

THE LIGHT OF THE EAST



ST. ATHANASIUS THE GREAT **BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

1117 South Blaine Ave. Indianapolis, IN 46221

Website: www.saindy.com Email: sabcc@indy.rr.com

Pastor: Very Rev. Protopresbyter Bryan R. Eyman. D. Min. D. Phil.

Pastoral Associate: Father Deacon John Russell, M. Div.

Cantors: John Danovich, Brian Goshorn, Marcus Loidolt,

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Victim Assistance Coordinator: Sharon DiLauro Petrus M.D. : 216-741-8773

WEEKEND DIVINE SERVICES

Sat.: 7 PM [Festal Evening Prayer]

Sun.: 9 AM [Morning Prayer] 10 AM [Divine Liturgy]

**Mystery of Holy Repentance [Confessions]: AFTER Saturday
Evening Prayer or ANYTIME by appointment**

SERVICES FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 10, 2015

SUNDAY OF THE MAN BORN BLIND.

The Holy Apostle Simon the Zealot

**PLEASE COME FORWARD AFTER THE DIVINE LITURGY;
KISS THE HOLY ICONS, KISS THE HAND CROSS [OR RECEIVE
THE HOLY ANOINTING], & PARTAKE OF THE ANTIDORAN
[BLESSED BREAD].**

SAT. MAY 9 7:00 PM FESTAL EVENING PRAYER
No *Mystery of Holy Repentance* this evening
[CONFESSIONS]

SUN. MAY 10 9:00 AM FESTAL MORNING PRAYER
10:00 AM *For the People*
11:30 AM PARISH MOTHER'S DAY
BRUNCH

MON. MAY 11 Our Holy Father & Confessor Basil [Hopko],
Bishop of Midila. The Holy Priest-Martyr
Mocius. Our Holy Fathers Cyril & Methodius,
Apostles of the Slavs. The Foundation of
Constantinople [330 AD].

TUE. MAY 12 NO DIVINE SERVICES. FATHER'S DAY OFF
Our Holy Fathers Epiphanius, Bishop of Cyprus
and Germanus, Patriarch of Constantinople.

7 AM FIRST HOUR
7:30 AM *Health of Pani Diakonissa Bobbi
Spak*

WED. MAY 13 Leave-Taking of Pascha. The Holy Martyr
Glyceria.

7 AM FIRST HOUR
7 PM FESTAL EVENING PRAYER

**WE WELCOME OUR VISITORS TO THIS MORNING'S
DIVINE SERVICES. PLEASE LOOK FOR THE
CHANGEABLE PARTS, HYMN NUMBERS, AND
PROPERs ON THE COLORED INSERT.**

THU. MAY 14

**HOLYDAY OF
OBLIGATION
FRI. MAY 15**

SAT. MAY 16

SUN. MAY 17

**THE FEAST OF THE ASCENSION OF OUR
LORD, GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST**

7 AM FIRST HOUR

7:30 AM *Int. of Branko & Teresa Busick*
**Post-Festive day of the Ascension. Our Ven. Fr.
Pachomius the Great. Our Ven. Fr. Isaiah the
Wonder-worker, Bishop of Rostov.**

7 AM FIRST HOUR

7:30 AM *Int. of Sem. Bryan Scotton*
**Post-Festive day of the Ascension. Our Ven. Fr.
Theodore the Consecrated, disciple of St.
Pachomius. The Holy Martyrs Vitus, Modestus
& Crescentia. The Passing of the Blessed Priest
and New Martyr Vladimir Bajrak at the
Drohbych Prison [1946].**

7AM FIRST HOUR

7 PM FESTAL EVENING PRAYER

**8 PM MYSTERY OF HOLY
REPENTANCE
[CONFESSIONS]**

**SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE FIRST
NICEAN COUNCIL. Post-Festive day of the
Ascension. The Holy Apostle Andronicus and
His Companions. The Passing of the Holy Priest
– New Martyr Ivan Ziatyk [1952].**

9:00 AM MORNING PRAYER

10 AM FOR THE PEOPLE

11:15 AM PARISH LUNCHEON

MOTHERS' DAY LUNCHEON: After the Divine Liturgy today.
HAPPY MOTHERS' DAY! The Men are responsible for preparing this
Special meal. MANY THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO MADE OUR
PATRONAL FEAST BBQ AND PICNIC SUCH A GREAT EVENT!
Let's have all of us come over to the Hall for a great meal and fellowship.

