

CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN OF JANUARY 7, 2007

Annual Meeting of the Parish

will be on Sunday, January 21st. All parishioners are both welcome and encouraged to attend.

Parish Council Meeting

Sunday, January 14th, following the Divine Liturgy. This special meeting will be extremely brief, with only two items on the agenda in preparation for the Annual Meeting.

Bible Study: the Baptism of Christ

On Sunday, January 14th, from 7:00-8:30pm, a Bible Study will be held at the church to look at the Baptism of the Lord. Why was the Lord baptized? What was the significance of this event? What does it mean for us as Christians today? We will look at these questions and more. All are welcome to attend! Bring a Bible and a friend!



SUNDAY, JANUARY 7TH SYNAXIS OF THE BAPTIST

8:40a.m. Hours
 9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy
 Coffee Hour

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13TH 6:00p.m. Vespers; Confessions

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14TH 31ST SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

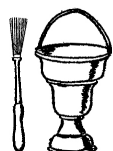
8:40a.m. Hours
 9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy
 Coffee Hour
 Question / Answer
 Brief Council Meeting

A Parish Directory

Please return the forms which are being used to collect information for the parish directory by Sunday, January 21st, at the latest, so that we can include everyone.

House Blessings

It is the custom among many Orthodox Christians to have their homes blessed with the holy water sanctified on Theophany (the feast which commemorates the Baptism of the Lord in the Jordan River). If you would like your home blessed, please put your name on the sign-up sheet in the back of the church. If you have any questions please ask Fr. John.



Fervent Prayers

are sought for the child of God, Isabelle Valentina, who is to undergo surgery on Monday, January 15th, at Shriners Hospital in Philadelphia. Please keep Isabelle in your prayers!

Commemoration Lists

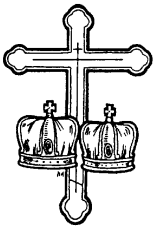
All parishioners are asked to update the list of names, both living and departed, they have submitted for commemoration at the Divine Liturgy. Commemoration sheets have been sent home with the forms for the parishioner directory. Please take a moment to submit your new list, as the previous lists are being replaced. Questions? Please ask Fr. John.



The Tradition of Saint Basil's Coin

dates to the fourth century, when St. Basil the Great, the father of philanthropy, wanted to distribute money to the poor in his diocese. He commissioned some women to bake sweetened bread, in which he placed gold coins. Thus the poor families in cutting the bread to nourish themselves were pleasantly surprised to find the coins. This custom is kept to this day among Orthodox Christians, who on Saint Basil's Day, January 1st, place gold coins inside a loaf of sweetened bread in honor of the Saint's care for the poor. The one who finds the coin in his or her piece is considered commissioned by St. Basil to carry on his work for the poor, and in exchange he will ask the Lord for whatever is needful for the New Year. This year's recipients of Saint Basil's Coin were Gregory and Carol Boris and Melanie Paulick. May Saint Basil inspire and intercede for them!

A PRAYER FOR MARRIED PEOPLE



O Lord Jesus Christ our God, Who has taught us to pray without ceasing for each other, so that thereby we might be made worthy of Thy mercy: look down with compassion on our married life and keep us from all perilous falls and from enemies both visible and invisible. Grant that we may pass the remainder of our days in oneness of mind and purity of heart. Grant us health, strength, and Thy divine wisdom, so that we may be able to fulfill our duties all the days of our lives according to Thy holy will and commandments. Protect and keep us from harm and enable us by Thy grace to bear and conquer those temptations that come upon us. Strengthen us in true faith, unflinching hope, and perfect love, so that together we may order our entire life according to Thy divine ordinances and commandments and thereby be found pleasing in Thy sight.

