Nicomedia. They were tortured, urged to worship idols, and then taken to the judgement palace, in order to record their names and responses. Adrian, the head of the judgement palace, looking on as they brought in the people suffering with such courage for their faith, and how firmly and fearlessly they confessed Christ, asked: "What rewards do ye expect from your God for suffering?" The martyrs replied: "Such rewards, as we are not able to describe, nor thy mind comprehend". Inspired, Saint Adrian told the scribes: "Write me down also, that I be a Christian and with joy I do die for Christ God". The scribes reported about this to the emperor, who summoned Saint Adrian and asked: "Really, hast thou gone mad, that thou dost want to die? Come, cross out thine name from the lists and offer sacrifice to the gods, asking their forgiveness". Saint Adrian answered: "I am not mad, but the rather have been converted to health of mind". Maximian then ordered Adrian to be thrown into prison. His wife, Saint Natalia, knowing that her husband was suffering for Christ, rejoiced, since she herself was secretly a Christian. She hastened to the prison and encouraged her husband saying: "Blest be thou, mine lord, in that thou hast believed on Christ, wherein thou hast obtained a great treasure. Regret not anything of earth, neither beauty, nor youth (Adrian was then 28 years of age), nor riches. Everything worldly – is dust and ashes. Only faith and good deeds be pleasing to God". On the pledge of the other martyrs,

they released Saint Adrian from prison to relate to his wife about the day of execution. Saint Natalia at first thought, that he had renounced Christ and thus had been set free, and she did not want to let him into the house. The saint persuaded his wife, that he had not fled martyrdom, but rather had come to give her the news of the day of his execution.

They tortured Saint Adrian cruelly. The emperor advised the saint to have pity on himself and call on the gods, but the martyr answered: "Let thine gods say, what blessings they promise me, and then I shalt worship them, but if they cannot speak thus, then why should I worship them?" Saint Natalia did not cease to encourage her husband. She asked him also to convey for her a foremost prayer to God, that they would not compel her into a marriage with a pagan after his death. The executioner ordered the hands and the legs of the saints to be broken on the anvil. Saint Natalia, fearing that her husband would hesitate in seeing the sufferings of the other martyrs, besought the executioner to begin the execution with him and let her herself put his hands and legs on the anvil. They wanted to burn the bodies of the saints, but a strong storm arose and the fire went out. Many of the executioners even were struck by lightning. Saint Natalia took the hand of her spouse and kept it at home. Soon an army commander asked the emperor's approval to wed Saint Natalia, who was both young and rich. But she hid herself away in Byzantium. Here Saint Adrian appeared to her in a dream and said, that she would soon be at rest in the Lord. The anemic martyress, worn down by her former sufferings, in fact soon expired to God.

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The Beheading of the Prophet, Forerunner of the Lord, John the Baptist

August 29 / September 11 (Wednesday)

Strict Fast Day



The Beheading of the Prophet, Forerunner of the Lord, John the Baptist: The Evangelists Matthew (Mt. 14: 1-12) and Mark (Mk. 6: 14-29) provide accounts about the Martyr's end of John the Baptist in the year 32 after the Birth of Christ.

Following the Baptism of the Lord, Saint John the Baptist was locked up in prison by Herod Antipas, holding one-fourth the rule of the Holy Land as governor of Galilee. (After the death of king Herod the Great, the Romans divided the territory of Palestine into four parts, and into each part put a governor. Herod Antipas received from the emperor Augustus the rule of Galilee). The prophet of God John openly denounced Herod for having left his lawful wife – the daughter of the Arabian king Aretas, and then instead co-habiting with Herodias, – the wife of his brother Philip (Lk. 3: 19-20). On his birthday, Herod made a feast for dignitaries, the elders and a thousand chief citizens.