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

Arabic: Al-Maseeh qam! Háqqan qam!

Greek: Christós anésti! Alithós anésti!

Slavonic: Christós voskrése! Vo-ístinu voskrése!

Romanian: Christós a inviaht! Adevarát a inviaht!

Magyar: Feltamadt Kristus! Valoban Feltamandt!

The Paschal greeting and response in various languages. Please use it until the Ascension!



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR

PRAYERS: *our parishioners, family members, friends and others who are ill or infirm:* AMY CHIAPPE, ETHAN EYMAN, CULVER “RED” EYMAN, MARGARET EYMAN, BOBBI SPAK, JAY MURTAUGH, BJ NOVAK, ELAINE WILSON, DR. CHARLOTTE NEUMANN, SONIA DOUGLAS-STANTON, RON ZELLER, NICHOLE RICHARDS, BR.

JAMES BROWN S.M., WILLIS WILLIAMS, DAVID BLEVINS, FR. DEACON MICHAEL GEORGE, MONICA KING GILBRECH, KATHERYN LOIDOLT, EVIE KOBUS, JOHN BORGERT, LAUREN FIORELLI, CLARE HUNTER, IGNATIO ROMERO, MAGDELINA CHAUBY, COL. WILLIAM HOSPODAR, ALEXANDER YOUNG, RICHARD MEDWIG, MEGAN ZAHN, JOSEPH COSGROVE, BARB & PHIL LINK, DAVE WILSON, TOMMY CAITO, REBECCA MALY, LILAH NICHOLE MALY, AL MACEK, LINDA STENGER, MATT HIZNAY, ANTHONY JESKO.

IF YOU KNOW SOMEONE TO ADD TO THE LIST PLEASE WRITE IT DOWN AND GIVE IT TO FATHER. PLEASE ALSO TELL HIM WHEN SOMEONE HAS RECOVERED AND CAN BE REMOVED.



PARISH REPAIR, RENOVATION AND RENEWAL PROJECTS

We need your help in the continuation of the repair, renovation and renewal of our Parish Property. The following projects need to be completed or performed:

- 1] Complete the repair, replacement and painting of the Buttressing around the Church, and on the bell-tower.
- 2] Complete the construction and instillation of the room partitions in the Parish Hall.
- 3] Clean the siding on the Rectory and scrap and repaint the exposed wood especially on the porches and around the windows.

- 4] Replace and paint the window sill on the large west window in the Church.
- 5] A number of people expressed the desire to plant flower beds around the Church and Rectory. Father Bryan responds with: If you are willing to plant and take care of the flowers, please feel free to do so. Father has a brown thumb, and can only manage to kill plants and flowers either from "Kindness" or "Neglect." So if you wish to plant and take care of them, go right ahead.

If everyone would volunteer to coordinate and/or take care of these projects we can get a lot accomplished this summer, even with our very limited financial resources. St. Athanasius the Great Parish's most important asset is YOU!

Tithes for the month of May 2015

Date	Collection	Candles	Holy Day	Building Fund	Raising	Weekly Totals
5/3/15	\$860.93	\$140.50	\$10.00		\$625.54	\$1,636.97
Totals	\$860.93	\$140.50	\$10.00		\$625.54	\$1,636.97

Many thanks to those who sacrificially contribute to St. Athanasius the Great Parish. Please consider it your personal spiritual goal to donate a full tithe [10% of your income] for the support of YOUR parish.

Bring the full tithes into the storehouse [of the Temple], that there may be food in my house; and thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing. Malachi 3:10

<u>Candles Available</u>	<u>Monthly Donation</u>	<u>Intention</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>
Eternal Lamp	\$40.00	Ukraine	Danny & Olga Vaughn
Icon Screen (6)	\$40.00	AVAILABLE	
Tetrapod (2)	\$30.00	AVAILABLE	
Nativity Icon	\$25.00	Family/Friend	Danny & Olga Vaughn
Theotokos of Vladimir Icon	\$25.00	Special Intention	Glen Grabow
Resurrection Icon	\$25.00	Healing	Danny & Olga Vaughn
St. Athanasius Icon	\$25.00	AVAILABLE	
Holy Table	\$40.00	AVAILABLE	

Give a spiritual Gift to someone in need. We have candle Gift Cards you can send or give to a loved one, friend or someone in need of prayers. A single 6-day candle is \$5. For an entire month the cost is \$25. When giving your donation use the candle envelope in the back of the Church. Paired with it, take the candle card to give as a gift. In addition to the name on the candle, please specify a start date if you would like the Church to light the candle[s] in front of the Icons of our Lord or the Theotokos for you on a future date. Thank you!

