

## The Seven Holy Maccabean Martyrs

The seven holy Maccabee martyrs Abim, Antonius, Gurias, Eleazar, Eusebonus, Alimus and Marcellus, their mother Solomonia and their teacher Eleazar suffered in the year 166 before Christ under the impious Syrian king Antiochus IV Epiphanes. This foolish ruler loved pagan and Hellenistic customs, and held Jewish customs in contempt. He did everything possible to turn people from the Law of Moses and from their covenant with God. He desecrated the Temple of the Lord, placed a statue of the pagan god Zeus there, and forced the Jews to worship it. Many people abandoned the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, but there were also those who continued to believe that the Savior would come.

A ninety-year-old elder, the scribe and teacher Eleazar, was brought to trial for his faithfulness to the Mosaic Law. He suffered tortures and died at Jerusalem.

The disciples of Saint Eleazar, the seven Maccabee brothers and their mother Solomonia, also displayed great courage. They were brought to trial in Antioch by King Antiochus Epiphanes. They fearlessly acknowledged themselves as followers of the True God, and refused to eat pig's flesh, which was forbidden by the Law.

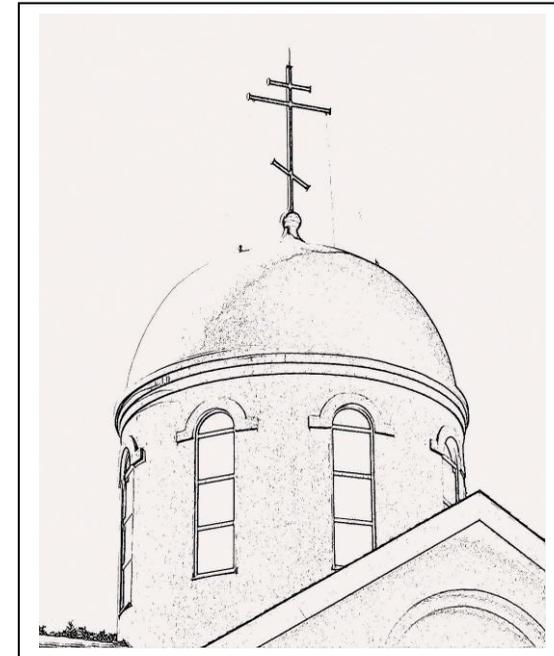
The eldest brother acted as spokesmen for the rest, saying that they preferred to die rather than break the Law. He was subjected to fierce tortures in sight of his brothers and their mother. His tongue was cut out, he was scalped, and his hands and feet were cut off. Then a cauldron and a large frying pan were heated, and the first brother was thrown into the frying pan, and he died.

The next five brothers were tortured one after the other. The seventh and youngest brother was the last one left alive. Antiochus suggested to Saint Solomonia to persuade the boy to obey him, so that her last son at least would be spared. Instead, the brave mother told him to imitate the courage of his brothers.

The child upbraided the king and was tortured even more cruelly than his brothers had been. After all her seven children had died, Saint Solomonia, stood over their bodies, raised up her hands in prayer to God and died.

The martyric death of the Maccabee brothers inspired Judas Maccabeus, and he led a revolt against Antiochus Epiphanes. With God's help, he gained the victory, and then purified the Temple at Jerusalem. He also threw down the altars which the pagans had set up in the streets. All these events are related in the Second Book of Maccabees (Ch. 8-10).

WEEKLY



BULLETIN

*Today is the beginning of our salvation, the revelation of the eternal mystery. The Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin as Gabriel announces the coming of Grace. Together with him let us cry to the Theotokos: Rejoice O Full of Grace, the Lord is with you!*

*Troparion of the Annunciation to the Theotokos*

## ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION

*A Parish of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey of the Orthodox Church in America*

360 Van Zile Road, Brick, New Jersey 08724

Phone: (732) 458-9032      Email: [orthodoxbrick@gmail.com](mailto:orthodoxbrick@gmail.com)

Fax: (732) 295-0007      Website: [www.orthodoxbrick.org](http://www.orthodoxbrick.org)

Very Rev. Fr. Gary Joseph Breton, *Rector*

Very Rev. Fr. Sergius Kuharsky, *Retired Attached Priest*

Very Rev. Fr. Paul Kucynda, *Retired Attached Priest*

Rev. Fr. Alexander Smida, *Attached Priest*

Rev. Fr. Michael Pejovic, *Attached Priest*

Matthew Petrides, *Senior Warden*

Reader Matthew Hascha, *Choir Director*

August 1, 2021

**SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**Procession of the Honorable Wood of the**  
**Lifegiving Cross of the Lord**