The daughter of Herod, Salome, danced before the guests and charmed Herod. In gratitude to the girl he swore to give her anything, whatsoever she would ask, anything up to half his kingdom. The vile girl on the advice of her wicked mother Herodias asked, that she be given at once the head

of John the Baptist on a plate. Herod became apprehensive, for he feared the wrath of God for the murder of a prophet, whom earlier he had heeded. He feared also the people, who loved the holy Forerunner. But because of the guests and his careless oath, he gave orders to cut off the head of Saint John and to give it to Salome. By tradition, the mouth of the dead head of the preacher of repentance once more opened and proclaimed: "Herod, thou ought not to have the wife of Philip thy brother". Salome took the plate with the head of Saint John and gave it to her mother. The frenzied Herodias repeatedly stabbed the tongue of the prophet with a needle and buried his holy head in a unclean place. But the pious Joanna, wife of Herod's steward Chuza, buried the head of John the Baptist in an earthen vessel on the Mount of Olives, where Herod was possessor of a parcel of land (the Uncovering of the Venerable Head is celebrated 24 February). The holy body of John the Baptist was taken that night by his disciples and buried at Sebasteia, there where the wicked deed had been done. After the murder of Saint John the Baptist, Herod continued to govern for a certain while. Pontius Pilate, governor of Judea, later sent to him the bound Jesus Christ, over Whom he made mockery (Lk. 23: 7-12).

The judgment of God came upon Herod, Herodias and Salome, even during their earthly life. Salome, crossing the River Sikoris in winter, fell through the ice. The ice gave way for her such that her body was in the water, but her head trapped beneath the ice. It was similar to how she once had danced with her feet upon the ground, but now flailing helplessly in the icy water. Thus she was trapped until that time when the sharp ice cut through her neck. The corpse was not found, but they brought the head to Herod and Herodias, as once they had brought them the head of Saint John the Baptist. The Arab king Aretas in revenge for the disrespect shown his daughter made war against Herod. Having suffered defeat, Herod suffered the wrath of the Roman emperor Caius Caligua and was exiled with Herodias first to Gaul, and then to Spain. And there they were from view.

In memory of the Beheading of Saint John the Baptist, the feast day established by the Church is also a strict day of fast, – as an expression of the grief of Christians at the violent death of the saint. On this day the Church makes remembrance of soldiers, killed on the field of battle, as established in 1769 at the time of a war of Russia with the Turks and the Poles. In some Orthodox cultures pious people will not eat food from a platter, use a knife, or eat food that is round in shape on this day. © 1996-2001 by translator Fr. S. Janos.

Homily by St. Justin Popovic
Feast of the Beheading of St John, the Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord

Today is a little Great Friday, a second Great Friday. For today the greatest man among those born of women, John, the Holy Forerunner and Baptizer of the Lord, is murdered. On Great Friday, people murdered God, crucified God. On today's holy great feast, people murdered the greatest of all men. It is not I who chose to use the expression "the greatest." What are my praises of the great and glorious Forerunner of the Lord, whom the Lord praised more than anyone among men, more than any of the apostles, the Angels, the Prophets, the Righteous Ones, the Sages? For the Lord declared of him: *Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist...* (Matthew 11: 11). In all Creation, there exists no greater praise.

This is why today is a little Great Friday. Consider: senseless people murder the greatest of the righteous. Is he getting in their way? Yes, he gets between the perverse King Herod and the dissolute Herodias. God's Truth, God's immutable Truth gets in the way of the lawless, gets in the way of poor sinners, gets in the way of everyone stupefied by the various passions. Consider: do not Christ's opponents even today still shout "Crucify Him, Crucify Him!?" Even today, do not those who oppose Christ still demand the head of Jesus of Nazareth? They call for His head, not to mention calling for the head of John the Baptist.

