



## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup>

### SUNDAY AFTER THE HOLY CROSS

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

## MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup>

- 7:00p.m. Reading Group

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup>

### NEW MARTYRS OF ALASKA

- 9:00a.m. Akathist

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26<sup>TH</sup>

### ST. JOHN THE THEOLOGIAN

- 4:30p.m. Baptism of Bruce Eckerd  
6:00p.m. Great Vespers

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27<sup>TH</sup>

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

- 8:40a.m. Hours  
9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy  
Coffee Hour  
By-Law Committee Mtg

"Who will give u back this present time if we waste it?"

St. Dorotheos of Gaza

#### READER SCHEDULE

**Sunday, Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>**

Jodi McElwee

**Sunday, Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>**

Troy Duker

## CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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## BULLETIN OF SEPTEMBER 20, 2009

### Please Remember in Prayer

Carole Boris (newly-departed), Archpriest Michael, Monk Christian, Nadia, Kathy & Bill Parrish, Marie, Thomas, Judith Kocinski, Jane Kosutko, Robert Evanusa, Nicholas & Linda, Nicholas, Anna, Steven, Yvonne, Katherine, Michael, Gregory, Todd & Olga Leisure, Nina Gordon, Constantina & Christos, Mirela & Chris, Jaroslav. Requests? Let Fr. John know.

### The Parish Council

will meet today, Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, following the coffee hour.

### Reading Group – Monday, September 21<sup>st</sup>

This Monday evening at 7:00pm we will discuss the book "Turn Around", which served as our summer reading. All are encouraged to attend the discussion!



### The 2010 Calendars / Planners

from Saint Tikhon's Bookstore are now available for order. To reserve a calendar or pocket planner please sign your name to the list in the back of the church. The total costs of the calendars and pocket planners, including shipping, are \$4.00 and \$3.00 respectively.

### Baptism of Bruce Eckerd – This Saturday!

On Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, Bruce Eckerd will be received into the Orthodox Church through the Mystery of Holy Baptism. The service will begin at 4:30pm with Great Vespers at 6:00pm. There will be no Orthodoxy 101. Please come to celebrate this special day for Bruce and our community!



### Food for the Hungry

A food basket is in the back of our church. This basket is for non-perishable items which will be distributed to those in need.

### Parishioners That Are Home Bound

If you or a loved one cannot make it to Church, Fr. John would be more than pleased to visit at your home, in the hospital, at a nursing home, or any other place. It is no inconvenience at all. Please be sure to schedule a visit with Fr. John.

### Ever Wonder?

about something related to Orthodoxy or parish life? The adult classes, offered 3x's per month, and the Orthodoxy 101 classes offered every Saturday (except this coming one) offer an excellent opportunity to discuss things with your priest and fellow parishioners. The classes are informal: no homework, no tests, etc.. The only thing you'll find at these classes is open (and often lively) discussion between people interested in learning more. Give it a try – you may actually like it!



## METROPOLITAN HILARION BRINGS MAIN SHRINE OF RUSSIAN CHURCH ABROAD TO RUSSIA

From Interfax-Religion.com

Moscow, September 14, Interfax – First hierarch of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia Metropolitan Hilarion came from New York City to Moscow last Saturday and brought the main shrine of the Russian Church Abroad the Kursk Root Icon of the Mother of God. The icon will stay in the Cathedral of Christ the Savior for ten days, so that Orthodox believers can have a chance to venerate it. The icon arrived to the Cathedral right from the Sheremetyevo-2 Airport. On September 23, Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia will bring the icon to the Kursk Root Hermitage, where it was once found.

Bringing of the holy icon to Russia coincides with annual celebrations dedicated to the anniversary of the Battle of Kulikovo held on September 21, the Nativity of the Holy Virgin. Answering the questions of journalists, Metropolitan Hilarion supported the idea of making the anniversary of the Battle of Kulikovo a state holiday. Representatives of the Orthodox community have earlier promoted this idea and stressed that thanks to the Kulikovo victory, Russia became an independent state.

According to Patriarch Kirill, the Kursk Root Icon of the Holy Virgin "received its name from place and circumstances of its founding, its name reminds us of spiritual roots of our nation" as it has become a symbol of "unity among all Orthodox Christians of Russian tradition."



