



CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN OF SEPTEMBER 7, 2008

Please Remember in Prayer

Bill Parrish, Robert Evanusa, Olga Leisure, Valentina, Nina Gordon, Fr. Christian, Carol Boris, Constantina & Christos, Alicia & Susannah. If you have a requests, please let Fr. John know.

Best wishes

are expressed to Olga Leisure who will be spending the academic year in Belarus. May the Lord bless and keep her throughout her time abroad, and may He grant her a safe return home to her family, friends, and parish community!



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH

12TH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

8:40a.m. Hours
9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour
7:00p.m. Great Vespers / Litya

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH

NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS

One of the Twelve Great Feasts

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

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH

6:00p.m. Great Vespers / Litya

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH

EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

One of the Twelve Great Feasts

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

Developments in the OCA

On pages three and four of this bulletin are news releases summarizing recent events in the Orthodox Church in America, including the release of a Special Investigative Report into financial and administrative improprieties, as well as the retirement of Met. Herman. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak with Fr. John.

The Nativity of the Theotokos – September 8th

Tomorrow, we celebrate the Birth of the Theotokos. Tonight at 7:00pm there will be Vespers with Litya and tomorrow, the Divine Liturgy at 9:00am. This is the first 12 Great Feast of the new Church Year, be sure to get off to a good start by attending the divine services.



Exaltation of the Holy Cross – September 14th

This feast commemorates the finding of the True Cross of Christ by St. Helen, the mother of St. Constantine the Great. On this day, Fr. Daniel Hubiak was ordained to the Holy Priesthood. We wish him and Mat. Dunia, many blessed years! Fr. Daniel and Mat. Dunia also celebrate their anniversary of marriage on September 16th. If you would like to send a card, their address is: 16 Wharf Court, Ocean Pines, MD 21811.

Ushers Meeting Postponed to September 14th

The Usher's Meeting which was to meet today is being postponed until next week. If you would like to serve as an usher, please come.

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.



The Parish Council – September 28th

will meet on Sunday, September 28th, following the coffee hour.

If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.

Matthew 19:21

READER SCHEDULE

Sunday, Sept. 14th

Kathy Parrish

Sunday, Sept. 21st

Troy Duker





THE NATIVITY OF THE MOST-HOLY THEOTOKOS AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY

Celebrated on September 8th



The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born at a time when people had reached such a degree of moral decay that it seemed altogether impossible to restore them. People often said that God must come into the world to restore faith and not permit the ruin of mankind.

The Son of God chose to take on human nature for the salvation of mankind, and chose as His Mother the All-Pure Virgin Mary, who alone was worthy to give birth to the Source of purity and holiness.

The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary is celebrated by the Church as a day of universal joy. Within the context of the Old and the New Testaments, the Most Blessed Virgin Mary was born on this radiant day, having been chosen before the ages by Divine Providence to bring about the Mystery of the Incarnation of the Word of God. She is revealed as the Mother of the Savior of the World, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born in the small city of Galilee, Nazareth. Her parents were Righteous Joachim of the tribe of the Prophet-King David, and Anna from the tribe of the First Priest Aaron. The couple was without child, since St Anna was barren. Having reached old age, Joachim and Anna did not lose hope in God's mercy. They had strong faith that for God everything is possible, and that He would be able to overcome the barrenness of Anna even in her old age, as He had once overcome the barrenness of Sarah, spouse of the Patriarch Abraham. So Joachim and Anna vowed to dedicate the child which the Lord might give them, to the service of God in the Temple.

Childlessness was considered among the Hebrews as a Divine punishment for sin, and therefore the righteous So Joachim and Anna had to endure abuse from their own countrymen. On one of the feasts at the Temple in Jerusalem the elderly Joachim brought his sacrifice to offer to God, but the High Priest would not accept it, considering him to be unworthy since he was childless.

St Joachim in deep grief went into the wilderness, and there he prayed with tears to the Lord for a

child. St Anna wept bitterly when she learned what had happened at the Jerusalem Temple. Never once did she complain against the Lord, but rather she prayed to ask God's mercy on her family.

