



# CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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## BULLETIN OF AUGUST 4, 2013

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 4<sup>TH</sup>

#### 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost

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

### MONDAY, AUGUST 5<sup>TH</sup>

7:00p.m. Great Vespers w/ Litiya

### TUESDAY, AUGUST 6<sup>TH</sup>

#### Transfiguration of the Lord

*One of the Twelve Great Feasts*

8:40a.m. Hours  
 9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy  
 Blessing of fruit

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 10<sup>TH</sup>

5:00p.m. No Class  
 6:00p.m. Great Vespers

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 11<sup>TH</sup>

#### 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost

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

### A Warm Welcome!

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

### Special Parish Meeting – Sunday, August 25<sup>th</sup>

On Sunday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, there will be an important Special Meeting of the Parish Body to discuss *urgent issues related to the immediate future of the mission*. All parish members are asked to attend.



### Baptism of Augustine Theodore

Today, Sunday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, is the Baptism of Augustine Theodore Stewart. We congratulate his family and sponsors, and we ask that the Lord grant him health, strength, salvation, and many blessed years!

### 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.



### Dormition Fast – August 1-14<sup>th</sup>

Each year the Church observes a 2 week fast from August 1<sup>st</sup> through 15<sup>th</sup>, the Dormition (or "Falling Asleep") of the Mother of God. To schedule a confession, please see Fr. John.

### The Feast of the Transfiguration – August 6<sup>th</sup>

This feast, one of the 12 Great Feasts, recalls how the Lord revealed His divine glory to His disciples on Mt. Tabor. On this feast we bless fruit as a symbol of transfiguration, new life, and God's gifts. You may bring fruit for blessing to either the evening or morning services.



### Fr. John will be Away

to attend a family wedding, August 10-11<sup>th</sup>. Fr. Daniel Hubiak will officiate at the Divine Services. If you need to reach Fr. John, you may do so via frjohn@orthodoxdelmarva.org or 302-537-6055.

### Looking Ahead in August

- 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



### READER SCHEDULE

#### Sunday, August 11<sup>th</sup>

Bruce Eckerd

#### Sunday, August 18<sup>th</sup>

Kathy Parrish



**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, Nancy. **Departed:** Frank Pappas, Mary Sue.

CASH FLOWS THROUGH 5/31/13					CASH FLOWS IN JULY 2013					FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT		
OPERATING		OTHER		ALL	OPERATING		OTHER		ALL	ASSETS & LIABILITIES – 8/4		
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	5,016	6,608	1,950	2,059	-1,701	+280	-3,600	-15,813

## THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

From the Prologue of St. Nikolai Velimirovich



In the third year of His preaching, the Lord Jesus often spoke to His disciples of His approaching passion but at the same time of His glory following His suffering on the Cross. So that His impending passion would not totally weaken His disciples and that no one would fall away from Him, He, the All-wise, wanted to partially show them His divine glory before His passion. For that reason, He took Peter, James and John with Him and, with them, went out at

night to Mt. Tabor and there was transfigured before them: "And His face shone as the sun and His garments became white as snow" (St. Matthew 17:2). There appeared along side Him, Moses and Elijah, the great Old Testament prophets. And, seeing this, His disciples were amazed. Peter said: "Lord, it is good for us to be here: if You will, let us make here three tabernacles; one for You, one for Moses and one for Elijah" (St. Matthew 17:4). While Peter still spoke, Moses and Elijah departed and a bright cloud overshadowed the Lord and His disciples and there came a voice from the cloud saying: "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased; hear Him" (St. Matthew 17:5). Hearing the voice, the disciples fell to the ground on their faces as though dead and remained that way, lying in fear, until the Lord came near to them and said: "Arise and be not afraid" (St. Matthew 17:7). Why did the Lord take only three disciples on Tabor and not all? Because Judas was not worthy to behold the divine glory of the Teacher, Whom he will betray and the Lord did not want to leave him [Judas] alone at the foot of the mountain so that the betrayer would not, by that, justify his betrayal. Why was our Lord transfigured on a mountain and not in a valley? So as to teach us two virtues: love of labor and godly-thoughts. For, climbing to the heights required labor and height represents the heights of our thoughts, i.e., godly-

### **Troparion (Tone 7)**

Thou wast transfigured on the Mount, O Christ God, revealing Thy glory to Thy disciples as far as they could bear it. Let Thine everlasting light shine upon us sinners! Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Giver of Light, glory to Thee!

