



CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN OF JANUARY 8, 2012

Welcome Visitors

We warmly welcome all those who are visiting us today. It is good to have you all with us!

Matching Donations Completed with Great Success!

Many thanks to all who donated towards our recent matching donation challenges! The Friends of the Mission donated \$13,395 and the local Members of the Mission donated \$7,106! Combined, together with the \$10K in matched funds, this endeavor has raised \$30,501 for our renovations! May the Lord bless the givers for their generosity!



Choir Practice – Sunday, Jan. 8th

Today, following the coffee hour. All choir members and those interested are encouraged to attend.

Blessing of the Atlantic Ocean – Saturday, Jan. 14th

On Saturday, January 14th, we will join St. George's Greek Orthodox Church for their annual Blessing of Waters, served at the Atlantic Ocean. The divine services will be led by Met. Evangelos of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese. Matins and Divine Liturgy will begin at 8:30am. The Blessing of Waters will take place at 12:30pm. All invited! For more information, please see Fr. John.

2012 St. Tikhon's Calendar Update

The calendars have arrived! Please be sure to pick up the calendars you ordered in the back of the church. Thank you for your patience!



Parish Council Meeting – Sunday, Jan. 22nd

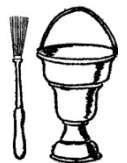
will be held to finalize preparations for the Annual Meeting.

Annual Meeting – Sunday, Jan. 29th

The 2012 Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 29th, following the Divine Liturgy and coffee hour. Everyone is asked to please set aside this date for this important meeting.

House Blessing

If you would like your home blessed this year, please put your name on the sign-up sheet at the candle stand. This short service brings God's blessing to the home and all who dwell therein.



SUNDAY, JANUARY 8TH

Sunday After Theophany

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

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14TH

Blessing of the Atlantic Ocean

8:30am *Matins*
Divine Liturgy
Blessing of Atlantic
@ St. George's in OC

6:00pm Great Vespers

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15TH

31st Sunday of Pentecost

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

READER SCHEDULE

Sunday, Jan. 15th

Gabriela Jones

Sunday, Jan. 22nd

Kathy Parrish



Prayer List: Fr. Michael Mihalick, Fr. Alexander Atty, Fr. Christian, Mat. Dunia, Kelly Elizabeth & child, Bill Parrish, Fazealle, Hayley, Tyler Pelesh, Jerrie Rife, Wallace & Michelle, Ryan & Kayla, Maleah Morsey, Victoria Kokkinos, Ed Tucker, Karen Nichols, Denise Royal, Simeon, Scott & Maryann, Roman Szwec, Garrett Cuppels, Jane Koshutko, Nicholas & Linda, Nina Gordon, Mirela & Chris, Troy Duker, Mary Miranda, Bruce, Stella, Lilly Barnett, Amy F., Nedelina, Henrietta Stack, & John Nakajima (departed)

| OPERATING THRU 12/31/11 | | | JANUARY OPERATING | | | BUILDING FUND MATCHING DONATIONS | | |
|-------------------------|---------|---------|-------------------|-------|------------|----------------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Income | Expense | Net | Income | Goal | Difference | 20K (Everyone) | 5K (Parish) | 5K (Friends) |
| 50,053 | 62,898 | -12,845 | 1,475 | 4,858 | -3,383 | 20,000! | 7,106! | 13,395! |

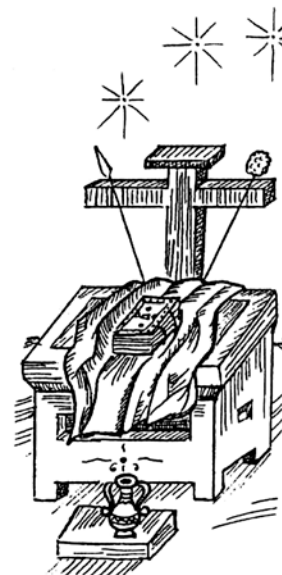
BEING CLOSE TO GOD BY GOING TO CHURCH – WHY DO WE STRESS CHURCH ATTENDANCE?

By Hieromonk John (Anderson)

The Church is literally the Body of Christ. This means that corporately, not individually, we are Christ Himself still incarnate in the world doing His work. If a person desires with their whole heart one can unite to Christ and become a member of His Body. Ideally, this is motivated by a simple desire to know God and to be where He is. Out of this love for God comes the desire to follow his commands and to worship Him. However, this happens in a context which is not our own.

Orthodoxy maintains the ancient Jewish belief that God is manifest in the temple. We believe that the same glorious presence of God, the Shekinah Glory, that dwelt on the Ark of the Covenant now resides on each altar in every Orthodoxy Temple. "God is with us, understand all ye nations." Isaiah 8:10, as the hymn from Great Compline says. If we truly understood what this means -- that the God "who is a consuming fire" is literally present in the Church -- we would strive to worship before Him frequently.