The Lord fulfilled her petitions when the pious couple had attained to extreme old age and prepared themselves by virtuous life for a sublime calling: to be the parents of the Most Holy Virgin Mary, the future Mother of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Archangel Gabriel brought Joachim and Anna the joyous message that their prayers were heard by God, and of them would be born a most blessed daughter Mary, through Whom would come the Salvation of all the World.

The Most Holy Virgin Mary surpassed in purity and virtue not only all mankind, but also the angels. She was manifest as the living Temple of God, so the Church sings in its festal hymns: "the East Gate... bringing Christ into the world for the salvation of our souls".

The Nativity of the Theotokos marks the change of the times

when the great and comforting promises of God for the salvation of the human race from slavery to the devil are about to be fulfilled. This event has brought to earth the grace of the Kingdom of God, a Kingdom of Truth, piety, virtue and everlasting life. The Theotokos is revealed to all of us by grace as a merciful Intercessor and Mother, to Whom we have recourse with filial devotion.

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.



CONCERNING THE NEWS RELEASES BELOW

The news releases below outline the events of this past week in the Orthodox Church in America. While they are indeed unfortunate, they also illustrate a very important truth about Church life: Only, the Head of our Church, Jesus Christ, is perfect, and the rest of us – bishops, priests, deacons, monastics, and the laity – are neither perfect nor infallible – we are by God's grace being perfected, it is a process, and sometimes we have set backs. We all make mistakes, and sometimes they are very grave, as is the case here. Yet, and this is the most important part, if we change our ways, the Lord will receive us back.

This message of repentance, restoration, and salvation, this the message of the Gospel, this is the Good News, this is why the Lord came, suffered, and rose again. The Evangelist Luke says very clearly, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day, that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His Name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem." (Luke 24:46-47)

As you read the news releases below, I ask you to please read them in light of our Christian Faith. If you are hearing about this for the first time, you may be alarmed and angered by the scandal, financial corruption, and immoral behavior, which have been perpetrated in our Church by those who formerly held the highest offices, those who knew all too well that such corruption has no place in the Lord's House. Yet, as Christ instructs, the way of our salvation is to "forgive even up to seventy times seven", and "judge not, that we may not be judged." (Matt. 7:1) Let us wisely see the matter for what it is, acknowledging the gravity of what happened and being assured that steps have been taken and are still being taken to ensure that it does not happen again. And let us hate the sin, not the sinner, for whom the Lord offered Himself up on the Cross. These are challenging times, and the only way for us to successfully meet these challenges is to do so as Christians.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to speak with Fr. John. He will be available during the coffee hour and also at any time by phone (302-537-6055) or email (frjohn@orthodoxdelmarva.org). For those who are interested, more information regarding these matters is also available on OCA.org and OCAnews.org.

SPECIAL INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE PRESENTS REPORT TO HOLY SYNOD AND METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

SYOSSET, NY [OCA Communications] -- On Wednesday, September 3, 2008, the Special Investigating Committee charged with a continued examination of past financial mismanagement at the Chancery of the Orthodox Church in America gave a report of its findings to a special joint session of the Church's Holy Synod of Bishops and Metropolitan Council. The Committee was created by the two bodies at a joint session in October 2007.

In his opening remarks, Bishop Benjamin, the Chair of the Committee, said, "What we find in this report is an incredible failure at many levels to act responsibly. Many flags went up and people failed to, or chose not to, address them." The Committee members stressed that they experienced no interference in the course of their investigations and that all members approved of the report. After hearing the Special Investigating Committee's report, upon the recommendation of Bishop Benjamin, the Holy Synod and Metropolitan Council decided to publish it immediately on OCA.org.

EXPLOSIVE SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT RELEASED

Posted September 3, 2008 – Source OCAnews.org

- Holds entire OCA administrative structure responsible
- Recommends "discipline" for 5 persons: 2 Metropolitans, 2 former Treasurers, Former Comptroller
- Unanimous Report released in full on OCA.org - <http://www.oca.org/news/1628>
- Recommends +Herman resign, retire or be deposed.

