

CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN OF SEPTEMBER 23, 2012

Welcome Visitors

It is great to have you with us today! We hope you all consider staying after Liturgy for coffee hour and fellowship!

Congratulations!

are offered to Kaloyan and Iryna Rusanova on the baptism of their son, Kevin. May the Lord grant the newly enlightened Kevin, together with his parents and godparents, Stanislav Angelov Georgiev and Olga Klymuk, many blessed years!



Special Class: "Growing Up in the Lord's House"

On Saturday, Sept. 29th, we will offer a class, geared for parents and children but open to all, entitled, "Growing-up in the Lord's House". Our Orthodox faith has much to offer us and our children – this is an opportunity to deepen our awareness so that we can enrich our lives with the grace which is offered in the Lord's House. The class will start at 4:00pm, break at 5:00pm for pizza, and conclude with the Vespers at 6:00pm. An attendance sheet is at the candle stand. Please don't miss it!

Iveron Icon of Hawaii to Visit Ocean City

On Sunday, October 7th, at 7:00pm, there will be a service at St. George Orthodox Church in Ocean City, before the miraculous, myrrh-streaming icon from Hawaii. Everyone is invited to attend this service, venerate the icon and be anointed with the myrrh which flows from the icon.



Many Years to the Stewarts!

We extend our congratulations to Chad and Maria Stewart, who together with their children, entered the catechumenate last Sunday. We wish them God's continued blessings as we journey together with them to His Heavenly Kingdom!



A Word About Scrip

Did you know that you could benefit the church by purchasing gift cards to almost any store? These gift cards make great "gifts" but also can be used to buy groceries, gasoline, or other day-to-day things. Think about it – every time you go to the pump you could be helping your church without paying even a cent more for your gas. For more info, please see Jodi McElwee.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23RD

16th Sunday of Pentecost

Conception of St John the Baptist

8:40a.m. Pre-baptismal Prayers
 9:00a.m. Baptismal Liturgy
 Coffee Hour

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH

Ss. Juvenaly & Peter of Alaska

9:00a.m. Molieben

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH

St. John the Theologian

9:00a.m. Molieben

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH

4:00p.m. Special Class
 6:00p.m. Great Vespers

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH

17th Sunday of Pentecost

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

MONDAY, OCTOBER 1ST

Protection of the Virgin

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

READER SCHEDULE

Sunday, Sept. 30th

Gabriela Jones

Sunday, Oct. 7th

Bruce Eckerd



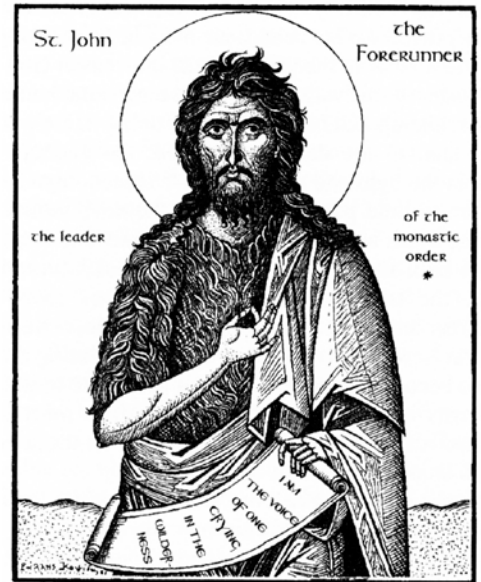
Prayer List: Fr. Michael Mihalick, Fr. Alexander Atty, Fr. Christian, Mat. Dunia, Bill Parrish, Hayley, Tyler Pelesh, Wallace & Michelle, John Trax, Maleah Morsey, Victoria Kokkinos, Karen Nichols, Denise Royal, Jane Koshutko, Nina Gordon, Mirela & Chris, Bruce Eckerd, Stella, Ari, Nedelina, Liliana, Nada and child, Jess and child, Kathryn (newly departed).