A Mother Dies many Deaths

It is difficult to avoid sufferings in married life. The wife, even though she will only have to die once herself, is still afraid of many deaths. Though she has only one soul of her own, she is deeply concerned for many souls. She is afraid for her husband; she is afraid for her children. The more the family tree has blossomed, the more the fears increase. If one of her family suffers misfortune, such as the loss of money or an illness, she is desolated, and more agonized than the victim himself. If all the rest of the family leave this life before she does, this is an intolerable suffering for her. If death has not taken its toll of them all, the fact that any one of them is left is certainly a consolation to her, but a consolation imbued with anxiety. The fear that troubles her for those still alive is no less than her grief for those who have departed this life. Indeed, although it may surprise you, her case is even more desperate. For time softens the grief caused by the death of her loved ones, but anxiety for the living never ceases.

By John Chrysostom - On Virginity



THE AKATHIST TO THE THEOTOKOS,
THE INEXHAUSTIBLE CUP, HEALER
OF ALCOHOLICS

WEDNESDAY MAY 20TH 7 PM

WEDNESDAY JUNE 3RD 7 PM

WEDNESDAY JULY 15TH 7 PM

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 19TH 7 PM

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 16TH 7 PM

**ST. ATHANASIUS THE GREAT
BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

1117 S. BLAINE AVE. INDIANAPOLIS.

DO YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO IS TROUBLED BY THE DISEASE OF ALCOHOLISM OR CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY? THIS IS A POWERFUL PRAYER SEEKING THE INTERCESSION OF THE THEOTOKOS FOR THE HEALING OF THIS TERRIBLE AND DEBILITATING DISEASE. PLEASE GIVE THEIR FIRST NAME TO FR. BRYAN AND JOIN US FOR THIS LIFE-CHANGING AND HEALING AKATHIST.



ST. ATHANASIUS THE GREAT PARISH
COMMUNITY MEAL~

Many thanks to all who helped and
participated watch this space for further
announcements

PARISH ADVISORY BOARDS MEETING

Next Sunday May 17, 2015 after the Parish Potluck Brunch cleanup @ 1 PM
in the Parish Hall. We will discuss fulfilling the initial stages of our Pastoral Plan. This will include the ongoing repairs to the Church, renovation of the Church Hall, erection of a sign for the Parish, Evangelization programs.

UPCOMING HOLY DAYS & SPECIAL SERVICES
AT ST. ATHANASIUS THE GREAT CHURCH

ASCENSION OF OUR LORD CELEBRATION

Wed. May 13 **7 PM** **FESTAL EVENING PRAYER**

Thu. May 14 **7 AM** **FIRST HOUR / DIVINE LITURGY**

FATHERS OF THE 1ST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL CELEBRATION

Sat. May 16 **7 PM** **FESTAL EVENING PRAYER**

Sun. May 17 **9 AM** **FESTAL MORNING PRAYER**

10 AM **FESTAL DIVINE LITURGY**

11:15 AM **WEEKLY SUNDAY LUNCHEON**

Wed. May 20 **7 PM** **INEXHAUSTIBLE CUP AKATHIST**

Sat. May 23 **5TH ALL SOULS SATURDAY**

7 AM **FIRST HOUR**

7:30 AM **DIVINE LITURGY AND HRAMOTY**

PENTECOST SUNDAY CELEBRATION

7 PM **FESTAL EVENING PRAYER**

8 PM **MSTRY. OF HOLY REPENTANCE**

Sun. May 24 **9 AM** **FESTAL MORNING PRAYER**

10 AM **FESTAL DIVINE LITURGY**

11:30 AM **PARISH LUNCHEON**

12:30 PM **VESPERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

PENTECOST MONDAY CELEBRATION [MEMORIAL DAY]

Mon. May 25 **7 AM** **1ST HOUR**

7:30 AM **FESTAL DIVINE LITURGY**

8:15 AM **PANACHIDA [SHORT MEMORIAL
SERVICE] FOR OUR DEPARTED
VETERANS**

**Upcoming celebrations of the Paraclis to the Theotokos
and Mystery of Holy Anointing "Ancient Healing Service" at 7 PM.**

Wednesday May 27 Paraclis & Holy Anointing

Wednesday June 24 Paraclis & Holy Anointing

Wednesday August 29 Paraclis & Holy Anointing

Please invite your friends and join us for this beautiful Healing Service!



