



CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN OF MARCH 8, 2009

SUNDAY, MARCH 8TH

SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY

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

MONDAY, MARCH 9TH

7:00p.m. Orthodox Movie Night

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11TH

7:00p.m. Presanctified Liturgy

SATURDAY, MARCH 14TH

MEMORIAL SATURDAY

5:30p.m. Memorial Service
6:00p.m. Great Vespers

SUNDAY, MARCH 15TH

ST. GREGORY PALAMAS SUNDAY

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, March 15th

Sandy St. Germain

Sunday, March 22nd

Troy Duker



Please Remember in Prayer

Carole Boris, Gail, Kathy & Bill Parrish, Diane Evanusa, Marie, Raymond, Thomas, Judith Kocinski, Jane Koshutko, Robert Evanusa, Nicholas & Linda, Yvonne, Katherine, Michael, Gregory, Todd & Olga Leisure, Nina Gordon, Fr. Christian, Constantina & Christos. If you have a request, let Fr. John know.

Choir Practice

There will be a short choir practice following the Liturgy today. All choir members are asked to please stay. The choir will be going over some of the special music for Lent. If you are interested in joining the choir, please come!

The 2009 Parish Council Installation – Today

The members of the 2009 Parish Council will be installed today at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. All members are asked to come forward to recite the oath of office and receive the blessing to serve. May the Lord grant them the wisdom, humility, and dedication necessary for godly service!

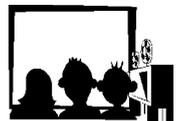


The Next Parish Council Meeting – Today

All members of the parish are welcome to attend but voting privileges are reserved for those who have been blessed to take office.

Orthodox Movie Night – Monday, March 9th

On the Mondays of Great Lent, films with Christian messages will be shown and discussed at the church at 7:00pm. The titles of the films will be posted in the Sunday bulletins. This week's movie will be Fireproof.



Pre-Sanctified Liturgy – Wednesday, March 11th

The Pre-Sanctified Liturgy will be served this Wednesday at 7:00pm. Those wishing to receive Holy Communion should prepare themselves as always by fasting and reading the appointed prayers from the prayer book. If you cannot keep a total fast from midnight the night before and you would still like to receive Holy Communion, you may eat a light lenten meal in the early morning, or by 12 noon at the latest, except if a medical condition necessitates food or water at a later time. Should you have any questions about fasting or anything else regarding this special service, please speak with Fr. John. There will be a lenten meal offered after the Pre-Sanctified Liturgy for those who are able to attend.



Reading Group – March 16th

The next Reading Group will meet on Monday, March 16th at 7pm at the church. The text is "The Way into the Kingdom of Heaven" by St. Innocent of Alaska and is available for pickup at the candle stand. All are encouraged to pickup the reading, even if you cannot make the discussion group.

Minutes from the Annual Meeting

are available for viewing on the bulletin board in the coffee hour room. If you have any questions, corrections and/or suggestions please let Jen Alexion or Fr. John know.

Memorial Saturdays

On Saturdays during the Great Fast we are especially called to remember those who have departed this life before us in the hope of the resurrection to eternal life. Memorial services are being offered (see the monthly calendar and weekly bulletin for times) during which the names of our departed loved ones are commemorated. If you have not yet submitted a list for commemoration, please see Fr. John.

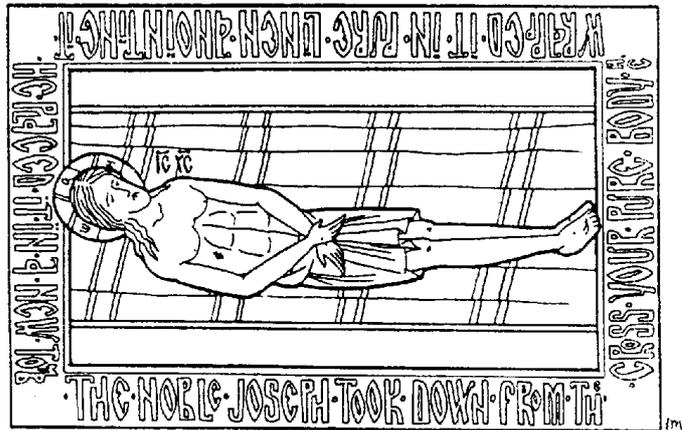


Spring is Almost Here

As you plan your spring cleaning, home improvements, and landscaping projects, please considering purchasing your supplies via our Scrip program; see Kathy or Jen to help support our Mission!

