



# CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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## BULLETIN OF SEPTEMBER 2, 2007



**Prayers for Teachers and Students – September 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
 will be offered for the new academic year at the Divine Liturgy today, Sunday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Teachers and students are asked to come forward near the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy.

**The Parish Council**  
 will meet today, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, following the coffee hour.

**Third Annual Diocesan Assembly**  
 is to be held with His Beatitude Metropolitan Herman on Wednesday, November 5, 2006, at Ss. Peter & Paul Church in South River, New Jersey. A lay delegate is needed to accompany the priest. If you are interested, please see Fr. John.

**Volunteers Sought**  
 If you have interest and/or experience with any of the following ministries, please speak with Father John: choir directing, singing in the choir, reading in the church; greeting visitors, sending out or writing press releases, assisting in church mailings, cleaning the church building, providing transportation to those in need, serving in the altar or as an usher, or any other vocation which would be of benefit to the Church.

**Best wishes**  
 are expressed to Symeon Province who will be spending the academic year in China. May the Lord bless and keep him!

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup>**  
**14<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF PENTECOST**  
 8:40a.m. Hours  
 9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy  
 Coffee Hour  
 Parish Council Meeting

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>**  
 7:00p.m. Vespers

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>**  
**NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS**  
**One of the Twelve Great Feasts**  
 9:00a.m. Akathist  
 6:00p.m. Vespers

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup>**  
**15<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF PENTECOST**  
 8:40a.m. Hours  
 9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy  
 Coffee Hour



When you pray to God in time of temptation do not say, 'Take this or that away from me', but pray like this: 'O Jesus Christ, sovereign Master, help me and do not let me sin against Thee.'

Abba Isaiah the Solitary

### READER SCHEDULE

**Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup>**

Hours: Jen Alexion  
 Epistle: Jen Alexion

**Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup>**

Hours: Oleg Dudkin  
 Epistle: Oleg Dudkin



### THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS – SEPTEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>

This Great Feast commemorates the birth of the Virgin Mary to the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna. With the nativity of the Theotokos we anticipate the coming of the Messiah, the Savior of the world, Who is to be born of a Virgin, and Who is to be called Emmanuel, meaning "God with us".



#### Troparion – tone 4

Your Nativity, O Virgin, has proclaimed joy to the whole universe! The Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, has shone from you, O Theotokos! By annulling the curse, He bestowed a blessing. By destroying death, He has granted us eternal life.

#### Kontakion – tone 4

By your Nativity, O Most-Pure Virgin, Joachim and Anna are freed from barrenness; Adam and Eve, from the corruption of death. And we, your people, freed from the guilt of sin, celebrate and sing to you: The barren woman gives birth to the Theotokos, the Nourisher of our Life.

## "A GOOD DAY"

By Brother David Steindl-Rast – A message from Fr. Michael Mihalick

You think this is just another day in your life. It's not just another day. It's the one day that is given to you today. It's given to you. It's a gift. It's the only gift that you have right now. And the only appropriate response is gratefulness.

If you do nothing else but to cultivate that response, to the great gift that this unique day is, if you learn to respond as if it were the first day in your life, and the very last day, then you will have spent this day very well.

Begin by opening your eyes and be surprised that you have eyes you can open. That incredible array of colors that is constantly offered to us for pure enjoyment. Look at the sky. We so rarely look at the sky. We so rarely note how different it is from moment to moment, with clouds coming and going. We just think of the weather. Even of the weather we don't think of all the many nuances of weather. We just think of good weather and bad weather. This day right now, this unique weather, may be a kind that will never exactly in that form come again. The formation of clouds in the sky will never be the same that it is right now. Open your eyes. Look at that.

Look at the faces of people you may meet. Each one has an incredible story behind their face, a story that you could never fully fathom. Not only their own story, but the story of their ancestors. We all go back so far. And in this place and moment, in this day, all the people you meet, all that life from generations and from so many places all over the world, flows together and meets you here like a live-giving water if you'd only open your heart and drink.

Open your heart to the incredible gifts that civilization gives to us. You flip a switch and there is electric light. You turn a faucet and there is warm water and cool water. And drinkable water, a gift that millions and millions in the world will never experience.

And these are just a few of an enormous number of gifts to which we can open our heart. And so I am wishing that you will open your heart to all these blessings and let them flow through you, that everyone you will meet on the street will be blessed by you. Blessed by your eyes. By your smile. By your touch. Just by your presence.

Let the gratefulness overflow into blessing all around you. Then it will really be a good day.