What is this? Could it be that this world has become a madhouse? People do not want God, they do not want the greatest Righteous One in the whole world. Whom do you want? Whom would you prefer? Whom would you set in Christ's stead? With whom would you replace St. John the Baptist? With yourselves?! O moth! O, tiny mortal insects! Yes, when people become maddened by pride, when out of egotistical pride they lose their reason, they have no need of God, they have no need of God's Truth. They declare themselves to be gods. They present their petty, shallow, false likeness of truth as the great and salvific Truth. They declare their shallow, earthly, perishable images of truth to be the greatest of truths: they posit that we do not need Christ's Truth, that we do not want God's Truth. Yes, people blind in intellect and spirit do not see, and do not want to see, that man, true man, cannot manage without God. Why? Because this world is full of Herod's, full of Pharisees. Herod demands the head of John the Baptist, Herod demands the heads of all of the righteous of the world, and Pharisees, the lying scribes, lying sophists of this world, demand the death of Christ, the Incarnate God.

Yes, today's Feast is a second Great Friday. Why? Because there is no greater transgression than that committed on Great Friday and that committed now, when Herod destroys the greatest among those born of women. Why did the Savior exalt the great Saint John the Baptist, as He did no one else? Why? Because, brethren, the Holy Forerunner encompassed within himself, within his person, all of the virtues of Heaven, all of the virtues in all of the Prophets, all of the Apostles, all of the Martyrs, all of the Angels of Heaven, all of the Confessors. Regard: today we glorify the destruction, the beheading of the first Apostle among the Holy Apostles, for the Forerunner of the Lord was the first sent by God to see and to herald to the world the Savior of the world. Long before the Apostle Peter, before the Apostle Nathaniel, before anyone else, he bore witness to and announced God to the world, God Incarnate in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ. The first Apostle to see the Holy Spirit descending from Heaven onto the Lord Jesus, when he baptized Him in the Jordan, announces Him to be the Son of God, the Savior of the world. [John] is also the first Evangelist among the Evangelists. He first announced to the world, and pointed out, the Lord Jesus Christ, the Bearer of all Good News for mankind.

The Lord Jesus Christ Himself is the Good News of Heaven and earth, God's Gospel for men in this world. "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." In those few words, the Holy Forerunner expressed the fullness of the Gospels.

Looking toward the East, he said to the entire human race, from Adam to our days, "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand." The Kingdom of Heaven? Here it is: the Lord Jesus [come] from Heaven. In Him is the Kingdom of Heaven. Looking toward the West, and seeing people drowning in sins and death, he called to them as well, "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand." He looked to the North and to the South [and saw] – the same people, all slaves to sin,

slaves to death, slaves to the devil. To all he announced the glorious, holy and salvific Gospel, “People, repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.” He was such an Evangelist, someone possessed of great power!

When the Lord set out to preach His Gospel, to preach with power, He took those words as the beginning and end of His Gospel. From that moment, Jesus began to preach and to declare, “Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand (Matthew 4:17). This is why the Holy Forerunner is the first Evangelist among Christ’s Evangelists.

Today, people have come into contact with an Angel in the flesh, an earthly Angel, and a Heavenly man—St. John the Baptist. It was not only the Old Testament prophet who called the Forerunner the Angel of the Lord, but the Lord Himself said this was an Angel sent to go before Him to prepare the way for Him (cf. Isaiah 40: 3; Matthew 11: 10). Not only a prophet, said the Lord regarding the Baptist, but greater than a prophet—the Angel of the Lord. And people do not want him, and people drive him from this world! Thus, the Holy Forerunner is truly the first Angel in the flesh, the first among those who became the multitude of Angels in the flesh, lamps bringing God’s Light, who lived on earth like Angels of Heaven, and were Angels on earth, and in Heaven remained God’s people, holy people.

Today we glorify the great feast of the first among the Prophets of the New Testament. He announced to men that the Lord Jesus Christ had appeared to the world not only as the Savior, but as the Enlightener and as the Judge of the world. In his hands were both the hatchet and the spade: on the day of the Dread Judgment, the Lord would clean off the earth’s threshing-floor, and would separate the wheat from the chaff, the righteous from the sinners. All of this the great and glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptizer of the Lord had foreseen. Therefore, today we also praise him as the holy New Testament Prophet, killed by the impious, criminal, King Herod.

