

SAINT MARKELLA

There is a heroic grandeur about the Early Christian Church. The believers in Christ were filled with the Holy Spirit; complete with utter dedication. This is the case with the pious St. Markella, who is featured on today's bulletin.

She was born of a distinguished family. Many were the suitors who sought her in marriage, recognizing in her not only beauty of body but beauty of spirit. She did marry early in life, but became a widow after seven months of marriage. Again, there were many who sought her hand. Instead she resolved to imitate the lives of the great ascetics of the East. Yes, the fame of the faithful Christians who lived in the desert areas near the Holy Land had spread to Rome and were a profound influence on the young widow Markella in the fourth century.

When the blessed Jerome came to Rome, Markella and her mother and sister placed themselves at the head of a group of Christian women who took Jerome as their spiritual guide and teacher. Markella astonished Jerome by her knowledge of the Sacred Scriptures. For many years she was the model Christian widow of Rome, guiding the pious group and leading them in virtue. Then for thirty years, she led a monastic community.

When the Goths plundered Rome in the year 410, Markella suffered greatly at their hands. She was fearful for her spiritual child, Principia, and pleaded with the soldiers to spare her. Markella did not survive the troubles of the invasion very long and died peacefully in the arms of her pupil.

The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin Vestal, Cliffwood, New Jersey Litho in U.S.A.



Welcome our Visitors! We invite you to venerate the cross at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. However, only Orthodox Christians who are in good standing and who have prepared by prayer, fasting, and Confession may receive Holy Communion.

A Gift of Blessing

Visit the Church Gift Shop.

See the Beautiful Icons, Crosses & Home Censers

2709 Washington St. Vicksburg, MS 39180

Parish Office: 601-636-2483

Fr. Gabriel's cell: 713-357-8871

Email: stgeorge2709@gmail.com

web page: www.stgeorgevicksburg.org

Church Calendar: Check the Link. <http://www.stgeorgevicksburg.org/service.html>

SAINT GEORGE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The Very Rev. Father Gabriel Karam, Pastor
Saturday Great Vespers 6:00 p.m. - Sunday Orthros 9:15 a.m.
Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m. - Confessions: By Appointment
DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES SUNDAY JULY 26, 2026

TONE 7/ EOTHINON 8

THE HOLY RIGHTEOUS MARTYR PARASKEVA OF ROME

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE SEVEN

Thou didst shatter death by Thy Cross, Thou didst open paradise to the thief; Thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment-bearing women into joy. And didst bid Thine Apostles proclaim a warning, that Thou hast risen O Christ, granting to the world the Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION FOR ST. PARASKEVA IN TONE ONE

Showing a diligence befitting thy calling, O namesake of preparedness, thou hast gained, as thy dwelling, a faith worthy of thy name, O prize-winning Paraskeva. Hence, thou pourest forth healings and intercedest for our souls.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. GEORGE IN TONE FOUR

As deliver of Captives: And defender of the Poor, Healer of the Infirm, champion of Kings, Victorious Great Martyr George, Intercede with Christ our God for our souls' salvation.

ORDINARY KONTAKION IN TONE TWO

O protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the Creator most constant, O despise not the suppliant voices of those who have sinned; but be thou quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession, and speed thou to make supplication, thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.

We Celebrate Today

On July 26 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the holy Righteous **Martyr of Christ, Paraskeva** of Rome.

Verses

O modest maid, thou didst prepare thyself through contests

As a house all-unsullied for God's inhabitation.

Born in Rome of Christian parents, she was brought up from her earliest youth in the Christian faith and gave herself wholeheartedly to the fulfilling of God's commandments in her life. When her parents died, Paraskeva gave all her goods away to the poor and received the monastic habit. As a nun, she preached the truth of Christ with ever more burning zeal, neither hiding from anyone nor fearing persecution. Paraskeva was brought to trial before the Emperor Antoninus then ordered a white-hot helmet placed on her head. But God saved her miraculously and she escaped and left Rome. She again began to go from city to city to bring the pagans to the true Faith. In two more cities she was brought before princes and judges and tortured for her Lord, performing on these occasions great miracles by the power of God and quickly recovering from her wounds. The pagans ascribed her recovery to the power and mercy of their gods. Paraskeva once said to a prince

who was torturing her: "It is not your gods, O Prince, who heal me, but my Christ, the true God." She was finally beheaded by a Prince Tarasius. She suffered for Christ in the second century and received her heavenly reward.

