

CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN OF JULY 20, 2008

Please Remember in Prayer

Fr. Christian, who is undergoing surgery this week, Carol Boris, Nina Gordon, Jane Koshutko, Constantina, and Christos. If you have a prayer request, let Fr. John know.

Blessing of Automobiles – Sunday, July 20th

There will be a blessing of automobiles immediately following the Divine Liturgy today. Following the veneration of the Cross, please go and stand by your car (or near the flagpole where the prayer will be offered) before Fr. John makes his way around the parking lot with the Holy Water.



SUNDAY, JULY 20TH 5TH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST PROPHET ELIAS

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

WEDNESDAY, JULY 23RD 7:00p.m. Compline

SATURDAY, JULY 26TH ST. JACOB OF ALASKA 6:00p.m. Great Vespers

SUNDAY, JULY 27TH 6TH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST GREAT-MARTYR PANTELEIMON 8:40a.m. Hours 9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy Coffee Hour

The person who truly loves God:
1) values knowledge of Him more than anything else, and 2) pursues such knowledge eagerly and ceaselessly.

St. Maximos the Confessor



Saint George's Greek Festival – July 25-27th

will be held at the Ocean City Convention Center, July 25-27th. Fr. John and his family will be going to the festival after coffee hour, next Sunday. If you're interested in going too, just let him know. Let's support our brethren in Ocean City!

Orthodox Movie Night – Monday, July 28th

Next week's movie will be, "Amazing Grace". More info on page 3.

Dormition Fast – August 1-14th

Each year the Church observes a two week fast from August 1st until August 15th, the feast of the Dormition (or "Falling Asleep") of the Mother of God. This great feast is called the Summer Pascha as it commemorates the death, burial, resurrection, and ascension of the Virgin Mary.



Looking Ahead – 3 Great Feasts in August

In the month of August we celebrate three Great Feasts: Transfiguration of the Lord (8/6), Dormition of the Theotokos (8/15), and Our Parish Feast – The Icon Not-Made-By-Hands (8/16). Please note these days and make a special effort to attend the Services.



A Women's Group

is in the process of being formed at Christ the Savior. The opening event will be breakfast on Saturday, July 26th. If you are interested in this group, please speak with Mat. Emily. Sorry, men it's only for the ladies!

Diocesan Assembly – September 15th

The Diocesan Assembly will be held this year at Ss. Peter & Paul in South River, NJ. A lay delegate is needed to accompany Fr. John.

Special Parish Meeting – September 21st

At the Parish Meeting on Jan. 21, 2007, the Finance Committee was commissioned to conduct a feasibility investigation regarding the purchase of land for future parish use. On Sunday, Sept. 21st, there will be a Special Parish Meeting to hear the results of this investigation.



READER SCHEDULE

Sunday, July 27th

Jen Alexion

Sunday, August 3rd

Kathy Parrish





THREE TYPES OF THOUGHT

By the VRev. Vladimir Berzonsky

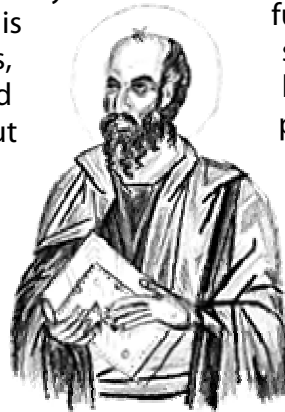


"Since the days we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of His will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding" (Colossians 1:9)

Knowledge, wisdom and understanding are the three elements of intelligence that make us human beings superior to all forms of existence on the earth. They are not the same at all.

Knowledge is what we know. Measured in I.Q., it sums up the facts we have learned and stored up in our memory banks. You may recall examples of those blessed with vast knowledge and the ability to learn and assimilate multitudes of facts. We consider them to be the luckiest people we know, with the greatest potential for success in any field they care to pursue; but that truism is often flawed. We all may recall friends, classmates or family members who had breezed through school, almost without studying, or else they were the types who relished learning for its own sake. They were the top of the class, the most brilliant of students, those who without fail would ace their exams. Their SAT scores propelled them into the universities of their choice. They advanced in their chosen fields, and yet in the world beyond academia they made a mess of their lives. Gifted with intelligence, somehow they found ways to flounder and fail in the real world. Spouses were helpless to lead them out of their frustration and even depression. Concerned parents stood by helpless to do much about the trauma of failure and the cycle of job loss, relocation and the same negative results. How could it happen? Knowledge without wisdom doesn't lead to success.