OPERATING THRU 8/30/12			SEPTEMBER OPERATING			RENOVATION TO PARISH CENTER	
Income	Expense	Net	Income	Goal	Difference	Loan Due Feb. 2014	Reimbursement Due
42,575	33,641	+8,933	3,990	4,858	-868	29,995	1,497

THE CONCEPTION OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Commemorated on September 23rd / From the Prologue of Ochrid

On this day the mercy, miracles and wisdom of God are celebrated: His mercy toward the devout and righteous parents of St. John, the aged Zacharias and Elizabeth, who all their lives had wished for and begged a child from God; His miracle, that of John's conception in the aged womb of Elizabeth; His wisdom, in the dispensation of man's salvation. God had an especially great intention for John: namely, that he be the Prophet and Forerunner of Christ the Lord, the Savior of the world. Through His angels, God announced the births of Isaac to the childless Sarah, Samson to the childless wife of Manoah, and John the Forerunner to the childless Zacharias and Elizabeth. All of these were those for whom He had special intentions, and he foretold their birth through his angels. How could children be born of aged parents? If someone desires to understand this, he should not ask men about it, for men do not know; nor should he study natural law, for this is beyond natural law. Rather, he should turn his gaze upon the power of the Almighty God, Who created the whole world from nothing, and Who needed no parents-old or young-for the creation of the first man, Adam. Instead of being curious, let us give thanks to God, Who often reveals His power, mercy and wisdom to us in ways that are beyond natural law-in which we would be imprisoned without these special miracles of God, and would fall into despair and forgetfulness of God.



PRAYERS ISSUED FOR 17TH ALL-AMERICAN COUNCIL, ELECTION OF METROPOLITAN SYOSSET, NY [OCA]

Prayers for the 17th All-American Council and the Election of the New Metropolitan of All American and Canada were issued by the Chancery of the Orthodox Church in America here during the second week of September 2012.

These petitions have also been approved by the Holy Synod of Bishops and are to be included in the Litany of Fervent Supplication at all Divine Services, beginning immediately.

PRAYERS FOR THE 17TH ALL-AMERICAN COUNCIL AND THE ELECTION OF THE METROPOLITAN OF ALL AMERICA AND CANADA

Furthermore we pray Thee, O Lord our Almighty and Eternal God, Source of all wisdom and understanding, be with us as we prepare to gather in Council so that in our striving to serve and glorify Thee, we may be enlightened with right judgment and good purpose to the building up of Thy Holy Church and to Thine eternal glory, we pray Thee, hear us and have mercy...

Again we pray Thee, O Lord our God, giver of every good gift, look with favor upon Thy Church and bless and guide our minds and hearts, and grant us by the grace of Thine All-holy Spirit an increase in faith and understanding, so that in vigilance, fasting and prayer we are prepared for the holy work of this Electoral Council, we pray Thee, hear us and have mercy...

Furthermore we pray Thee, O Lord our God, send down Thy Holy Spirit upon us and guide our minds and hearts so that, inspired by Thy gifts of discernment and understanding, we may know and do Thy holy will in the election of a Metropolitan for our Holy Church in North America, we pray Thee, hear us and have mercy...

Again we pray Thee, O Lord our God, in Thy holy and providential care for us, call forth for us a Metropolitan of wisdom, understanding, and sanctity to cooperate in working with the Holy Synod, the pastors and faithful of our Holy Church, so that together we may be that light on the lampstand and the salt of the earth working together in loving service to Christ our God and thus to one another, we pray Thee, hear us and have mercy.



THE IVERON ICON OF HAWAII

From svots.edu and orthodoxhawaii.org

The icon, a small paper replica of the Montreal Iveron Icon of the Mother of God, was given to Reader Nektarios by his parish priest in the summer of 2007; it began streaming fragrant myrrh in October 2007. After Reader Nektarios notified his parish priest of the myrrh-streaming, the icon was brought to Our Lady of Iveron Church and was completely wiped dry. A service of intercession was held before the icon, and, by the end of the service, the icon was again streaming myrrh, and the church was filled with the fragrance of roses. In June 2008, the "Holy Myrrh-streaming Hawaiian-Iveron Icon" was officially recognized by His Eminence Kyrill, archbishop of San Francisco and Western America (ROCOR), as miraculous and genuine. Archbishop Kyrill for a time placed the icon in the Cathedral Church of San Francisco, but he later had the icon returned to its home in Hawaii. The icon and its bearer have been given the blessing to travel to various churches and monasteries of Orthodox Church.



Since June of 2008, the icon has been to over 350 churches in North America of all canonical jurisdictions, and has been venerated by an estimated quarter of a million people throughout the United States. Numerous miracles have been attributed to the Virgin Mary through this "humble little Icon"; accounts are only just being collected, and are indeed numerous. Physical and spiritual healings have included the healing of blindness and eye disease, cancer, demonic possession, paralysis, kidney disease, chronic pain, and debilitating viruses.



DO ICONS WORK MIRACLES?