The New Counter Schedule

has been posted on the bulletin board. Council members are asked to please note which Sunday they have been assigned to. If you cannot count on a particular Sunday, please find a replacement.



ABOUT ENDURING TO THE END

A Homily By St. Nikolai Velimirovich

"But the one who perseveres to the end will be saved"

St. Matthew 24:13

O Lord most wonderful, You have endured all, all to the end. That is why You became not only blessed but the source of blessings for all men who desire good for themselves throughout the ages of ages.

The apostles endured all to the end and entered into blessed eternity. The saints willingly endured the difficulties and sufferings to the end and were glorified, both in heaven and on earth.

The martyrs willingly endured all pains to the end and became the adopted co-inheritors of the Kingdom of Christ.

Every founder of a new organization recruits followers for himself with the promise of good fruits and many pleasures but deliberately remains silent about the hardships and labors which lead to those fruits and pleasures. Our Lord Jesus is the only one Who spoke the whole truth to His followers, both the bitter and the sweet side of the truth. He did not promise fruits without service, nor glory without suffering, nor ultimate rest without the thorny path, nor victory without struggle, nor pleasure without bitterness, nor the kingdom without tears and self-denial.

Although our Lord counted the many difficulties which would befall His followers, in the end He does not abandon them without comfort. He gives meaning to their sufferings and does not leave them in darkness. He says, "The one who perseveres to the end will be saved." What is that blessing which awaits those who endure to the end that He Jesus fully revealed and that has been witnessed even until today and is being witnessed by many saints, who, have either appeared in glory to the faithful from the other world or who, while yet in the flesh, were uplifted in the spirit to a vision of that glory and blessedness which await the faithful, the chosen and persevering?

O Lord, You are our strength. Help us to endure to the end with faith that You are beside us.

ON HELPING TO QUENCH ANGER

St. John of Kronstadt

A man who is wrathful with us is a sick man; we must apply a plaster to his heart - love; we must treat him kindly, speak to him gently, lovingly. And if there is not deeply-rooted malice against us within him, but only a temporary fit of anger, you will see how his heart, or his malice, will melt away through your kindness and love - how good will conquer evil. A Christian must always be kind, gracious, and wise in order to conquer evil by good.



ON THE POWER OF LOVE

St. Nikolai Velimirovich

A scholar attracts by his knowledge, a wealthy man by riches, a handsome man by beauty, an artist by his skill. Each of these attracts a limited number of individuals. Only love attracts all human beings. The attraction of love is unlimited. And educated or uneducated, rich or poor, skilled or unskilled, beautiful or ugly, healthy or sick, and young or old - all want to be loved. Christ spread His love on everyone, and lovingly drew all to Himself. With His great love he encompassed even the dead, long decomposed and forgotten by men.



ON THREE DEGREES OF EATING

St. Nicodemus of the Holy Mountain

According to St. Gregory the Sinaite there are three degrees in eating: temperance, sufficiency, and satiety. Temperance is when someone wants to eat some more food but abstains, rising from the table still somewhat hungry. Sufficiency is when someone eats what is needed and sufficient for normal nourishment. Satiety is when someone eats more than enough and is more than satisfied. Now if you cannot keep the first two degrees and you proceed to the third, then, at least, do not become a glutton, remembering the words of the Lord, 'Woe to you that are full now, for you shall hunger' (Lk. 6:25). Remember also that rich man who ate in this present life sumptuously every day, but who was deprived of the desired bosom of Abraham in the next life, simply because of this sumptuous eating.



PLANT YOUR GARDEN TODAY!

Anyone who works in the garden knows the importance of putting good seed into the ground because as the saying goes we shall reap what we sow. It is the same with the human heart - what goes into the soil of the human heart will ultimately grow and sprout forth, manifesting itself in our words and actions. The following is a recipe for a Christian heart which by the grace of God will bear much fruit!

