

Orthodox Christian Fellowship at Penn State Newsletter

10/29/2020



Featured Saint: Holy Wonderworkers Cosmas and Damian of Asia Minor



Sts. Cosmas and Damian are celebrated on November 1st. They were raised by Saint Theodota in Asia Minor and became physicians. They were blessed by the Holy Spirit with a gift for healing people's souls and bodies through prayer. Believing that "freely have you received, freely give" (Matthew 10:8), they never took payment for their services, causing people in the region to call them "unmercenaries". They are associated with miracles after their deaths as well. When a woman was lead away from home by a man trying to murder her, two men appeared, frightening the man and causing him to fall off a cliff. When the woman asked the men to identify themselves, they said, "We are the servants of Christ, Cosmas and Damian". They disappeared and the woman thanked God for her deliverance in front of an icon of the saints. Holy Unmercenaries Cosmas and Damian, heal our infirmities!

Orthodox churches around the world: Holy Trinity Monastery in the U.S.A



The Holy Trinity Monastery is a beautiful monastery located in the rural area of Jordanville, New York and it was founded in the 1930s. The monastery is known for its publishing work and seminary. Additionally, the monastery has an icon studio, candle factory, museum, bookstore, and even sells its own honey. For more information visit <https://www.jordanville.org/>

Hymn of the Week: O Virgin Pure



O Virgin Pure is among the most recognizable hymns in all of Orthodoxy due to its iconic meter. It is a paraliturgical chant (that is, only sung outside of the liturgy). Additionally, it is a relatively new creation, being written by St. Nectarios of Aegina in the late 1800s.

You can find [Greek](#) and [Russian](#) renditions of the hymn as well. The English text is below:

O Virgin pure, immaculate, O Lady Theotokos,
O rejoice, Bride unwedded!
O fleece bedewed with every grace, O Virgin Queen and Mother,
O rejoice, Bride unwedded!
More radiant than the rays of sun, and higher than the heavens,
O rejoice, Bride unwedded!
O joy of virgin choruses, superior to angels,
O rejoice, Bride unwedded!
O brighter than the firmament, and purer than the sun's light,
O rejoice, Bride unwedded!
More holy than the multitude of all the heavenly armies,
O rejoice, Bride unwedded!

Full text here:

<https://www.musixmatch.com/lyrics/Ncense-2/O-Pure-Virgin>

How to Pray During an Election - Fr. Ted Bobosh

The elections are coming up this week and we should all exercise our right to vote! During all of our services, we pray for our civil authorities regardless of their faith or lack thereof. We are called to pray for our civil authorities as the ruler of the nation, that they will lead us toward peace. Remember that we are not praying that they succeed in accomplishing their political agenda, but rather than they do God's will. We are praying that they will do what is best for those they are called to lead and to allow Christ to work through them as. We cannot look at the speck in our brother's eye before first looking at the branch in our own. It is especially important during this current election that we pray for peace of heart and mind as we make our way to the polls.

To read the full article: <https://orthochristian.com/134902.html>

Featured Prayer: Praying for our Candidates

O Our Father, we come before you recognizing that we desperately need you to intervene in our nation and send revival to our land. We confess that we've rebelled against you and tried to establish ourselves as kings instead of submitting to your authority. Forgive us for trusting in our government and our leaders when we should have been trusting in you alone.

We thank you for allowing us to live in this country where we have the freedom to vote for our leaders. Please help us as a nation to vote according to consciences that are informed by principles of integrity and wisdom. Please bless and protect those of all political parties who are running for office, from the White House to the statehouse to the courthouse. Grant that those seeking office would

do so for the good of others, and not their own prosperity. May they lead with wisdom and integrity. Most importantly, grant that they may know you as their king in order that they may rule as humble servants in this land and for eternity with you, along with all the saints.

In humble submission to your sovereign rule, amen.