The Holy Bishop and New Martyr Petro Oros

Every August, the Eparchy of Mukachevo celebrates the anniversary of the martyrdom of Bishop Petro Oros.

The Servant of God Petro Oros was born on July 14, 1917 in the village Biri

(Hungary) in the family of a Byzantine [Greek] Catholic priest. In 1919, his family moved to Transcarpathia, in modern day

Ukraine. In 1937, he entered Uzhgorod priestly seminary and on June 28, 1942 he was ordained a priest. His pastoral activity started in the village Velyki Komyaty of the Vinogradovo district as an assistant to a parish priest. On December 19, 1944 Bishop Theodore Romzha (and testified to by Father Stephan Bendas) secretly consecrated him a bishop, along with Bishop and Confessor Alexander Chira. In 1946 he was assigned to the parish in Bilky of the Irshava district.

In 1948, local authorities resorted to different methods of influence in order to persuade Bishop Petro to convert to Russian Orthodoxy. For him, as for the rest of the clergy that didn't give up their faith, it was forbidden to carry out pastoral work. But he remained always faithful to his vocation, continuing in the underground with his altar brothers Father Ivan Margitych, Father Ivan Roman and Father Ivan Chengeri. They secretly served the Greek Catholic faithful in Irshava and Vinogradovo districts.

Bishop Romzha was brutally murdered in 1947. Bishop Oros withdrew into the eastern region of Transcarpathia, along with several priests, in 1948 and took up residence in a remote cabin. He managed to conduct missionary work in the valleys and highlands with the aid of the mountaineers.

Bishop Khira stayed in Uzhgorod and was arrested there in 1949 when our Church was totally suppressed by the communists. He was eventually sent to the

Petro Oros [pg. 2] Gulag, working as a coal miner near Kazakhstan. Bishop Oros continued to serve Liturgies and celebrate the Holy Mysteries in village cemeteries, barns, or isolated homes. A high price was put on his head by the Soviet Secret Police [NKVD], because his constant preaching was keeping the villagers loyal to the suppressed Byzantine Catholic Church.

In 1953, local authorities were unsure as to what the religious policies of the new government would be after Stalin's death, but the bounty was not withdrawn. On the feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos, on August 28 (Julian Calendar), he celebrated the Liturgy in a cemetery. Bishop Peter then went in disguise, in the company of Catherine Stanko, to board a train in the village of Irshava. However, a militiaman recognized him, and arrested him.

Since some Byzantine Catholic priests had been arrested and released, Bishop Peter asked this policeman to let him go. However the enraged man stopped the pair in front of the village soviet building, and shot the bishop in his knees. As he sank to the ground, he whispered to Catherine "The Liturgy intentions" so that she would pass them on to another priest. He was then shot in the head and died on the spot.

Following his martyrdom, Bishop Petro's body was maltreated by the Soviet police and left naked and exposed in the town morgue, and finally buried underneath the concrete floor of the police garage. The reason? For three nights, the policemen and townspeople alike heard the voice of the bishop singing the Divine Liturgy. In order to silence this accusing voice, the police buried the body in thick concrete.

The place of the burial of Bishop Petro was kept a secret for 39 years. Only after the legalization of the Byzantine Catholic Church eyewitnesses told, under oath, the true story of those tragic days. On July 28, 1992 the former director of the holding cell of the Irshava District Militia Department agreed to witness and show the militia garage where Bishop Petro's body was buried. After the body was exhumed, an examination took place and on August 23, 1992 Father Petro's body was returned to a grave and buried with all the honor that befits his holy order. (The Hierarchical funeral took place on the next day. His relics were placed in the chapel near the church in the village of Bilky).

Today there is a beautiful black marble cross in the memory of our martyr on this spot.



The Holy Bishop and New Martyr Basil Hopko

(April 24, 1904, Hrabské — July 23, 1976) was an eparch (bishop) of the Slovak Greek Catholic Church. He was beatified by Pope John Paul II for his martyrdom under Communist occupation.

