

HERMITAGE

July 2017

The Newsletter of the Hermitage of the Holy Cross

A Pilgrimage to the Holy Mountain

Through the generosity of a kind benefactor, two hieromonks from the Hermitage of the Holy Cross travelled to Greece and Mount Athos for a pilgrimage in May. They stayed for a week on Mount Athos, traveling by ferry and bus or walking the hiking trails, and



taton Church where the "Axion Estin" icon is located, Koutloumousiou Monastery, and also the Skete of St. Andrew (all of which are in or near Karyes, the capital of Mt. Athos). Of the many relics they were able to venerate in various monasteries, the most memorable

were several large pieces of the True Cross, the belt of the Mother of God, the skulls of St. John Chrysostom and St. Panteleimon, and the incorrupt hands of St. Mary Magdalene, St. Gregory the Theologian and St. Anastasia the Roman.

In addition to the week spent on Mount Athos, the fathers spent a few days in Thessaloniki with Archimandrite Alexander and Monk Daniel, formerly the monastics at the Skete of St. John the Theologian in Hiram, OH, and who currently reside in the Ukraine. In Thessaloniki the fathers venerated the rel-

ics of the Great Martyr Demetrius and St. Gregory Palamas, as well as visiting some of the city's ancient churches. They also drove to Souroti, where the grave of St. Paisios the Athonite is located in the women's monastery of St. John the Theologian. It was a wonderful opportunity to be able to pray at the grave of this great saint of our times. May we all have his blessing!

The Hermitage of the Holy Cross is a Russian Orthodox Men's Monastery under the omophorion of His Eminence Metropolitan Hilarion of Eastern America and New York. The Abbot and Confessor of the monastery is Archimandrite Seraphim.



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visited four monasteries: St. Panteleimon's, Vatopedi, Simonopetra, and Gregoriou. They caught a glimpse of the thriving monastic life on the Holy Mountain and observed the daily rhythm in these large monasteries. Other places they visited include the Panagouda cell where St. Paisios the Athonite lived, the Pro-

New Brotherhood Icon of St. Panteleimon

In conjunction with the publication of the Life & Akathist of our patron saint last year, we commissioned a new icon of St. Panteleimon to be painted by the iconographer whose artwork was featured on the cover of the new booklet. Natalia Popel, the iconographer who resides in Moscow, eagerly accepted the commission and completed the icon over the course of the previous year. The new icon measures about two feet wide and three feet tall. As in the original icon, the central image of St. Panteleimon is surrounded by 16 scenes from the saint's life.

The brotherhood joyful received the new icon during Great Lent, and after adorning the icon with a beautiful gilded frame, installed it in St. Panteleimon's shrine in the monastery church during Bright Week. The serenity and grace of this icon greatly consoles the brotherhood and the pilgrims who come to pray before this holy image. We thank our friends and benefactors who helped bring this icon to our monastery. May St. Panteleimon keep us all under his protection!

Note: Damascene Gallery will soon be producing copies of this icon, which will be available at the monastery and also through our website.



Announcing the Annual Celebration of the Feast of St. Panteleimon at the Hermitage

The Hermitage of the Holy Cross invites you to celebrate the feast of the Holy Great Martyr and Healer Panteleimon with the brotherhood and fellow pilgrims of the monastery. His Grace, Bishop Irenei of Sacramento, CA will preside for the feast. Saint Panteleimon is the patron and protector of the Hermitage, and in recent years his Feast has become a second day of pilgrimage for our friends (after our main Pilgrimage Weekend - see below). A Festal Vigil will be served on Tuesday evening, and on Wednesday morning there will be a water blessing and Hierarchal Divine Liturgy, followed by a procession and Moleben to Saint Panteleimon.

At the Moleben, and for seven days thereafter, we will commemorate names of the sick and suffering (both Orthodox and non-Orthodox) who are in need of St. Panteleimon's aid. We are including a commemoration slip and remittance envelope, with which you may submit names, together with your alms, before the August feast.



Tuesday, August 8th 6:30 p.m. Vigil with Litia & Akathist
Wednesday, August 9th 8:00 a.m. Water Blessing, 9:00 a.m. Hierarchal Divine Liturgy
with Moleben for the Sick & Suffering

HOLY CROSS MONASTERY PILGRIMAGE WEEKEND

September 30th and October 1st, 2017



Please join us for the 2017 Pilgrimage Weekend. His Eminence, Metropolitan Hilarion, First Hierarch of the Russian Church Abroad will preside along with Metropolitan Jonah at the Divine Services. Visiting clergy are invited to concelebrate at the hierarchal services.

After Sunday morning's Divine Liturgy a festive banquet will be held in the spacious hall of the Holy Spirit Orthodox Church. All are welcome to the banquet.

Many come to Pilgrimage Weekend every year from all over the country to enjoy liturgical worship and fellowship. Over the years, friendships have formed amongst fellow pilgrims, thus making Pilgrimage Weekend a reunion for old friends, a spiritually enriching experience for newcomers, and most importantly an occasion to partake of the Holy Mysteries and to strengthen one's faith.

Please see the enclosed "Pilgrim's Guide" for information on how to reach the monastery, details regarding possible accommodations, and other guidelines for visitors.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Saturday, September 30th

- 2:30 p.m. Great Procession from the monastery church to the Outdoor Chapel of the Mother of God of the Sign with the Holy Icons and Relics of the monastery, with Moleben
- 4:30 p.m. Buffet supper for pilgrims
- 6:00 p.m. Vigil with Litia

Sunday, October 1st

- 9:00 a.m. Hours & Hierarchal Liturgy at Outdoor Chapel of the Mother of God of the Sign

Banquet Following at the Hall of the Holy Spirit Orthodox Church, Huntington, West Virginia