



CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN OF OCTOBER 22, 2006

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22ND

19TH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

8:40a.m. Hours

9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24TH

THE ICON: "JOY OF ALL WHO SORROW"

9:00a.m. Akathist; Confessions

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26TH

GREAT MARTYR DEMETRIUS

7:00p.m. Compline; Confessions

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28TH

6:00p.m. Vespers; Confessions

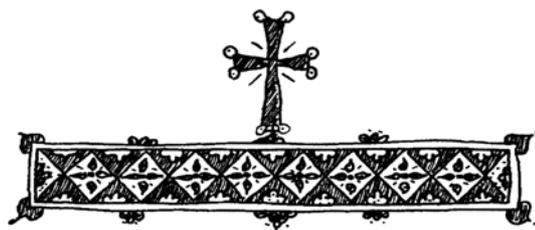
7:00p.m. Harvest Ball

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29TH

20TH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

8:40a.m. Hours

9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour



"Africa's Ancient Christian Heritage"

is the theme of this year's Eastern Churches Conference to be held on Saturday, November 11th, at Saint Michael's Orthodox Church in Philadelphia. For more information, such as registration cost, speakers, directions, or session times, please see the flyer on the bulletin board.



The Sacraments of Holy Confession and Communion

should be received, at the very least, during each of the four fasting seasons (before the feasts of Pascha, Christmas, Dormition, and Ss. Peter & Paul). However, if one has the good desire to receive the Body and Blood of Christ more frequently, such as each Sunday, one should also



more frequently cleanse one's soul through Confession. For spiritually profitable reception of both Sacraments we should approach with: 1) acknowledgment of and heartfelt remorse for the sins we have committed, and 2) firm resolve to change our lifestyle so that we do not fall into the same sins again. For help preparing for Confession, please pick up a copy of the purple "Self-examination" packet in the back of the church. Confessions can be heard following any church service or at any other time by making an appointment with the priest. If you have any questions, please speak with Fr. John.

The Harvest Ball

will take place on this Saturday, October 28th, from 7-11p.m. at the Golden Sands, 10900 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD. Cost per ticket is \$40. Proceeds will benefit the Christ the Savior Orthodox Church Building Fund. For tickets or more information, please call Bill at 410-371-6592.

2007 Orthodox Wall Calendars / Pocket Planners

from Saint Tikhon's Bookstore are now available for order. To reserve a calendar or pocket planner please sign your name to the list in the back of the church. The total costs of the calendars and pocket planners, including shipping, are \$3.00 and \$2.00 respectively.

Traveling Bible Study

During the month of October, a sign-up sheet will be posted in the back of the church with the hope of beginning a *Traveling Bible Study*, to be led by the priest in the homes of interested parishioners. For questions, please see the sign-up sheet in the back of the Church or speak with Fr. John.





ON READING THE HOLY FATHERS by St. Ignatius Brianchaniov

Conversation and association with neighbors has a great influence on man. Conversation and contacts with a learned person impart much knowledge; with a poet - many lofty thoughts and feelings; with a traveler - much information about the countries, morals, and manners of people. It is obvious: conversation and acquaintance with the saints imparts saintliness. With the merciful Thou wilt show Thyself merciful; with an upright man Thou wilt show Thyself upright; with the pure Thou wilt show Thyself pure (Ps. 17:26,27).

From now on, during this brief life on earth, which Scripture did not even call life, but wandering, become acquainted with the saints. You want to belong to their company in heaven; you want to be a partaker of their blessedness? From now on come into contact with them. When you leave the temple of the body, they will bring you unto themselves as their acquaintance, as their friend (Luke 16:9).

There is no closer familiarity, no closer bond, than the bond of oneness of thoughts, oneness of feeling, oneness of goal (I Cor. 1:10).

“conversation and acquaintance with the saints imparts saintliness”

Wherever there is oneness in opinion, unfailingly there is oneness of soul as well, and unfailingly there is one goal and identical success in attainment of the goal.