The Holy Forerunner also received the Lord’s witness to the fact that he was the greatest of those born of woman, because he had become the first of all of the Holy Martyrs of the New Testament. See how he suffered for God’s truth in this world! He suffered joyously! In today’s principal hymn and prayer to him it is said that he went to his death rejoicing, and that he suffered rejoicing. Thus, he became the first example and inspiration to all of the Holy Martyrs of the New Testament, beginning with St. Stephen the Protomartyr and through today. All of the Holy Martyrs go to their death rejoicing in the Lord Jesus Christ, go to their deaths, knowing that death cannot hold them in its bonds, knowing that death is merely a gate, an open gate through which their holy souls enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. How else, brothers and sisters, can we explain the joy of Holy Great Martyr George’s joy while having his body broken: his bones were being broken on the wheel, and he shouted with joy in the Lord, for he could see Him, could see the Angels of God, standing around Him, and the Angels stopping the wheel. See what joy [he experienced] during those awful tortures! And the Holy Great Martyr stands up whole and unharmed before the godless Emperor Diocletian. The first one to reveal that holy joy of martyrdom had been St. John, the Holy Forerunner and Baptizer of the Lord... <http://www.pravoslavie.ru/english/39103.htm>

Please help us to cover the costs of our annual Russian Festival. Donations of any size are very much appreciated. May God bless you for your sincere generosity. Please call Michael Mickel 410-666-2870 or Albert Blaszak 410-799-3226.

Russian Festival Sponsorship List – 2019			
\$ 60	Onions – <i>Ludmila Karnup</i>	\$ 300	Wine
\$ 75	Rice – <i>Alexey Shevelkin</i>	\$ 300	Wine
\$ 75	Red Beets	\$ 300	Vodka – <i>Materewicz & Sierakowski families</i>
\$ 75	Russian Candy	\$ 300	Vodka – ½ of costs
\$ 100	Cabbage	\$ 300	Russian Ads
\$ 100	Coffee Supplies	\$ 300	Russian Ads
\$ 150	Eggs	\$ 350	Russian Beer – ½ of costs
\$ 150	Potatoes	\$ 350	Russian Beer – ½ of costs
\$ 175	Salmon – <i>Yelena Shultieva</i>	\$ 350	Kolbasa – ½ of costs
\$ 175	Sour Cream	\$ 350	Kolbasa – ½ of costs
\$ 175	Turkey / Ham	\$ 400	Newspaper Ads
\$ 175	Sauerkraut– <i>Materewicz & Sierakowski families</i>	\$ 400	Electronic Ads
\$ 200	Cleaning Supplies	\$ 500	Security – ½ of costs
\$ 200	Chicken – <i>Eduard & Yelena Yaditsky</i>	\$ 500	Security – ½ of costs
\$ 200	Chicken – ½ of costs	\$ 500	Beef
\$ 200	Butter – <i>Anonymous</i>	\$ 600	Bread ½ of costs
\$ 200	Butter – ½ of costs	\$ 600	Bread – ½ of costs
\$ 300	Entertainment – ¼ of costs	\$ 600	Wash Balalaika Soc. – ½
\$ 300	Entertainment – ¼ of costs	\$ 600	Wash Balalaika Soc. – ½
\$ 300	Entertainment – ¼ of costs	\$ 800	Tent – ¼ of costs
\$ 300	Entertainment – ¼ of costs	\$ 800	Tent – ¼ of costs
\$ 300	Paper Goods – ½ of costs	\$ 800	Tent – ¼ of costs
\$ 300	Paper Goods – ½ of costs	\$ 800	Tent – ¼ of costs
\$ 300	Decorations	\$ 900	Icon of St. Anatole of Irkutsk
\$ 300	Flour – ½ of costs	\$ 1,000	Stage – ½ of costs
\$ 300	Flour – ½ of costs	\$ 1,000	Stage – ½ of costs