

# CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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## BULLETIN OF JANUARY 24, 2010

### Please Remember in Prayer

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

### Annual Meeting of the Parish

Appreciation is expressed to all who were able to attend the Annual Meeting of the Parish last Sunday – it truly was a blessing to offer thanks to God for our past and ask His blessing for our future. Special thanks are extended to those who prepared and offered reports to the Parish Body. If you missed the meeting for any reason, reports are available at the usher's stand and a news update with photos is available on the parish website. The draft of the minutes from the meeting will be posted on the bulletin board sometime in the future. Again, thank you!



### Special Prayers

for the Sanctity of Life Sunday are found on page 4 of this bulletin.

### Fast-free Week

As a reminder, during the week of the Publican and Pharisee, January 24<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup>, we do not fast, even on Wednesday and Friday.



### Reading Group

will meet this Monday, January 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. The handout on the Church as Community is available in the back at the candle stand. Questions? See Fr. John

### House Blessing / Pizza Party at the Rectory

Next Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, there will be no coffee hour. Instead everyone is invited to the rectory, immediately following the Divine Liturgy, for a house blessing and pizza party. The rectory is located just 10 minutes from the church at: 203 W. Bourne Way; Millsboro, DE 19966. Directions will be available at the candle stand. There are slices of pizza with everyone's name on them – please come!



### Video Library

In the back of the church you will find some of the videos which have been shown during our Movie Nights. These videos are being made available for those who were not able to attend the showing at the church. If you borrow a video, please be sure to sign it out. Enjoy!

### Website Update

Photos from last Sunday's Parish Meeting and last Friday's March For Life have been posted on our website.



## SUNDAY, JANUARY 24<sup>TH</sup> SANCTITY OF LIFE SUNDAY PUBLICAN AND PHARISEE

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

## MONDAY, JANUARY 25<sup>TH</sup> 7:00p.m. Reading Group

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 30<sup>TH</sup> 5:00p.m. Orthodoxy 101 6:00p.m. Great Vespers

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 31<sup>ST</sup> PRODIGAL SON 8:40a.m. Hours 9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy Coffee Hour

### On Hatred of Sin

*"Who hated sin more than the saints? But they did not hate the sinners at the same time, nor condemn them, nor turn away from them. But they suffered with them, admonished them, comforted them, gave them remedies as sickly members, and did all they could to heal them."*

St. Dorotheos of Gaza

### READER SCHEDULE

**Sunday, Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>**  
 Kathy Parrish  
**Sunday, Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>**  
 Jodi McElwee





## THE TREASURE HUNT

By Katherine Johnson



As a mother of many children, attending the divine services is a matter of constant movement. My arms are rarely empty and, as far as I can recollect, I have never ended a service standing in the same spot in which I began. Long ago I let go of the naive notion that the distraction of caring for young children amounted to missing the spiritual benefit of attending the services. Quite the contrary. The situation of having my will repeatedly cut off has proven far more profitable than the peace and quiet that I desire.

*Women shall be saved in child-bearing (1 Timothy 2:15).*

Yes, she will be given the opportunity to learn to live for another person besides herself.

My spiritual father often reminds me that mothers must learn to be creative in prayer. It's a matter of taking utter chaos and, by God's grace, using it to affect the ordering one's heart. This is the creativity of motherhood. Nursing a sick child in the middle of the night becomes an opportunity to keep vigil. The repeated interruption of a meal in order to serve a hungry child becomes an opportunity to fast. An overflowing basket of laundry becomes a reminder to pray for each member of the family as each piece of clothing is folded and put away. Little ways to capture grace in the smallest of moments.

I spent the first decade of motherhood waiting for a moment of quiet. *As soon as the children are older, I can pray. As soon as the house is clean and organized, I can be at peace. As soon as we get through this trying time, then I can be the kind of wife and mother that I truly want to be.*



Always missing the opportunity to engage the present moment and instead, living for an imaginary one.

The older I get, the more the present moment becomes a treasure hunt. *Where is it? Where is the grace of this moment? God is here. Where is He in this moment?* While I used to hunt for quiet, I now spend my time as a mother learning to listen amid the noise and have made it a practice to creatively search for any opportunity to catch a brief spiritual word of encouragement.