By Fr. John Whiteford



To put this question in proper perspective, let's consider a few other questions: Did the Ark of the Covenant work miracles (e.g. Joshua 3:15ff; 1st Samuel 4-6; 2nd Samuel 11-12)? Did the Bronze Serpent heal those bitten by snakes (Numbers 21:9)? Did the Prophet Elisha's bones raise a man from the dead (2nd Kings 13:21)? Did St. Peter's shadow heal the sick (Acts 5:15)? Did aprons and handkerchiefs that had touched St. Paul heal the sick and cast out evil spirits (Acts 19:12)?

The answer to these questions are, Yes, in a manner of speaking. Nevertheless, to be precise, it was God who chose to work miracles through these things. In the case of the Ark and the Bronze serpent, we have images used to work miracles. God worked a miracle

through the relics of the Prophet Elisha, through the shadow of a Saint, and through things that had merely touched a Saint. Why? Because God honors those who honor Him (1st Samuel 2:30), and thus takes delight in working miracles through his Saints, even by these indirect means. The fact that God can sanctify material things should come as no surprise to those familiar with Scripture. For example, not only was the Altar of the Temple holy, but anything that touched it was holy as well (Exodus 29:37). To reject the truth that God works through material things is to fall into Gnosticism.

So yes, loosely speaking, Icons can work miracles—but to be precise, it is God who works miracles through Icons, because He honors those who have honored Him.





BAPTISM, CHRISMATION, AND EUCHARIST

Excerpts from "These Truths We Hold"



The Sacrament of Holy Baptism was instituted by Our Lord after His resurrection, when He appeared to His disciples and said, All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age (Matt. 28:18-20).

On the day of Holy Pentecost, the Holy Apostles were themselves baptized by the Holy Spirit in the form of tongues of fire and began to administer the Sacrament of Baptism themselves to all who believed in Christ, wanted to repent and to change their life in accordance with His teaching. And Peter said to [the people], 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the Name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit'. So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about 3,000 souls (Acts 2:38,41).

According to the Holy Apostle Paul, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature (2 Cor. 5:17) and thus the regeneration of man's personality begins with the Sacrament of Baptism. As Scripture says, as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ (Gal. 3:27) and these words show that in Baptism the believer is united with Christ, a member of Christ's Church and through the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist becomes a partaker of the Divine Nature in spirit and body. In Baptism a new element a supernatural one which remains hidden and acts secretly is poured in and the newly-illuminated receives a new name. Through this essential change in his human nature, he turns into a new creature.

Originally the Apostles conferred the Holy Spirit on those who gladly received the Word of the Gospel (Acts 2:41) and were baptized through prayer and the laying-on of hands. In the Acts of the Apostles, Peter and John were sent to the Samaritans who had received the word of God and they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit... Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:15, 17). The need to administer the Sacrament of the spirit through the laying-on of hands required the personal participation of the Apostles, but later they blessed the

Bishops and Presbyter whom they consecrated to conduct the invocation of the Holy Spirit upon believers through anointing them with the Holy Chrism, and permitted Bishops alone to consecrate the Chrism. As St. Cyril of Jerusalem says, Holy Chrism...is a gift of Christ and of the Holy Spirit, which is validated by the presence of His Divinity... And when the body is anointed in a visible fashion, the soul is consecrated with the Holy and Life-Giving Spirit.

The Sacrament of Chrismation awakens in the soul that inner, spiritual thirst which does not let one grow satisfied solely with the earthly and material, but always summons us to the Heavenly, to the eternal and the perfect. It makes the baptized person the possessor of the Spirit bearing beauty and a partaker of sanctity, of the Unwaning Light and Divine Life.

The central place among the Sacraments of the Orthodox Church is held by the Holy Eucharist the precious Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Savior Himself said, I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me shall not hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst...If any one eats of this bread he will live forever; and the bread which I shall give for the life of 'the world is My flesh (John 6:35,51). At the Last Supper, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and broke it, and give it to the disciples and said, 'Take, eat; this is My body'. And He took a cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, saying, 'Drink of it, all of you; for this is My blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins' (Matt. 26:26-28; cf. Mark 14:12-16; Luke 22:7-13; 1 Cor. 11:23-30).

This institution of the Eucharist by our Lord is the means whereby we become united with Christ and with each other as a church, for, as St. Paul says, the goal of every Christian is to grow up in every way into Him Who is the head, into Christ, from Whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every joint with which it is supplied...makes bodily growth and up builds itself in love (Eph. 4:15-16). This is so since Christ is the head of the Church, His body, and is Himself its Savior (Eph. 5:23). We become part of the Mystical Body of Christ by our communion of the Holy Eucharist.