Make the thoughts and spirit of the Holy Fathers your own by reading their writings. The Holy Fathers attained the goal: salvation. And you will attain this goal in the natural course of events. As one united in thought and soul with the Holy Fathers you will be saved.

Heaven received the Holy Fathers into its blessed bosom. By this it gave witness that it was well-pleased by their thoughts, feelings, and deeds. The Holy Fathers set forth their thoughts, their heart, their mode of action, in their writings. Therefore, what a faithful guide to heaven, as witnessed to by heaven itself, are the writings of the Fathers.

The writings of the Holy Fathers were all set down by the inspiration or under the influence of the

Holy Spirit. There is a wonderful harmony in them, a wonderful anointment! He who is guided by them, without any doubt, is guided by the Holy Spirit.

All the waters of the earth flow into the ocean, and, perhaps, the ocean serves as a source for all the earth's waters. The writings of the Fathers are all united in the Gospel; they are all directed towards teaching us the exact fulfillment of the commandments of our Lord Jesus Christ; the source and end of them all is the Holy Gospel.

The Holy Fathers teach how to approach the Gospel, how to read it, how to understand it properly, what contributes to and what hinders comprehending it. Therefore, at the beginning concern yourself more with reading the Holy Fathers. When they have taught you how to read the Gospel, then, in preference, read the Gospel.

Do not imagine that reading of the Gospel alone is sufficient for you, without reading the Fathers. This is a proud and dangerous thought. It is better to let the Holy Fathers lead you to the Gospel as their beloved child, receiving your preliminary upbringing and education through their writings.

A great many, all rejecting the Holy Fathers in foolishness and conceit and starting the Gospel spontaneously, with blind daring, with impure mind and heart, fell into disastrous errors. The Gospel rejected them; it admits only the humble.



Reading of the Fathers' writings is the parent and king of all virtues. From the reading of the Fathers' writings we learn the true understanding of Holy Scriptures, the true faith, how to live according to the Gospel commandments, and the deep reverence, which we must have for the Gospel commandments - in short, salvation and Christian perfection.

Reading the writings of the Fathers, with the decrease of Spirit-bearing teachers, becomes the principal guide for those wishing to be saved and even to attain to Christian perfection.



continued on page 4...

“Inasmuch as you have done it to these little ones, you have done it to Me.” Matt. 25:40

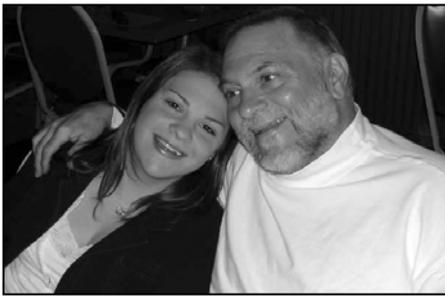
To: Everyone of Good Will

This is Fr. Michael Mihalick. Our dear friend in New Hampshire made our need known & many have responded & we are grateful. However, we learned, that this was a 'jump start', that we need a monthly income.

I am 56, & had to retire early from the active ministry because of an aggressive form of MS.

Right now, for example, neither can I walk or talk very well... there are an entire litany of such things...

My wife has no health insurance & has a host of her own medical problems....she needs health insurance. We will use part of this gift for health insurance & the other part to pay bills.



Fr. Michael with his daughter

I am in a financial pickle & am asking you to be God's hands for us.

I cannot live on my small income & my wife cannot go out to work as I need 24/7 care...i.e. I cannot even eat myself.

To make a long story short, we are looking for 50 or so people to pledge & give \$20 or more a month.

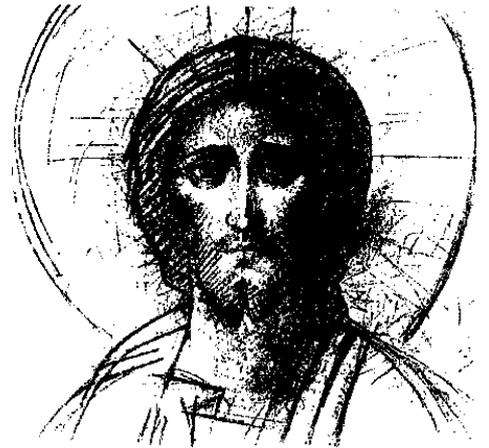
This will make it possible for us to live. Your monthly help will be appreciated.