### **Kontakion (Tone 7)**

On the mountain wast Thou transfigured, O Christ God, and Thy disciples beheld Thy glory as far as they could see it; so that when they would behold Thee crucified, they would understand that Thy suffering was voluntary, and would proclaim to the world that Thou art truly the Radiance of the Father!

thoughts. Why was our Lord transfigured at night? Because, the night rather than the day is more suitable for prayer and godly-thoughts and because the night, by its darkness, conceals all the beauty of the earth and reveals the beauty of the starry heavens. Why did Moses and Elijah appear? In order to destroy the error of the Jews, as though Christ is one of the prophets; Elijah or Jeremiah or some other that is why He appears as a King above the prophets and that is why Moses and Elijah appear as His servants. Until then, our Lord manifested His divine power many times to the disciples but, on Mt. Tabor, He manifested His divine nature. This vision of His Divinity and the hearing of the heavenly witness about Him as the Son of God, should serve the disciples in the days of the Lord's passion, in strengthening of an unwavering faith in Him and His final victory.

## AUGUST CONGRATULATIONS!

### **Anniversaries:**

- 8/12 Gregory Boris
- 8/18 Andrew & Kelly Hageman
- 8/19 Lee & Jamyla Krempel
- 8/20 Michael & Katherine Cook

### **Birthdays:**

- 8/2 Denise Royal
- 8/9 Alice Dzwomczyk  
Delilah Mary Stewart
- 8/11 Laurie Morsey
- 8/12 Dumitru Bernatchi
- 8/16 Basil Cook
- 8/21 Jodi McElwee
- 8/25 Troy Duker
- 8/27 Anna Evanusa
- 8/31 Alice Peters

### **Namesdays:**

- 8/4 *St. Maximillian*  
Maksimilian Morsey
- 8/15 *The Most-holy Theotokos*  
Ana Breha  
Maleah Morsey
- 8/23 *Martyr Aleksandra*  
Alice Peters

*Errors? Omissions? Please see Fr. John.*



## FOUR-STAR PARISHIONERS

*By A Ukrainian Orthodox Priest*

The success (or failure) of a parish is dependent upon the synergy among pastor and faithful. Successful parishes aren't dependent upon any one person (this includes the priest!) for their success. In a successful parish the parishioners cooperate with each other, they fulfill their own obligations, and contribute what they can into the common treasury of deeds, wisdom and finances.

I used to work in a restaurant. It was a nice place with good food, a pleasant ambience, and class. We had many regulars, but one of them stood out. The owners called him the "four-star customer." He would visit often. He'd bring business clients there. He'd come for dinner with his family. He'd celebrate important occasions there. He was a good tipper. He was always pleasant to be with and a pleasure to serve.

I'm sure you see where this is going. What would a "four-star parishioner" look like?

### **A four-star parishioner...**

... **prays.** The whole point of being a member of the Church is to know God. Union with Christ is the goal of all Christian endeavor. We must therefore seek to always have God in our thoughts and on our lips. This is prayer. A four-star parishioner prays (privately or with their family) upon arising in the morning, before retiring in the evening, and before meals during the day. They might do more, but they won't do less.

... **worships God.** If we know God we will worship Him. We are created to worship Him. He commands us to worship Him. Why? Worship creates

unity and feeds us spiritually. Worship teaches us who we are and who God is. All human beings worship – either the one True God or an idol, and every idol is fundamentally an image of ourselves. God or me? Which will it be? Four-star parishioners attend the worship services of the Church. Unless it is impossible to do so, they're in Church every Sunday and Great Feast Day and on as many lesser holy days as is feasible.

... **partakes in the Holy Mysteries.** Just because I must approach for Holy Confession and Communion

once a year doesn't mean that I should only approach for Holy Confession and Communion once a

year. If Confession and Communion are a good thing, why not approach more often?

The Church exists (among other things) in order to make the Holy Mysteries – Baptism, Chrismation, Confession, Communion, Marriage, Ordination, and the Oil of Prayer (anointing of the sick) available to the faithful. Four-star parishioners live a sacramental life: approach for Confession/Communion as often as possible, get married and

buried in the Church, have their children baptized in the Church, etc.

