



Christ Feeds Those Who Come to Him

CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN OF AUGUST 18, 2013

A Warm Welcome!

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

Special Parish Meeting – Sunday, August 25th

Next Sunday, August 25th, 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.



Going to the Hospital?

Please let your priest know, so that he can add you to the prayer list, or, if you like, pay you a visit. If you know someone else is in the hospital please let Fr. John know.



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.



Need Firewood?

Please feel free to take as much as you would like from the pile of logs near the exit road. This wood is being given away, and you are welcome to take some for yourselves and/or friends.

Prayers for Teachers and Students – August 25th

will be offered for the new academic year today, Sunday, August 25th. Teachers and students will be asked to come forward near the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy.



Church Cleaners Needed

We are in need of a few volunteers to help clean the chapel each week, following the Sunday Divine Liturgy. The work is minimal and the blessings, great! If you are willing to help, please see Fr. John.

Looking Ahead

- Sunday, 8/25: Special Parish Meeting
- Sunday, 8/25: Prayers for Academic Year
- Sunday, 9/1: Church New Year

Did You Know We're on Facebook?

"Like" us to receive our posts, and so that your friends can get to know your church a little. Who knows who else may "Like" us too?
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Christ-the-Savior/202922375995>

SUNDAY, AUGUST 18TH

8th Sunday of Pentecost

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

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24TH

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

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25TH

9th Sunday of Pentecost

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

Our religion is founded on spiritual experience, seen and heard as sure as any physical fact in this world. Not theory, not philosophy, not human emotions, but experience.

St. Nikolai Velimirovich

READER SCHEDULE

Sunday, August 25th

Kathy Parrish

Sunday, September 1st

Gabriela Jones



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 AUGUST 2013 | | | | | FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT | | |
|----------------------------|---------|--------|---------|---------|---------------------------|---------|--------|---------|--------|-----------------------------|---------|------------|
| OPERATING | | OTHER | | ALL | OPERATING | | OTHER | | ALL | ASSETS & LIABILITIES – 8/18 | | |
| 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 | 2,895 | 3,624 | 3,250 | 1,451 | +1,070 | +2,625 | -3,600 | -14,563 |



A PATTERN IN MAKING DISCIPLES

- 1) Christ teaches the Word of God, and the Word of God stirs listeners to initial faith.
- 2) Christ involves the new believer in a specific challenge, and the new believer personally experiences the grace of God; he or she feels unworthy, yet amazed.
- 3) Christ calls the new believer to become a permanent disciple and co-worker with God. The new believer freely and totally gives over his or her life to the Lord and has a new sense of mission as Christ's disciple.

FROM THE DESERT FATHERS

Abba David said, "Abba Arsenius told us the following, as though it referred to someone else, but in fact it referred to himself. An old man was sitting in his cell and a voice came to him which said, 'Come, and I will show you the works of men.' He got up and followed. The voice led him to a certain place and showed him an Ethiopian cutting wood and making a great pile. He struggled to carry it but in vain. Instead of taking some off, he cut more wood which he added to the pile. He did this for a long time.

Going on a little further, the old man was shown a man standing on the shore of a lake drawing up water and pouring it into a broken receptacle, so that the water ran back into the lake. The voice said to the old man, 'Come and I will show you something else.' He saw a temple and two men on horseback, opposite one another, carrying a piece of wood crosswise. They wanted to go in through the door but could not because they held their piece of wood crosswise. Neither of them would draw back before the other, so as to carry the wood straight; so they remained outside the door. The voice said to the old man, 'These men carry the yoke of righteousness with pride, and do not humble themselves so as to correct themselves and walk in the way of Christ. So they remain outside the Kingdom of God. The man cutting the wood is he who lives in many sins and instead of repenting he adds more faults to his sins. He who draws the water is he who does good deeds, but mixing bad ones with them, he spoils even his good works. So, everyone must be watchful of his actions, lest he labor in vain.'



GUIDELINES FOR RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

The Orthodox Church offers certain guidelines for the faithful to prepare themselves for the joyous partaking of Holy Communion. These are:

- 1) Attendance at Church services the night before Liturgy. If not possible, then one should keep the evening with prayer, study and/or charity.
- 2) Observance of the fasting days and seasons of the Church.
- 3) A recent confession of sins and absolution from a priest.
- 4) Fasting from food and drink (including water), and smoking from midnight on the day which Holy Communion is to be received. **NOTE: Do not fast from medications, or food or drink recommended by a doctor.**
- 5) Abstinence from sexual relations the night before Liturgy and on the day of receiving Holy Communion.
- 6) Reading of the appointed prayers before and after receiving Holy Communion. These are found in one's prayer book or Liturgy book.
- 7) Being at peace, or at least seeking peace, with one's neighbor.

Questions or special circumstances? Please speak with your priest.



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?