1. FIRST, PLANT THREE ROWS OF PEAS

- ❖ Patience
- ❖ Promptness
- ❖ Prayer

2. NEXT, PLANT THREE ROWS OF SQUASH

- ❖ SQUASH gossip
- ❖ SQUASH indifference
- ❖ SQUASH criticism

3. THEN, PLANT FOUR ROWS OF LETTUCE

- ❖ LET US obey the Lord
- ❖ LET US be loyal
- ❖ LET US be true to our obligations
- ❖ LET US be unselfish

4. FINISH WITH FOUR ROWS OF TURNIP

- ❖ TURN UP when needed
- ❖ TURN UP with a smile
- ❖ TURN UP with a vision
- ❖ TURN UP with determination

Plant your garden today, remembering the Apostle Paul's words, "He who sows sparingly shall also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully shall also reap bountifully." (2 Cor. 9:6)

ARCHPASTORAL MESSAGE OF METROPOLITAN JONAH AT THE BEGINNING OF GREAT LENT 2009

Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!

To the Very Reverend and Reverend Clergy, Monastics and Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America
Dearly Beloved in the Lord:

Christ is in our midst!

Our Church has gone through a tragic and bitter episode in her history. Many souls suffered shipwreck, demoralized by the sins of a few. That is over. But the lingering bitterness and mistrust, resentment and desire for retribution, hang over us. We must heal this, both on an individual as well as corporate level. The only way to do this is repentance, using this season of repentance to make changes in our lives, cleanse our hearts and minds, and embrace the hope that can only be grasped by forgiveness. Unless we forgive others from our hearts, we cannot accept God's forgiveness for our own sins.

Every time we criticize, judge, condemn or despise another person, no matter how gravely he or she may have sinned, we sin equally ourselves. All our self-righteous indignation is all hypocrisy that blinds us to our own sins. The resentment we allow to fester in our hearts gives us over to corruption and evil.

We allow ourselves to gossip, and talk about other people, and forget that we condemn ourselves by doing so. It does not matter what another person has done; that is his or her sin. Why do I need to make his sin my own, by my judgment and criticism, and destroy my own life by resentment of someone else?

If I fast from foods, St John Chrysostom said, how can I devour my brother by gossip and slander? If we don't eat things that have been slaughtered, why do I murder my brother by character assassination? If I abstain from wine, how can I allow myself to be drunk on my passions of resentment and bitterness? It is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but rather what comes out of the mouth and the heart. It is these things, judgment and criticism, which reveal our piety to be a hypocritical sham. All our self-righteousness is as filthy rags before God, and we only condemn ourselves.

The only way of life for us, as Christians, is repentance and forgiveness. We must be "transformed in the renewal of our minds," (the real meaning of "repentance") and forgive those who have offended and sinned against us. Only then can we be free from our resentments, and our souls and lives--and our Church--can be healed. In short, we have to change our behavior, our words and our thoughts.

Let our fasting be accompanied by the refusal to indulge in judgment and criticism of others: gossip, slander, suspicion and innuendo, all that is hateful to God. Let us fast from meat, as we fast from the carnality of hatred and resentment of others, which is the source of our passions, pain and addictions. Let us fast from cheese, as we cut out the bitterness that curdles the joy in our lives, the pure milk of love. Let us fast from eggs, so that the seeds of corruption do not hatch in our souls. Let us fast from oil, so that we do not grease our lips to slander and fry our neighbor. Let us fast from wine, that we might remain sober and watchful, to maintain the purity of our souls, minds and hearts.

Let us make this Lent a spiritual fast, so that purified in mind and heart, as well as in body, we might behold the radiant Resurrection of Christ in the reception of the Holy Mysteries at Pascha, but most especially, in the resurrection of our souls. Let corruption be abolished, and let us be loosed from the sins that keep us enslaved. The only place to start is in our own souls, mindful of our sins, and in a spirit of love and compassion towards our neighbor. Only by the purification of our souls, freed from the guilt of sin and pain of resentment, will we be able to feast with Christ at His Messianic Banquet, illumined by His grace, being made partakers of the eternal Joy of His Kingdom.

With love in Christ,



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

