

## Russian Orthodox Church of the Resurrection of Christ

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### Schedule for the Week of June 14 - 20, 2009

Sunday Jun 14	Sunday of All Saints Всех Святых
Monday Jun 15	St. Peter & Paul Fast Begins Начало Петрова Поста
Saturday Jun 20	5:30 PM Vigil
Sunday Jun 21	All Saints of Russia Всех Русских Святых 8:30 AM Confessions, Nocturns 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy / Литургия

### Примем Новое Решение

Святые – это люди, которые ответили любовью на любовь, люди, которые поняли, что если кто-то умирает за них, то единственный ответ благодарности – это стать такими, чтобы смерть его не была бы напрасной. Взять на себя крест означает именно это: отвернуться от всего, что убивает и распинает Христа, от всего, что окружало и окружает Христа ненавистью и непониманием. И нам это сделать легче, чем тем, которые жили в Его время, потому что в те дни они могли в Нем ошибиться, но в наши дни, две тысячи лет спустя, когда мы читаем Евангелие и встает в этом рассказе вся мера роста Христова и Его личность, когда у нас есть миллионы свидетелей, которые говорят нам, что Он подлинно отдал Свою жизнь за нас, и что единственное, чем мы можем отозваться, это отдать жизнь друг за друга ради Него – как можно нам не отозваться?!

Поэтому в этот сегодняшний день примем новое решение: внимать, как они, всем сердцем, всем умом, всей волей, всем существом, чтобы видеть, что случается, чтобы слышать, что Он говорит, - и ответить благодарностью и решимостью. (*Мит. Антоний Сурожский*)

### HOMILY FOR THE SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS

Last Sunday we celebrated the Descent of the Holy Spirit and the establishment of Christ's Church on earth, while today we celebrate the fruits of this grace-filled Church: today is the Sunday of All Saints, who provide us with an extra-ordinary example of how to live on earth correctly, in order to attain the Kingdom of Heaven. Let us look, dear brethren, at how these saints lived and how they reached paradise.

All the saints who are commemorated today followed the way of Christ, and all of them -- in their own time and in their own circumstances of life -- fulfilled God's commandment of love for God and one's brethren. And often their times were quite difficult, sometimes even more difficult than ours, and often the circumstances of their lives were spiritually more dangerous and physically worse than ours. And yet they went on, they struggled, -- and so they reached the Kingdom of Heaven, where they are now triumphant.

Look at the walls of the church and you will see them: martyrs, confessors, righteous men, fools for Christ, the educated, the simple, the rich, the poor, prelates, monks, laymen. Look at how many stars are shining on the Lord's spiritual firmament. This is the heavenly Church. It is universal, and it is constantly being reinforced from the earthly Church, where all of us are members, dear brethren. There is a place for everyone there. This is what today's reading from the Epistle teaches us: "Wherefore, seeing such a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us lay aside every weight and the sin that besets us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the Author of our faith."

Just think, dear brethren: all these saints were people like ourselves. And all of them were different people, just as we are different. And their paths were different. But they all had three characteristics in common. These characteristics are defined for us in today's Gospel. They are requisite

## День Всех Святых

for everyone, which means for us too, and it is impossible to bypass them. They are as follows: “Whosoever, therefore, shall confess Me before men, him will I confess also before My Father than is in heaven.” This is the first characteristic. Do you realize, dear brethren, how important it is for us, modern people? It is as though the whole world around us is asking us, pressuring us: “Are you a Christian, or are you one of us, of the world?” And we cannot leave this question without an answer. Thus with our words, our actions, our thoughts and our feelings we must reply loudly and firmly: “Yes, I am a Christian!”

And here is the second characteristic: “Whosoever loves his father or mother more than Me, is not worthy of Me.” Even now the Lord demands this absolute love from us. To love Him above everyone and above everything. And when we acquire such love for Him, only then will we be able to truly love our friends, and our neighbors, and even our enemies.

And, finally, the third characteristic: “Whosoever does not take his cross and does not follow Me, is not worthy of Me.” This is easy to understand: every person has sorrows and tribulations in his life. And they are very individual, each person having his own, and they make up each person's own cross to bear. It is very difficult, very hard, but such is our life and such is God's will concerning us.

Let us thank God even for this cross of ours. We cannot attain salvation without it. That is the reason the Lord gives it to us. The good Lord wants all of us to be saved, and to be joined together in one eternal triumph with all the saints whom we glorify today.

*(Adapted from “The One Thing Needful” by Archbishop Andrew of Novo-Diveevo)*

«Подвижным» праздником Всех Святых, совершаемым в первое воскресенье по Пятидесятнице, оканчивается Цветная Триодь. Событие Пятидесятницы кладет основание новой жизни во Христе Духом Святым, в единстве любви церковной. Прославление святых – это прославление действующего в них Святого Духа. Дух Святой – Дух сыноположения (литургия св. Василия Великого), и Он устроит «детей Божиих» (Рим. 8,16) в «жилище Божие» (Еф.2,22). Нынешним торжеством Святая Церковь благодарно отвечает на Пятидесятницу, принося Богу, «яко начатки естества Насадителю твари» (Кондак праздника), «всех святых, иже прежде и послежде, явленных и неявленных, во елицех Дух Святой вселивыйся, освяти» (синаксарий Недели всех святых).

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Let thy mind fast from vain thoughts; let thy memory fast from remembering evil; let thy will fast from evil desire; let thine eyes fast from bad sights: *turn away thine eyes that thou mayest not see vanity*; let thine ears fast from vile songs and slanderous whispers; let thy tongue fast from slander, condemnation, blasphemy, falsehood, deception, foul language and every idle and rotten word; let thy hands fast from killing and from stealing another's goods; let thy legs fast from going to evil deeds: Turn away from evil, and do good. *(Saint Tikhon of Zadonsk )*