

HOLY TRINITY HERALD



November 2020, №20

<http://holytrinitymission.com/index.php/ru/>

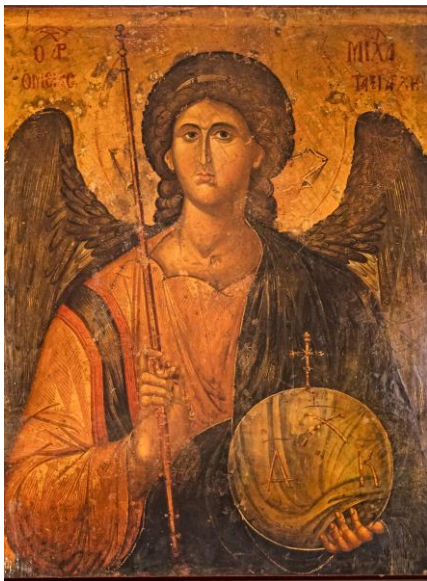
<https://www.facebook.com/russian.church/>

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FROM FR. NIKON



Icon of Archangel Michael in our Holy Trinity Church (photo by Anton Shelepov)

Dear brothers and sisters!

In my letter today, I simply want to wish everyone peace, joy, sincere hope and love through Christ. These words often end my letters to you. It is important that these words remain not only written on paper but inscribed in our hearts. And for this we need to remember that we are Christ's. All these joyful and peaceful states of man are undoubtedly God's gift, and we need to be ready to receive it. It is in our free will to respond to Christ's open arms. And this is done through work. Work that softens the hardened soul and heart and gives us real consolation. Following the Gospel, doing deeds of love, mercy and forgiveness; striving to worship God.

Of course, this is not some kind of barter with God: bliss in exchange for our deeds. It is a person's free will to move away from that which is destructive and trust in the Heavenly Father. In this trust, every sin, evil, pain and fear will depart from us, revealing the most genuine consolation.

I wish all of us to remember that Christianity is not something that enters our life on Sundays in the Church. It is the basis, center and yardstick of our whole life. What we breathe. Remember that we are mortal and our state after death depends on the state in which we are now. The Lord is merciful, but He leaves man with the greatest gift - free will. And the relationship with the Lord we have today is a litmus test of the state in which we will appear before God beyond earthly life. Will our soul be ready to enter with joy to the love of the Creator, or will this very love become a tormenting fire, since during our earthly years we placed Christ somewhere on the periphery of life.

FR. NIKON ANSWERS YOUR QUESTIONS

Question: Is the Guardian Angel given to a person at birth or at baptism? If at baptism, is it true that only Christians have a Guardian Angel, but not all people?

Answer: The Apostle Paul says that Guardian Angels are given to those who want to inherit salvation. The first important step of a person on the path to salvation in Christ is Baptism, the sacrament of being born from the water of the Spirit. Therefore, yes, the Holy Church teaches that the Guardian Angel is sent to a person at Baptism. Consequently, some people do not have a Guardian Angel, because they simply do not need it, because they do not strive for salvation.

We again touch upon the fundamental question of human freedom. The Psalm speaks about the role of Angels: "they will help you on your path and lift thee in their arms." But if a person does not turn to salvation, then the Lord does not force his will and does not impose himself. Therefore, people who were baptized, but have completely forgotten that they are Christians, have a Guardian Angel that remains at a distance, seeing that this person does not need him. All that remains for the Angel is to grieve and hope for at least a tiny movement of the soul towards God.

HOLIDAYS IN NOVEMBER

KAZAN ICON OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

(November 4th)



The icon of the Mother of God in Kazan, can be traced back to 1579, in the Tale of the "samovidtsa" event - Metropolitan Hermogen, later the Patriarch-Martyr (+ 1612). The icon was found in the ground by a ten-year-old Matrona, the daughter of an archer, on July 8, 1579 after a terrible fire in Kazan. Numerous miracles of healing were performed from the icon.

