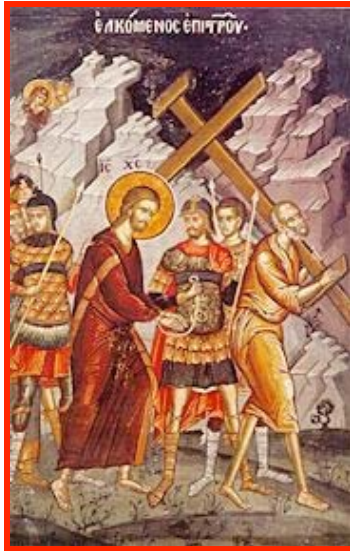


Saints Cyril & Methodius Bulgarian Orthodox Mission

www.bocdc.org

McLean, VA



Sunday of the Cross
Third Sunday of Great Lent

Sunday, March 30, 2008

Orthodox Church in America
Diocese of Washington and New York
www.oca.org

V.Rev. Timothy Perry, Acting Rector
Mr. Mat Mathews, President
Ms. Nadya Choparinoff, Vice-President



Zographos Bulgarian Orthodox Monastery

Sveta Gora, Athos

Left: Cathedral of St. George

Right: View from outside

Sveta Gora - Athos, is the biggest center of the Orthodox monks, which has preserved the hermit tradition up to this day.

Documents have proved that as early as 10 c. the Zograph Monastery, whose patron was St. George, was member of the family of the Athos monasteries. According to legends it was founded in the late 9 c. or the early 10 c. by three brothers Bulgarians by birth - Moysey (Moses), Aaron and Ivan Selima from the town of Ohrid. According to legends and the names of mentioned donors, its first donor was the Byzantine Emperor Leo VI Wise, i.e. the Monastery was founded after Christianity had been adopted in Bulgaria (865) and most probably in the late 9 c. It was named Zograph (icon-painter) Monastery, because a legend said that an icon with the image of St. George had disappeared from Syria and St. George had painted himself on a board here in a miraculous way. The legend alludes to the icon of St. George from Fanuil, which is found in the Monastery cathedral and considered miracle-working. It is one of the oldest icons of the Zograph Monastery and probably goes back to 13-14 c. Another old and miracle-working icon with the image of the same saint, which according to legends had come here from Arabia, was called the icon from Arabia. It is one of the old relics of the Monastery church and is possessed of the stylistic features of the 12-13 c. art. During the 10 centuries of its existence the Zograph Monastery had a complicated experience. A great number of celebrated personalities and donors linked their life with it. In the first half of 13 c. tsar Ivan Assen II (1217-1241) became a donor of the Monastery and contributed to its renovation. In 1275 pirates raided the Monastery and set it on fire. Twenty-six monks-icon painters along with the abbot were burned up in the Monastery tower. That was why they were proclaimed martyrs of the Christian faith.

Towards the end of 18 c. the buildings of the Monastery were reconstructed owing to the funds granted by Emperor Andronicus Paleologos. Later, on in 16 c. donors of the Monastery were the Bulgarian tsars Ivan Alexander, Ivan Shishman etc. Many Bulgarian men of letters and clergymen linked their names with Athos and the Zograph Monastery - Joan Kukuzel, patriarchs Joachim, Theodosius and Eutimius of Turnovo (Ephtimi Turnovski) etc.

The pilgrimage was one of the ways for the monks to get in touch with the developing settlements in Bulgaria to preserve their faith, language and writing. Bulgarian pilgrims presented gifts not only to the Zograph Monastery, but also to the Hilendar Monastery, The Great Lavra of St. Athanasius, to the Kareya, liver, Dionisus Monasteries, etc. The greater part of the buildings in the neighboring Hilendar Monastery, dated 18-19 c., in which many Bulgarian monks were living at that time, were built thanks to the funds granted by some people from Bansko, Koprivshitsa, Stara Zagora, Vidin, etc. Painter Pimen Zographski, the original Bulgarian historians Spiridon and Paissi Hilendarski, the latter being the author of the "Slavonic-Bulgarian History", developed and showed their worth on Athos.

