

VENERABLE ISIDORE OF PELUSIUM

St. Isidore of Pelusium lived during the fourth/fifth centuries. He was a native of Alexandria and was raised among pious Christians. He was a relative of Theophilus, Archbishop of Alexandria, and of his successor, St. Cyril. While still a youth, he quit the world and withdrew to Mount Pelusium in Egypt, which became the site of his monastic efforts.

St. Isidore's spiritual wisdom and strict asceticism, combined with his broad learning and innate knowledge of the human soul, enabled him to win the respect and love of his fellow monks in a short time. They chose him as their head and had him ordained a priest.

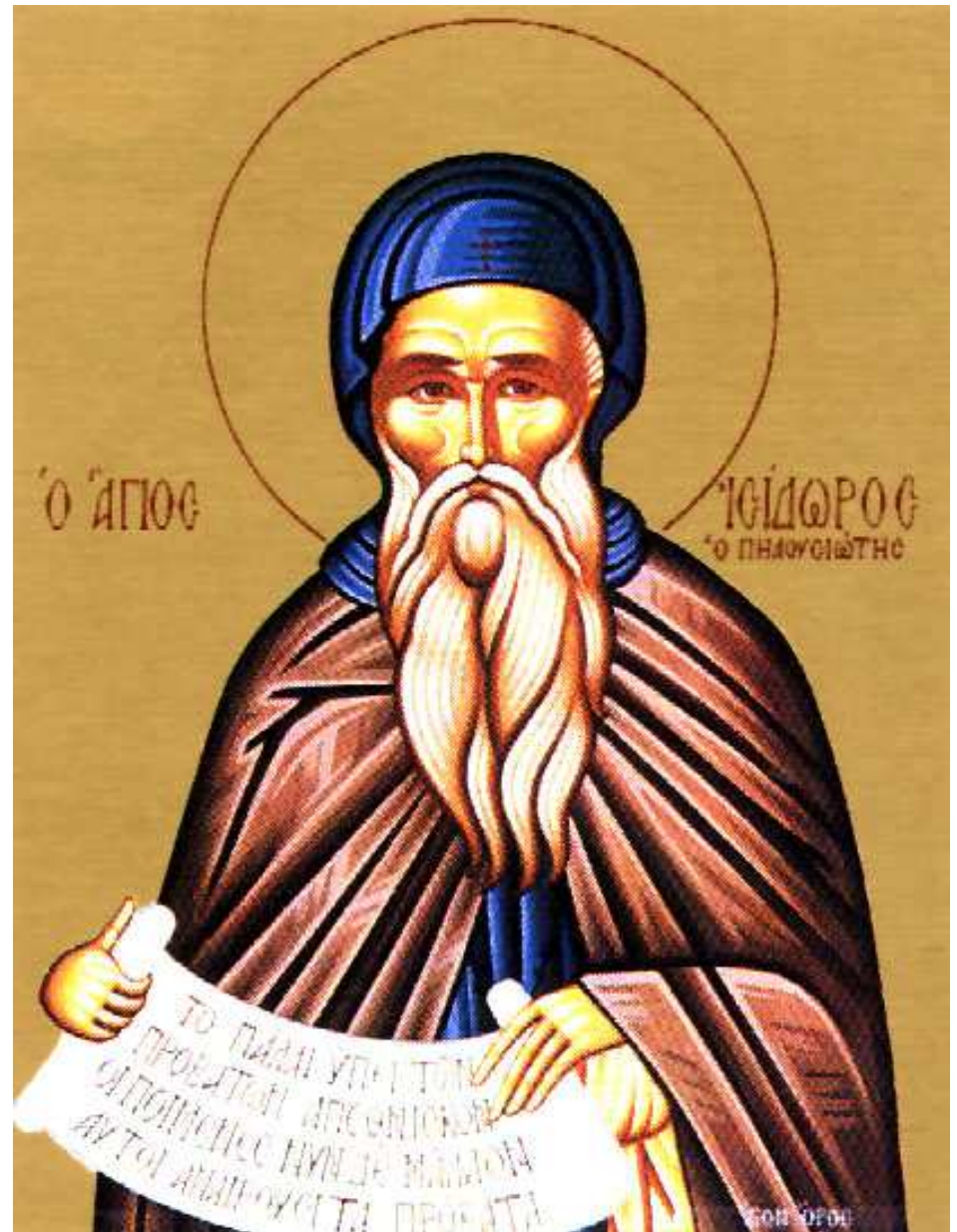
Following the example of St. John Chrysostom, whom he had managed to see and hear during a trip to Constantinople, St. Isidore devoted himself primarily to Christian preaching, that "practical wisdom" which, according to his own words, is both "the foundation of the edifice and the edifice itself," while logic is "its embellishment, and contemplation its crown."

