

# CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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## BULLETIN OF FEBRUARY 3, 2008

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3<sup>RD</sup>

#### 36<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9<sup>TH</sup>

6:00p.m. Vespers

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10<sup>TH</sup>

#### ZACCHAEUS SUNDAY

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

I realized that love was a communion with God and with others. And that, without this communion, everything is only sadness and desolation.

Fr. Dimitri Staniloe



Photos from last week's Baptism can be seen on our website.

#### READER SCHEDULE

##### Sunday, Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>

Hours: Kathy Parrish  
Epistle: Kathy Parrish

##### Sunday, Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>

Hours: Sandy St. Germain  
Epistle: Sandy St. Germain



#### Please Remember in Prayer

Carole Boris and Jane Koshutko who are undergoing treatment. If you have a prayer request, please let Fr. John know.

#### Annual Meeting

The 2008 Annual Meeting of the Parish will be on, Sunday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, following the Coffee Hour. All full-time and part-time members, as well as visitors and contributors to the Mission are encouraged to attend.



#### Financial Contribution Statements

for 2007 are available for pickup in the back. If you do not pick yours up today it will be mailed out this week. Help us save a stamp by stopping by the candle stand and picking up your envelope.



#### New Icon and Candle Stands

Appreciation is expressed to those who fashioned the new icon and candle stands for our church. We now have a complete set of five icons stands with candle stands to match. We are looking for donors for liturgical covers (gold, white, red, blue, green, and purple) for these stands, the altar table, and table of oblation. May the Lord bless those who love and labor for the beauty of His House!

#### New Candle Sizes and Prices

We are now offering new candle sizes and prices as we have more room for beeswax candles. A fourth size (16 inch) will be added in the coming weeks. The seven-day vigil candles can still be donated for use on the altar table, please see Fr. John if you would like to make an offering of these candles.



#### The 2008 Wall Calendars and Pocket Planners

are available for pickup in the back of the church. If you haven't picked up your calendar of pocket planner yet, you have only another 11 months left!

#### The Parish Council

will meet today in brief session following the coffee hour to make final preparations for the Annual Meeting next Sunday. The meeting should be no longer than 20-30 minutes.

#### Can You Offer A Ride?

If you have room in your car and are willing to help transport people from your area to church on Sunday morning, please let Fr. John know. From time to time, we have people who are in need of rides to church.



#### The Baptism of Baby Alexander Parsells

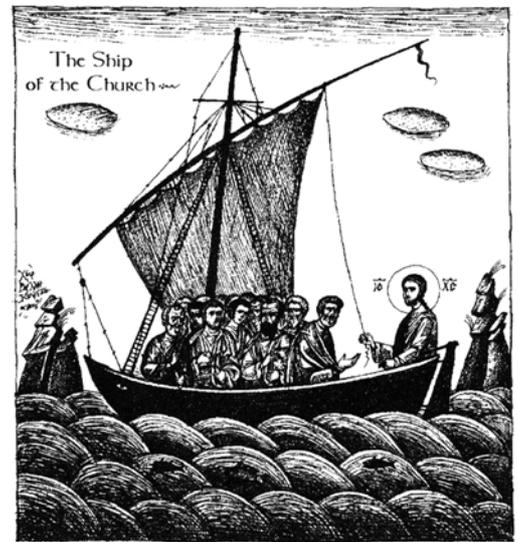
has been scheduled for Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, at 11:00am. All are invited to attend. A light lunch will be served following the baptism.

## CALM IN THE EYE OF THE STORM

*"He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty." - Psalm 91:1*

The eye of the storm is the most peaceful place on earth. While wind and rain wreak havoc all around, pilots who fly storm-tracker planes say that all is perfectly still in that special place. In Psalm 91, David speaks about...terror...plagues...ten thousand falling at your right hand... "but it will not come near you." Why? Listen: "He who dwells in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in Him will I trust. Surely He shall deliver [me]" (Ps 91:1-3).

There are two ways to go through a storm: in panic or in peace. When a storm suddenly threatened their boat the disciples cried, "Do You not care that we are perishing?" And where was Jesus? Sleeping peacefully in the back of the boat. That's because the Lord wanted to teach His disciples three things:



- 1) To get to where God wants to take you, you must go through certain storms. It's not optional.
- 2) When you're in the center of God's will, the storm can't take you under. It's in the storm, not the calm, that you discover this.
- 3) When it's over you come out knowing God better, and you're more equipped to help others!