O Greatly Merciful Lord, hear us who humbly pray to Thee, and send Thy divine blessing on our married life and on all our good deeds, for Thine it is to hear and have mercy on us, O our God, and unto Thee do we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

A PRAYER FOR ONE'S ENEMIES



O Lord Jesus Christ, Who didst command us to love our enemies, praying for and forgiving those who persecute or wrong us; Who Thyself didst give us the perfect example by praying for those who crucified Thee: grant us, we ask Thee, the spirit of Christian reconciliation and meekness, that we may completely forgive every injury and be reconciled with our enemies. Grant us to overcome all wickedness and offences through Christian love and the ever abiding awareness that we are all sinners. We further beseech Thee, O Lord, to grant to our enemies the same peace and forgiveness of sins which we ask for ourselves; and do not allow them or us to leave this life without heartfelt reconciliation. And help us all by Thy grace to repay evil with goodness, so that thereby we might all be found worthy of Thy heavenly kingdom. Amen.

A PRAYER OF PARENTS FOR THEIR CHILDREN

O Lord, God of heaven and earth, Who in Thy wisdom has created man from the dust of the earth, breathing into his face the breath of life and blessing him saying: "Increase and multiply, fill the earth and rule over it;" and Who in Cana of Galilee through Thine Only Son, Jesus Christ, didst bless the union of marriage and thereby the bearing of sons and daughters – with deep humility we pray to Thee: help us by Thy grace to fulfill our duties as parents according to Thy holy will so that our children may grow to full maturity of soul and body according to the full stature of Thy Christ.



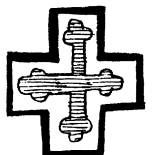
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O Greatly Merciful Lord, Who gives food to the birds of the sky and to all living things on the earth, Who watches over the flower that sprouts amidst the rocky cliffs; nourish, bring up, and protect our children also. Help us, O Lord, to plant in their souls what is good and useful for the Holy Church and our nation, and Thyself inspire our children with what is well pleasing to Thee, that Thy holy name may be exalted through them. Fill them, O Lord, with the enlightened wisdom and holy understanding which come down from Thee. Protect them from all the snares of enemies both visible and invisible. Command Thine angels to be their guides and counselors in all good works.

We pray Thee, O Lord, God of mercies, have mercy on us and on our home, and in Thy great goodness, pour out Thine abundant grace over all our children that together with us they may forever worship and glorify Thee, the only True God: the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

A PRAYER OF CHILDREN FOR THEIR PARENTS

O Holy Lord, King of heaven and earth, look down from heaven with mercy and compassion upon our home. Grant health and everything good to my father and mother, so that they may take care of us and everyone in our household. And help us all to do what is good and pleasing to Thee. Amen.



MARCH FOR LIFE AT NATION'S CAPITAL – JANUARY 22ND

OCA Communications – His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman, and other hierarchs and clergy once again will lead Orthodox Christians for Life at the annual March for Life in Washington, DC on Monday, January 22, 2007.

The annual event mourns the legalization of abortion in 1973 and affirms the sanctity of human life at all stages of development.

All Orthodox Christians are encouraged to attend. Marchers will gather under the large white banner with the icon of Christ and the children and the words "Orthodox Christians for Life" at the Mall near 7th Street at 11:30 a.m., regardless of the weather. Marchers are encouraged to bring appropriate icons, banners, or signs. The program activities start at noon, with the march to the steps of the US Supreme Court commencing at approximately 1:00 p.m. A brief service for the aborted unborn children will be held near the Supreme Court.

"This is an important event that witnesses the Orthodox Church's teaching on the sanctity of human life in the 'public square,'" said Deacon John Protopapas of Orthodox Christians for Life, a pan-Orthodox pro-life organization. "The Orthodox presence in this event has been highly visible since 1987."

Additional information may be obtained by visiting the Orthodox Christians for Life web site at www.oclife.org, by calling 631-271-4408, or by sending an e-mail to oclifehq@aol.com.



'TENT' CHURCH AT GROUND ZERO

By Verena Dobnik, *The Associated Press*

NYC – A church rose up for a day inside a white tent at ground zero.

