



# CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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## BULLETIN OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2007

### Please Remember in Prayer

Bill Yanuk, who is recovering from surgery. If you have a prayer request, please let Fr. John know and he will share it.

### The Parish Council

will meet today, September 30<sup>th</sup>, after the coffee hour.

### A Class on our Faith – Orthodoxy 101

will begin on Monday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, at 7pm at the church. This class, which will meet twice a month, will be for inquirers as well as those who are already Orthodox. Dates and topics for each class will be posted in advance. There will be no required reading (and no exams!). The first two classes will be an overview of Church history; the first and second millennia. For more information, please speak with Fr. John.



### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup>

#### 18<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

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

### MONDAY, OCTOBER 1<sup>ST</sup>

#### PROTECTION OF THE THEOTOKOS

9:00p.m. Akathist

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6<sup>TH</sup>

#### SAINT INNOCENT OF ALASKA

6:00p.m. Vespers

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7<sup>TH</sup>

#### 19<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

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



O LORD JESUS CHRIST SON OF GOD  
 HAVE MERCY ON ME A SINNER

### READER SCHEDULE

#### Sunday, Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>

Hours: Mat. Emily  
 Epistle: Mat. Emily

#### Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup>

Hours: Jen Alexion  
 Epistle: Jen Alexion



### Ongoing Fundraisers

In addition to our Scrip Program, which raises money for our Mission through the sale of gift cards, you can also show your support by purchasing Tastefully Simple Foods, through Ginny Seeley. For more information please contact Ginny at fourseeleys@comcast.net.

### Fr. John will be away

from Monday afternoon through Wednesday afternoon this week to attend a lecture at St. Tikhon's Orthodox Seminary in South Canaan, Pennsylvania. If you need to reach him please call him on his cell phone, 908-872-6589.

### Protection of the Theotokos



There will be an Akathist served to the Mother of God tomorrow morning at 9:00am. The

Virgin Mary is the special protectress of Christians and each year on October 1<sup>st</sup>, the feast dedicated to her protection, we especially honor her and ask her intercession.

### Ushers and Greeters

Those who would like to serve as ushers or greeters are asked to please speak with Fr. John after the Liturgy, during the coffee hour, or by phone or email at another time.



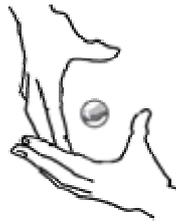
### ON THE WORD "ALLELUIA"

The Hebrew word Halleluya as an expression of praise to God was preserved, untranslated, by the early Christians as a superlative expression of thanksgiving, joy, and triumph. Thus it appears in the ancient Divine Liturgies where the Alleluia, which is sung by the choir, precedes the Gospel.

## A WORD ABOUT RED MARBLES

*From an Anonymous Source*

I was at the corner grocery store buying some early potatoes. I noticed a small boy, delicate of bone and feature, ragged but clean, hungrily apprising a basket of freshly picked green peas. I paid for my potatoes but was also drawn to the display of fresh green peas. I am a pushover for creamed peas and new potatoes. Pondering the peas, I couldn't help overhearing the conversation between Mr. Miller (the store owner) and the ragged boy next to me. "Hello Barry, how are you today?" "H'lo, Mr. Miller. Fine, thank ya. Jus' admirin' them peas. They sure look good."



"They are good, Barry. How's your Ma?" "Fine. Git-tin' stronger alla' time." "Good. Anything I can help you with?" "No, Sir. Jus' admirin' them peas." "Would you like to take some home?" asked Mr. Miller. "No, Sir. Got nuthin' to pay for 'em with." "Well, what have you to trade me for some of those peas?" "All I got's my prize marble here." "Is that right? Let me see it" said Miller. "Here 'tis.. She's a dandy." "I can see that. Hmmm, only thing is this one is blue and I sort of go for red. Do you have a red one like this at home?" the store owner asked. "Not exackley but almost." "Tell you what. Take this sack of peas home and next trip this way let me look at that red marble". Mr. Miller told the boy. "Sure will.. Thanks Mr. Miller."

Mrs. Miller, who had been standing nearby, came over to help me. With a smile she said, "There are

two other boys like him in our community, all three are in very poor circumstances. Jim just loves to bargain with them for peas, apples, tomatoes, or whatever. When they come back with their red marbles, and they always do, he decides he doesn't like red after all and he sends them home with a bag of produce for a green marble or an orange one, when they come on their next trip to the store." I left the store smiling, impressed with this man.