So trust in the Lord (commit yourself to Him, lean on Him, hope confidently in Him) forever; for the Lord God is an everlasting Rock [the rock of ages]" (Is 26:4). That's what it means to live in the eye of the storm!



### IN MEMORIAM: ARCHBISHOP CHRISTODOULOS OF GREECE

ATHENS, GREECE [OCA Communications] - Early on the morning of January 28, 2008, His Beatitude Christodoulos, Archbishop of Athens and All Greece, fell asleep in the Lord after a seven-month battle with cancer. He was 69 years of age.

Archbishop Christodoulos was born in north-eastern Greece in 1938. The author of numerous books, he held degrees in Theology, Law, French and English. He also spoke Italian and German. In 1961 he was ordained to the diaconate and to the priesthood in 1965. In 1974, he was elected Metropolitan of Demetrias. In 1998, when he was elected Archbishop of Athens at age 58, he became the youngest hierarch ever to be Primate of the Church of Greece.

As Archbishop of the Greek Church, His Beatitude showed himself to be a leader who was not reluctant to address difficult issues. He stressed the importance of the Church's pastoral and social ministries, establishing Church-based ministry groups to reach out to underprivileged people in various circumstances, among them abused women, single mothers, the homeless, and those suffering from addictions. Archbishop Christodoulos was an outspoken defender of the Orthodox identity of the Greek nation. He often criticized secular leaders and educators in the country who sought to keep the Church at arm's length from state affairs.

In the summer of 2007, Archbishop Christodoulos was diagnosed with colon and liver cancer. After successful treatment of the colon cancer, he traveled to the US in for a liver transplant. In October 2007, he returned to Greece after his surgery was cancelled due to the advanced stages of his cancer. In his last days, His Beatitude declined to be hospitalized, choosing instead to die at home.

Funeral services for His Beatitude, Archbishop Christodoulos will be held Thursday, January 31, 2008. Until that time, his body will lie in state at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Athens. May Archbishop Christodoulos' memory be eternal!

## HOLY ILLUMINATION: "EQUIPPING THE SAINTS" FOR MISSION AND MINISTRY

Immediately after His baptism, Jesus Christ initiated His mission and ministry. In the Rites of Holy Illumination, we are prepared, in word and action, for our own mission and ministry to and in the world.



- ❖ In the opening exorcisms, we renounce Satan "and all of his angels, works, service, and pride," acknowledging our conviction to turn away from all that is evil and to confess and accept Jesus Christ "as King and God."
- ❖ By being anointed with the Oil of Gladness, we open ourselves to "the healing of soul and body" and "for the hearing of the faith," so that we may "walk in Thy commandments."
- ❖ Immersion in the waters of baptism is our personal participation in the burial of Christ, after which we are raised up to begin our new life as members of His Body, the Church.
- ❖ Having been clothed in the "robe of righteousness," we are anointed with Holy Chrism, the "Seal of the Gift of the Holy Spirit" – our "personal Pentecost" – and then led in procession around the font, taking our first steps as "newly enlisted warriors" of Christ.
- ❖ In a final ablution, the Holy Chrism is wiped away as we are reminded that we have been "baptized, chrismated, sanctified, and washed" in the name of Our Lord and God.
- ❖ We are then tonsured – in a sense "branded" with the sign of the life-giving Cross – as an external sign that we belong to Christ and as a first offering of ourselves to God in a final commitment to living our faith and pursuing our mission all the days of our lives.
- ❖ Finally, in the reception of the Holy Body and Blood of Christ in the Eucharist, we become one with Him in His divine Spirit, as beloved and adopted children of our heavenly Father, and one with the entire People of God.

## GOD, OUR TEACHER

According to an old story, it was a cold December day in New York City. A little boy about 10 years old was standing before a shoe store on Broadway wearing exceptionally old, dirty shoes, peering through the window, shivering with cold. A lady approached the boy and said, "My little fellow, why are you looking so earnestly in that window?" "I was asking God to give me a pair of shoes," was the boy's reply.

The lady took him by the hand and went into the store, and asked the clerk to get a half dozen pairs of socks for the boy. She then asked if he could give her a basin of water and a towel. He quickly brought them to her. She took the little fellow to the back part of the store and, removing her gloves, knelt down, washed his little feet, and dried them with a towel.

