



CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN OF JANUARY 21, 2007

Annual Meeting of the Parish

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

Update on Isabelle Valentina

Thanks be to God, Isabelle's surgery went well, and she is recovering slowly but surely at Shriner's Hospital for Children in Philadelphia! Isabelle's mom, Jodi, has started a wonderful blog dedicated to "The Munchkin" at <http://isabellevalentina.blogspot.com>. If you wish to send a "Get Well" card you may do so via 23036 Argos Corner Road, Milford, DE, 19963. Thank you all for your prayers and continued intercessions!



SUNDAY, JANUARY 21ST SANCTITY OF LIFE SUNDAY ZACCAEUS SUNDAY

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

MONDAY, JANUARY 22ND 12:00p.m. March For Life in DC

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27TH 6:00p.m. Vespers; Confessions

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28TH PUBLICAN AND PHARISEE SUNDAY

8:40a.m. Hours
9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour
11:30a.m. Baptism of Baby Jacob



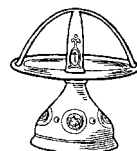
The Baptism of Baby Jacob McFarland

will be held on Sunday, January 28, at 11:30a.m. All are invited to attend this service, as we welcome the newest member of our community into Christ's Holy Church! Following the Baptism, a homemade meal will be offered in the coffee hour room.

The Deadline for Inclusion in the Upcoming Parish Directory is today, Sunday, January 21st. If you still have not returned your forms for the parish directory please speak with Fr. John, and he will do his best to include you. A rough draft of the directory will be placed in the back of the church for the next three weeks. Please be sure to check to make sure your listing is accurate.



is an IOCC (see next page) sponsored event designed to help local food banks and charities. On Super Bowl Sunday, February 4th, each parishioner is asked to bring a can of food (or more) for our local food pantry, and \$1.00 (or more) for our local pregnancy aid center. A collection basket will be placed in the coffee hour room.



The Old Commemoration Sheets are being Replaced

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 may be picked up in the back of the church. Please submit your new lists as soon as possible, since the previous lists are being replaced as of Sunday, January 28th. Questions? Please ask Fr. John.

The March for Life in Washington DC

will be held this year on Monday, January 22, 2007. This 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. For more details, see Fr. John or visit <http://marchforlife.org>.





IOCC – International Orthodox Christian Charities

is a Pan-Orthodox (Greek, Russian, Serbian, etc.) entity that provides charitable care in the USA and abroad, under the authority of SCOBA (The Standing Conference of Orthodox Bishops in America). The OCA is part of this group. The funds are neither held by nor controlled by any one jurisdiction. The reputation, work, and administration of the IOCC is first-class. For more information, please visit: <http://iocc.org>.



ABOUT BEING A PARISH COUNCIL MEMBER

The ministry of serving the local church – the parish – is a blessed and vital work. It is a ministry that requires work, theological understanding, humility, good will and learning.

The By-Laws of a particular parish describe the particular responsibilities of council members.

While the council member serves the local church, the vision and activity of the member goes beyond the parish entity.

The concern for *institutional maintenance* is but one concern. The *means* by which the Parish Church can more effectively *expand* and *extend* its teaching and preaching ministry are an important part of the parish council member's calling.

The Parish Council member is called to understand that he or she is a true *disciple* of Christ and *co-worker* with the Apostles. Those that serve on the Parish Council are responsible for the growth and extension of the Church, for transforming our "membership" through "discipleship," for winning others to the Faith.

Parish Council ministry is much more than just care of the assets of the church, and payment of bills. Council members are called to be involved in stewardship, evangelization, growth, catechetics, missions and charity as direct extension of the mission of Christ.

The Parish Council Member seeks to maintain and enhance the parish's current levels of ministry while defining ways by which the parish might be expanded by embracing the lost, searching, the inactive, the unchurched, the lukewarm, the disenchanted, and the spiritually homeless within the community at large.

Parish Council Members teach by their example of stewardship of time, talent, and treasure. They preach the Gospel whenever they strive for a consensus which serves to bring others into the life of Christ and His Church.



THE PARISH COUNCIL MEMBER:

- ❖ is a servant of Jesus Christ, coworker with the Apostles, and assistant to the Priest.
- ❖ is responsible for more than just the care of the church's assets and payment of bills.
- ❖ is to assist in transforming parish membership into authentic Christian discipleship through evangelization, education, liturgical worship, missions, and charity.
- ❖ is to teach by example thru his or her own stewardship of time, talent, and treasure.
- ❖ is to set aside his or her own will for the parish to assist in discerning and implementing God's will.

They reveal the Good Shepherd's concern for His flock when they seek that which is for the salvation of all, striving to do God's will, not their own – apart from an obvious gift for leadership, Council Members must also possess other gifts – patience, faith, tolerance, humility, kindness, honor, trustworthiness – that are all-too-often overlooked. They must be persons of *vision*, capable of discerning *who and what God wants His Church to be*, for "where there is no vision, the people perish" (Proverbs 29:18).