During the Polish invasion (1605-1612), which was called the "Time of Troubles", the Russian Church was headed by Hieromartyr Hermogen, Patriarch of Moscow and All of Russia. When Moscow was occupied by the Poles, strife and unrest spread throughout the country. Hieromartyr Hermogen, while in custody, sent an appeal to Nizhny Novgorod: "Write to Kazan, to Metropolitan Ephraim, let him send to the boyars and the Cossack, a letter of teachings, so that they stand firm in the faith, suppress robbery, preserve brotherhood, and if need be lay down their lives. And write to all cities ... everywhere use my name." The residents of Nizhny Novgorod responded to the call of the chief priest. The assembled militia was led by Prince

Dimitri Mikhailovich Pozharsky. The Kazan squads, who joined the militia, brought with them a copy of the miraculous Kazan icon, which was given to Prince Dimitri in Yaroslavl. The Most Holy Lady took the militia under Her protection, and Russia was saved by Her intercession. Today this holy icon is in the Epiphany Patriarchal Cathedral in Moscow.

In 1721, Peter I transferred one of the copies of the Kazan Icon of the Mother of God from Moscow to St. Petersburg, and the holy icon of the Heavenly Intercessor is now in the Kazan Cathedral of St. Petersburg. In 1812, the Kazan Icon of the Mother of God helped Russian soldiers repulse the French invasion. On the feast of the Kazan Icon-October 22, 1812, Russian troops, under the leadership of

Miloradovich and Platov, defeated Davout's rearguard. This was the first major defeat and the enemy lost 7 thousand people. On that day, snow fell, severe frosts began, and the army of the conqueror of Europe began to wane.

In 1904 the Icon was stolen. The thieves were caught, however, the icon was never found. In 2005, The Patriarch of Moscow and All of Russia, Alexy II of the Theotokos Monastery in Kazan handed over the copy of the venerated Kazan icon of the 18th century. The loss of the original image does not diminish the grace-filled power of the entire multitude of copies of the Kazan icon, through which the Most Holy Theotokos helps us with her intercession.

<https://azbyka.ru/video/svyatoe-znamenie-rossii-kazanskaya-ikona-bozhiej-materi/#>



On June 21, 2005, the year of the 450th anniversary of the founding of the Kazan diocese, the Holy Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Alexey II, at the end of the Divine liturgy in the Cathedral of the Kazan Kremlin, handed over to believers a great shrine - the Kazan icon of the 18th century, which was in the chambers of Pope John Paul II.

THE COUNCIL OF THE ARCHANGEL OF GOD MICHAEL AND OTHER DISEMBODED HEAVENLY FORCES (November 21)



Icon of Archangel Michael on the South (right) door in the iconostasis in our Holy Trinity Church (photo by A. Shelepov)

The celebration of the Council of the Archangel of God, Michael, was established at the beginning of the 4th century at the Laodicean Council, several years before the First Ecumenical Council. The Council of Laodicea, by Canon 35, condemned and rejected the heretical worship of Angels as creators and rulers of the world but approved of their veneration.

The Angelic ranks are divided into three hierarchies - the highest, the middle and the lowest. Each hierarchy consists of three ranks. The highest hierarchy includes: Seraphim, Cherubim and Thrones. The middle Angelic hierarchy consists of three ranks: Dominance, Strength and Authority. The lower hierarchy includes: Beginnings, Archangels and Angels. Above all nine Angelic ranks, the Lord placed the holy Archangel Michael (his name in translation from Hebrew - "who is like God") - a faithful servant of God, for he threw down from Heaven the proud angel and other fallen spirits. And to the rest of the Angels, he exclaimed: "Let us listen! Let us become good before our Creator."

Russia glorified the Most Pure Theotokos and the Archangel Michael in church hymns. Many monasteries, cathedrals, palaces and temples are dedicated to the Archangel. In ancient Kiev, immediately after the adoption of Christianity, the Archangel Cathedral was erected and a monastery was built. Archangel cathedrals are in Smolensk, Nizhny Novgorod, Staritsa, a monastery in Veliky Ustyug (early 13th century), a cathedral in Sviyazhsk. There was no city in Russia where there was no

temple or chapel dedicated to the Archangel Michael. One of the main churches in the city of Moscow - the

tomb temple in the Kremlin - is dedicated to him. The icons of Archangel Michael and his Cathedrals are numerous and beautiful. One of them - the icon "Blessed Host" - was made for the Assumption Cathedral of the Moscow Kremlin, where the holy warriors - Russian princes - are depicted under the leadership of the Archangel Michael.