On this day, we also commemorate the **Hieromartyrs Hermolaus, Hermippus and Hermocrates of Nicomedia**. By the intercessions of Thy saints, O Christ God, have mercy on us. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+Healing & Recovery Bishop Nicholas, Fr. Paul Yerger, Dea. Terry, Kh. Janet Henderson, Joy Logue, Dolores Nossor, Rick Collins, George Michael Nasif, Lynne Abraham, Pam Smith, Irene Tzotzolas, Michael Farris, Athena, Georgia, Andrea Simon, Chuck Abraham, Carla Leese, Rex Whiteaker, Drew Anderton, Robert Taylor.

+Birthdays & Anniversaries, July, Cynthia Freeny (26), Mattie Sue Antwine (27), Alan Evans (28), Mary Claire Lovins, Robert Abraham, Robert Angelo (29).

+August Zachary Dallaire, Angela Angelo, Shelley Nossor (1), Ben & Paula Saw (7), Madison Leigh Ramsey (6), Ross Henley, Elizabeth Abraham (9),

+Keep in your prayers, Our Catechumens, Cole Gary, Who is preparing himself for the Holy Sacrament of Chrismation.

+Back to School Prayer for Teachers, Children and Teens going back for a new school & college year 2025-2026, next Sunday August 2.

+Upcoming, Feast of the Transfiguration on August 6

+Dormition Lent, A strict lent, abstaining from meat, seafood and any dairy product, Will start on Saturday August 1 till Friday the 14. Paraklesis Service on Every week day @ 5:30 pm.

+The Term Paraklesis (Greek: παράκλησις, paraklêsis) literally means "a call to one close besides," and refers to a personal exhortation, encouragement, or supplication. It can convey comfort, urging, or intercessory appeal, often in times of distress, danger, or spiritual need (Acts 15:31; 2 Corinthians 8:16-17) In the Orthodox Church, the Paraklesis is a **service of supplication for the living**, asking God to grant protection, guidance, healing, and wellbeing, often through the intercessions of the Theotokos or saints.

The Church Fathers Teach

The Transfiguration of Christ, particularly according to Saint Gregory Palamas, is at the epicenter of our understanding of the Orthodox Christian faith and life. St. Gregory maintains that we are called, just as was the case with His disciples on Mount Tabor, to see the uncreated light and energies of God. For St. Gregory, we as human beings have this ability to know God in His energies, through obtaining a prayerful, communal and loving relationship with Him. Through the Transfiguration, flooding humankind with His uncreated, radiant and eternal light, He not only reveals Himself to us, but importantly invites us to be transformed by His grace and love. This transformation is, for us, a life process. We, as young Christians, are called to be a reflection of this transfiguring light of Christ, through our life choices, our example and our loving presence in the lives of others

DIVINE LITURGY JULY 26, 2026

****DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM****

SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FATHERS OF FOURTH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

THE EPISTLE

(For St. Paraskeva)

God is wondrous in His saints. Bless God in the congregations.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians. (3:23-4:5)

Brethren, before faith came, we were confined under the Law, kept under restraint until faith should be revealed. So that the Law was our custodian until Christ came, that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a custodian; for in Christ Jesus, you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no better than a slave, though he is the owner of all the estate; but he is under guardians and trustees until the date set by the father. So with us; when we were children, we were slaves to the elemental spirits of the universe. But when the time had fully come, God sent forth His Son, to redeem those who were under the Law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.]

The GOSPEL

(For the Eighth Sunday of Matthew)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (14:14-22)

At that time, when Jesus went ashore, he saw a great throng; and he had compassion on them, and healed their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to Him and said, "This is a lonely place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They said to Him, "We have only five loaves here and two fish." And He said, "Bring them here to Me." Then He ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass; and taking the five loaves and the two fish He looked up to Heaven, and blessed, and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children. Then Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He dismissed the crowds