Hopko was born in the Rusyn village of Hrabské, in the Sáros County of the Kingdom of Hungary (present-day eastern Slovakia). His parents, Basil and Anna née Petrenko, were landless peasants. While Hopko was still an infant, his father was struck by lightning and died. His mother left him in care of her father, while she emigrated to the United States in search of work. When Hopko was 7 he was sent to live with his uncle Demeter Petrenko, a Greek Catholic priest.

He attended the Evangelical gymnasium in Prešov, then Czechoslovakia, graduating with honors in 1923. Hopko studied at the Eparchial Seminary in Prešov. He had dreams of joining his mother in America, and of pursuing his priestly vocation there, but the cost of recurring health problems left him unable to afford to travel. He later wrote that when he finally decided to stay and to serve in his homeland, he was suddenly cured, and realized he had been given a sign about his calling. He was ordained a Greek Catholic priest on 3 February 1929.

He served as a pastor (1929–1936) at the Greek Catholic parish in Prague, the Czechoslovak capital, where he was known for his focus on the poor, the unemployed, and students. His mother returned from America after 22 years and rejoined her son in Prague, becoming his housekeeper at the parish rectory.

In 1936 he returned to teach in Prešov's Eparchial Seminary, and was awarded the title of monsignor. He had already begun graduate studies at Charles University while in Prague, and he completed his Doctor of Theology in 1940 at Comenius University in Bratislava. In Prešov he

Basil Hopko [page 2] headed the eparchy's publishing division, where he edited a monthly periodical.

After World War II, a growing Soviet Bolshevik influence caused Bishop Pavol Peter Gojdič of Prešov to ask the Vatican for an Auxiliary Bishop to help defend the Greek Catholic Church. Hopko was appointed to the post

on 11 May 1947. The Communist take-over of Czechoslovakia wreaked havoc on the Greek Catholic Church. In 1950 it was officially abolished, and its assets were turned over to the Russian Orthodox Church. Gojdič was arrested and was imprisoned for life. Hopko was arrested on 28 April 1950 and kept on



starvation rations and tortured for weeks. Eventually he was tried and sentenced to 15 years for the "subversive activity" of staying loyal to Rome. He was repeatedly transferred from prison to prison. His health, physical and emotional, failed, and in 1964 he was transferred to an old age home. He never recovered his health.

During the Prague Spring the Czechoslovak government legally cleared Hopko on 13 June 1968 and the Prešov Eparchy was restored. However, activists insisted that a Slovak bishop be appointed to the see, and the Vatican named the Slovak priest Ján Hirka as Hopko's successor.



Hopko died in Presov at age 72 on 23 July 1976. On 14 September 2003 Pope John

Paul II glorified him at a ceremony in Bratislava, Slovakia.

The Holy Martyrs Vitus, Modestus, and Crescentia [May 16]



The Holy Martyrs Vitus, Modestus, and Crescentia, suffered for Christ during the reign of Emperor Diocletian (284-305). Saint Vitus was enflamed with an ardent love for the Lord Jesus Christ and he prayed incessantly to Him. The Lord gave him the grace of wonderworking. He healed the sick and converted many pagans to Christ. However, St. Vitus, being the son of a pagan governor, was again and again put in temptation of sin, yet he held strong through the abuse, luxury and women. In order to save the boy, his tutor St. Modestus and his governess St.

Crescentia, who were Christians, secretly took him from his parental home. At the river they saw a boat. An angel went into the boat together with them and they reached the Italian district of Lucanium, where the saints lived quietly, hidden away from torturers. The holy youth never ceased to heal the sick and he converted pagans to Christianity. Eventually the three were standing before the Emperor Diocletian, who sentenced them all to torture. The, St. Vitus called out to God, "O God, save us by Your power and deliver us." An earthquake struck, and many pagans perished under the collapsed buildings. Diocletian fled to his chambers in fear. The sufferings of the holy martyrs Vitus, Modestus and Crescentia occurred in the year 303. The relics of Saint Vitus were transferred to Prague. The Holy Prince Vyacheslav (Wenceslaus) of the Czechs (September 28) constructed a temple in honor of St. Vitus, in which he was afterwards buried.

The Holy Hieromonk and New Martyr Vladimir Bajrak

Vladimir Bajrak was born on the 24th February 1907 at Shvaikivtsy, Ternopil's'ka oblast', Ukraine. A Greek Catholic, he joined the Basilian Order of Saint Josaphat monastery on 4 September 1924. Ordained on the 13th August 1933, and became Orior of Drohobych in 1941. He was later arrested for his faith on 17 September 1945 by the NKVD. On 13 November 1945 his property was confiscated, and he was sentenced to eight years in a forced labor camp, where he died in prison as a martyr.



