

## **New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia**

On the Sunday closest to January 25, the Church commemorates the Synaxis of the Holy New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia, remembering all those Orthodox Christians who suffered for Christ at the hands of the godless Soviets during the years of persecution. These include the royal Passion Bearers Tsar Nicholas II and his family, and the Grand Duchess Elizabeth. Countless thousands of martyrs, both clergy and laity also suffered, some of whose names are known, as well as millions of simple believers whose names have been lost to history.

It is estimated that the number of the New Martyrs of Russia, who were glorified by the Russian Orthodox Church at the Jubilee Council of 2000, far exceeds that of all the martyrs who died for Christ during the first three centuries of Christianity. The Russian Church lost millions of its sons and daughters, not only at the hands of external enemies, but also those of their own country. Among those who were murdered and tortured in the years of persecution were countless Orthodox: laity, monks, priests, and bishops, whose only “crime” was their unshakable faith in God.

In the long history of the world, never have so many new heavenly intercessors been glorified by the Church in such a way (more than one thousand New Martyrs were numbered among the saints). Among those who suffered for their faith were some who labored in America before the Russian Revolution: St. Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia (April 7); St. Alexander Hotovitzky (Dec. 4); St. John Kochurov (Oct. 31).

*“Let us Attend! ”*



*“They will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for my name’s sake ...”*

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Olyphant, Pennsylvania

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19 January 2025

**31<sup>st</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

**New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia**

Bulletin, Sunday, 26 January 2025

**31st SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 6. New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia.** Ven. Xenophon, his wife, Mary, and their two sons, Arcadius and John, of Constantinople (5th–6th c.). Translation of the Relics of Ven. Theodore, Abbot of Studion (845). St. Xenophon of Robeika (1262). Martyrs Ananias—Presbyter, Peter, and seven soldiers, in Phœnicia (284–305). St. Simeon “the Ancient” of Mt. Sinai (ca. 390). St. Joseph, Bishop of Thessalonica, brother of St. Theodore of Studion (830). Rt. Blv. David (Dató) III, King of Iberia and Abkhazia (Georgia—1125).

**Epistle:** 1 Timothy 1:15–17 (Sunday); Romans 8:28–39 (New Martyrs) **Gospel:** Matthew 15:21–28 (Sunday); Luke 21:8–19 (New Martyrs)

*Our souls and minds are strengthened and fortified by the regular reading of the Holy Scriptures. Daily readings can be found on the parish’s wall calendar, or online by visiting the OCA’s daily reading page <https://www.oca.org/readings>.*

**Weekly Schedule:**

– **Saturday, 1 February 2025: 5:00–5:45PM Fr. Paul available for Confession; 6:00PM Great Vespers with Lytia for the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple.**

– **Sunday, 2 February 2025. 32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday After Pentecost. Meeting of the Lord in the Temple. 9:30AM Divine Liturgy, followed by Coffee Hour Agape Fellowship.**

~ A warm welcome to all those who are visiting with us today. Please join us downstairs and join us for Agape Coffee Hour fellowship. All are welcome.

~ Fr. Paul is continuing to bless homes. Please look forward to a call from Father requesting a time to bless your home.

~ A thank you to all those who offered their prayers this week for the Annual Diocesan Assembly. The Assembly went well, with news shared about the strides the Diocese is making with its programs and life. Archbishop Mark especially noted the success of youth programming in our Diocesan with the success of summer camp and teen retreats held throughout the year. If anyone has interest in Diocesan Youth activities in terms of either participation or volunteering, please see Fr. Paul.

~ This Wednesday Fr. Paul will travel to Holy Apostles Parish in Mechanicsburg to take part in the celebration of Fr. Timothy Hojnicky’s 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ordination to the Holy Priesthood. Having served here at All Saints during the early months of his Priesthood and his mother’s connection as a daughter of our parish, we offer our prayers that the Lord continue bless Fr. Timothy in his ministry and grant him many blessed years.