Ten months of investigation into the OCA scandal by the Special Investigative Committee (SIC) came to fruition today as Bishop Benjamin of San Francisco presented the Committee's findings in a 32-page Report (with 67 pages of appendices) to an historic joint meeting of the Synod of Bishops and Metropolitan Council this morning in Syosset. The Report - containing both findings, short and long term recommendations - is a devastating indictment of the former and current Metropolitan's administrations.

HOLY SYNOD OF BISHOPS GRANTS RETIREMENT TO HIS BEATITUDE, METROPOLITAN HERMAN

SYOSSET, NY [OCA Communications] -- The Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America, meeting at the OCA Chancery in Oyster Bay Cove, NY, on Thursday, September 4, 2008, issued the following statement.

"On September 4, 2008, The Holy Synod of Bishops received a letter from His Beatitude, Metropolitan HERMAN. In this letter, His Beatitude asks for Retirement, effective immediately, 'in the best interests of The Orthodox Church in America, and taking into consideration the current condition of my health.'

"Effective this date, The Holy Synod of Bishops grants His Beatitude's request to retire from the Office of Metropolitan of All America and Canada of the Orthodox Church in America. The Holy Synod of Bishops resolves that, in retirement, the title will be 'Former Archbishop of Washington, Metropolitan of All America and Canada.' The Holy Synod of Bishops expresses to His Beatitude, Metropolitan HERMAN, their fraternal love and gratitude for his primatial service and archpastoral labors.

"The Holy Synod of Bishops resolves that His Eminence, DMITRI, Archbishop of Dallas and the South, be *Locum tenens* of The Orthodox Church in America. In liturgical commemorations, he is to be commemorated as 'His Eminence, DMITRI, *Locum tenens* of The Orthodox Church in America.'"

"The Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America resolves that His Eminence, SERAPHIM, Archbishop of Ottawa and Canada be the Administrator of the Metropolitan See to assist the *Locum tenens*, effective September 4, 2008."

HOLY SYNOD OF BISHOPS ISSUES STATEMENT REGARDING HIS BEATITUDE, METROPOLITAN THEODOSIUS

SYOSSET, NY [OCA Communications] -- The Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America issued the following statement on Thursday, September 4, 2008, regarding His Beatitude, Metropolitan Theodosius, Retired Archbishop of Washington, Metropolitan of All America and Canada.

"The Holy Synod of Bishops received the recommendation of the Special Investigating Committee regarding His Beatitude, Metropolitan Theodosius.

"The Holy Synod of Bishops of The Orthodox Church in America, meeting at the Chancery of the Orthodox Church in America in Oyster Bay Cove, New York, on September 4, 2008, resolved that His Beatitude, Metropolitan Theodosius be restricted to attending, and celebrating the Divine Services, when invited, at the Church of St. John the Baptist, Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, henceforth."

HOLY SYNOD, METROPOLITAN COUNCIL ISSUE STATEMENT ON SPECIAL INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE REPORT

SYOSSET, NY [OCA Communications] -- On Friday, September 5, 2008, the Holy Synod of Bishops and Metropolitan Council of the Orthodox Church in America unanimously approved the following joint statement for publication.

"The Holy Synod and Metropolitan Council, acknowledging the report of the Special Investigating Committee and the facts made clear therein, humbly apologize to the Church and all those who were harmed by these events.

"We recognize our failure to act upon information provided to us, and to demand accountability and openness from each other and from those in our employ.

"We commit ourselves to building a culture within the Church which fosters communication, transparency and personal responsibility.

"We also wish to offer our profound apology to Mr. John Kozey, former Chair of the OCA Audit Committee. We commend his tireless attempts to bring the facts of this matter to light. For his efforts, he was rebuffed, marginalized and mistreated. We are deeply sorry for this mistreatment.

"We know that trust must be re-built, and pray you will be encouraged by our actions from now on as we move decisively to correct the mistakes of the past and ensure they do not take place again."