On the other hand there were those, oh so many, who passed through their school years and in later life incognito. Ten years later few classmates could point them out in the yearbook. They only sat among their peers and watched as the rewards and honors were bestowed on the highest and



brightest. They went through the grades and onto graduation without once bringing home the "Proud Parent of..." sticker to adorn the back bumper of a mother's van. A sensible parent will, however, find joy in a child who doesn't rush headlong into marriage before she feels ready, searches and finds steady solid employment and works out a sensible way of life. Such a person makes choices based not on whim or impulse, but by thinking through the implications of each life decision based on need, finances, and opportunities for the future. These types would call it basic instinct, but it's more - it's wisdom, a way of life based on choices freed of emotions, pressure from others, and separation from the allure of advertisements and the impulses of the moment. Such a person is in touch with the deep ground of inner self and has discovered the hidden true person beneath the glitter and clutter of the culture imposing itself on them.

Understanding is the awareness of the difference between knowledge and wisdom, or rather applying known facts to memory and instinct. Those who search for meaning by piling up knowledge whether in research libraries or book stores with shelves stocked with "how to," "Dummies," and escapist fiction may never discover the wisdom deep within, hidden in the soul. Those who live by inner instinct shrug and say it's nothing more than common sense. Understanding in St. Paul's epistle implies so much more. It captures the gifts of both knowledge and wisdom, making use of them for the greater glory of God. We sense this in his prayer that the Colossians and we also will discover and enhance both those kinds of truth and offer them up to the loving Lord who blessed us with all three forms of thought.

ON PRAYER FOR THOSE WHO REJECT GOD

It was particularly characteristic of St. Silouan to pray for the dead suffering in the hell of separation from God... He could not bear to think that anyone would suffer in "outer darkness." I remember a conversation between him and a certain hermit, who declared with evident satisfaction, "God will punish atheists. They will burn in everlasting fire." Obviously upset, the Saint said, "Tell me, supposing you went to paradise, and there looked down and saw somebody burning in hell-fire - would you feel happy?" "It can't be helped. It would have been their own fault," said the hermit. The Saint answered him with a sorrowful countenance. "Love could not bear that," he said. "We must pray for all."

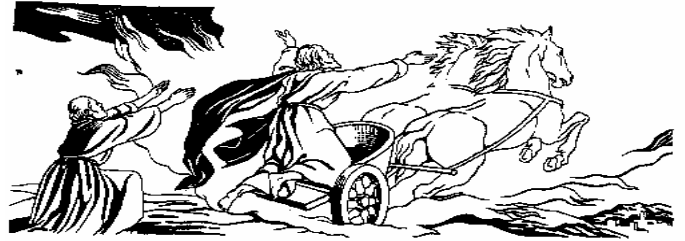




THE BLESSING OF AUTOMOBILES

O Lord our God, Who makes the clouds Thy chariot and Who walks on the wings of the wind, Who has sent to Thy servant, the Prophet Elias, a chariot of fire, Who has guided man to invent this (car, truck, motorcycle, etc.) which is as fast as the wind. We thank Thee for Thou hast provided Thy servants with this vehicle to serve their various needs. Therefore, O Master, pour out now upon it Thy heavenly blessings; assign to it a guardian angel to preserve it from all evil. And as Thou didst grant faith and grace by Thy deacon Philip to the man from Ethiopia who was sitting in his chariot and reading holy Scripture, show the way of salvation to Thy servants. So that helped by Thy grace and always intent on doing good works, they may after all the trials of their pilgrimage on earth, attain to everlasting joys, through the intercessions of our Most-pure Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, by the power of the precious and life-giving Cross; through the prayers of the holy Angels; of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker and of all the Saints:

For Thou art the Provider and Sanctifier of all things and to Thee do we ascribe glory, and to Thy Only-begotten Son, and Thy All-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.