*Tone 5. Holy Seven Maccabean Martyrs: Abimus, Antoninus, Gurias, Eleazar, Eusabonus, Alimus, and Marcellus, their mother Solomonia, and their teacher, Eleazar (166 B.C.). The Martyrs of Perge in Pamphylia: Leontius, Attius, Alexander, Cindeus, Minsitheus (Mnesitheus), Cyriacus, Mineon (Menæus), Catanus, and Euclous (3rd c.). "Foreteller" Icon of the Mother of God.*

**Today's Readings:**

*Epistle:* Romans 12:6-14 and Hebrews 2:11-18

*Gospel:* Matthew 9:1-8 and John 5:1-4

**Upcoming Service Schedule:**

Thursday – 6:00pm Great Vespers (*Transfiguration*)

Friday – 9:00am Divine Liturgy (*Transfiguration*)

Today – 9:00am Divine Liturgy

Saturday – 6:00pm Great Vespers

Sunday – 9:00am Divine Liturgy



*Procession of the*  
*Most-holy Cross*

**Please pray for vocations to the Holy Priesthood!**

Please pray for all our Diocesan youth, staff, and volunteers, who are attending camp at St. Andrew's Camp this year.

**Special Prayers**

We pray for all our parish family members, but we pray especially for those who are ill and afflicted. Among them are **Zoran Pejovic, Betty James, Manya Shark, Deryl Tczap, Rdr. John Economou, Margaret Makara, Ann Marie and Dennis Gahr, and Dorothy Studier.**

For those who have joined us in-person today for worship, we are happy you have done so. We hope that you will join us for coffee hour after the service. Please note that **reception of the Holy Eucharist** is only for baptized members of the Orthodox Church who have prepared with prayer, fasting, and recent confession. We encouraged you to receive the blessed bread that is **offered at the end of the service and which may also be offered to you by one of your neighbors during Communion.**

Annunciations

**TODAY – Team #1** continues our new Coffee Hour ministry effort. Everyone is invited to participate after the veneration of the Cross. Today's Coffee Hour is held in honor of **Richard and Gail Hascha**, who have relocated away from the parish.

**TODAY** begins the **Dormition Fast**. In preparation for the Feast of the Dormition of the Most-holy Theotokos, the Church directs us to fast from meat and dairy products and to increase our prayer and almsgiving. The Fast ends with the **Feast of the Dormition on August 15**.

**TODAY – Parish Calendars** for the month of **August** are now available in print and electronic formats.

**THIS TUESDAY – The Parish Council** will meet in the Parish Hall at 7:00pm.

**THIS THURSDAY –** We will begin the celebration of the Feast of the **Transfiguration of Our Lord** with **Great Vespers** at 6:00pm. This is a Great Feast of the Church, so we should do our best to participate in the festal services.

**THIS FRIDAY –** Festal **Divine Liturgy** will be served a 9:00am for the Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord. **Fish, wine, and oil** are allowed on this festal day that occurs in the midst of the Fast.

**NEXT SUNDAY – Team #2** will oversee the Coffee Hour, which will consist of Lenten foods in observance of the Dormition Fast.

**Congratulations** to Reader **Andrew and Sarah Bair** on the birth of their son, **Nicholas Andrew** this past Tuesday. May God grant them Many Years!

**Grocery Gift Cards** are available for sale. Please see **Cathy Berger or Olga Pasick** at Coffee Hour to make purchases.

**Stewardship Donations** may be brought to the church or mailed to the church at 360 Van Zile Road, Brick, NJ 08724. On-line donations are possible by visiting our website for a link. **Many thanks** for continuing to support your parish prayerfully and financially.

Please keep **Father Michael and Matushka Mihaela Pejovic** in your prayers as they travel to Serbia and Romania.

***MANY YEARS***

**Birthdays this week:**

*Wednesday* – Louis Christos

*Wednesday* – Michael Getmanov

*Wednesday* – Molly DeBias

*Keep up on OCA news by visiting [www.oca.org](http://www.oca.org), diocesan news by visiting [www.nynjoca.org](http://www.nynjoca.org), and parish news by visiting [www.occa-brick.org](http://www.occa-brick.org).*