It's amazing how much better you can hear the quiet of God's voice when the noise of one's complaining ceases.

For instance, if I had to guess, I would say that on average I typically hear about five minutes of a 20 minute homily on any given Sunday. Yet God is infinitely providential and somehow that brief word

proves to be the one that I most needed.

My five minutes today were probably more like two. Nevertheless, having no idea of the context in which they were posed, I found something to ponder in these questions:

*When my children are disobedient do I first stop and pray for them? Does my pain of heart lie in that they are doing something that might cause them to lose the grace of God? Or does my irritation rest in that they have not done my will?*

I wonder how a family would be blessed if a mother were to keep a watch over her heart, constantly asking these three questions of herself.

I think I'll test it and see. With God as my helper.

And the treasure hunt continues.



### A HOMILY ABOUT THE MOST ALL-DISCERNING JESUS

By St. Nikolai Velimirovich

***"Why do you harbor evil thoughts in your hearts" (St. Matthew 9:4).***

When our Lord deigned to direct a rebuke to the Pharisees and Scribes, at that time, they had not killed anyone, nor had they deceived anyone, nor had they looted anyone and, not only that, at that time, they had not even offended anyone by their words. Why then, did our Lord admonish them when they had not committed any sin neither in works nor in words? Why? Because, at that time, their thoughts were evil.

*Continued on page 4...*

## "ECONOMIC REPORT" TO FEATURE ORTHODOX SEMINARY ON FOX NEWS

*From DirectionsToOrthodoxy.org*

[SVS Communications /Yonkers, NY] -- The TV show "The Economic Report," hosted by Greg Gumbel, will feature St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary, Yonkers, NY, on Fox Business Network, Saturday, January 30, 2010.

The program is part of a segment on trends and issues related to "Leading Developments in Faith Based Higher Education" as part of the show's Focus on Emerging Issues series.

The segment highlights St. Vladimir's as an exemplary Christian institution that is making creative adjustments to the economic downturn. Recently, St. Vladimir's established a "Going Green" campus initiative to provide a response to the growing ecological crisis and to address the issue of institutional sustainability.

"Orthodox Christianity ecologically involves the relationship with the inhabited earth, the human community, and the natural eco-system in which we live," says The Very Rev. Dr. Chad Hatfield, chancellor and CEO of the seminary. "We are implementing sustainable practices across our twelve-acre campus, exploring alternative energy sources, and caring for God's creation."

Likewise, The Very Rev. Dr. John Behr, dean of the seminary, notes, "Theology and education for ministry are not simply academic pursuits. An Orthodox theological education is far more encompassing and demanding than offered in a typical institution of higher learning."

Beyond being a graduate school of theology, the seminary is also a center for theological research and reflection. Established in 1938, the seminary prepares students for ministry as bishops, priests, deacons, lay leaders, and scholars in Orthodox churches in the U.S. and worldwide. Among its graduates are the current patriarch of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church, His Holiness Abune Paulos, and the current head of the Orthodox Church in America, His Beatitude Metropolitan Jonah.

Airtimes for the program are: 2:30 p.m. ET; 1:30 p.m. CT; 12:30 p.m. MT; and 11:30 a.m. PT.



## METROPOLITAN JONAH VISITS MEXICAN FAITHFUL, ENCOURAGES OUTREACH TO INDIGENOUS POPULATION

*From OCA.org*

MEXICO CITY, MEXICO [OCA] -- His Grace, Bishop Alejo of Mexico City, welcomed His Beatitude, Metropolitan Jonah, to Mexico for a brief archpastoral visitation during the second week of January 2010.

For many years, the Primate of the Orthodox Church in America customarily visited the faithful in Mexico in conjunction with the Great Feast of Theophany. Prior to his retirement and the election of Bishop Alejo, His Eminence, Archbishop Dmitri of Dallas and the South, also participated in the annual visitation in his capacity as Exarch of Mexico.

Great Vespers was celebrated at Mexico City's Cathedral of the Ascension on Saturday, January 9. The following morning, Metropolitan Jonah presided at the Divine Liturgy, after which the Blessing of Water -- a highlight of the annual visitation -- was celebrated.