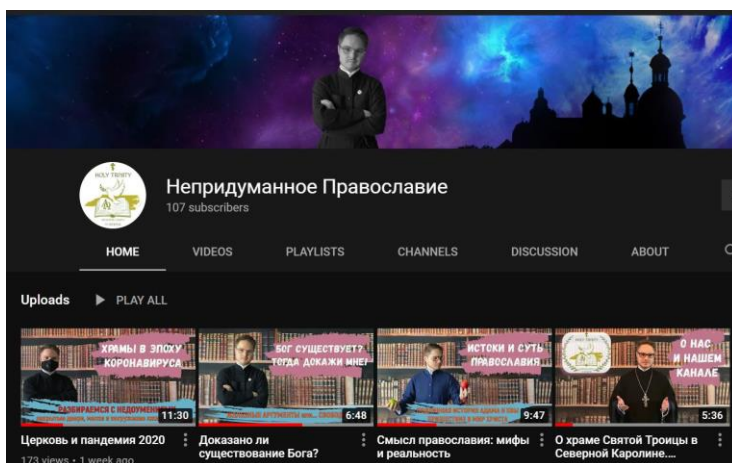
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gPBARhASdec&feature=emb_logo

NOVEMBER HOLIDAY CALENDAR

- **November 4** of the Kazan Icon of the Mother of God (in memory of the deliverance of Moscow and Russia from the Poles in 1612)
- **November 6** Day of the Icon of the Mother of God "Joy of All Who Sorrow"
- **November 7** Dimitrievskaya (Parent's) Saturday - Memorial Day.
- **November 8** Day of the Great Martyr Dimitry Thessaloniki
- **November 9** Day of St. Nestor the Chronicler
- **November 10** Mts. Paraskeva, named Friday (III). St. Arseny, Archbishop. Serbian (1266)
- **November 20** Icons of the Mother of God Leaping (1795)
- **November 21** Cathedral of the Archangel Michael and other angels. Archangels Gabriel, Raphael, Uriel, Selaphiel, Yehudiel, Barahiel and Jeremiel.
- **November 22** Icons of the Mother of God, called the "Quick to Hearken"
- **November 26** St. John Chrysostom, Archbishop. Constantinople (407).
- **November 27** Apostle Philip (I). A spell on Christmas (Filippov) post (meat-swallowing)
- **November 28** Day of the Holy Martyrs Guria, Samon and Aviv.
The beginning of the Nativity Fast, which will last from November 28, 2020 to January 6, 2021.
- **November 29** Apostle and Evangelist Matthew
- **November 30** St. Nikon, hegumen of Radonezh, a disciple of St. Sergius. St. Gregory the Wonderworker, Bishop Neo-Caesarean

PARISH LIFE

Please follow **the schedule of services on: holytrinitymission.com.**



Our Parish YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1HLae1Ho0DYRbjdtpI>

<https://www.facebook.com/russian.church/videos/829684714434289/>

Our Parish has its own YouTube channel. Our rector, Fr. Nikon introduces viewers to our church, raises questions about the role of the Church in the life of a person and society, and also covers other important spiritual and moral topics. Please subscribe to the channel and click on the bell, so as not to miss future episodes.

We present to your attention a recent **video message from our rector, Fr. Nikon to parishioners:**

At our Holy Trinity Church on October 16, 2020, a **virtual Children's Literary Club** was opened. Meetings take place online on Fridays at 5pm (children from 8 to 10 years old) and at 6pm (children from 11 to 13 years old). We invite all children, including those whose families are far from the Church. If you want to enroll your child in the club, please write to us at: rus.church.org@gmail.com. Participation is, of course, free. However, we always pray for benefactors and ask you to support our parish financially for our ministry.

Each Sunday service, as before, is broadcasted live on our Facebook page: [facebook.com/russian.church](https://www.facebook.com/russian.church) (the broadcast starts at 10 o'clock).

Notes on health and commemoration of the departed can be sent to Father Nikon at the email address: rector@holytrinitymission.com.

If you are at risk and do not have the opportunity to attend services due health, but **wish to light candles**, submit notes to Church prayer, we will be happy to do it for you. You can make a donation for a candle, which will be lit up with a prayer for your loved ones at the service. After making a donation, please also write to Father Nikon the names along with a request for a candle: rector@holytrinitymission.com.