Feast of the Holy Ascension

Ascended and Enthroned

“HE HAS SPOKEN BLASPHEMY! ... What do you think?” the high priest asked the assembled Sanhedrin. And they answered, “He is deserving of death.” Thus the Lord Jesus was condemned (see *Matthew* 26:59-67). But in what had He supposedly blasphemed?

The Gospel records it this way, “*The high priest answered and said to [Jesus], ‘I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!’ Jesus said to him, ‘It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the*

Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven’” (*Matthew* 26:62-64).

That Christ is exalted “at the right hand” of the Father was part of the earliest preaching of the Apostles. When Peter was summoned to the same Sanhedrin that has condemned Jesus, he proclaimed, “*The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree. Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins*” (*Acts* 5:30-31). This was the same witness which condemned the Protomartyr Stephen to death for saying, “*Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!*” (*Acts* 7:55) Little wonder, then, that this image found its way into the fundamental creeds of the Church, repeated by Christians the world over each day.

The Apostles and others who spoke of God’s “right hand” knew they were using a metaphor, an anthropomorphism (giving a human feature, in this

THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST



Feast of the Holy Ascension [page 2]

case a “right hand,” to God). To sit at the right hand of an earthly king was the place of authority and honor. The one who held that place acted in the name of the king and was entitled to the same respect as the king. To say that Jesus sits at the “right hand” of the Father clearly places Him as equal in glory to the Father Himself.

Ascension and Enthronement

The Great Feast of Christ’s Holy Ascension on the fortieth day after Pascha is actually a two-fold observance. First of all it commemorates His ascension proper as observed by the apostles and recorded in the Scriptures: *“And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven”* (Lk 24:50-51).

The feast also observes what was unseen: Christ enthroned at the Father’s right hand. The two aspects of the mystery are invariably paired in the hymns of the feast: “You were taken up in glory from the Mount of Olives, Christ our God, in the presence of Your disciples, and took Your seat at the Father’s right hand, filling the universe with Your Godhead...” (apostikhon at vespers).

Our celebration further distinguishes another aspect of the mystery. On the one hand the eternal Word of God has always been at the Father’s right hand with the Holy Spirit in the Godhead. And so we fittingly pray: “Jesus the Giver of life, taking those He loved, ascended the Mount of Olives and blessed them and, riding on a cloud, He came to the Father’s bosom, which He had never left” (from the canon at orthros).

The Word of God, incarnate in the Virgin’s womb, was at the same time with the Father in His divinity. This is also expressed in this familiar troparion from the Divine Liturgy: “Being God You were present in the tomb by Your body and yet in Hades by Your soul, in Paradise with the

Feast of the Holy Ascension [page 3]

thief, and on the throne, O Christ, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, filling all things but encompassed by none.”

With the Incarnation Christ is now the God-become-man who brings His deified human nature to the glory of the Father. He does not return as the pre-incarnate Word but with the human nature which He had assumed, now risen and transformed: “When You came down from heaven to things on earth and as God raised up with You Adam’s nature which lay below in Hades’ prison, You brought it to heaven at Your ascension, O Christ, and made it sit with You on Your Father’s throne, as You are merciful and love mankind” (kathisma at orthros).

“Christ, the Giver of life, who rose in His two natures with glory to heaven and is now seated with the Father, you priests praise, you people highly exalt to all the ages” (from the canon at orthros).

“Our nature, which of old had fallen, has been raised above the Angels and beyond understanding established on God’s throne. Come, let us keep festival and let us cry out, ‘You His works, praise the Lord, and highly exalt Him to all the ages’ (from the canon at orthros).

“The majesty of Him who became poor in the flesh has been raised above the heavens and our fallen nature honored by sitting with the Father. Let us keep festival and all cry aloud with one accord, and gladly clap our hands” (from the canon at orthros).

The Word of God, truly incarnate in Jesus the Son of Mary, is inseparably joined to our humanity. As such He has enthroned our human nature at the Father’s right hand.

This new and unique reality is expressed in the icon of the feast. The throne of the eternal Trinity is often depicted as three concentric circles. In the midst of them, upborne by angels, is Christ in His humanity. It is this detail from the ascension icon which we find in the dome of our churches



*Feast of
the Holy
Ascension*

[page 4]

as the
Pantokrator,
the Almighty
One, the Head
of His Body

which is the Church.

