

THE PLACING OF THE HONORABLE ROBE OF THE THEOTOKOS AT BLACHERNAE

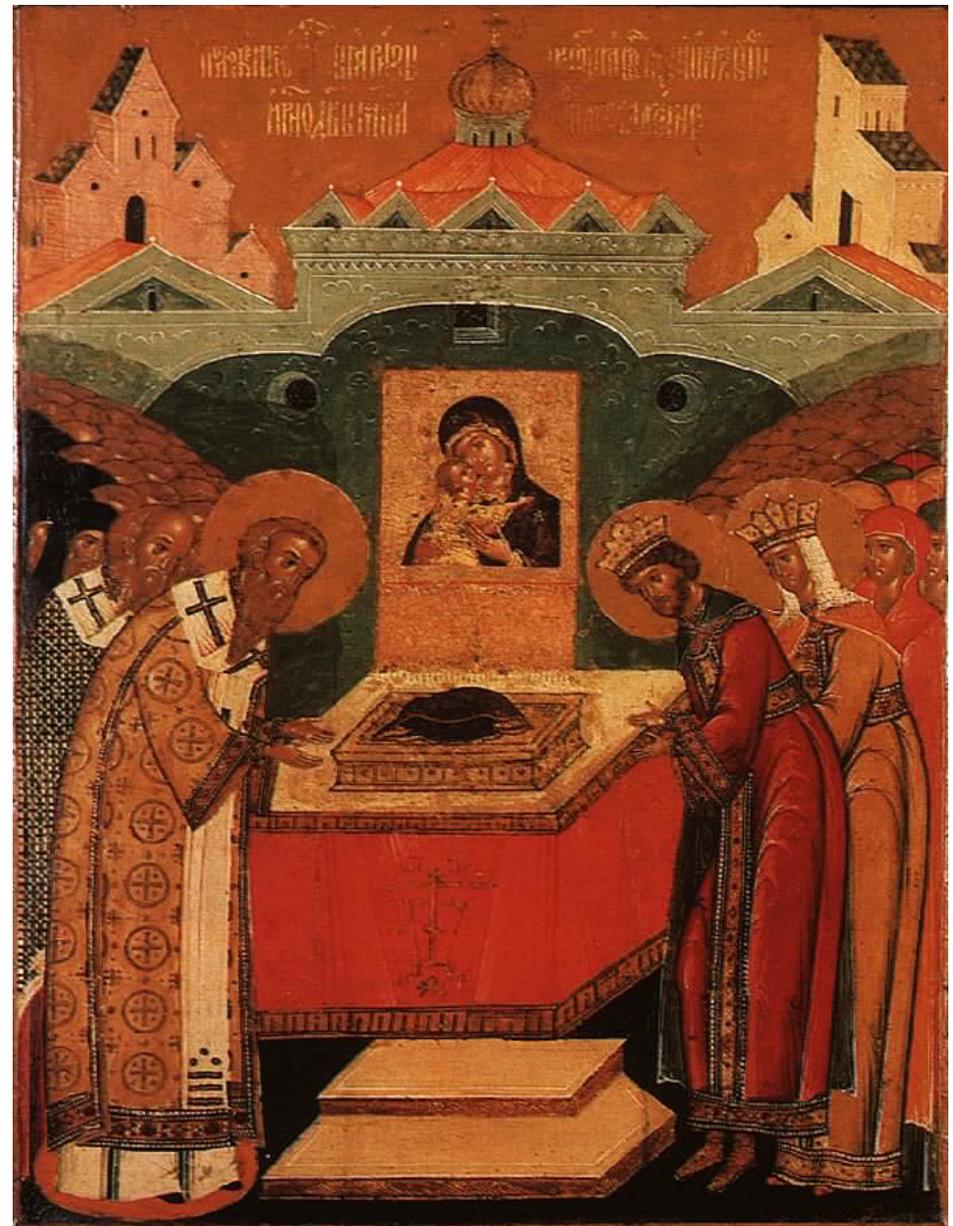
During the reign of the Byzantine Emperor Leo the Great (457-474), the brothers Galbuis and Candidus, associates of the emperor, set out from Constantinople to Palestine to venerate the holy places. In a small settlement near Nazareth they stayed in the home of a certain old Jewish woman. In her house they noticed a room where many lamps were lit, incense burned, and sick people were gathered. When they asked her what the room contained, the pious woman did not want to give an answer for a long time. After persistent requests, she said that she had a very precious sacred item: the Robe of the Mother of God. Before her Dormition, the Most Holy Virgin bequeathed her garment to a pious Jewish maiden, an ancestor of the old woman, instructing her to leave it to another virgin after her death. Thus, the Robe was preserved in this family from generation to generation.

