



CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

10315 Carey Road; Berlin, MD 21811
 302-537-6055 (church) / orthodoxdelmarva.org /
 frjohn@orthodoxdelmarva.org

BULLETIN OF JULY 28, 2013

A Warm Welcome!

We warmly welcome all of our visitors! It's good to have you with us!

Dormition Fast – August 1-14th

Each year the Church observes a 2 week fast from August 1st through 15th, the Dormition (or "Falling Asleep") of the Mother of God. This great feast is called the Summer Pascha as it commemorates the death, burial, resurrection, and ascension of the Virgin Mary. To schedule a confession, please see Fr. John.



Baptism of Augustine Theodore

On Sunday, August 4th, Augustine Theodore Stewart will receive Holy Baptism. The Baptismal-Divine Liturgy will begin at 9:00am, with pre-baptismal prayers at 8:40am. Be sure not to be late for this special occasion.

SUNDAY, JULY 28TH

5th Sunday of Pentecost

8:40a.m. Hours
 9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy
 Coffee Hr. / Open Pool

THURSDAY, AUGUST 1ST

Procession of the Cross

Beginning of the Dormition Fast

9:00a.m. Akathist

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3RD

5:00p.m. Bible Study
 6:00p.m. Great Vespers

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4TH

6th Sunday of Pentecost

8:40a.m. Pre-baptismal Prayers
 9:00a.m. Baptismal Div. Liturgy
 Coffee Hr. / Open Pool

The Pool is Open

Following the Divine Liturgy until 1:30pm, the pool will be open for swimming. A certified lifeguard will be on duty, but parents should still watch their children. Be safe and enjoy! Questions? Please see Fr. John.



Safety Guidelines

are being developed by the Parish Council. In the meantime, everyone is asked to be particularly attentive, especially in the parking lot and pool. Parents are asked to please stay with their children at all times or leave them in the supervision of another adult. First-aid boxes are available in both bathrooms.

Looking Ahead in August

- Thursday, 8/1: Beginning of Dormition Fast
- Sunday, 8/4: Baptism of Augustine Theodore Stewart
- Tuesday, 8/6: Transfiguration of the Lord
- Thursday, 8/15: Dormition of the Virgin Mary
- Friday, 8/16: Parish Feastday – Icon Not-Made-By-Hands
- Sunday, 8/25: Prayers for the New Academic Year

Bible Studies

have resumed on Saturday evenings at 5:00pm in the Parish Hall, and will conclude just before the Vespers at 6:00pm. Everyone is invited to attend. We are studying the Gospel of St. John. As always: "Bring a Bible and a friend!"



READER SCHEDULE

Sunday, August 4th

Jodi McElwee

Sunday, August 11th

Bruce Eckerd



Living: Fr. Alexander Atty, Fr. Christian, Mat. Dunia, Hayley, Tyler Pelesh, Wallace & Michelle, John Trax, Karen Nichols, Denise Royal, Jane Koshutko, Nina Gordon, Mirela & Chris, Bruce Eckerd, Stella, Ari, Nedelina, Liliana, Irene Clenney, Katie Hawley, Rob & Jenny Barbarita, George & Ellen, Lorraine, Susan Pappas, Jerry Knode, Daria Virvan, Ryan and Kayla Wilson. **Departed:** Fr. Michael Mihalick, Kathryn, Avramia, Frank Pappas.

CASH FLOWS THROUGH 5/31/13					CASH FLOWS IN JULY 2013					FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT		
OPERATING		OTHER		ALL	OPERATING		OTHER		ALL	ASSETS & LIABILITIES – 7/28		
Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Net	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Net	Checking	Overdue	Due 2/2014
27,450	21,348	23,473	17,245	+12,330	3,998	6,573	1,200	2,059	-3,434	+686	0	-16,063

PROCESSION OF THE HONORABLE WOOD OF THE LIFE-GIVING CROSS OF THE LORD

Commemorated on August 1st



The Procession of the Venerable Wood of the Life-Creating Cross of the Lord: In the Greek Horologion of 1897 the derivation of this Feast is explained: "Because of the illnesses that occur in August, it was customary, in former times, to carry the Venerable Wood of the Cross through the streets and squares of Constantinople for the sanctification of the city, and for relief from sickness. On the eve (July 31), it was taken out of the imperial treasury, and laid upon the altar of the Great Church of Hagia Sophia (the Wisdom of God). From this Feast until the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos, they carried the Cross throughout the city in procession, offering it to the people to venerate. This also is the Procession of the Venerable Cross."

