

Українська Православна Катедра Покрови Пресвятої Богородиці

St. Mary Ukrainian Orthodox Church

Protection of the Most Holy

Mother of God Cathedral



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18 AUGUST 2024 - EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST.- -The Holy Martyrs Florus and Laurus of Illyria

*(at the Divine Liturgy)*

**Tone 7      Troparion      *(Resurrection)***

By Your Cross You destroyed death.  
To the thief You opened Paradise.  
For the Myrrhbearers You changed weeping into joy.  
And You commanded Your disciples, O Christ God,  
to proclaim that You are risen,//  
granting the world great mercy.

**Tone 1      Troparion      *(Feast)***

In giving birth you preserved your virginity.  
In falling asleep you did not forsake the world, O Birth-Giver of God.  
You were translated to life O Mother of Life,//  
and by your prayers you deliver our souls from death

**Tone 2      Kontakion      *(Feast)***

Neither the tomb, nor death, could hold the Theotokos,  
who is constant in prayer and our firm hope in her intercessions.  
For being the Mother of Life,//  
she was translated to life by the One Who dwelt in her virginal womb.

**Tone 7      Prokeimenon      *(Resurrection)***

The Lord shall give strength to His people. / The Lord shall bless His people  
with peace. *(Ps. 28:11)*

*V. Offer to the Lord, O you sons of God! Offer young rams to the Lord! (Ps. 28:1a)*

**Tone 3      Prokeimenon      *(Song of the Theotokos)***

My soul magnifies the Lord, / and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. *(Lk. 1:46-47)*

**Epistle**

(124) 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

**Tone 7**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*V. It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Your Name, O Most High. (Ps. 91:1)*

*V. To declare Your mercy in the morning, and Your truth by night. (Ps. 91:2a)*

**Tone 8**

*V. Arise, O Lord, into Your rest, You and the Ark of Your sanctification! (Ps. 131:8)*

Gospel  
(58) Matthew 14:14-22

*(Instead of "It is truly meet...", we sing:)*

The Angels, as they looked upon the Dormition of the Virgin, were struck with wonder, seeing how the Virgin went up from earth to heaven.

The limits of nature are overcome in you, O Pure Virgin: for birthgiving remains virginal, and life is united to death; a virgin after childbearing and alive after death, you ever save your inheritance, O Theotokos.

### Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! *(Ps. 148:1)*  
I will receive the cup of salvation and call on the Name of the Lord. *(Ps. 115:4)*  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!  
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### **Announcements**

**PRAY FOR UKRAINE!** - The Brotherhood of Ukrainian Clergy in the Lehigh Valley sponsors weekly Moleben services for the peace and well-being of Ukraine.. **The next Moleben service will be this Tuesday; 20 August at 6:30 PM at Holy Ghost Ukrainian Catholic Church Fourth St. West Easton.** We urge everyone to attend and PRAY FOR UKRAINE!

- **PARISH BOARD MEETING** - The regular monthly meeting of the Parish Board will take place tomorrow Monday; 19 August at 6:30 PM immediately following the Vespers service. All Parish Board members are urged to attend.

- **FIRST IN A SERIES- UKRAINE: THE CONCERT-** Due to unforeseen circumstances, this concert will be postponed to a later date. Please keep a watch out for future announcements.
- **MARK THE DATE - UKRAINIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY FLAG RAISING** The annual flag raising of the Ukrainian Flag in honor of the 33rd anniversary of the independence of Ukraine will be held at Payroll Plaza near the City Hall on Church Street in Bethlehem on Friday; 23 August at 10 AM. This event is sponsored by the Ukrainian National Women's League Lehigh Valley Branch. ALL ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.
- **ART EXHIBIT AND SALE CONTINUES** - The Lehigh Valley Post of the Ukrainian American Veterans will sponsor an Art Exhibit and Sale of the works of Ukrainian Artist Jurij Hura at our church. Hura became a resident of Pennsylvania after fleeing persecution from communists in his native Ukraine. The proceeds of the sale will benefit the Vets project of buying generators for the 56th Brigade of the Ukrainian Armed Forces - the brigade of the Valeriy Shtyk, father of our altar server Yurii Shtyk, - Valeriy perished in Bakhmut last year defending Ukraine. The exhibit will run until the end of August. Please come out and support!
- UPCOMING MEETINGS: Please mark your calendars. There will be **SHORT** meetings after Divine Liturgy with Fr. Richard for the following groups.  
09-08 - CHOIR  
09-15 - READERS  
09-22- ALTAR SERVERS



**THE HOLY HIEROMARTYR IRENAEUS** - Commemorated on 23 August  
<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2024/08/23/102379-hieromartyr-irenaeus-bishop-of-lyons>