The jeweled chest containing the Robe was transferred to Constantinople. Emperor Leo was convinced of the incorrupt state of the holy Robe and certified its authenticity. At Blachernae, near the seacoast, a new church in honor of the Theotokos was constructed, and the Robe was placed there. Later her outer robe and part of her belt were also put into the reliquary with her Robe.

More than once, during the invasion of enemies, the Theotokos saved the city to which she had given her robe: during the siege of Constantinople by the Avars in 626, the Persians in 677, the Arabs in 717, and the Russians in 860.

During the Russian siege, the Robe was removed from its place near the seacoast for safety. After serving an all-night Vigil, they carried the Robe in a procession around the city walls. They dipped its edge into the waters of the Bosphorus, and transported it to the center of Constantinople into the church of Hagia Sophia. The Theotokos protected the city and quelled the fury of the Russians. Upon a peaceful treaty, the Robe was returned to its place at Blachernae on July 2, 860. A subsequent visit by the Russian delegation to Constantinople led to their Baptism, to an Orthodox mission being sent to Kiev, and to the spread of Christianity in Russia.

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The Placing of the Honorable Robe of the Most-Holy Mother of God at Blachernae

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH
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THE TRINITARIAN

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V. REV. ALEXANDER GARKLAVS, PASTOR

Divine Liturgy at 9:00 A.M.
Church School Every Sunday at 10:45 A.M.
(During the Months of September thru May)

Vespers - Every Saturday - 5:00 P.M.
Choir Rehearsals Every Thursday at 7:30 P.M.
Michael N. Pilat, Choir Director

RECTORY: 963 John Glenn Drive, Seven Hills, Ohio 44131 Phone 216-524-8989

BULLETIN 35 - VOLUME LIV

TONE 3

JULY 2, 2017

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

***The Placing of the Honorable Robe of the Most-holy Theotokos at Blachernæ;
St. Photii, Metropolitan of Kiev; St. Juvenal, Patriarch of Jerusalem;
Repose of St. John (Maximovitch), Bishop of Shanghai and San Francisco***

“O ever-virgin Theotokos and protection of the human race, you have given your city an unassailable rampart in your precious robe and cincture. They have remained incorrupt through the years because of your virginal childbearing, for time and nature are completely renewed in you, O holy Lady. For this, we entreat you: Be pleased to grant peace to the world, and to our souls great mercy.”

Troparion, Tone VIII

COMMEMORATION OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

Tuesday, July 4

“For Your glory and their happiness, O Lord, You created all the peoples of the earth, and with undaunted faith in Your perfect goodness, the founders of this country won liberty for themselves and for us. By Your grace, let us always use our freedom to do Your will, and through the Theotokos, grant our people lasting peace.”

Troparion, Tone II

TODAY’S EPISTLE: ROMANS 6:18-23

TODAY’S GOSPEL: MATTHEW 8:5-13

HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK:

Saturday, July 8

5:00 p.m. Great Vespers; Confessions

Daily Scripture Readings

Monday, July 3

Romans 12:4-5,15-21

Matthew 12:9-13

Tuesday, July 4

Romans 14:9-18

Matthew 12:14-16,22-30

Romans 15:7-16

Matthew 12:38-45

Wednesday, July 5

Galatians 5:22-6:2

Luke 6:17-23

Thursday, July 6

Romans 15:17-29

Matthew 12:46-13:3

Friday, July 7

Romans 16:1-16

Matthew 13:4-9

Saturday, July 8

Romans 8:14-21

Matthew 9:9-13

COMING EVENTS

JULY:

10, Monday	12:30 p.m. St. Elizabeth Book Circle
	7:00 p.m. Parish Council meeting
30, Sunday	Parish Picnic

PARISH PICNIC:

Plan to spend the last Sunday in July at our Parish Picnic! It will begin shortly after the Divine Liturgy concludes. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall for the number of family members attending and the food you will provide.

SUMMER CAMP:

Our youngsters are fortunate to have a great Orthodox Camp in the area, which provides both an entertaining and inspiring experience. For information go to the website: stvladimirscampohio.com. Schedule:
Sports Week (grades 5-12) - July 9-15
Older children (ages 12-17 - July 16-22

PARISHIONER SUNSHINE:

If you know of a parishioner who could use a "thinking of you" message, please contact Dianna Kall at 216-741-2888 or dkall@ameritech.net. Include name, address, city and zip code as well as the reason for the card, so the appropriate sentiment can be sent.