In the Russian Church this Feast is combined also with the remembrance of the Baptism of Rus, on August 1, 988. In the "Account of the Order of Services in the Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Great Church of the Dormition," compiled in 1627 by order of Patriarch Philaret of Moscow and All Rus, there is the following explanation of the Feast: "On the day of the Procession of the Venerable Cross there is a church procession for the sanctification of water and for the enlightenment of the people, throughout all the towns and places."

Knowledge of the day of the actual Baptism of Rus was preserved in the Chronicles of the sixteenth century: "The Baptism of the Great Prince Vladimir of Kiev and all Rus was on August 1."



PRIMATES, REPRESENTATIVES OF LOCAL CHURCHES GIVE STATEMENT DEFENDING PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS

From OCA.org / MOSCOW, RUSSIA

At an unprecedented gathering in the Moscow Kremlin on July 24, 2013, the Primates and Representatives of the Local Orthodox Churches met with Russian President Vladimir Putin, after which a statement was issued on the occasion of the 1025th Anniversary of Rus'.

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, Primate of the Orthodox Church in America, was among those who signed the statement, the text of which reads as follows.

"We, heads and representatives of the Local Orthodox Churches, who have come to Moscow on the occasion of the celebration of the 1025th anniversary of the Baptism of Russia at the invitation of Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia, consider it our duty to raise our voice in defense of our Christian brothers subjected to persecution for their faith in various parts of the world today.

"Every day thousands of believers in Christ are being tortured and driven out of their native lands; many people meet their death.

"News about tortures and murders are coming from Nigeria, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and India. In Kosovo, religious shrines are being defiled, many churches have been destroyed, and many people are deprived of the opportunity to visit the graves of their relatives and to pray to God in the land of their ancestors.

"The situation in the Middle East causes deep concern. Many countries of this region are swept with a wave of violence and terror, with Christians falling victims to it. Libya, where there are almost no Christians left, is breaking into warring tribes. Terrorist acts go on in Iraq, where one tenth of the former one and a half million Christians has left. The situation in Egypt is getting more and more alarming as the conflict there has entered into another bloody phase and the Christian population flees the country in a mass exodus. Grief and sufferings have befallen families of thousands of ordinary people. As a rule, the

first to suffer from unfolding conflicts are the most unprotected groups of the population including ethnic and religious minorities.

"In September 2010, the first meeting of the Orthodox Primates of the Middle East region took place in Cyprus. The Primates expressed their deep concern over the situation in this region and the future of Christians in the area. The same concern was expressed at the similar meetings in Jordan in August 2011, in Constantinople in September 2011, and in Cyprus in March 2012. The statement in support of suffering Christians in the Middle East was adopted at the meeting of the heads and representatives of the Local Orthodox Churches, held in Moscow in November 2011.

"The situation in Syria is particularly tragic today. In the heat of the fratricidal war, Christians, as well as representatives of other religious groups, are massacred, driven out of their native cities, towns and villages, out of the places where they used to live for centuries in peace with people of other religious traditions. Paramilitary groups do not hesitate to use every possible means to achieve their goals. Their radical members carry it too far in their crimes. Horrific scenes of violence, public executions, humiliation against human dignity and violation of human rights have become habitual. Abductions and murders often committed for mercenary ends have become a common occurrence. Extremists do not stop at insulting religious leaders who have always enjoyed respect in the East. The world mass media, as well as many politicians, are silent about the tragedy of Christians in the Middle East.

"We express solidarity with His Beatitude Patriarch John X of Great Antioch and All the East who could not share our joy of celebrations today since he has to stay with his flock at the moment so difficult for them. Our prayers are with him and our brothers in Christ who are being killed all day long (Rom. 8:36).

"We are grieving together with all the suffering people of Syria. We demand that the outstanding Christian hierarchs of Syria – Metropolitan Paul of Aleppo and Iskenderun and Syrian Jacobite Metropolitan Mar Gregory John Ibrahim of Aleppo be immediately freed.

"We make this appeal to all the warring sides and those who can make a political impact on the situation: Stop the wave of violence and extermination of civilians! Impose a moratorium on the military hostilities so that a basis for peaceful settlement of civil conflicts could be worked out at the negotiation table! Free the captured clergy and other civilians!