The feast of Christ's Ascension, then, is also the glorification of our human nature and the seal of Christ's ministry on earth. As the Fathers expressed it, the Son of God became human that humans might become divine.

Ambo Prayer, Feast of the Ascension

Master, lift up our minds towards heaven as we worship Your might, and draw up our understanding from earthly cares to Yourself. For You have lifted our lowly nature in Yourself and enthroned it in the highest with the Father. Make us worthy here in this world, as in heaven, to be citizens who seek that which is on high, where You are seated on the right hand of God. We await Your glorious and fearful coming, which You revealed through the angels to the blessed Apostles, the spectators of Your Ascension into heaven. Number us with those who will be taken up into the clouds to meet You when You come to judge the world in righteousness, that with them we may be full of joy forever.

By the good will and love of mankind of Your eternal Father, with Whom You are blessed and glorified together with Your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR MEN AND WOMEN IN THE MILITARY ESPECIALLY THOSE SERVING IN AFGHANISTAN AND IRAQ.

Lt. COL. CRAIG M. EYMAN D.O.~ is Fr. Bryan's 2nd youngest brother. He has reentered the Army Reserve and is currently serving with the 848th FST [Forward Surgical Team] stationed in Twinsburg, OH. He has returned to his family in Solon, OH.

CAPT. BRIAN HEWKO USA~ is a friend of Fr. Bryan and a parishioner of St. Anne Ukrainian Byzantine Catholic Church in Austinburg, OH. He is a 2008 graduate of West Point. Brian has returned from deployment to the Persian Gulf. He is now serving in South Carolina.

CAPTAIN CHRISTINA MOMONIER~ is a friend of Fr. Bryan. Christina is from Baltimore, MD is a Byzantine Catholic. She is currently serving at Ft. Benning, GA.

CAPTAIN [FATHER] JOSEPH BRANKATELLI USA ~ is a friend of Fr. Bryan and a priest of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Cleveland and the Archdiocese for the Military Services. Fr. Joseph is posted in Washington, DC.

AIRMAN MICHAELA and AIRMAN FIRST CLASS JOHANN WELLER USAF ~ are friends of Fr. Bryan and members of St. Ann Byzantine Catholic Church in Harrisburg, PA. Before entering the Armed Forces they were active with the BYZANTEEN Youth Rallies.

PRIVATE CODY ROMERO USA, STAFF SERGEANT NIKO ROMERO, and STAFF SERGEANT RORY ROMERO ~ sons of Sonia Douglas. Cody received the Military Blessing at our Church and is currently serving at Fort Bragg, NC. His brother Rory has been deployed to Afghanistan. Their brother Niko serves as an Army recruiter in Anderson, IN.

PRIVATE JACKSON RUANE USA~ Jackson is formerly from St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Parish in Ashtabula, OH. He is currently serving at Ft. Polk, LA since September, 2014. He is getting married in July, 2015.

PRIVATE ABIGAIL BROWN USA~ is the Grand Niece of parishioner Belinda Dorney. She was recently promoted to PFC and has completed training in Army Intelligence at a base in Arizona. She is serving in Oklahoma.

2ND LT. AARON JACOBSON~ from Mounds View, MN is a friend of Fr. Bryan. He is a 2013 West Point graduate, who has just completed his special training as a platoon leader. He is serving in Ft. Drum, NY.

May God, in His infinite Love and Mercy, guide and protect all of those serving our Republic in the Armed Forces.

Welcome to St. Athanasius Byzantine Catholic Church of Indianapolis, IN. We are a Byzantine Catholic Community that, as part of the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy [Diocese] of Parma, is in Communion with Pope Francis I and the other Catholic Churches. We welcome to Holy Communion all Orthodox and Catholic Christians, who are able to receive Holy Communion in their own parish Church.

In the Byzantine Catholic Church we give Holy Communion to infants and young children. If you bring your child forward at Communion time he or she will be given Holy Communion. If you do not wish your child to receive Holy Communion, please do not bring the child forward at Communion time.

At the conclusion of the Liturgy, all should come forward to kiss the Holy Cross, or be anointed with blessed oil, and share in the Blessed Bread. Then join us in our St. Mary Hall for our Coffee Social. THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!