A short time later I moved to Colorado, but I never forgot the story of this man, the boys, and their bartering for marbles. Several years went by, each more rapid than the previous one. Then just recently I had occasion to visit some old friends in that Idaho community and while I was there I learned that Mr. Miller had died. They were having his visitation that evening and knowing my friends wanted to go, I agreed to accompany them. Upon arrival at the mortuary we fell into line to meet the relatives of the deceased and to offer whatever words of comfort we could. Ahead of us in line were three young men. One was in an army uniform and the other two wore nice haircuts, dark suits and white shirts...all very professional looking. They approached Mrs. Miller, standing composed and smiling by her husband's casket. Each of the young men hugged her, kissed her on the cheek, spoke briefly with her and moved on to the casket.

*Continued on page 4...*



### ASK FATHER: 3 QUESTIONS / 3 ANSWERS

#### Q. Why should I give to the Church?

A. This is a very important question, and primarily for two reasons: 1) offering our time, talent, and treasure is a necessary component of our spiritual life – we need to do this for our salvation; and 2) offering our time, talent, and treasure supports the ministry of the Church – we need to do this for not only our own salvation but also the salvation others.



Let's look at the first reason – our own personal salvation. The Lord says, "where your treasure is there will your heart be also." In other words, what we spend our time, energy, and money on reveals what is in our heart. The most clear examples of this in the New Testament are the poor old woman who offered her whole livelihood to God when she gave her two mites and the rich young man who chose not follow the Lord because he could not part with his possessions. In this life each of us will gravitate between these two poles – love for God and love for the world. This is what Christ means when He says that "no servant can serve two masters. For either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will hold to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon (riches)." And so our offering of time, talent, and treasure should indicate to us, what God Himself already knows, that is how much we love Him or how much we love the things of this world instead of Him.

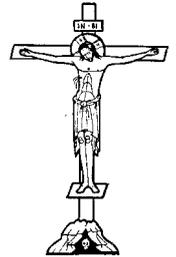
*Continued on page 3...*

Now, the second reason we give to the Church is to support the Lord's ministry on earth. Of course, it should be said right off the bat that the Lord does not *need* us to do anything – He is the Creator of the universe and can do anything and everything He wants. However, and this is important, while the Lord doesn't *need* us, He does *want* us, and He wants us to labor together with Him for the salvation of our neighbor and the whole world. The Lord wants us to be His hands helping those in need, His mouth preaching and teaching, and His feet carrying the Good News to all the ends of the earth – this is how we form His Body, the Church. But for this to happen, for us to work together with God, for us to be His Body, we need to invest our time, talent, and treasure in performing the Lord's ministry – we need to put our faith into action.

### **Q. How much should I give to the Church?**

A. This question can be answer in two ways: 1) theologically or 2) practically.

Theologically speaking, there are two standards: the Old Testament tithe and the New Testament sacrificial offering. In the Old Testament, the Israelite people gave the first 10 percent of their wealth to God; this 10 percent offering, known as the tithe, was mandatory for the rich and poor alike. In the New Testament, the bar is set higher because Christ teaches us by His own example to give sacrificially. Giving sacrificially means adjusting the way we live our lives, making practical changes to how we spend out time, energy, and money, in order to give more to the Lord's service. For instance, a sacrificial offering to the Lord might be: instead of going to a movie on Saturday night, we participate in the Vespers service, and we take the money we would have spent on the movie and snacks and give it to the Church or the poor. This type of offering is the most pleasing to God because it comes from a change in the way we live our lives. Now the more we sacrifice in this way, the more we distance ourselves from the example of the rich young man who chose not to follow Christ because he loved the world and the more we draw closer to the example of the widow who with two little mites gave her whole livelihood to God out of her great love for Him. This is the manner in which the Lord wants us to give because it helps to bring about our own salvation – it is sacrifice that is the key.



Now practically, if we are talking numbers, everyone knows that we have to give enough for the Church to be able to operate, for the bills to be paid. But does this mean dividing the expenses of the Church equally among its members? For example, in our case, do we say that since the Church needs approximately \$63,000 from its parishioners to keep the doors open that each member (not family) must give \$2,100 per year or \$175 per month? No, of course we can't say this because first off our offerings are voluntary and secondly the finances of each person are different, some can offer more and some can offer less. However, this number of \$175 per person, per month, does tell us something. It tells us practically, just what the Lord is trying to tell us theologically, that to be members of His Church requires a sacrifice, it requires us to make real changes in our lives – what we do with our time, what we expend our energy on, and what we do with our money. And so, whether we look at giving to the Church from a theological or practical perspective – it is sacrifice that is the key.