### About the Kursk Root Icon

The Kursk Root Icon of the Mother of God of the Sign dates from the 13th century, and is one of the most ancient icons of the Russian Church. Soon after the Russian Revolution (1917), the Kursk Root Icon was entrusted to the care of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia, whose administrative offices are currently located in New York City.

Today the Icon is taken from Orthodox parish to parish all over the world and its fame is international. It is known for countless miracles, healings and for assistance in misfortunes. It is significant that St John the Wonderworker (+1966), who was the Archbishop of San Francisco in the 1960's and was recently canonized by the Orthodox Church, passed away before this very Icon.

The return of the Kursk Root Icon to Russia is a sign of the reconciliation which occurred in 2007 between the Russian Orthodox Church inside and outside Russia after decades of administrative division caused by the terrible effects of Communism and religious persecution in Russia.

**THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN CHRIST AND THE EVIL ONE  
OVER THE RELEASE OF THE SOULS OF ADAM**  
*From Homily XI – Saint Makarios the Great (4<sup>th</sup> century)*

The wonderful Cross is to the Jews a stumbling block, and to the Greeks foolishness. But what says the Apostle? "But we preach Jesus Christ, and Him crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block, and to the Greeks foolishness, but to us who are being saved the wisdom and power of God."

O the great miracle, in the dead body is found life! Here is found redemption; here is found light. Here the Lord comes to death, and discourses with him, and commands him to bring the souls out of hell and death, and to give them back to Him.



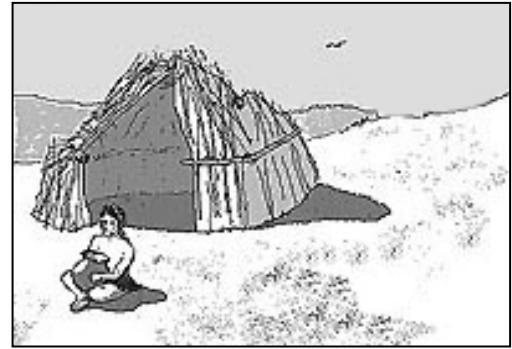
Behold then, death, troubled at these things, goes in to his ministers, and gathers together all his powers; and the prince of wickedness produces the bond-deeds, and says, "See, these men obeyed my words; see how men worshipped us."

But God, who is a just judge, displays His justice here also and says to the devil, "Adam obeyed you, and you took possession of him and his descendants as all of humanity obeyed you. But what is My body doing here? It is without sin. The body of the first Adam was under your power, and you have a right to have held it, but to Me all bear witness that I never sinned. I owe you nothing, and all bear witness that I am the Son of God. Above the heavens came a voice and bore witness upon the earth, *This is My Beloved Son; hear Him.* John witnessed, *Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world;* and the Scriptures say again, *Who did no sin, neither was guile found in Him; and the prince of this world comes and has nothing in Me.* And you yourself, O Satan, bear witness to Me, saying, *I know Thee, who Thou art, the Son of God;* and again, *What have we to do with Thee, Thou Jesus of Nazareth? Art Thou come to torment us before the time?* There are three that bear witness to Me – He that is above the heavens sends forth a voice; they that are on earth; and you yourself. Therefore I have now purchased the body of the first Adam and released him and his descendants from your power. Having paid their debts with My crucifixion and descent into hell, I command you, O hell and darkness and death, bring out the imprisoned souls of Adam!"

Thus the evil powers, stricken with terror, gave back the imprisoned souls of Adam.

**WHEN YOUR HUT'S ON FIRE**

The only survivor of a shipwreck was washed up on a small, uninhabited island. He prayed feverishly for God to rescue him. Everyday he scanned the horizon for help, but none seemed forthcoming. Exhausted, he eventually managed to build a little hut out of driftwood to protect him from the elements, and to store his few possessions.



One day, after scavenging for food, he arrived home to find his little hut in flames, with smoke rolling up to the sky. He felt the worst had happened, and everything was lost. He was stunned with disbelief, grief, and anger. He cried out, "God! How could you do this to me?"

Early the next day, he was awakened by the sound of a ship approaching the island! It had come to rescue him! "How did you know I was here?", asked the weary man of his rescuers. "We saw your smoke signal," they replied.