He was a teacher and willingly provided counsel for anyone who turned to him for spiritual encouragement, whether it was a simple man, a dignitary, a bishop, the Patriarch of Alexandria, or even the emperor. He left behind about 10,000 letters, of which 2,090 have survived. A large portion of these letters reveal profound interpretations of Holy Scripture. St. Photius calls Isidore a model of priestly and ascetical life, and also a master of style.

Saint Isidore's love for St. John Chrysostom resulted in his support of St. John when he was persecuted by the empress Eudoxia and Archbishop Theophilus. After the death of St. John, St. Isidore persuaded Theophilus' successor St. Cyril to inscribe the name of St. John Chrysostom into the Church diptychs as a confessor. Through the initiative of St. Isidore, the Third Ecumenical Council was convened at Ephesus (431), at which the false teaching of Nestorius was condemned.

Saint Isidore lived into old age and died around the year 436. The Church historian Evagrius (sixth century) writes of St. Isidore "his life seemed to everyone the life of an angel upon the earth." Another historian, Nikephoros Callistus (ninth century), praises St. Isidore thus: "He was a vital and inspired pillar of monastic rules and divine vision, and as such he presented a very lofty image of most fervent example and spiritual teaching."

www.oca.org



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***HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH
6822 BROADVIEW ROAD
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THE TRINITARIAN

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Divine Liturgy on Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

Vespers on Saturdays at 5:00 p.m.

BULLETIN 14 - VOLUME LXI

TONE 2

FEBRUARY 4, 2024

THIRTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Afterfeast of the Meeting

Ven. Isidore of Pelusium; Martyr Jadorus;

Hieromartyr Abramius, Bishop of Arbela in Assyria; Ven. Nicholas the Confessor, Abbot of Studion;

Rt. Blv. George, Great Prince of Vladimir; Ven. Abraham and Coprius, of Pechenga;

Ven. Cyril, Abbot and Wonderworker of Novozérsk

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, full of grace! From you shone the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, enlightening those who sat in darkness! Rejoice and be glad, O righteous elder, you accepted in your arms the Redeemer of our souls, Who grants us the Resurrection.

Troparion, Tone I

Finding you to be another morning star, O glorious One, the Church is illumined by the brilliance of your words. She cries out to you "Rejoice, all-blessed and divinely-wise Isidore."

Kontakion, Tone IV

By sharing in the ways of the Apostles, you became a successor to their throne. Through the practice of virtue, you found the way to divine contemplation, O inspired one of God; by teaching the word of truth without error, you defended the Faith, even to the shedding of your blood. Hieromartyr Abramius, entreat Christ God to save our souls.

Kontakion, Tone IV

TODAY'S EPISTLE: COLOSSIANS 3:12-16

TODAY'S GOSPEL: MATTHEW 25:14-30

HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK:

Today, February 4

Baptismal Liturgy of Nathan Seese

Saturday, February 10

5:00 p.m. Great Vespers

WELCOME GUESTS!

We are very glad you have come to worship the Holy Trinity with us this morning! Please participate in the services at your comfort level. Our greeters will kindly assist you with whatever questions or needs you may have. During each Sunday service we offer Holy Communion. If you are a practicing Orthodox Christian and have come prepared to receive Christ's Body and Blood through fasting and prayer, please come forward to partake. All guests are invited to come forward at the end of the service to greet Fr. Christopher and receive the blessed bread. Please stay after the Divine Liturgy for coffee hour in the Fellowship Hall so we can get to know you better!

Families with children: we encourage children of all ages to be present and participate as they are able during worship. We know sometimes kids need a break, so please take good advantage of our Rest and Refocus Room located on the south side of the lobby/narthex when coming in the main entrance. If you have pre-school and school age children, we invite you to send them to Church School directly after the Divine Liturgy throughout the academic year. May God bless you!

Daily Scripture Readings can be found in the St. Tikhon's Wall Calendar or at www.oca.org/readings.

COMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY:

- 7, Wednesday 7:00 p.m. "Blessed are Those..." Lecture Series at St. Luke Church
- 8, Thursday 7:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal
- 10, Saturday 10:00 a.m.—Noon Pick-up of pierogies at Sts. Peter and Paul Church
- 11, Sunday Second Sunday Food Sale
- 21, Wednesday 7:00 p.m. "Blessed are Those..." Lecture Series at St. Luke Church
- 22, Thursday 7:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal
- 26, Monday Cooking dinner for St. Herman's House
- 28, Wednesday Serving dinner at St. Herman's House