Thank you & God bless,

Fr. Michael Mihalick



Fr. Michael with family



Fr. Michael Mihalick is a priest in the Orthodox Church in America. Throughout his priestly ministry, he cared for those sick in soul and body. Now, due to an aggressive form of Multiple Sclerosis, he is no longer able to care for even himself or his family.

May God, who sees and rewards every act of kindness and compassion, reward you for your care for His servant, Fr. Michael.



Money can be sent directly to:

Janet Mihalick
323 Nees Avenue
Johnstown, PA 15904

Or it can be routed through:

Christ the Savior Orthodox Church
P.O. Box 179
Bishopville, MD 21813

Earmark checks: *Mihalick Support*

“If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and if one of you says to them, Go in peace, be warmed and filled, but you do not give them those things which are needful to the body, what good is it? Even so, faith without works is dead.” Jam. 2:16-17

On Reading the Holy Fathers continued from page 2...

The books of the Holy Fathers, as one of them expressed it, are like a mirror; looking into them attentively and frequently, the soul can see all its deficiencies. Again, these books are like a rich collection of means of healing; in them the soul can seek out a saving cure for each of its diseases. Saint Epiphanius of Cyprus said, "One look at sacred books rouses one to a pious life."

Reading of the Holy Fathers must be careful, attentive, and constant; our invisible enemy, hating the voice of surety (Proverbs 11:15), is especially hateful when this voice comes from the Holy Fathers. This voice exposes the schemes of our enemy, his slyness; it reveals his webs, his mode of action. Therefore the enemy arms himself against reading of the Fathers with various proud and blasphemous thoughts; he seeks to plunge the struggler for salvation into vain cares, so as to divert him from salutary reading; he attacks him with, despair, boredom, and forgetfulness. From this warfare against the reading of the Holy Fathers, we ought to conclude how salutary a weapon it is for us, being so hated by the enemy. The enemy strives mightily to throw it out of our hands.



"Let each one choose reading of the fathers in accordance with his way of life."

Let each one choose reading of the Fathers for himself in accordance with his way of life. Let the recluse read the Fathers who wrote on hesychasm; the monk living in a community – Fathers writing the directions for monastic communities; the Christian living amid the world – the Holy Fathers who pronounce their teachings in general for all Christendom. Let each one, whatever his calling, draw abundant admonition (advice) from the writings of the Fathers.

Without fail reading must be in accord with your way of life. Otherwise, you will fill yourself with thoughts, which, even though holy, cannot be carried out in actual action, inciting fruitless activity only in your imagination and wishes; acts of piety, which are in accord with your way of life, will slip from your hands. It is not enough that you will become a fruitless day-dreamer; your thoughts, being in constant contradiction to your round of activity, will unfailingly give birth to unceasing confusion in your heart, uncertainty in your behavior, which are burdensome and harmful for yourself and for your neighbor. With improper reading of the Holy Scriptures and Holy Fathers, you can easily wander from the way of salvation into impassable thickets and deep pits, which, indeed, has happened to many.



FROM THE SAYINGS OF THE DESERT FATHERS

Two brethren journeyed to the market to sell their handiwork. In the city they went different ways, and one of them fell into fornication. After a while the other monk met him and said, "Let's go back to our cell, brother." But the first answered, "I'm not going." And the other questioned him, saying "Why not, my brother?" And he said, "When we parted, I fell into fornication." Then the other, wishing to win him back, began to say to him: "When I left you, the same thing happened to me. But let us go and do heavy penance, and God will forgive us."

So they returned and told the old men what had happened to them; and the old men enjoined on them the rules of penance that they were to perform. So the one offered repentance on behalf of the other, just as if he himself had sinned. God, seeing his labor of love, after a few days revealed to one of the old men that, because of the great love of the brother who had not sinned, He had forgiven the brother who had. That is what it means to lay down one's life for one's brother.