**The Moral of This Story:** It's easy to get discouraged when things are going bad, but we shouldn't lose heart, because God is at work in our lives.... even in the midst of our pain and suffering. Remember that the next time your little hut seems to be burning to the ground. It just may be a smoke signal that summons the Grace of God.



## BROKENNESS: HOPE AND OPTIMISM

Fr. George Morelli

Does any one need any more evidence that brokenness exists in the world? We see it everywhere: in business, government, education; even in churches, synagogues, and mosques. Brokenness also exists among individuals called to noble conduct: judges, lawmakers, law enforcement officials, medical practitioners, military leaders, religious personages, teachers and more. No level of society or occupation is exempt.

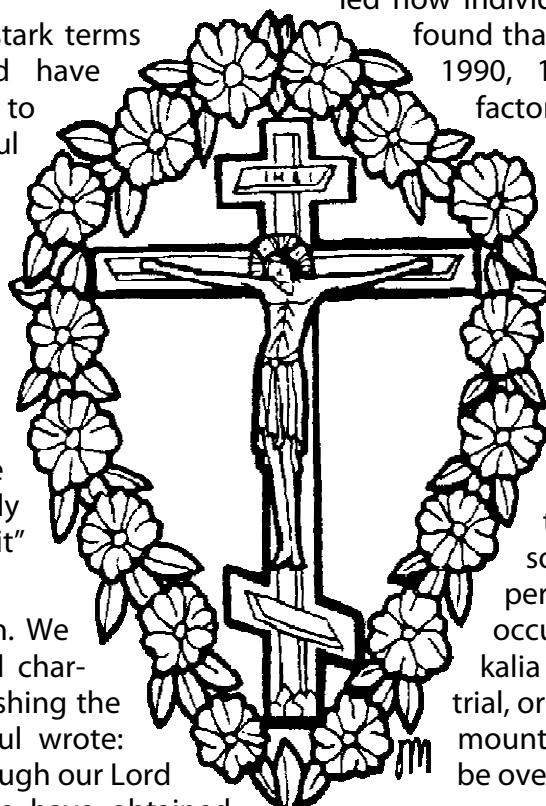
The Prophet Isaiah spoke in stark terms of the people who should have chosen God but decided to choose sin instead: "Ah, sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, offspring of evildoers, sons who deal corruptly! They have forsaken the Lord, they have despised the Holy One of Israel, they are utterly estranged" (Isaiah 1: 3-4). Jeremiah the Prophet said: "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately corrupt; who can understand it" (Jeremiah 17:9)?

Hope is fostered in tribulation. We can transform suffering, build character and endurance by nourishing the Godly virtue of hope. St. Paul wrote: "We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in our hope of sharing the glory of God. More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope..." (Romans 5: 1-4)

The Fathers of the Eastern Church knew that we cannot get through the periods of brokenness and darkness in our lives without God and hope in Him. St. Thalassios says: "Our Lord has given light to all men, but those who do not trust in Him bring darkness upon themselves" (Philokalia II). St. Maximus the Confessor wrote: "Hope is the intel-

lect's surest pledge of divine help and promises the destruction of hostile powers. Love makes it difficult or, rather, makes it utterly impossible for the intellect to estrange itself from the tender care of God; and when the intellect is under attack, love impels it to concentrate its whole natural power into longing for the divine" (Philokalia II).

Contemporary research psychologists have studied how individuals cope with tribulation have found that "Learned Optimism" (Seligman, 1990, 1995) is a major contributing factor. "Learned Optimism" can be viewed as applying the virtue of hope in our lives. It involves perceiving tribulation as temporary, and a challenge to find some meaning in it.



Another Eastern Church Father St. Peter of Damaskos said: "For God, as the creator of all things, knows our nature thoroughly and has ordered all things for our benefit... if someone wants to be saved no person and no time, place or occupation can prevent him" (Philokalia III). This means that there is no trial, or tribulation, no matter how insurmountable it may seem, which cannot be overcome with God's help.

The brokenness we see in the world, often a source of despair, can be transformed into an opportunity to learn from the life-errors we and others have made which have brought about this corruption. Thus: Love of God and neighbor can motivate us to take the first steps in recognizing and changing, transforming, our own faults and brokenness.

Our victory over brokenness begins with ourselves in the voluntary struggle that must be waged daily. The words of Jesus set the theme of hopeful optimism: "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26).