



**St George the Great Martyr
Orthodox Church - Weekly Bulletin**

Sunday, August 26, 2018

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**SUNDAY, AUGUST 26 TONE 4 13th Sunday after Pentecost
Martyrs Adrian and Natalia and 33 companions with them**

Tone 4 Troparion (*Resurrection*)

When the women disciples of the Lord / learned from the angel
the joyous message of thy Resurrection, / they cast away the an-
cestral curse / and elatedly told the apostles: / “Death is over-
thrown! / Christ God is risen, // granting the world great mercy!”

Tone 4 Troparion (*for the Martyrs*)

Thy holy martyrs Adrian and Natalia, O Lord, / through their suffer-
ings have received incorruptible crowns from Thee, / our God. /
For having Thy strength, they laid low their adversaries, / and
shattered the powerless boldness of demons. // Through their in-
tercessions, save our souls!

Tone 4 Kontakion (*Resurrection*)

My Savior and Redeemer / as God rose from the tomb and deliv-
ered the earth-born from their chains. / He has shattered the
gates of hell,
and as Master, // He has risen on the third day!

Tone 4 Kontakion (*Holy Martyrs*)

Martyr of Christ, Adrian, / thou didst keep the words of thy godly
and devoted wife Natalia in thy heart. // With her thou didst ac-
cept every kind of suffering and obtained the crown of victory!

Matthew 21:33-42 (Gospel)

Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit. And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them. Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.' So they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him. Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers?" They said to Him, "He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons." Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes'?"

August 26th Martyrs Adrian and Natalia

The Martyrs Adrian and Natalia were married in their youth for one year prior to their martyrdom, and lived in Nicomedia during the time of the emperor Maximian (305-311). The emperor promised a reward to whomever would inform on Christians to bring them to trial. Then the denunciations began, and twenty-three Christians were captured in a cave near Nicomedia.

They were tortured, urged to worship idols, and then brought before the Praetor, in order to record their names and responses. Adrian, the head of the praetorium, watched as these people suffered with such courage for their faith. Seeing how firmly and fearlessly they confessed Christ, he asked: "What rewards do you expect from your God for your suffering?" The martyrs replied: "Such rewards as we are not able to describe, nor can your mind comprehend." Saint Adrian told the scribes, "Write my name down also, for I am a Christian and I die gladly for Christ God."

The scribes reported this to the emperor, who summoned Saint Adrian and asked: "Really, have you gone mad, that you want to die? Come, cross out your name from the lists and offer sacrifice to the gods, asking their forgiveness."

Saint Adrian answered: "I have not lost my mind, but rather have I found it." Maximian then ordered Adrian to be thrown into prison. His wife, Saint Natalia, knowing that her husband was to suffer for Christ, rejoiced, since she herself was secretly a Christian.

She hastened to the prison and encouraged her husband saying: "You are blessed, my lord, because you have believed in Christ. You have obtained a great treasure. Do not regret anything earthly, neither beauty, nor youth (Adrian was then 28 years of age), nor riches. Everything worldly is dust and ashes. Only faith and good deeds are pleasing to God."

On the pledge of the other martyrs, they released Saint Adrian from prison to tell his wife about the day of his execution. At first Saint Natalia thought that he had renounced Christ and thus had been set free, and she did not want to let him into the house. The saint persuaded his wife that he had not fled from martyrdom, but rather had come to give her the news of the day of his execution.

They tortured Saint Adrian cruelly. The emperor advised the saint to have pity on himself and call on the gods, but the martyr answered: "Let your gods say what blessings they promise me, and then I shall worship them, but if they cannot do this, then why should I worship them?" Saint Natalia did not cease to encourage her husband. She asked him also to pray to God for her, that they would not force her into marriage with a pagan after his death.

The executioner ordered the hands and the legs of the saints to be broken on the anvil. Saint Natalia, fearing that her husband would hesitate on seeing the sufferings of the other martyrs, asked the executioner to begin with him, and permit her to put his hands and legs on the anvil herself.

They wanted to burn the bodies of the saints, but a storm arose and the fire went out. Many of the executioners were even struck by lightning. Saint Natalia took the hand of her husband and kept it at home. Soon an army commander asked the emperor's approval to wed Saint Natalia, who was both young and rich. But she hid herself away in Byzantium. Saint Adrian appeared to her in a dream and said that she would soon be at rest in the Lord. The martyr, worn out by her former sufferings, in fact soon fell asleep in the Lord.

Calendar of Events – Starting today: August 26

Sunday	8/26	9:10am - Hours 9:30am - Divine Liturgy
Monday	8/27	
Tuesday	8/28	
Wednesday	8/29	2:00-5:00pm Office Hours
Thursday	8/30	
Friday	8/31	
Saturday	9/01	Ecclesiastical New Year 6:00pm - Great Vespers, confessions
Sunday	9/02	9:10am - Hours 9:30am - Divine Liturgy 11:00am Trisagion for The Departed

Weekly announcements, looking ahead:

- ◆ Office Hours this Wednesday 2-5pm.
- ◆ Next week the ladies of St. George, the Myrrh Bearers - will have their monthly meeting in the church school room.
- ◆ Due to the fact that there are many people who cannot attend the **carwash** on September 15th, the **date has been move to September 29th.**
- ◆ **We are having a special collection today, for money to purchase supplies for the upcoming carwash.**
- ◆ Our **church school** will resume on **Sunday, September 23rd.** We are looking for a teacher to work with Matushka. Please speak with Father Michael.
- ◆ Thank you for all who contributed prayers, flowers, food, smiles, and life dedication in celebration of Alina Catherine's baptism last week!!

Please keep our brothers and sisters in your prayers during the week.

For good health and healing: Abram, Souraya, Alice, Basil, Jacob, Collette, Christina, Connie, Eddie, Peter, Nikos, Gary, Gary, Georgia, Ruth.

For a new Job: Mario, Jason, Janice, Jamileh.

Special prayers: to the firefighters and those in fire areas. Lord Jesus please give them strength to persevere.