"As servants of the Almighty God, we ardently pray to the Author of Peace, the Lord Pantocrator that peace and love of brothers may be restored in the Middle East, refugees may come back to their settlements as soon as possible, the wounded may be healed and the innocent people who were killed may rest in peace. May the Lord inspire all those involved in the hostilities with wisdom and the good will to stop them!"

According to an advance release issued by Interfax, the event "marked the first time the Grand Kremlin Palace will bring together the heads and senior clergymen of all 15 existing Christian Orthodox Churches uniting over 227 million believers."

FROM THE LIVES OF THE DESERT FATHERS

The following story is from the life of St. Macarius. The lives of the ancient Desert Fathers are filled with examples of great men and women who fasted, practiced feats of asceticism, and rejected all worldly things. The following story, though, demonstrates how these practices were manifested in even small ways and how they served to teach others then and now by their example.



At one time St. Macarius was sent some fresh grapes. He desired to eat them, but showing self-control, he sent them to a certain brother who was ill and who was himself fond of grapes. When the brother received them he was delighted, but wishing to conceal his self-mastery, he sent them to another brother, pretending that he had no appetite for any food. When the next brother received the grapes, he did the same in turn, although he too had a great desire to eat them.

When at length the grapes had been passed round a large number of the brethren without any of them deciding to eat them, the last one to receive them sent them again to Macarius, thinking that he was giving him a rich gift. Macarius recognized them and after inquiring closely into what had happened, marveled, giving thanks to the Lord for such self-control among the brethren. And in the end not even he partook of the grapes.

THE FASTS IN THE ORTHODOX CHURCH

By St. Nikolai Velimirovich

Q. Who instituted fasting as necessary for salvation?

A. Our Lord Jesus Christ, both by His personal example (Matt. 4:2) and by His teaching (Matt. 6:16; 7:21).

Q. What is the aim of fasting?

- A. The aim of fasting is to:
1. purify the body;
 2. strengthen the will;
 3. elevate the soul over the body;
 4. glorify God and honor His saints.

Q. In what does Fasting consist for an Orthodox Christian?

A. In abstention from rich foods such as meat and dairy products, evil thoughts, desires and deeds. In the application of greater prayer, alms giving and more strenuous exercising of all the Christian virtues.

Q. How do we classify the Fasts and their seasons?

- A. There are four fasting seasons which are found of the Church calendar:
1. Advent – a six week fast before the Nativity of the Lord, Dec. 25th
 2. Great Lent – a seven week fast before Pascha (Easter)
 3. Apostles' Fast – of changing duration before the feast of Ss. Peter & Paul, June 29th
 4. Dormition Fast – a two week fast before the Dormition of the Mother of God, August 15th



FASTING AS MEDICINE

By St. John Chrysostom

Fasting is a medicine. But medicine, as beneficial as it is, becomes useless because of the inexperience of the user. He has to know the appropriate time that the medicine should be taken and the right amount of medicine and the condition of the body which is to take it, the weather conditions and the season of the year and the appropriate diet of the sick and many other things. If any of these things are overlooked the medicine will do more harm than good. So, if one who is going to heal the body needs so much accuracy, when we care for the soul and are concerned about healing it from bad thoughts, it is necessary to examine and observe everything with every possible detail.

Fasting is the change of every part of our life. Because the sacrifice of the fast is not the abstinence but the distancing from sins. Therefore, whoever limits the fast to deprivation of food, he is the one who, in reality, abhors and ridicules the fast. Are you fasting? Show me your fast with your works. Which works? If you see someone who is poor, show him mercy. If you see an enemy, reconcile with him. If you see a friend who is becoming successful, do not be jealous of him! If you see a beautiful woman on the street, pass her by.

In other words, not only should the mouth fast, but the eyes and the legs and the arms and all the other parts of the body should fast as well. Let the hands fast, remaining clean from stealing and greediness. Let the legs fast, avoiding roads which lead to sinful sights. Let the eyes fast by not fixing themselves on beautiful faces and by not observing the beauty of others. You are not eating meat, are you? You should not eat debauchery with your eyes as well. Let your hearing also fast. The fast of hearing is not to accept bad talk against others and sly defamations.

Let the mouth fast from disgraceful and abusive words. Because, what gain is there when, on the one hand we avoid eating chicken and fish and, on the other, we chew up and consume our brothers? He who condemns and blasphemes is as if he has eaten brotherly meat, as if he has bitten into the flesh of his fellow man. It is because of this that Paul frightened us, saying: "If you chew up and consume one another be careful that you do not annihilate yourselves."