By this time the clerk had returned with the socks. Placing a pair upon the boy's feet, she then purchased him a pair of shoes, and tying up the remaining pairs of socks, gave them to him. She patted him on the head and said, "No doubt, my little fellow, you feel more comfortable now?" As she

turned to go, the astonished lad caught her by the hand, and looking up in her face, with tears in his eyes, answered the question with these words: "Are you God's wife?"

Neither you nor I are "God's wife." But, we are indeed His children. Matthew 25:40 tells us "And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

How do those around you see you today?

## FEBRUARY CONGRATULATIONS!

### Birthdays:

2/20 Lois Hamaty  
2/22 Olga Holowach  
2/28 Tyler Chance Stillman

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

**CHEERFUL GIVING** - *The question is not "how much should I give," but "how much have I been given?"*

When addressing the question of the relationship of money to the Church, one immediately comes to the realization that, while the Church does not exist to make money, the Church – as an organism living and growing in this world – needs money to exist. In saying this, one does not diminish the importance of God's presence for the existence and continuation of the life of the Church. Indeed, even if we had all of the money in the world but lacked the abiding presence of Christ, the Church would not, nor could not, exist.

At first glance, it may appear that money and the Church have very little to do with one another, except for the fact that money is used to "pay the bills." While it is true that God, and not money, is the true content of our faith, we must seek to understand the theological vision of giving that is presented to us within the Tradition of the Church. By taking flesh from the Virgin Mary, Our Lord entered into the fullness of the material world – a world which He created and called "good." By His incarnation, Jesus united heaven and earth, abolishing once and for all the dichotomy between the "spiritual" and the "material." The myth – or, rather, the heresy of dualism – that holds that while the spiritual is "good," the material is "evil," is nothing more than a denial of the true implications of the incarnation. In Jesus Christ, heaven and earth are united. By entering the material world and taking on our physical human nature in its fullness, He sanctifies matter, returning it to its original purpose and function. Hence, matter – even money – can be used for the glory of God and the building up of His Body, the Church.

**Offering our first fruits.** When we give money to the Church, we are offering back to the Lord something of ourselves. All things ultimately are from God, and belong to Him. We have been given the task of being faithful stewards, or managers, of that which belongs to Him and entrusted to our care. As a way of giving thanks for all that God has given us, we are called to set aside our "first fruits" for God: "Honor the Lord with your substance and with the first fruits of your produce; then your

barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine" [Proverbs 3:9-10]. We are called by Scripture to offer back to the Lord something of what He has allowed us to earn. Notice that Scripture emphasizes the first fruits of our labor. Many times we present our offerings to the Lord only after everything else has been taken care of – food, clothing, entertainment, utility bills, etc. – leaving, like Cain, the "leftovers" for God. But God does not honor our leftovers!

**A common temptation.** "All mortal things are vanity and exist not after death," we sing at the funeral service. "Riches do not endure, neither does glory accompany us on the way, for when death comes, all things vanish utterly." These words remind us that we cannot selfishly claim anything "just for ourselves," precisely because we are mortal beings. When we die, riches, wealth, property, and even poverty mean nothing to us. As the old saying goes, "you can't take it with you," regardless of

**Scripture Provide Guidelines**

- Whatever we give, we should never boast about it, as we see in Mat 6:1-4.
- We should give regularly and consistently. St. Paul tells the faithful of Corinth to "put something aside... on the first day of every week" for the Church [1 Cor 16:2]
- We should give cheerfully. St. Paul keenly illustrates this point when he writes, "The point is this: he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" [2 Cor 9:6-7].



what that "it" might be. Christ reveals that selfishness is a sin because it is a lie about our ability to possess anything for eternity. Hence, we are challenged not to ascribe excessive devotion to our material possessions, nor to yield to the temptation of selfishness. To do so is to enslave ourselves to the life of the devil and to separate ourselves from the Christian vision of life, property, and death. The point here is that Christians should never refuse to give to the Church because they delight in their material possessions and wealth.

**How much should I give?** While, time and time again, we may ask, "How much should I give," the real question is, "How much have I been given?" Ask, "What has Our Lord accomplished for me?" and "How much does the work of Christ and His Church mean to me?" And then give in a consistent, responsible way, whether by tithing – offering 10% of our income – or by setting aside the "first portion" of our income for the Lord before setting aside a portion for ourselves. Either way, our giving should be sacrificial, offered as a sign of thanks for the blessings the Lord has bestowed upon us.