Hundreds of faithful from the tiny St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, which was destroyed along with the World Trade Center, gathered in a makeshift canvas sanctuary on Wednesday, December 6th, where they marked St. Nicholas Day and the 90th anniversary of their parish. "We have constructed a church for a day," said Peter Drakoulis, a church

board member, before the afternoon service that drew worshippers from Boston, New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.

As part of the ceremony, Archbishop Demetrios, the head of the Greek Orthodox Church in America, read the names of some Greek-Americans who died in the 2001 terror attacks. Among them was John K. Katsimatides, an employee of the Cantor Fitzgerald bond brokerage. "Once a week, my brother used to stop by this church, light a candle and pray," said his sister, Anthoula Katsimatides.

The Sept. 11 attack decimated the landmark church that was once a refuge for everyone from Wall Street traders on their lunch break to Greek sailors who believed St. Nicholas, their patron saint, would keep their ships from sinking. The church, with barely enough seating for 100 people, also drew some of the world's rich and famous, including shipping magnate Aristotle Onassis and "Kojak" actor Telly Savalas.

Parishioners have raised more than \$4 million to rebuild the house of worship at or near its original site, an area just south of the one-time trade center location. The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which owns the 16 acres of the World Trade Center site, has yet to approve a final plan for rebuilding St. Nicholas. "We're just a little church, a small piece of the reconstruction, and we're being patient," said Drakoulis.



FROM "WORDS OF LIFE"

by Archimandrite Sophrony

Our spiritual progress depends first and foremost on our own attitude.

One day, a man who was visiting Mount Athos asked several wise elders the following question: "What is the most important thing in your life?" Each time he was answered like this: "It is divine love; to love God and to love one's neighbor." He said: "I don't have love, either for prayer, or for God, or for other people. What must I do?" And then he decided by himself: "I will act as if I had this love." Thirty years later, the Holy Spirit gave him the grace of love.

Lesson: God gives His grace to all who actively seek Him with patience.

THE SYNAXIS OF THE BAPTIST

Commemorated January 7th

St. John's greatest role during his life was enacted on the day of Theophany, and because of this the Church has, from the earliest times, dedicated the day following that feast to his memory. This day is also connected with an event involving the hand of the Forerunner. The Evangelist Luke desired to take John's body from Sebaste, where the great prophet had been beheaded by Herod, to Antioch, his own birthplace. He succeeded, though, in acquiring and taking only one hand, which was kept in Antioch till the tenth century. It was then moved to Constantinople, whence it disappeared during the Turkish occupation.

St. John is commemorated several times during the year, but his greatest observance is on this day, January 7th. Among the Gospel-figures surrounding the Savior, the person of John the Baptist holds a very special place, by the manner of his birth in this world and his earthly life, by his role of baptizer of men to repentance and his baptism of the Messiah, and, lastly, by the tragic manner of his departure from this world. He was of such moral purity that he indeed deserved the name "angel", as he was named in the Scriptures, rather than being thought of as just a mortal man. St. John differs from all other prophets in that he had the joy of showing forth to the world the One Whom he had foretold.

From the Prologue of Ochrid by St. Nicholas of Zicha



A QUESTION ON BAPTISMAL NAMES

Q. How does one pick a baptismal name when one converts? My daughter, age 12, will be baptized soon, and I will be either baptized or chrismated. Neither of our names "suit."

A. There is no "universal, standard" way by which a name is selected. In some traditions, for example, it is the custom to name a person after the saint commemorated on his or her date of birth. In other cases names are selected based on devotion to a particular saint. And, of course, there are those who select a name exclusively on personal preference.

It is interesting to note, however, that in the Orthodox Church the naming of a person occurs in a special rite celebrated on the eighth day after birth, thereby separating this action from the celebration of Baptism and Chrismation.

In the case of adult conversions, it would seem that the most meaningful way of selecting a "Christian" name would be to choose the name of a saint whose life one may especially wish to emulate or whose life offered special inspiration on the road to conversion.

It is always wise to discuss such matters with your parish priest who can offer personal direction in greater detail.

Fr. John Matusiak



If you do not know your Namesday and would like to find it out, please speak with Fr. John and he will help you.