Above all, everything the Parish Council Member does must reveal love for God and neighbor, thereby leading by his or her own example, for "by this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35).

Adapted from an article by Fr. Thomas Hopko

ATTITUDES THAT ENABLE THE CHURCH TO GROW

"Church growth involves spiritual as well as numerical growth."

"Orthodox Christianity is the faith for all mankind."

"As a steward, I must wisely manage the gifts God has given me and use them for the building up of the Church."

"I am called to work with Christ in reaching others."

"I want my parish to serve as the means by which others are brought to Christ and His Church."

"I must share God's love with others by sharing my faith with them."

"Evangelization is at the heart of the Church's life and experience."

"I am committed to Christ and His Church because I am convinced that he is truly the God and Savior of all."

"The Church is an organism made up of those who base their lives on Christ."

"I must help to make the Church more visible and to invite others to services and activities."

"Church growth begins with me."

... AND ATTITUDES THAT DON'T

"God is not concerned with how many members the Church has. All He cares about is quality."

"Orthodoxy is just for 'our' people, not for everyone."

"Stewardship is just another gimmick to get more money out of the parishioners."

"God does not need me to make the Church grow."

"My parish exists to serve the needs of 'our people' and to preserve our heritage and culture."

"Religion is a private matter which I never discuss because I might offend someone else."

"Evangelization is a non-Orthodox concept."

"Sure I'm committed to the Church. After all, I pay dues!"

"The Church is an organization made up of voting members."

"If outsiders are interested in the Orthodox Church, they will take the initiative to find one."

"Church growth is not my concern."



Food for thought: Does my attitude enable Church growth?



OCA News

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2007 Sanctity of Life message of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman

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My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As we gaze upon the icon of the most Holy Mother of God and our Savior, we are reminded of the truths in which our faith as Orthodox Christians is rooted: the One Who is Life Itself emptied Himself and took on our human nature, that we might become partakers of His divine nature.

The Holy Virgin gave birth in time and space to the eternal God, Who came into the world to free us from sin, death, and corruption. He took on our human nature to transform us, to reconcile us to the Father, and to restore in us all that had been lost through the devil's deceit. All creation rejoiced, as we sing during the Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great, as God "made her body into a throne, and her womb more spacious than the heavens."

The icon of the Mother of God, however, reveals another truth. The Mother of God tenderly embraces her Son, caressing Him as He clings to her. Like all mothers, she protects her child from every harm and danger. She reassures Him with the same maternal love every mother offers her child. Recognizing Him as God's greatest gift to the world, she lovingly and selflessly accepts her duty to defend this precious gift of Life Itself, regardless of the costs or consequences.



The "Kasperovskaya" Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos

Sadly, the culture in which we live seems to have forgotten that life is a gift from God -- the very God Who all too often is not acknowledged as the Source of Life, if acknowledged at all. Abortion on demand, branded as a "human right," remains the law of the land and a blatant denial of the very image of God in which all human life is created. Hastening the death of the elderly or terminally ill under the deceptive guise of "pain management" and "death with dignity" is hardly an isolated event today. Sacrificing human life in the name of freedom or as a means of "protecting" society from "criminal elements," has become an accepted fact. The very thought of life as a sacred gift and the possibility of repentance is shunned outright among the "enlightened," who deem any connection whatsoever between creation and its Creator as "politically incorrect." Our society trumpets its commitment to ensuring "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." Yet we, as people of faith, cannot blind ourselves to the fact that society has not only embraced the "culture of death," but has sadly perfected it -- at the expense of those created in God's image, not the least of which are the millions of innocent unborn children upon whom the death penalty has been proclaimed for no reason other than they exist.

I call upon you to join me in praying that our society, like the prodigal son, will come to its senses and experience a collective repentance. Let us pray that everyone, from civic and religious leaders to common citizens, will bravely denounce the culture of death that surrounds us and embrace life -- in the womb, beyond the tomb, and at every point in between -- as a sacred gift from God that must be protected by all means. If we, as people of faith, truly believe that we possess the fullness of revealed truth, then it is our duty -- rather, our divine calling -- to proclaim, in our words and actions, the truths of which the icon of the Mother of God and Our Savior reveals to us. We cannot wall ourselves off from

the society in which Our Lord has planted us. While we are not "of the world," as Saint Paul reminds us, we are nevertheless "in the world" -- just as Our Lord, in the very midst of the world, proclaimed its salvation.

May He Who is Life Itself open our eyes, our hearts, our minds, and our lives to His presence in this world, and may He strengthen us to proclaim the precious gift of life that finds its life in Him.

With love in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Herman".

+ HERMAN

Archbishop of Washington and New York
Metropolitan of All America and Canada