Prior to his departure on Wednesday, January 13, Metropolitan Jonah visited communities throughout the region. At every mission, including one in the midst of a building project, he was well received by clergy and laity alike, answering their questions while encouraging them to share their faith with others through evangelistic ministry.



Joining Metropolitan Jonah and Bishop Alejo was His Grace, Bishop Benjamin of San Francisco and the West and Locum Tenens of the Diocese of Alaska, and Archpriest Michael Oleksa, a specialist in the evangelization of native peoples, who hope to establish links between clergy in Alaska and Mexico as a means of encouraging the latter in their evangelistic outreach to the Mexico's indigenous population.

## PRAYERS FOR THE SANCTITY OF LIFE SUNDAY

### Inserted into the Litany of Fervent Supplication:

Again we pray that Thou wilt grant to the people of this nation the will to do good, to flee from evil, and to practice all righteousness, making us respectful of life and sharers of Thy blessings, caring for one another in mercy and truth.

Again we pray that Thou wilt banish all evil from our hearts and wickedness from our laws, enabling us to be servants of Thy holy will and performers of Thy Love.

Again we pray that Thou wilt kindle in our hearts the will to care for the needy, to show kindness to the poor, to aid the homeless, and to help the helpless.

### Inserted into "Blessed be the Name of the Lord":

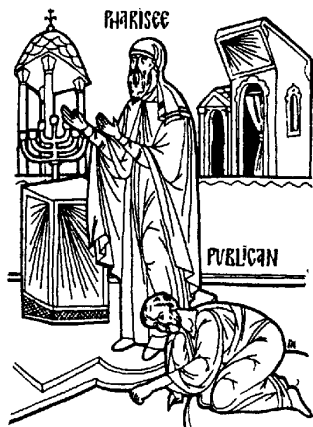
Priest: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son, Who art in the bosom of the Father, True God, Source of life and immortality, Light of Light, Who came into the world to enlighten it: Thou wast pleased to be conceived in the womb of the Virgin Mary for the salvation of our souls by the power of Thine All-Holy Spirit.

Yes, O Master, Thou didst come that we might have life and have it more abundantly, we ask Thee to enlighten the minds and hearts of those blinded to the truth that life begins at conception and that the unborn in the womb are already adorned with Thine image and likeness; enable us to guard, cherish and protect the lives of all those who are unable to care for themselves. For Thou art the Giver of Life, bringing each person from non-being into being, sealing each person with divine and infinite love. Be Merciful, O Lord, to those who, through ignorance or willfulness, affront Thy divine goodness and providence through the evil act of abortion. May they, and all of us, come to the light of Thy Truth and glorify Thee, the Giver of Life, together with Thine Eternal Father, and Thine All-Holy, Good, and Life-giving Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.



### A Homily About the Most All-Discerning Jesus *continued from page 2...*

An evil thought is sin! That is the great news which Christ brought into the world. In truth, an evil thought is the sinful source of all sin because, before a man says something or does something sinful, he thinks sinfully. Thought is the causative sin. All other sins are only subsequent sins. Whoever wishes to annihilate those evil actions must uproot those evil thoughts first. Whoever desires to stem the flow of water must first dry up the source. Therefore, let no one justify himself: I am not a sinner, for I have not killed anyone nor looted from anyone nor profaned anyone nor lied to anyone! Behold, we are full of deadly looting, profaning and deceiving thoughts! If we have not committed sin by our own deeds, that is simply a matter of the mercy of God and external circumstances. But, if God had yielded and if the circumstances were favorable,

we would have committed all those sins that we had thought. The serpent is not only venomous when it bites but also when it does not bite, because it carries the venom in itself.

Therefore, not only is thought a sin, but also it is the source of sin: the beginning of sin and the seed and root of sin. That is why the All-seeing and All-knowing Lord rebuked those who had evil thoughts. "Why do you harbor evil thoughts in your hearts."

O Lord, All-seeing and All-knowing, help us to cleanse our hearts and minds from evil thoughts so that our words and deeds may be pure.