The Hieromartyr Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons, was born in the year 130 in the city of Smyrna (Asia Minor). He received there the finest education, studying poetics, philosophy, rhetoric, and the rest of the classical sciences considered necessary for a young man of the world. His guide in the truths of the Christian Faith was a disciple of the Apostle John the Theologian, Saint Polycarp of Smyrna (February 23). Saint Polycarp baptized the youth, and afterwards ordained him presbyter and sent him to a city in Gaul then named Lugdunum [the present day Lyons in France] to the dying bishop Pothinus. A commission was soon entrusted to Saint Irenaeus. He was to deliver a letter from the confessors of Lugdunum to the holy Bishop Eleutherius of Rome (177-190). While he was away, all the known Christians were thrown into prison. After the martyric death of Bishop Pothinus, Saint Irenaeus was chosen a year later (in 178) as Bishop of Lugdunum. “During this time,” Saint Gregory of Tours (November 17) writes concerning him, “by his preaching he transformed all Lugdunum into a Christian city!” When the persecution against Christians quieted down, the saint expounded upon the Orthodox teachings of faith in one of his fundamental works under the title: Detection and Refutation of the Pretended but False Gnosis. It is usually called Five Books against Heresy (Adversus Haereses).

At that time there appeared a series of religious-philosophical gnostic teachings. The Gnostics [from the Greek word “gnosis” meaning “knowledge”] taught that God cannot be incarnate [i.e. born in human flesh], since matter is imperfect and manifests itself as the bearer of evil. They taught also that the Son of God is only an outflowing (“emanation”) of Divinity. Together with Him from the Divinity issues forth a hierarchical series of powers (“aeons”), the unity of which comprise the “Pleroma”, i.e.

“Fullness.” The world is not made by God Himself, but by the aeons or the “Demiourgos,” which is below the “Pleroma.”



In refuting this heresy, championed by Valentinus, Saint Irenaeus presents the Orthodox teaching of salvation. “The Word of God, Jesus Christ, through His inexplicable blessedness caused it to be, that we also, should be made that which He is ... ,” taught Saint Irenaeus. “Jesus Christ the Son of God, through exceedingly great love for His creation, condescended to be born of a Virgin, having united mankind with God in His own Self.” Through the In-

carnation of God, creation becomes co-imaged and co-bodied to the Son of God. Salvation consists in the “Sonship” and “Theosis” (“Deification”) of mankind.

In the refutation of another heretic, Marcian, who denied the divine origin of the Old Testament, the saint affirms the same divine inspiration of the Old and the New Testaments: “It is one and the same Spirit of God Who proclaimed through the prophets the precise manner of the Lord’s coming,” wrote the saint. “Through the apostles, He preached that the fulness of time of the filiation had arrived, and that the Kingdom of Heaven was at hand.”

The successors of the Apostles have received from God the certain gift of truth, which Saint Irenaeus links to the succession of the episcopate (Adv.

Haer. 4, 26, 2). “Anyone who desires to know the truth ought to turn to the Church, since through Her alone did the apostles expound the Divine Truth. She is the door to life.”

Saint Irenaeus also exerted a beneficial influence in a dispute about the celebration of Pascha. In the Church of Asia Minor, there was an old tradition of celebrating Holy Pascha on the fourteenth day of the month of Nisan, regardless of what day of the week it happened to be. The Roman bishop Victor (190-202) forcefully demanded uniformity, and his harsh demands fomented a schism. In the name of the Christians of Gaul, Saint Irenaeus wrote to Bishop Victor and others, urging them to make peace.

After this incident, Saint Irenaeus drops out of sight, and we do not even know the exact year of his death. Saint Gregory of Tours, in his *Historia Francorum*, suggests that Saint Irenaeus was beheaded by the sword for his confession of faith in the year 202, during the reign of Severus. The Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian, Saint Polycarp of Smyrna, and Saint Irenaeus of Lyons are three links in an unbroken chain of the grace of succession, which goes back to the Original Pastor, our Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

In his old age, Saint Irenaeus wrote to his old friend the priest Florinus: “When I was still a boy, I knew you... in Polycarp’s house.... I remember what happened in those days more clearly than what happens now.... I can describe for you the place where blessed Polycarp usually sat and conversed, the character of his life, the appearance of his body, and the discourses which he spoke to the people, how he spoke of the conversations which he had with John and others who had seen the Lord, how he remembered their words, and what he heard from them about the Lord ... I listened eagerly to these things, by the mercy of God, and wrote them, not on paper, but in my heart.”

JOIN US TO  
COMMEMORATE

**UKRAINIAN  
INDEPENDENCE  
DAY**

**23RD OF AUGUST**  
10 E CHURCH ST  
BETHLEHEM, PA 18018  
10AM START TIME

 SPONSORED BY  
UKRAINIAN NATIONAL WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF AMERICA  
BETHLEHEM, PA BRANCH #91