### **Q. If sacrifice is the key, then why does Saint Paul say that God loves a cheerful giver?**

A. It's commonly held that we enjoy things much more when we work hard for them. Whether it be in family life, business, sports, or anything else, we appreciate success much more when it is earned through sacrifice than when it is simply given to us without any effort. The same is true with regard to the Church. If we can bring ourselves to sacrifice our time, talent, and treasure then we will experience real joy in our lives, both in our own spiritual development as well as in the growth of the community. However, if we aren't willing to sacrifice these things, then this joy will be absent from our hearts, and instead we will feel sadness. We will be sad at the stunting of both our own spiritual development as well as the growth of the community, not to mention the knowledge that others will have to sacrifice more themselves in order to pick up the slack for us.



So God loves the cheerful giver; and the cheerful giver loves God. And in the final analysis the cheerful giver's joy comes not so much from simply having a church to worship in as it does from the knowledge that that church exists and the Lord's ministry is being fulfilled in part because of his or her own personal sacrifice. It is this voluntary sacrifice that makes the giver a true member of the Body of Christ and a real living stone in the House of God. It is this voluntary sacrifice which united each of us with Jesus Christ and each other, and what more could a person be cheerful about?

## A MATTER OF WILLS - "THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH, AS IT IS IN HEAVEN...."

By the Very Rev. Vladimir Berzonsky

The billionaire owner of the huge hotel chain with her husband's name, Leona Helmsley, died and left a controversial will. In it she provided nothing for two of her grandchildren, twelve million dollars for the care of her pet dog, and three million for the maintenance of the mausoleum for her remains. Her ego and strength of character were legendary, as was her comment that only poor people pay taxes. The media are delirious with excitement as they wallow in the muddle of such eccentricity. Ms. Helmsley's will imposes her will on her domain and assets even when she is no longer alive to enforce her power on earth. But what of the life beyond?



Throughout the sacred gospels we find our Lord Jesus urging us to consider life beyond this lifetime. He is preparing us for His Father's kingdom by teaching us what sort of attitude we must have if we are to thrive on the other side. When the disciples asked Him to do as other rabbis and give them a prayer to offer up to the Almighty, He placed in the center the phrase we all know by heart: "Thy [God's] will be done" even while we are here on earth. Heaven will have no conflict of wills. "I Did it My Way" is not a song for Christians.

We have a lifetime of struggle within ourselves. It's never a simple thing to surrender to God's will. Something as instinctive as Adam's challenge to God's authority wells up in us from infancy. Many call it natural – and it is, because we have fallen from initial grace of surrender to God and chose rebellion. Leona Helmsley is but a recent and famous case of selfishness, fanned by her lust for attention encouraged by the media. What now? On the other side, is she in Heaven or Hades? She did

it her way. Who can imagine her refuting that pattern of living even in the face of the Almighty. That's the American spirit. We celebrate those who stand up to authority of all types and assert themselves.

Few if any of us will ever have the money and means of Leona Helmsley to put others down and assert their wills regardless of whom we harm, insult or humiliate. But is it not a matter of degree? What's the difference, for example, when a penniless woman in a nursing home holds a grudge against a member of the family or anyone whom she felt had injured her, then goes to her grave intransigent and unforgiving? If she passes from this lifetime with such anger, resentment or ill will in her soul, is she not resisting the Lord's will as much as Ms. Helmsley?

And how are we to do God's will? Jesus our Lord tells us: "Love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven."

Christ Jesus expects quite a lot for us – but yet He promises us even more. He offers us the impossible. "Dust you are, and to dust you return" are the last words recited over our coffins. And this dust once contained a soul that goes on ahead to meet the Lord. He, the Creator of heaven and earth presents us with an inconceivable gift – to become like God. The condition is to offer Him our wills, realizing that the Lord knows far better than we what is in our best interests. It's an awesome decision we go on making hourly throughout the brief time we have on earth. And what we decide makes all the difference on earth – and in heaven.

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### **A Word About Red Marbles** continued from page 2...

Her misty light blue eyes followed them as, one by one, each young man stopped briefly and placed his own warm hand over the cold pale hand in the casket. Each left the mortuary awkwardly, wiping his eyes. Our turn came to meet Mrs. Miller. I told her who I was and reminded her of what she had told me about her husband's bartering for marbles. With her eyes glistening, she took my hand and led me to the casket.

"Those three young men who just left were the boys I told you about. They just told me how they appreciated the things Jim "traded" them. Now, at

last, when Jim could not change his mind about color or size....they came to pay their debt." "We've never had a great deal of the wealth of this world," she confided, "but right now, Jim would consider himself the richest man in Idaho." With loving gentleness she lifted the lifeless fingers of her deceased husband. Resting underneath were three exquisitely shined red marbles.

***The Moral: We will not be remembered by our words, but by our kind deeds. Life is not measured by the breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath.***