



KYRILL

Archbishop of San Francisco & Western America  
Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia

## DECREE № 14E/2013

to the Monasteries, Parishes and Missions of the Diocese

In accordance with the resolution of the Synod of Bishops of the Russian Church, 26 December 2012, the feast of Righteous Prince Peter and Princess Febronia wonderworkers of Murom will be commemorated on 15 September (n.s.). In Russia the Holy Prince Peter and, his wife, Princess Febronia are officially recognized, by both Church and state, as the intercessors for familial life. Their marriage is regarded as the highest example of an ideal Christian married life.

I.

Father-rectors, upon receipt of this decree, are to familiarize themselves with the lives of Sts. Peter and Febronia, and as to why their intercessions for family life are important in our day and age. Beginning Sunday 1 September (n.s.), and every Sunday following, to announce from the ambo the importance of their upcoming feast-day.

II.

To include, in addition to the regular Sunday Service, the Service to the Righteous Prince Peter and Princess Febronia into the All-Night Vigil on Saturday evening and to the Divine Liturgy (if it is possible).

III.

In addition, to adding the Service to Sts. Peter and Febronia special petitions, sanctioned by the Synod are to be included into the augmented litany at the Divine Liturgy (see attached).

IV.

Following Divine Liturgy, Father-rectors are to serve a brief molebien to Sts. Peter and Febronia (troparion Glory: both now: kontakion and prayer). Preceding the molebien, Father-rectors are to give a brief sermon on the lives of the Sts. Peter and Febronia, and read the message from His Holiness, Patriarch KIRILL, appointed for this day (see attached).

May Christ, through the prayers of the Righteous Prince Peter and Princess Febronia, strengthen and preserve us all!

+ Archbishop Kyrill

26 July / 8 August 2013





**Prayer to the Holy & Right-believing  
Prince Peter & Princess Fevronia  
For Inclusion at Liturgical Services  
and to be  
Read at the Conclusion of the Divine Liturgy  
On the Holy Couple's Day of Commemoration**

O great favorites of God and all-wondrous wonderworkers, right-believing Prince Peter and Princess Fevronia, intercessors for the city of Murom, preservers of honorable marriage and diligent advocates for all of us before the Lord! In the days of your earthly life ye showed forth a model of piety, Christian love and fidelity one to another, and thereby glorified lawful and blessed marriage. Wherefore, we have recourse unto you and pray with mighty zeal: Offer your holy supplications unto the Lord God for us sinners, and ask for us all things of goodly benefit to our souls and bodies: right faith, good hope, unfeigned love, unshakable piety, success in good works\*; and by your supplications grant even more unto those united by the bond of matrimony chastity, love for one another in the bond of peace, oneness of mind of souls and bodies, an unsullied marriage bed, an undisgraced sojourn, long-lived progeny, the favor of children, homes full of goodness, and the imperishable crown of everlasting glory in eternal life. Yea, O holy wonderworkers, disdain not our prayers which are offered unto you with compunction, but be ye our faithful helpers before the Lord, and vouchsafe that through your intercession we may receive eternal salvation and inherit the kingdom of heaven, that we may glorify the ineffable love for mankind of God Who is worshiped in Trinity—the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit—unto the ages of ages. Amen.

*\*If a service of supplication is being offered for those preparing to enter into matrimony, the following phrase of the prayer is recited in the following redaction:*

and by your supplications grant even more unto those who are about to be united in the bond of matrimony chastity, fidelity to one another, mutual love in the bond of peace, oneness of mind of souls and bodies, an undisgraced sojourn, and the imperishable crown of everlasting glory in eternal life.

**Supplementary Petitions for the Augmented Litany  
At the Divine Liturgy**

- Again we pray that Thy people may keep this commandment: What God hath joined together, let no man put asunder; and that the churches of their homes may be granted indestructible might and an abundance of love unfeigned;
- Again we pray for the preservation of the wedded bond of Thy servants in peace and oneness of mind, in piety and purity;
- Again we pray that Thy people may be gladdened by the sight of sons and daughters, that our nation may increase, and that Thy blessing may be an inheritance therein unto generation and generation.



**Epistle of His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia  
on the Establishment of an Additional Feast Day for the  
Holy Righteous Prince Peter and Princess Fevronia,  
Miracle-Workers of Murom**

**Dear in the Lord Eminent Archpastors, Reverend Fathers,  
Dear Brothers and Sisters!**

I express my heartfelt greetings on this feast day of the Holy Prince Peter and Princess Fevronia, Miracle-workers of Murom. This additional feast day was established on 25 December 2012, by the Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church, which decreed that it be celebrated on the Sunday preceding 19 September (6 September old style) in remembrance of the translation of their holy royal relics in 1992. Today we raise up to the Lord and to the Righteous Prince and Princess of Murom our augmented prayers for Orthodox families, for the increase of love, for the strengthening of peace, accord and mutual understanding among spouses, for the granting to them of children, for their well-being and long life.

Prince Peter and Princess Fevronia serve as an example to us of a true Christian family. Fulfilling the commandments of the Gospel, maturing in faith, hope and love, they achieved holiness, piously living in marriage. The spouses preserved loyalty to each other until their final days, enduring, with God's help, all sorts of tribulations, rejecting all temptations. By special mercy of the Lord, they passed into the other world at the very same time and were buried together. Thus the Most-Wise Creator glorified His devoted saints, fulfilling their wish: "For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh. Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder" (Matthew 19:5-6).

Today our families, especially young married couples, besides the usual temptations and material problems they face, are subjected to another, more serious peril: the contemporary world offers them an absolutely different model of behavior, another way of life, different from the one to which Christ calls us and the one followed by the Royal saints of Murom. Entering into matrimony—the lawful union between a man and a woman—is often not considered a necessary norm, though it regularizes relations between the sexes. The only norm for the secular viewpoint, which ignores Divine establishments, is immediate lust, the thirst for novelty, the search for sinful pleasure. The life of such a person, enslaved by instincts, imprisoned by his passions, will prove empty and joyless in the end, lonely and unhappy. True joy, the fullness of being can be acquired only when we live in accordance with the unchanged moral laws established by the Creator, when we strive with all our hearts to be with Christ and to love our neighbours.

May the example of the holy lives of Prince Peter and Princess Fevronia help everyone who is married to observe the "church in [their] house" (Philemon 1:2) in peace, love, piety, chastity and purity. I call upon the archpastors, pastors, other servants of the Church, and also laity to support Orthodox families in every way, especially those with many children.

I prayerfully wish you all the abundant mercies from the Ever-Flowing Wellspring of Grace—the Lord. Praising the Triune God, Who has care for all His people, I address you with the Apostolic call: "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong. Let all your things be done with charity" (1 Corinthians 16:13-14). Amen.

+KIRILL  
Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia

15 September 2013  
Moscow