Our Holy Trinity Church is always adorned with flowers during Divine services. If you wish to contribute to this good deed and **bring flowers** to the beginning of Saturday or Sunday services, we will be sincerely grateful to you. You can also make a **cash donation for flowers** (see below in the section "Please help" how to make a transfer; please do not forget to mark: "For flowers").

Readings of the Akathists are resumed in our temple. See the timetable on our ward page: holytrinitymission.com

SISTERHOOD OF SAINT MARTYR TATIANA



Olga Slepchenko

In these times, when many have to isolate themselves from the world, and often from the church, despite all obstacles, our Sisterhood has continued its efforts. The Sisterhood is happy to welcome all the new sisters who have joined our ranks in this difficult time and are ready to help the parish, the church, and all those in need. And we sing to all of them "Many good years."

Today we want to introduce you to our talented new sister Olga Slepchenko. Olga has been writing poems and stories since childhood, and everyone who is familiar with her work, agree that her poems and stories are permeated with good humor and melancholy, that they have something unique, personal, and that it manifests itself as an aspiration to know oneself, in devotion and love for God.

Подарки

Привези мне, мама, Бродского,
Привези мне, мама, Блока.
Слёзы светлого Высоцкого
Из березового сока.
Небо-край в картине Гришиной,
Голубя в конце потолка.
Все, что называешь Истиной.
Привези мне, мама, Бога.

2017

Счастье

Расскажите мне, что такое счастье.
Из каких оно состоит запчастей.
Кто в его мотор заливает масло,
Кто его кладет, как ребенка, в ясли?
По каким оно носится дорогам?
В дорогих туфлях, или босоного?
С серебром волос или золотом гривы?
Счастливо ль оно быть для всех счастливым?
А в ответ Господь, Всемогуще Светлый,
Угощает нас тишиной и ветром.

2018

You can obtain an application for the **Sisterhood membership** by emailing: sisterhood@holytrinitymission.com

WE REMEMBER



Poet Naum Korzhavin in the middle

The poet **Naum Korzhavin** would have turned 95 on October 14, 2020. Naum was a parishioner of our church. Many of us remember him, love him, and know his work well. We present to your attention the memoirs of Naum Korzhavin's daughter, Elena, and his friends, Oleg and Tamara Krivulin. **The memoirs** were published in our "Holy Trinity Herald" in October 2019: <http://www.holytrinitymission.com/files/Vestnik-2019-10-eng.pdf>



On October 21, 2020, Archpriest Dimitry Smirnov, the former chairman of the Patriarchal Commission on Family Issues, Protection of Motherhood and Childhood, reposed in the Lord. Bishop Panteleimon of Orekhovo-Zuevsky performed a memorial service for the deceased in the Cathedral of Christ the Savior in Moscow. We ask your prayers for the newly departed servant of God Dimitry. Eternal memory to dear father! <http://www.dimitrysmirnov.ru/blog/memory-103296/>

OUR PARISHIONERS RECOMMEND

Our parishioner **Milla Albers** is pleased to share information that last year the Spas TV channel released the films “**Gospel Aloud**”, “**Acts of the Apostles Aloud**” and “**Epistles of the Apostles Aloud**”, read by famous actors and clergymen.

The grandiose project created by the Spas channel is useful for the soul, especially during the upcoming Christmas fast.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WD3BuIsWjSc>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I_HjOARnJkQ&t=2s

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b0GlxAPJ5H0>

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Our Holy Trinity Church, October 2020.

OUR PARISHIONERS ABOUT CORONAVIRUS

In the May issue of our “Holy Trinity Herald”, our parishioner, medical worker Elena Atchley, kindly provided us with information on how the situation is developing in our Scientific Triangle during the coronavirus pandemic. In this issue, Elena shares with us new data on Covid-19. The editors are grateful to Elena for the material she provided.

What we know about the virus: At the moment, we know that the coronavirus is spreading fast enough. One coronavirus patient can infect an average of 2.5 people. Mortality is approximately 0.4%. For comparison, the lethality of the influenza virus ranges from 0.1% to 0.5%. Hospitalization of patients with coronavirus infection is 3.4%. Asymptomatic patients make up 45% of all coronavirus cases. About 40% of all cases of coronavirus infection occur from asymptomatic patients. The incubation period of the virus is on average six days. In North Carolina, the number of cases of coronavirus infection is increasing and is about 2,000 cases detected per day (this figure is constantly changing). It should be noted that there is now frequent testing for coronavirus in both symptomatic and asymptomatic patients. Testing is mandatory before planned operations and hospitalizations. North Carolina has a positive coronavirus infection rate of 3% of all patients tested so far. Hospitalizations for coronavirus patients decreased in local hospitals compared to June and May.

