



CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN OF AUGUST 31, 2008

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31ST

11TH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

8:40a.m. Hours
9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy
Blsg for Academic Year
Coffee Hour

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1ST

CHURCH NEW YEAR

9:00a.m. Akathist

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH

6:00p.m. Great Vespers

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH

12TH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

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



New Gospel Book

This past week, the Gospel Book on our Wish List was donated by anonymous members of our Mission. This is exciting news because the Gospel is so central to not only to our lives but also our divine services. May the Lord bless and preserve the generous donors!



Prayers for Teachers and Students – August 31st

will be offered for the new academic year today, Sunday, August 31st. Teachers and students will be asked to come forward near the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy.

The Church New Year – September 1st

We will have an Akathist of Thanksgiving on September 1st at 9:00am in gratitude for God's many blessings.

Users Meeting – September 7th

Next Sunday there will be a short meeting of the Ushers. If you would like to serve as an usher, please see Fr. John.

The Nativity of the Theotokos – September 8th

Next Monday, we celebrate the Birth of the Theotokos. This is one of the Twelve Great Feasts of the Church. On Sunday evening at 7:00pm there will be Vespers with Litya and on Monday, the Divine Liturgy at 9:00am. This is the first Great Feast of the new Church Year, be sure to get off to a good start by attending the services.



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. All members, full-time, part-time, and seasonal are encouraged to attend. For more information, please see Fr. John.

Prayers Before and After Receiving Communion

In the back of the church are the prayers which are to be read both before and after receiving Holy Communion. If you have not read these prayers before, you should start reading them now. If you cannot read them all, then at least read some. These prayers are read by all Orthodox Christians throughout the whole world and they should also be part of our normal preparation for receiving Holy Communion. Usually the Prayers of Preparation are read the day before or the morning of the Divine Liturgy, and the Prayers of Thanksgiving are read either immediately following the reception of the Holy Mysteries or sometime during that day. Note: these prayers are also found in your Orthodox Prayer Book as well as the Divine Liturgy book. Questions? Please see Fr. John.



READER SCHEDULE

Sunday, Sept. 7th

Jodi McElwee

Sunday, Sept. 14th

Kathy Parrish





CATHOLIC BISHOPS CORRECT PELOSI ON ABORTION

The Associated Press – Monday, August 25, 2008

DENVER – Two prominent Roman Catholic archbishops say House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, a Catholic Democrat, misstated church teachings about abortion in a recent television appearance, the latest sign that the U.S. Catholic hierarchy will not stay silent about politics this election year.

In an appearance Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press," Pelosi said "doctors of the church" have not been able to define when life begins and that "over the history of the church, this is an issue of controversy."

Washington Archbishop Donald Wuerl, citing the teaching responsibility entrusted to bishops, issued a statement late Monday that read, in part: "Since the first century the Church has affirmed the moral evil of every procured abortion. This teaching has not changed and remains unchangeable."

Denver Archbishop Charles Chaput and his auxiliary bishop, James Conley, said in a statement posted on the archdiocesan Web site: "Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi is a gifted public servant of strong convictions and many professional skills. Regrettably, knowledge of Catholic history and teaching does not seem to be one of them." Abortion "is always gravely evil, and so are the evasions employed to justify it," the statement continued.

Over the weekend, Chaput said in an e-mail to The Associated Press that Democratic vice presidential nominee-in-waiting Sen. Joseph Biden should refrain from receiving Communion because of his abortion stance. A Pelosi spokesman did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

FROM THE SAYINGS OF THE FATHERS

"What is a merciful heart? It is a heart on fire for the whole of creation, for humanity, for the birds, for the animals, for demons, and for all that exists. By the recollection of them the eyes of a merciful person pour forth tears in abundance. By the strong and vehement mercy that grips such a person's heart, and by such great compassion, the heart is humbled and one cannot bear to hear or to see any injury or slight sorrow in any in creation. For this reason, such a person offers up tearful prayer continually even for irrational beasts, for the enemies of the truth, and for those who harm her or him, that they be protected and receive mercy."

St. Isaac the Syrian, 7th century



SEPTEMBER CONGRATULATIONS!