**If you have not yet viewed the video, you may do so at: <http://orthodoxdelmarva.org/gd.html>**



### SEPTEMBER CONGRATULATIONS!

#### Anniversaries:

- 9/6 Nicholas & Ginny Borodulia
- 9/9 Robert & Evelyn Dodge
- 9/16 Fr. Daniel & Mat. Dunia Hubiak  
Frank & Susan Pappas
- 9/28 Todd & Olga Vernigor-Leasure

#### Birthdays:

- 9/5 Kathy Parrish
- 9/6 Jane Koshutko
- 9/9 Susan Pappas
- 9/11 John Balas
- 9/19 Donna Anderson
- 9/19 Stanley Alexion
- 9/24 Anna Balas
- 9/30 Lydia Zacepilo

#### Namesdays:

- 9/9 *St. Anna the Ancestor of God*  
Anna Yanuk  
Anna Evanusa  
Evelyn Dodge  
Anna Balas
- 9/17 *St. Nadezhda*  
Nada McFarland
- 9/20 *St. Oleg the Prince of Briansk*  
Oleg Dudkin

*If your name is not on this list and it should be, please see Fr. John, as soon as possible!*

### CHRISTIAN GREETINGS

#### A general greeting:

"Glory to Jesus Christ!"

"Glory forever!" (Response)

#### At the veneration of the Cross:

"Christ is in our midst!"

"He is and forever shall be!" (Response)



Archpastoral Message of His Beatitude, Metropolitan HERMAN  
at the Beginning of the Ecclesiastical Year  
September 1, 2007

**To the Venerable Hierarchs, Reverend Clergy, Monastics and Faithful  
of the Orthodox Church in America**

Dearly Beloved in Christ:

In the 16<sup>th</sup> chapter of the Gospel of the St. Matthew, our Lord Jesus Christ confronts His apostles with a question: "Who do you say that I am?" Peter speaks for the twelve, uttering words which we repeat at every Divine Liturgy: "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God" (Mt. 16:15, 16). In spite of this definitive confession of faith, the question of who Jesus of Nazareth was continued to be addressed, often attacked, throughout the ages. In the face of a variety of erroneous teachings about our Lord, the Orthodox Church has echoed the proclamation of the Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council, declaring Jesus Christ to be "...Light of Light, True God of True God, Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man...."



Just as the true Orthodox teaching about Christ has been contested over the centuries, a proper understanding of the Church has also come under the attack of false teachers. This is to be expected. The Church is the Bride and Body of Christ; the life of Christ is essentially linked to the life of the Church. If Christ is to come under attack, so too is His Church. Some would say that the Church is simply one of the various social institutions that make up a society or an ethnic group. The presence of the Church and Her voice are but one of many influences upon a people. This view robs the Church of Her divine origin, and Her singular place in the world. It makes Her precepts negotiable in all aspects, and thus robs Her of Her authority and voice.

Orthodox Christians know the Church to be the living presence of Christ in the world. In the Church, by the grace of the Holy Spirit, our Lord Jesus Christ continues to accomplish that which He declared through the words of the Holy Prophet Isaiah when He began His ministry of salvation: "To preach the gospel to the poor; to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord" (Luke 4:18, 19). How apt that these words are part of the Gospel reading on the Ecclesiastical New Year.

Orthodox Christians also know the Church in another intimate and personal way. The Church is a sacred Family, rooted in the Fatherhood of God. It is not without significance that we call upon God in the Lord's Prayer as "Father" – and not only as "Father" but as "Our Father" and not "my Father." Both Church and family are sacred rather than social institutions, and there is much in both that is similar.

Families must take the time to get together regularly to enjoy interaction and fellowship, to share experiences and concerns, to be lifted up by the company of one another. Without such times of close communication, a family will disintegrate. The Church Family must also gather together for a similar purpose. It is for this cause that we now begin preparations for our Church Family to gather together in 2008 for an All-American Council. At this sacred gathering, under the guidance of the Holy

Spirit, we will look at our Church's current strengths and areas of need. We will share our concerns and hopes. We will plot our future, lifted up in the company of one another, of the Saints, and of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, the Trinity one-in-essence and undivided.

Families share moments of joy and strength, and also those of sorrow and struggle. Family members are there with each other and for each other in all things. A Church Family is no different. We find ourselves in what some have called the most difficult of times for the Orthodox Church in America. There are even those who have gone so far as to suggest that our present struggles herald the end of our Church. Many others, however, me included, see it differently. The demise of our Church would only come if we were to allow cynicism and self-interest to rule the day. On the other hand, through faith in our heavenly Father and with good will towards our brothers and sisters in the Faith, emerging out of our current unrest will be stronger ties that hold us together, along with the possibility for a brighter future. Let us entreat God to grant us strength to flee division and dissension and to embrace unity and harmony.

With heartfelt love I greet you all at the beginning of this New Ecclesiastical Year. May this be a time for renewed dedication to our Lord Jesus Christ and to seeking out the good estate of all of members of our own Church Family – the Orthodox Church in America. May all of our prayerful encounters, our deliberations, our moments of shared joy and struggle, be sources of sanctification, drawing us ever closer to the blessed Kingdom of our Heavenly Father. Let us pray and work together in a spirit of selfless love, that this indeed may be “the acceptable year of the Lord.”

Invoking God's blessings and assuring you of my prayers, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Herman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

+HERMAN

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