Church attendance is not merely about obligation, guilt, or nostalgia. It is about being where the beloved is and worshipping Him simply because we love Him. It is about being the Body of Christ in oneness. By going to Church we learn to lay aside ego, we learn to love, we learn to live, and we learn how to be truly human. Christ Himself told us to make God the absolute center of our lives and to make all else secondary. Eternal life begins at the altar where we remain in His Presence without distractions, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Matt 6:21.



QUESTIONS ABOUT HOLY WATER

Q. When should I drink holy water?

A. When you feel a spiritual need, that is when you find yourself strongly tempted; feel in an evil way; are about to set out on a journey; will miss the divine services; before a difficult encounter; in illness, afflictions, etc.. It is the custom of some pious people to take a drink of holy water the first thing every day before they eat or drink anything else (except on days when they receive Holy Communion).

Q. Where should I keep the holy water?

A. Some keep the holy water in their icon corner and others in the refrigerator.

Q. Does holy water have magical powers?

A. No. But it is matter that is "spirit-bearing" which brings the blessing of God, cleansing, healing, and can be used for every purpose that is expedient.

A PRAYER BEFORE A JOURNEY

O Lord Jesus Christ our God, the true and living way, be Thou, O Master, my companion, guide and guardian during my journey; deliver and protect me from all danger, misfortune and temptation; that being so defended by Thy divine power, I may have a peaceful and successful journey and arrive safely at my destination. For in Thee I put my trust and hope, and to Thee, together with Thine Eternal Father, and the All-holy Spirit, I ascribe all praise, honor and glory: now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.



THINE OWN OF THINE OWN

By the VRev. Vladimir Berzonsky

"Thine own of Thine own, we offer to Thee, in behalf of all, and for all" (Elevation of Gifts)

What gift can we offer to You which is truly ours to give? Even the awareness of our poverty is a gift that comes from Your Holy Spirit. Like the Little Drummer Boy of the Christmas carol, we have no gifts to bring, unless it be the free will to desire to be here at this moment of the Divine Liturgy at the consecration of the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of You Yourself, our Lord Christ Jesus, and Your heavenly Father, the Almighty Creator of heaven and earth and all that is in it. In Your great wisdom, Lord Jesus, You chose from the meal the items that require some effort and talent or preparation on behalf of humans. The seeds of wheat planted and cultivated until ripened and made into flour and then bread is Your way of allowing us to take pride in the product; and so too the wine from the grapes. Your bread is our precious nourishment and Your wine having become Your Blood is the stimulant that fires us from complacency, invigorating us with zeal to be worthy of those Gifts.

We learn humility, like its root humus, is a reminder that "You shall eat bread in the sweat of your face till you return from the ground from which you were taken" (Genesis 3:19). We elevate the memory of that announcement spoken by the Almighty as response to Adam's disobedience. This bread will become the revocation of that curse, because it shall turn into the Bread of Life, the unique Body of God's only-begotten Son and our Lord, Jesus Christ, Who came into the world to free us from Adam's sin. Indeed, we return like the wheat and vine, yet the part of us created originally to live forever with the Holy Trinity will go on

with Christ to meet the Father with Whom we are reconciled by the humble obedience of God's will as demonstrated in His acceptance of the cross.

We learn discernment. Life is a continual process of decisions and choices. What is the cost of eternal life? Where on earth do we discover the one precious jewel, that pearl (Matthew 13:45) worth the cost of all other jewels in the world; and once we find it, what shall we do with it? This explains what monastics do with their lives, but it is not only they – all of us have the Christian obligation to sort out the genuine from the fraudulent, the true from the imitation, the lofty from the banal at each stage of our lives here on earth.

We learn loyalty. Only Jesus Christ could win our salvation, and only to Him do we commit ourselves to love, honor and obey throughout our lives here on earth. Because He gave His life for us even to the death on the cross, we cannot live as mere spectators going through the rituals of the faith without offering our own lives as witnesses to

His glory and as disciples engaged in manifesting His concerns in all ways possible.

We learn that Church is family. Never is it a One-on-one relationship, but as God is Three Persons in unity, so the two or three assembled in Eucharist are part of an uncountable number of those united through Christ with Father by the Holy Spirit – not only in the parish and diocese, but universally at a certain holy feast day or Sunday. We are members of the Church past, all who have fallen asleep in the Lord since Pentecost, and those who were snatched out of Hades on that most sacred day of rest when God was at work saving those held by death, and all those yet to be born, baptized and welcomed in the holy Church of the future.