... **supports the parish generously.** If the Church can't pay the bills, it can't stay open. If it doesn't have the money to do outreach work or educate the children, it will die. A four-star parishioner treats parish financial obligations with the same seriousness as taxes. Don't pay taxes, go to jail. Don't support the parish, go to ...

... **helps the poor.** At the Last Judgment, Jesus is going to ask us, "Did you feed me? Did you clothe



me? Did you visit me when I was sick?" etc. (Mt. 25:36). All our religious acts should lead us to charitable acts on behalf of the suffering, the poor, and the needy. A quick reading of the first epistle of St. John or the epistle of St. James will underline this point better than I ever could. Four-star parishioners give their whole life to God – not just two hours on Sunday morning (if that!). This includes sharing their wealth with God's beloved – the poor.

**. . . respects church leaders.** The days are gone when men become priests because they're seeking some type of status in the world. Nor do people join the parish council because they're seeking fame or riches. The least we can do is respect those who lead our communities. Even when we disagree with them, we should do so respectfully. They're not perfect – but neither are we. A four-star parishioner always speaks respectfully to and about the parish and Church leaders. The words of Abraham Lincoln bear repeating: "No one should criticize unless they're willing to help."

**. . . respects their fellow parishioners.** I once heard this terrible riddle: "What happens when a member of the Church is wounded (spiritually, emotionally, or personally)?" Answer: "Someone from the parish comes along and finishes them off!" It's a terrible riddle because it's often true. How often do we hear people spreading malicious gossip or delighting in the troubles of their brothers and sisters in Christ? A four-star parishioner doesn't gossip, doesn't impute evil motives to the actions of others, and doesn't try to build themselves up by tearing other people down. If we do love each other, we should speak positively and respectfully about each other and help pick each other up when we're down.

**. . . fasts.** There's an old saying: "The spiritual life begins with the stomach." Fasting is a sign of our obedience to the Church; fasting builds unity within the community (just look at the example of the Jews or Muslims); fasting builds discipline (all discipline is fundamentally self-discipline); fasting brings God's blessings upon us. Four-star parishioners offer their table to the Lord. How we fast may occasionally differ due to individual circumstances, physical needs, or illnesses. But if we wish to be close to God, if we are obedient to God and the Church, we will fast according to the apostolic teaching and practice of the Church.

**. . . works for the parish.** In order for a parish to function, much needs to be done: singing in the

choir; sitting on the parish council; teaching religion; visiting the sick; cooking; working with youth; preparing the bulletin; organizing social events; cutting the grass; painting the walls; preparing tax receipts; paying bills, etc.. God has blessed every one of us with talents that can be utilized for the growth and benefit of our parish. Four-star parishioners offer their talents and abilities to the Lord and to the parish.

**. . . reads the Bible.** The Bible is God's Word to us. The only condition necessary to successfully read the Bible is that we must read God's Word in order to put it into practice. Reading the Bible simply in order to discuss it—or even worse, discussing the Bible without having read it—will not help us draw near to God – in fact, the opposite will probably take place. A four-star parishioner reads the Bible every day: a passage from the Gospel, a passage from another New Testament book, and a reading from the Psalter as a minimum.

**. . . takes responsibility for their children's souls.** People often send their children to "religious" schools – Catholic or Protestant – and figure they don't need to send them to Church school. If we send our children to non-Orthodox schools, they won't learn the Orthodox faith. Every parish child should be taking part in the religious lessons offered by the Church, as well as being taught to pray at home and seeing the example of parents living a deep and authentic Christian spiritual life. A four-star parishioner makes sure that the young people of the parish are given a solid education in the Orthodox faith by parents (or other family members), clergy, Church school staff, and participation in the liturgical life of the parish.

**. . . never stops learning about the faith.** A Ukrainian saying goes: "A man must spend his whole life learning so that he can die an ignoramus." Bible study classes, religious seminars, spiritual retreats, and adult education classes should be just as integral a part of the life of every mature Christian as professional development programs and in-service seminars are for teachers, doctors, auto mechanics, etc. This goes double for those in positions of leadership in the parish. Four-star parishioners take part in every bible-study, seminar, retreat, and adult education class they are able to. When people fall in love, they want to learn everything about each other. If I love God, I'll want to learn as much as I can about Him.

What's stopping you from becoming a four-star parishioner?