



St. Moses the Black Orthodox Church
Rev. Paul Abernathy, Pastor
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Sunday, December 15, 2019

Hieromartyr Eleutherios, bishop of Illyria & Sunday of the Forefathers (Ancestors) of Christ
*Martyr Anthia, mother of Eleutherios; Venerable Paul of Latra; Stephen, bishop-confessor of Surozh;
Venerable Tryphon of Pechenga*

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE ONE (Spiral Book page 110) - *While the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. For which cause the heavenly powers cried aloud unto Thee, O giver of life. Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ, glory to Thy kingdom, glory to Thy providence, O Thou Who alone art the lover of mankind.*

APOLYTIKION OF THE FOREFATHERS IN TONE TWO - *Thou hast justified by faith the ancient Forefathers, and through them Thou hast gone before and betrothed unto Thyself the Church of the Gentiles. Let the saints, therefore, take pride in glory; for from their seed sprouted forth a noble fruit, and it was she who gave birth to Thee without seed. Wherefore, by their pleadings, O Christ God, save our souls.*

APOLYTIKION OF ST. ELEUTHERIOS OF ILLYRIA IN TONE FIVE - *Being comely adorned in thy sacred priestly robes * and newly drenched with the streams of thy pure and sanctified blood, * thou didst soar aloft to stand before thy Master, Christ; * hence never cease to intercede * for those honoring with faith thy mighty and blessed contest, * thou overthrower of Satan, O wise and blessed Eleutherios.*

APOLYTIKION TO ST. MOSES THE BLACK - *Dweller of the desert and angel in the body, you were shown to be a wonder-worker, our God-bearing Father Moses. You received heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil, and prayer: healing the sick and the souls of those drawn to you by faith. Glory to Him who gave you strength! Glory to Him who granted you a crown! Glory to Him who through you grants healing to all!*

KONTAKION OF PREPARATION OF CHRIST'S NATIVITY IN TONE THREE - *On this day the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth to * God the Word ineffably, * Who was before all the ages. * Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing * the gladsome tidings; * with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him * Who is willing to be gazed on * as a young Child Who * before the ages is God.*

THE EPISTLE

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saint.

What shall we render unto the Lord for all that He hath rendered unto us?

The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy. (1:8-18)

Timothy, my son, do not be ashamed then of testifying to our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel in the power of God, Who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not in virtue of our works but in virtue of his own purpose and the grace which he gave us in Christ Jesus ages ago, and now has manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, Who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. For this gospel I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, and therefore I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know Whom I have believed, and I am sure that He is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me. Follow the pattern of the sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus; guard the truth that has been entrusted to you by the Holy Spirit Who dwells within us. You are aware that all who are in Asia turned away from me, and among them Phygelos and Hermogenes. May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphoros, for he often refreshed me; he was not ashamed of my chains, but when he arrived in Rome he searched for me eagerly and found me. May the Lord grant him to find mercy from the Lord on that Day and you well know all the service he rendered at Ephesus.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (14:16-24)

The Lord spoke this parable: "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But, one by one, they all began to make excuses. The

first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Wednesday, December 18, 2019 - 6:00 PM - Weekday Vespers

Saturday, December 21, 2019 - 6:00 PM - Great Vespers

Sunday, December 22, 2019 - 9:30 AM - Matins and Divine Liturgy - Church School Following Communion

Tuesday, December 24, 2019 - 9:00 AM - Royal Hours and Typical

Tuesday, December 24, 2019 - 7:00 PM - Matins - 8:00 PM - Divine Liturgy for Christmas - Meal Following

Wednesday, December 25, 2019 - Christ is Born! Glorify Him - No weekday vespers

Saturday, December 28, 2019 - No Great Vespers - Fr. Paul is speaking at College Conference at the Antiochian Village

Sunday, December 29, 2019 - 9:30 AM - Matins and Divine Liturgy - Church School Following Communion

Bishop THOMAS will be visiting our parish the weekend of January 25-26, 2020.

We are looking for parishioners to participate in evening programs for mission trips during the first two weeks of July 2020.

SAVE THE DATE - St. Moses the Black Brotherhood Conference in Pittsburgh hosted by our parish - October 8 - 11, 2020

PRAYER LIST - Please contact Pres. Kristina Abernathy via email at Kristina.nicole@me.com or via text or call at 724.493.7213 to add living or departed names to the prayer list.

LIVING— Metropolitan Boulous, Archbishop Johana, Archpriest Jason & Family, Archpriest Anthony & Family, Archpriest Elias, Archpriest James, Kh. Linda, Archpriest Patrick, Kh. Vanessa, The Brotherhood of St. Moses the Black, The Parishioners of St. George, Deacon John, Shimashee Brenda, Deacon Abraham, Shimashee Laurie, Thomas, The Seminarian Paul, Sister Janice, Sister Janice, Pearl, Brandon, Isabella, Marcella, Peter, Julitta, David, Jerrel, Moses, Thekla, Tracy, Joshua, Dustin, Amera, Adam, Moses, Ramey, The Khalil Family, Michael, Maria, Ana, Mary, Macrina, Tobiah Basil, Victoria, Tyra, Lamar, Gabriel, Maurice, Nicole, Gladys, Jasmine, Nayla, Royal, Raymond, Emma, Deborah, Marianne, James, Haleigh, Mikayla, Cathy, Kathleen, Daniel, Rocco, The students of the Pitt/CMU/Duquesne/Waynesburg OCF, Nadine, Elise, Katherine, Anthony, Steven, Tommy, Joanna, David, Esther, Juliana, Mary, Frank, Alexis, Juliana, Judah, Fidelia, Katherine, Kammy, Leroy, Andrea, Xenia, Solomon, Paulous, Mark, Sophie, Abbie, Katie, Elizabeth, John, Tanya, Brad, Owen, Arthur, Samuel, Karen & Family, Gabby, Joel, Ashley, Dave, Elise, Austin, Justin, Susan, Chris, Robin

DEPARTED – Dolores, Alexandra, William, Tarsha

CONFESSIONS and HOUSE BLESSINGS By Appointment - Please contact Rev. Paul Abernathy by calling at 412.254.6281 to schedule confession or a meeting.

DONATIONS - Please make your offerings as follows: **Checks made payable to St. Moses the Black Orthodox Church.** Donations can be given to Pres. Kristina or Parish Treasurer Amera.

A Note from Bishop Thomas -

THE NATIVITY FAST is divided into two periods: (1) November 15th through December 19th when the traditional fasting discipline (no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine, and olive oil) is observed on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, with katalysis for wine and olive oil (some also permit fish) on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and for fish, wine, and olive oil on Saturdays and Sundays, and (2) the period of the Forefast, December 20th through 24th, when the traditional fasting discipline is observed Monday through Friday, with katalysis for wine and olive oil on Saturday and Sunday. The eve of the feast is a strict fast day; December 25th thru January 4th is fast-free.