Anniversaries:

- 9/9 Robert & Evelyn Dodge
- 9/16 Fr. Daniel & Mat. Dunia Hubiak
Frank & Susan Pappas
- 9/26 Gerald & Camelia Milite
- 9/28 Todd & Olga Vernigor-Leasure

Birthdays:

- 9/5 Kathy Parrish
- 9/6 Jane Koshutko
- 9/9 Olga Nesterenko
- 9/9 Susan Pappas
- 9/19 Donna Anderson
- 9/19 Stanley Alexion
- 9/30 Lydia Zacepilo

Namesdays:

- 9/9 *St. Anna the Ancestor of God*
Anna Yanuk
Anna Evanusa
Evelyn Dodge
- 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!

ARCHPASTORAL MESSAGE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL YEAR

September 1st, 2008

"The time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is at hand" (Mark 1:15).

In the New Testament, we learn of two different understandings of time. The first understanding is referred to in Greek as "chronos", from which we derive the words "chronological," "chronology," etc. This term signifies days, minutes, hours, and other measurements of time.

The other term used in the Scriptures to denote time is "kairos." The word "kairos" refers to the "appointed time" for something to occur. The spirit of "kairos" time is reflected in these famous words from the book of Ecclesiastes: "To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven"(Ecclesiastes 3:1). God is not affected by chronological time as human beings are, but He knows and guides the "kairos," the appointed time, for all things in His creation.

Kairos time stands beyond any chronological unit. At the beginning of the Divine Liturgy, the deacon states, "It is time to begin the service to the Lord." The Greek original of this phrase makes it clear that the deacon is saying that the "kairos" has come for the celebration of the Liturgy. Regardless of the specific time in the morning at which that particular Divine Liturgy begins, it is the appointed time to hymn and bless God, to give thanks to Him and worship Him.

In the morning prayer of St. Philaret of Moscow we pray, "In unforeseen events let me not forget that all are sent by Thee." This principle applies not only to what comes our way, but also to when it comes our way. God does not give those who believe in Him everything they want, but He will never deprive them of what they need. God gives us what we need, when He knows that we need it. A "kairos" moment can last for seconds, minutes, or generations.

In another prayer of St. Philaret, we pray, "Thou seest my needs, which I do not even know. See and deal with me according to Thy mercy. Purge and heal me, humble me and raise me..." From these words we learn that God's mercy can be worked through both joys and sorrows, through triumph and tribulation, according to that which God knows we need.

Knowing that God always holds us in the palm of His hand, we can trust that every moment – both the good and the difficult – is a "kairos" moment.

Our challenge is to prayerfully reflect on that given moment to discern how God is providing for our needs through it. God will not force His grace upon us; we must receive it willingly.

The troubles that we have faced in recent years in the Orthodox Church in America have been very difficult and painful for our entire Church. Remembering the words of St. Philaret cited above, we can find comfort and strength in the knowledge that even these difficulties can be moments of grace -- kairos time -- that can be to our growth as a Church and to the salvation of our souls.

In this new Ecclesiastical Year, we will soon find ourselves at a critical "appointed moment" for our Church when we gather in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for the 15th All-American Council of the Orthodox Church in America, November 10 to 13. I believe that the time of this Council, and these final months leading up to it, have been given to us by our Lord, that we might engage in an honest and sober look at ourselves as a Church. Contributing to this effort are the Town Hall Meetings scheduled in preparation for the All-American Council, and the work of the Special Investigating Committee, whose report we will soon hear. Such self-examination is not easy, but if engaged in prayerfully, it can be a source of grace.

As we prepare for the All-American Council, and when we gather in Pittsburgh two short months from now, may we all be willing to look honestly, first at ourselves and our own spiritual state, and then at our Church and its life at this time. May we learn from the difficulties we have faced, discerning the movements of Divine Mercy within them. May we see ourselves moving forward, strengthened by God's grace and by the time of prayer, deliberations, and fellowship that we will share. And may this entire new Ecclesiastical Year be the appointed time, the kairos, for a deeper commitment to our Lord and a clearer sense of the path upon which He calls us to walk as individual believers and together as the Orthodox Church in America.

Invoking God's blessing and assuring you of my prayers, I remain sincerely yours in Christ,

+HERMAN

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