Treatment: There are still no special breakthroughs in the treatment of coronavirus infection. The antiviral drug Remdesavir is used in hospitals, but its effectiveness raises many questions among specialists, in addition, this drug is very expensive and often difficult for hospitals to obtain. Steroid drugs such as Dexamethasone are now widely used, but this drug is only used when complications develop, usually on days 7-10. Various anticoagulants are also used to prevent thrombosis. Oxygen is widely used.

Research continues with old and new drugs. For example, neurosteroids are being investigated as potential anti-inflammatory drugs that may help treat coronavirus patients who have already had an infection. It is very common for people who have recovered from coronavirus infection for a long time to have health problems, often associated with ongoing inflammation. There is some good research on vitamin D. It is easier for a person to cope with an infection when a person has normal levels of vitamin D.

Vaccine:

Several coronavirus vaccines developed by companies such as Moderna, Pfizer and AstraZeneca and others are undergoing clinical trials in the United States. Pfizer is closest to completion. This company is completing the last phase of clinical trials at the end of October. Two weeks ago, a special committee to review the results of the vaccine said that an additional eight weeks are needed to complete the studies (it takes time to determine the effectiveness of the vaccine). Therefore, according to the most optimistic forecasts, the vaccine may appear on the American market in late November - early December 2020. But most likely, we will see the vaccine only in 2021 in the spring.

And more about coronavirus and herd immunity:

In October, three prominent scientists in the field of epidemiology and infectious diseases, in a private meeting with US Secretary of Health and Human Services, Alex Azar, and Chief Medical Advisor to President Donald Trump, Scott Atlas, declared in favor of building herd immunity against COVID-19. Scientists argue that allowing the virus to spread naturally will result in herd immunity, which will arise regardless of whether universal vaccination is carried out or not. Social distancing measures and quarantine restrictions, which have led many people to lose their jobs and their income, have done more harm than good, they said. Scientists in their declaration also refer to the fact that rates of vaccination of children and screening for cancer have significantly decreased, but at the same time indicators of mental health of the population have significantly deteriorated.

Scientists described their approach to the problem of herd immunity as targeted protection, which will be aimed at isolating and strengthening the protection of those groups of the population that are most vulnerable to COVID-19, while avoiding general isolation and thereby allowing the rest of the world to return to work, study, sports and daily activities, while the natural spread of infection will do its job and form herd immunity.

It should be noted that this declaration drew not only criticism, but also positive reviews from some doctors and scientists. However, many individuals and organizations, including the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) and the HIV Medicine Association, strongly condemned the declaration. Critics believe that the arguments for herd immunity have not been scientifically tested and proven, and that this crisis cannot be controlled without the use of special measures developed by public health. It was also noted that the statement did not specify in detail how the authors intend to isolate vulnerable groups.

Having read the declaration, one can only assume that the applicants hope for the rapid emergence of herd immunity and do not at all consider the fact that many people, having had COVID-19, for a long time, even several months after recovery, still feel the negative consequences of the infection on the health.

IDSA President Thomas M. File Jr. and HIVMA Chairman Judith Feinberg have strongly stated that the herd immunity declaration in response to the COVID-19 pandemic is "inappropriate, irresponsible and insufficiently informed." Herd immunity, they believe, can only be achieved through universal vaccination, and in no case should it be formed through targeted infection and infection of millions of people, exposing their lives and health to great danger.
https://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/939147?src=mkm_covid_update_201014_mscpedit_&uac=324891MV&impID=2619937&faf=1

ASK FOR HELP

We ask you to support our parish with prayer to God and donations. You can send your donations:

Check to the address of the church: Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, 6803 US 70, Mebane, NC 27302

2. Online via PayPal, by finding the "Donate" link in the upper right corner of our website: holytrinitymission.com

3. Through AmazonSmile when shopping on Amazon. To do this, on the website smile.amazon.com, choose Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, Mebane NC for charity support. A small percentage of the purchase payment will be automatically transferred (donated) to the account of our parish.