HOLY GLORIOUS PROPHET ELIAS

Commemorated July 20th

Saint Elias, one who saw God, a miracle-worker and a zealot for faith in God, was born of the tribe of Aaron from the town Tishba for which he was called the Tishbite. When St. Elias was born, his father Savah saw an angel of God hovering around the child, wrapping the child in fire and giving him a flame to eat. That was a foreshadowing of Elias's fiery character and his God-given fiery power. He spent his entire youth in godly thoughts and prayers withdrawing frequently into the wilderness to contemplate and to pray in solitude... Through great miracles Elias displayed the power and authority of God: he closed up the heavens, so that there was not any rain for three years and six months; he lowered a fire from heaven and burned the sacrifice to his God which the pagan priests of Baal were unable to do; he brought down rain from heaven by his prayer; miraculously multiplied flour and oil in the home of the widow in Zerepath, and resurrected her son; he prophesied to Ahab that the dogs will lick up his blood and to Jezebel that the dogs will consume her flesh, all of which happened as well as many other miracles did he perform and prophesy. On Mount Horeb, he spoke with God and heard the voice of God in the calm of a gentle breeze. Before his death he took Elisha and designated him as his successor in the prophetic calling; by his mantle he divided the water of the Jordan river; finally he was taken up into the heavens in a fiery chariot by flaming horses. He appeared on Mount Tabor to our Lord Jesus Christ together with Moses. Before the end of the world St. Elias will appear again to put an end to the power of the anti-Christ (Rev,11).



AMAZING GRACE

Can one person change the world? You bet, and no film indicates that notion more than this one, a biopic about the life of William Wilberforce, a devout Christian politician who almost single-handedly was responsible for the abolition of the slave trade in the British Empire. Ioan Gruffudd brings both gravitas and a dose of humanity to the role, portraying the 19th Century Parliamentarian as a man on a mission, driven by his love for God and love for all mankind. En route, he meets former slave trader John

Newton (played by Albert Finney), the writer of the hymn "Amazing Grace" who motivates Wilberforce to persist in his quest. It's a "history film" without being dull, and a "religious film" without being preachy. But perhaps most of all, it's a movie that will convince any viewer that he or she can make a difference in a sin-sick world desperately in need of social justice, mercy and compassion.

Movie review from ChristianityToday.com



The following are highlights from a recently conducted survey on Religion in America. This extensive survey, by the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life, is based on interviews with more than 35,000 American adults, detailing the religious makeup, religious beliefs and practices as well as social and political attitudes of the American public. ***How would we answer these questions? Would our answers reflect the high-standards of Orthodox Christian morality as revealed by Jesus Christ and His Church? Or do we think that these matters should be tried in the ever-changing court of public opinion? Are we a nation under God? Should we be?***

Question: Should the government be more or less involved in protecting morality?

U.S. Religious Traditions	More Involved	Less Involved	Just Right	Don't know
Protestants	44%	47%	4%	5%
Roman Catholics	43%	49%	3%	5%
<i>Orthodox Christians</i>	43%	48%	3%	6%
National Total:	40%	52%	3%	5%

Question: Should churches express views on social or political affairs?

U.S. Religious Traditions	Yes	No	Don't Know
Protestants	58%	38%	4%
Roman Catholics	48%	48%	5%
<i>Orthodox Christians</i>	42%	53%	4%
National Total:	50%	46%	5%

Question: In most cases, abortion should be?

U.S. Religious Traditions	Legal	Illegal	Don't know
Protestants	45%	49%	6%
Roman Catholics	48%	45%	7%
<i>Orthodox Christians</i>	62%	30%	8%
National Total:	51%	43%	6%

Question: Homosexuality should be?

U.S. Religious Traditions	Accepted	Discouraged	Don't know
Protestants	38%	51%	10%
Roman Catholics	58%	30%	12%
<i>Orthodox Christians</i>	48%	37%	15%
National Total:	50%	40%	10%

Question: Is evolution the best explanation for the origins of human life on earth?

U.S. Religious Traditions	Yes	No	Don't know
Protestants	35%	58%	7%
Roman Catholics	58%	35%	7%
<i>Orthodox Christians</i>	55%	36%	9%
National Total:	48%	45%	7%