TRINITARIAN COVERS:

The covers today are offered by the Uziel Family in memory of Bob and Anne Manning.

DIRECTORIES:

There are Parish Directories available in the Fellowship Hall.

Please remember to notify the church office when changes are made in your address or contact information.

BOOK CIRCLE:

The St. Elizabeth Book Circle will meet at 12:30 p.m. on Monday, July 10. We will complete reading The Joy of the Holy (St. Seraphim), pages 57-89 and 110-122. Please join us.

COFFEE HOUR:

Thank you to our recent donors of refreshments; Neil and Sue Haverly, the Stoyka Family and Aaron, Table 1, Mimi Matheis, the Svilar Family, the Wislocki Family, the Schwartz and Sherwood Families, Table of 8; the Pecuch Family, the Howe and Stefanar Families, the Romanchik, Garklavs and Kelbach Families.

Donors are always needed and appreciated. Dates for the rest of July are open. A sign-up sheet is in the kitchen.

FLOWERS:

The flowers today are offered by Nancy Scardon.

*The God of Love is unchangeable,
and we ought to be unchangeable and constant in our love.
"Charity never fails" (Corinthians 3:18),
while dislike, hatred or indifference and neglect proceed from the devil.*

St. John of Kronstadt

THE GIFTS WE OFFER TO THE LORD WE LOVE

REGULAR COLLECTION, JUNE 25	\$ 2532.00
CHURCH ADMINISTRATION ASSESSMENT	426.00
BUILDING FUND	36.00
MORTGAGE FUND	71.00
CANDLES	102.00
ORTHODOX SEMINARIES	10.00

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

Bulletin 35 – Volume LIV

July 2, 2017

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THE SAINTS AMONG US -
ST. JOHN OF SAN FRANCISCO

The saints on the walls of our church range from those who lived thousands of years before Jesus Christ to those who died not so many years ago. Among the group of the latter is St. John, Bishop of San Francisco. St. John is included among the Synaxis of the Saints of North America on the back, right side wall of our church. This Sunday, July 2, is his Feast Day, the day he fell asleep in the Lord in 1966. There are still quite a few living people who knew St. John personally.

St. John was born John Maximovitch in 1896 and was educated in Imperial Russia. His family was forced to leave Russia after the Communist Revolution and went to Belgrade, Serbia, where John studied theology. He was ordained in Serbia in 1926 by Metropolitan Anthony (Khrapovitsky), who was the spiritual leader of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia (ROCOR). Eight years later, St. John was consecrated bishop for the Russian émigrés who immigrated to Shanghai, China. The émigré situation in China was extremely difficult, politically and socially. Shortages and hardships were a feature of daily life. St. John showed himself to be an energetic bishop, functioning as a religious head and organizer of outreach programs. Through his efforts, orphanages and welfare institutions came into being. More than being an effective leader, he became renowned as a man of deep prayer who offered his flock needed spiritual direction.

He endured the difficult World War II years of Japanese occupation but not the Communist Revolution that came to China after the war. In 1951 he was assigned Bishop of Western Europe for the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia, which was headquartered in Brussels. There he came to know and appreciate the saints of the West who lived before the Great Schism (1054), who were not included in the Orthodox list of saints. He can be credited for his initiative in including these saints (such as St. Patrick and St. Columba) into our liturgical calendar. In 1962 he was transferred to San Francisco, where he faced a Russian émigré community that was embroiled in a conflict about building the cathedral.

His years in San Francisco were not easy, but under his leadership the beautiful Cathedral of the Virgin, the Joy of All who Sorrow, was erected. His deep spiritual and ascetical life attracted many, including those who became Orthodox Christians through his preaching and example. He was a devout follower of St. John of Kronstadt and played a role in his canonization by the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia. St. John himself was canonized in 1994, recognized as a man of intense prayer, ascetical life, prophecy and miracles. Since the fall of the Soviet Union, he has also become a much venerated saint in Russia and throughout the Orthodox world. Known by his title as St. John the Wonderworker, Bishop of Shanghai and San Francisco, he is specially honored in North America where his relics in the San Francisco Cathedral are venerated by thousands every year.

Fr. Alexander Garklaus