In the Monastery and around it there are about half a score chapels decorated with carved wood iconostasis, mural paintings and carvings. This is the chapel of John the Baptist, decorated in 1768 with the help of Hadji Vassili from Lovech, who had granted the appropriate funds, St. Demetrius and Transfiguration chapels, dating back to the same year, Cyril and Methodius chapel and the Twenty Six Martyr-Icon-painters chapel, St. Cosmas Zographski chapel and the church chapels at St. George school and at the Transfiguration (Preobrazhenie Gospodne) church and the Zograph Konak (administrative building) in Kareya, dated 19 c., St. Nicholas church at the port (Arsanatal, dated 15-16 c., etc. The mural paintings and iconostasis in the Assumption church and the principal Monastery church are the biggest in size and make the most striking effect. Along with the recognized Scripture subjects many history pictures and donor portraits are included here. In the churches and the Museum Collection of the Zograph Monastery there are a number of interesting icons, dating back to 19 c., which are painted by different icon-painters and belong to various school and trends.

In the Middle Ages and especially during the Bulgarian National Revival many Bulgarian icon-painters and woodcarvers left remarkable works in the Zograph Monastery on Athos. In 1862 the famous Bulgarian iconpainter Zahari Zograph worked in the narthex of the principal church of The Groat Lavra of St. Athanasius. A year later he painted also the icons for the iconostasis in the Transfiguration church at the Zograph Konak in Kareya.

Saints Commemorated Today

TODAY IS THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT — Tone 3. Veneration of the Cross. Ven. John Climacus of Sinai (6th c). St. Sophrony, Bishop of Irkutskk (1771). Prophet Joad (1 Kings 13:11 10th c B.C.). Apostles Sosthenes, Apollos, Cephas, Caesar, and Epaphroditus, of the Seventy (1st c.). St. Eubula, mother of St. Panteleimon (ca. 303). Ven. John the Silent of St. Sabbas' Monastery (6th c). St. Zosimas, Bishop of Syracuse (ca. 662).

Those Who Are In Need of Prayer

Jane, Stefan, Nancy, Timothy, Catherine, Demetrius, Hannah, Albana, John, Carmeta, Presbyteras Miriam, Barbara, Artemis, Evelyn, Barbara, Miriam, & Marie, Priests Photius, Joseph, Anthony, Joseph, and John.

† **May Their Memory Be Eternal** †

Christo, Radka, Mary, Stephen, Anna, Caroline, Christophor, Dale, Carmel, Thomas, Vasili, Mary Ellen, George, Mary, Stephen, John, Rada, Julia, Priests Peter, Leo, Homer, Ishmael, Elary, Michael, & Presbyteras Elizabeth, Platonida, Stephanida, Sophronia, & Mary.

Next Service (Services begin at 2:00)

Sunday, April 13: St. Mary of Egypt

Sunday, April 27: Pascha / Easter

Parishioners are encouraged to attend Lenten Services at any of the many local parishes – especially Holy Week services preceding Easter.

Easter / Pascha Service

Our service will be hosted by the same church we have used in previous years: Christ Lutheran Church, 8011 Old Georgetown Rd, Bethesda .

The service will begin at 11:30 PM on Saturday, April 26 and will consist, as traditionally served in Orthodox Churches, of Nocturns, Easter Matins, and the Easter Divine Liturgy.

A potluck community meal will follow in the hall downstairs.

Parish Council Meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting will take place on Thursday, April 10 between 7 and 9 PM. The meeting will take place at St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church in McLean, VA.

Sts. Cyril & Methodius Bulgarian Orthodox Mission

Bulletins prepared by Fr. Timothy.

For more information please contact:

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