<p><u>SECOND SUNDAY FOOD SALE:</u> Next Sunday is our monthly food sale. Please cook and bake some favorite items to offer.</p> <p><u>ZOE HOUSE:</u> Please consider a donation of baby wipes to ZOE House. They can be left on the table in the Fellowship Hall.</p> <p><u>HOME BLESSINGS:</u> 2024 Theophany Home Blessings continue. There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall, as well as an online Sign-Up Genius link, which has been emailed.</p> <p><u>ENVELOPES:</u> Offering envelopes are available in the vestibule.</p> <p><u>TIME, TALENT, TREASURE:</u> If you did not already return your Time, Talent, Treasure form for 2024, please fill one out today and place in the designated box. The forms are available on the table in the vestibule.</p> <p><u>FLOWERS:</u> The flowers today are offered by Mat. Alexandra Safchuk in blessed memory of Olga Lobas.</p>	<p><u>RUMMAGE SALE 2024:</u> This year's dates are July 25-27 for our Sale. Consider donating toys, books, seasonal decorations, household items, and small furniture in good condition. Contact Rita Bellack with questions: reetbellack@hotmail.com or call 330-204-9513.</p> <p><u>LECTURE SERIES:</u> St. Luke Church in Bainbridge is offering a free series of lectures exploring the Beatitudes. See the flier on the bulletin board for details. The dates are Feb. 7, Feb. 21, and March 6, all at 7:00 p.m.</p> <p><u>PIEROGI SALE:</u> Sts. Peter & Paul Church offers specialty pierogies. Order by tomorrow and pick up next Saturday, Feb. 10. See details on the bulletin board.</p> <p><u>COFFEE HOUR:</u> The refreshments today are hosted in honor of Nathan Seese by Richard Samuhel, Nathan's sponsor.</p> <p><u>TRINITARIAN COVERS:</u> The covers today are offered by Mat. Claudia Virosteck in blessed memory of Dn. George Virosteck.</p>
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Value by its properties that greatest miracle of Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God, as manifest in Holy Communion, with faith, in His divine mysteries.

What is the miracle?

The peaceful effect upon your heart, slain by sin, which is so apparent after the uneasiness of heart and the spiritual deadness that often precedes Communion.

St. John of Kronstadt

THE GIFTS WE OFFER TO THE LORD WE LOVE

REGULAR COLLECTION, 1/28/2024	\$ 9102.00
CHURCH ADMINISTRATION ASSESSMENT	1200.00
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FUNDS	2665.00
CANDLES	157.00
HOME BLESSINGS	50.00
FOR ALTAR CROSS IN MEMORY OF MARIE BORLAND	2000.00
IN MEMORY OF OLGA LOBAS	100.00

THE PROPHECY OF SIMEON
(from The Incarnate God, vol. 1, p 145)

Simeon prophecies: in one sentence, he summarizes the drama of the encounter between Christ and his people, the drama which will take place regarding the recognition of the Messiah. Jesus is indeed the anticipated Light and the Glory of Israel, and yet he will be a stumbling block and the fall of a portion of Israel (John 3:19). This contradiction will cause a painful split and will lead to the cross.

Mary shares in the prophecy, for she will partake of the sufferings of her Son and will remain at his side to the very end (John 19:25-27). Simeon foresees that her soul will be pierced by the sword of the cross.

Simeon saw the fall brought on by the coming of Jesus Christ for a portion of the people, blind to the Messiah. But he also mentions the rising of a great many: this rising is the resurrection of those from among the dead of all time who await the wake-up call.

Simeon will die, but he knows that this prophetic role is not completed on this earth. He must bring the “Good News” of the resurrection, which is now imminent, to the prisoners in Hades. He will go prophesy to the inhabitants of hell. He will announce the incarnation of the Son of God to all those who await this day, from Adam, Moses, David, the prophets, to “every righteous spirit departed in faith.”

“I am leaving,” cried Simeon,
“To declare the good tidings
To Adam abiding in hell, and to Eve,”
And with the prophets he sang joyfully:
“Blessed are you, O God of our fathers!”
(Canon, ode 7, troparion)

Seeker: on the icon, the prophetess to the right and Joseph to the left remain somewhat in the background.

Sage: Yes, as in the gospel, their presence is discreet, but their role is important. Just as Simeon, Anna is an advance witness of the Light, a witness of the resurrection of Christ. She announces the “Good News” of redemption to the people, just as Mary Magdalene and the other myrrhbearing women will do later. As for Joseph, ever faithful to the Law, he brings the two turtle-doves prescribed by Leviticus (12:6-8). These two sacrifices represent the Church of Israel and the Church of the Gentiles, united by Christ.

...He as God receives the gifts offered by Joseph,
a pair of turtledoves, as a figure of the spotless Church
and the new-chosen people of the Gentiles;
and two young pigeons,
since He is the author of both Old and New Covenants.
(Aposticha Doxasticon at Vespers)