

CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

BULLETIN OF SEPTEMBER 29, 2013

A Warm Welcome!

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

30K Loan Pledges Update

Sincere appreciation is expressed to all who made pledges during our coordinate effort to repay our 30K renovation loan. Together we have reached our goal of \$12,500 in pledges, and we are now on pace to repay our generous lender. May the Lord bless you for your willingness to help! Thank you for your sacrificial offerings!



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH

14th Sunday of Pentecost

8:40a.m. Prebaptismal Prayers
 9:00a.m. Baptismal Liturgy
 Coffee Hour

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH

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

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1ST

Protection of the Theotokos

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

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5TH

5:00p.m. No Class
 6:00p.m. No Service

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6TH

15th Sunday of Pentecost

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



Baptism of Andrei Ovidiu

Today, Sunday, September 29th, will be the baptism of Andrei Ovidiu Bernatchi. We offer our heartfelt congratulations to the entire family on this joyous occasion. May the Lord grant Andrei Ovidiu, together with his family and sponsors, many blessed years!

The Prayer List

may be found at the candle stand. Please put the names of those who are in special need of prayer due to an urgent situation. Everyone needs prayer all the time, but this list is specific to those whose are in dire need. If you have any questions, please see Fr. John. Thank you!



Protection of the Theotokos – October 1st

The Virgin Mary is the special protectress of Christians and each year on October 1st, the feast dedicated to her protection, we especially honor her and ask her intercession. Services will be held on the eve as well as the morning of the Feast.

What is a heart full of love? It is a heart that burns with love for all creation, for humans and even for demons, for all creatures...

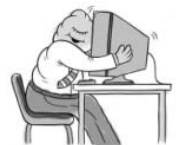
St. Isaac the Syrian (7th century)

Fr. John Will Be Away Next Weekend

There will be no class or services on Saturday, October 5th, but the Sunday services will be as normally scheduled. Fr. Daniel Hubiak will serve in Fr. John's absence. If you need to reach Fr. John, please do so via: 302-537-6055 or frjohn@orthodoxdelmarva.org.

Did You Know?

The Sunday bulletin and the monthly calendar are available on our website: orthodoxdelmarva.org. If you miss a Sunday and don't have the internet but would still like a copy of the bulletin please let Fr. John know and he will mail it to you. Extra copies of recent bulletins are also available for pickup in the back of the church.



READER SCHEDULE

Sunday, Oct. 6th

Gabriela Jones

Sunday, Oct. 13th

Joanne Patrick



The **Prayer List** has been moved to the candle stand. If you would like a name added to the list, you may do so yourself or you may contact Fr. John.

| CASH FLOWS THROUGH 7/31/13 | | | | | CASH FLOWS IN SEPTEMBER 2013 | | | | | FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT | | |
|----------------------------|---------|--------|---------|---------|------------------------------|---------|--------|---------|--------|-----------------------------|---------|------------|
| OPERATING | | OTHER | | ALL | OPERATING | | OTHER | | ALL | ASSETS & LIABILITIES – 9/29 | | |
| Income | Expense | Income | Expense | Net | Income | Expense | Income | Expense | Net | Checking | Overdue | Due 2/2014 |
| 37,752 | 37,100 | 27,242 | 16,883 | +11,011 | 7,478 | 3,251 | 3,400 | 2,845 | +4,782 | +6,098 | 0 | -9,913 |



ASSEMBLY OF CANONICAL ORTHODOX BISHOPS

OF NORTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA

ASSEMBLY OF BISHOPS CONCLUDES, ISSUES STATEMENTS

From OCA.org

The fourth annual meeting of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America closed with the release of the following press release.

Assembly IV Concludes; Assembly Issues Statements to the Faithful

Friday, September 20, 2013

In the final day of its annual meeting, the Assembly agreed to issue two statements—one on the Church's unchanging position on marriage and one expressing grave concern over the escalating violence in the Middle East. The Assembly also released a message to the faithful on the conclusion of Assembly IV.

The three statements can be found below: statement on marriage; statement on violence in the Middle East; and message to the faithful. In other business, the Assembly voted unanimously to re-elect Bishop Basil as secretary and Metropolitan Antony as treasurer. Archbishop Demetrios recognized and commended them for their devotion to the Assembly over the past three years. The Assembly also reviewed and approved the 2014 budget. The Assembly expects to hold its next meeting in September 2014. More documents pertaining to the Assembly, including the minutes and 2014 budget, will be forthcoming on the Assembly's web site.

The hierarchs concluded the meeting by singing the Troparion of Pentecost: *Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God, Who hast shown forth the fishermen as supremely wise by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit, and through them didst draw the world into Thy net. O Lover of man, glory be to Thee.*

STATEMENT ON MARRIAGE

1. We, the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America, representing millions of Orthodox Christians in the United States of America, Canada and Central America, express our deep concern over recent actions on the part of our respective governments and certain societal trends concerning the status of marriage in our countries, in particular the legalization of same-sex unions.
2. The Orthodox Christian teaching on marriage and sexuality, firmly grounded in Holy Scripture, two millennia of Church Tradition, and Canon Law, holds that the sacrament of marriage consists in the union of a man and a woman, and that authentic marriage reflects the sacred unity that exists between Christ and His Bride, the Church.
3. Persons with homosexual orientation are to be cared for with the same mercy and love that is bestowed on all of humanity by our Lord Jesus Christ. Moreover, the Church is a spiritual hospital, where we all are called to find the healing of our fallen humanity through Jesus Christ, who assumed human nature in order to restore it. All of us struggle with various passions, and it is only within the Church that we find the means of overcoming these passions with the assistance of God's grace. Acting upon any sexual attraction outside of sacramental marriage, whether the attraction is heterosexual or homosexual, alienates us from God.
4. We exhort the clergy and faithful of the Orthodox Church to bear witness to the timeless teachings of Christ by striving for purity and holiness in their own lives, by instructing their families and communities in the precepts of the Holy Gospel, and by placing their trust in our Lord, who "has overcome the world." (John 16.33)
5. Finally, we encourage our faithful to approach their parish priest or spiritual father with any questions or concerns about this statement and its practical repercussions in their daily lives.

STATEMENT ON THE MIDDLE EAST

1. We, the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America, representing millions of Orthodox Christians in the United States, Canada and Central America, express our grave concern over the escalation of political unrest and ongoing violence in countries throughout the Middle East, especially in Palestine, Egypt, Iraq and more recently in Syria.

2. Our Assembly repudiates any and all attacks on human beings, irrespective of race and religion, by means of violence, kidnapping, torture and killing. Moreover, we deplore the destruction of all places of worship. We are especially disheartened at the inexcusable indifference and unjustifiable inaction of authorities, which have failed to protect the Christian population and the broader public in these regions.

3. We implore all involved parties and political authorities, especially those of the countries we represent, to pursue vigorously all peaceful means for the resolution of the conflicts and the termination of the murder of men, women and children.

4. Finally, we appeal once more to the responsible persons for the release of all those kidnapped, especially the Greek Orthodox Metropolitan Boulos Yazigi (brother of His Beatitude Patriarch John X of Antioch) and the Syriac Orthodox Archbishop Yohanna Ibrahim, both of Aleppo, Syria.

5. The Assembly of Bishops urges people to remember that Christians in the Middle East, Egypt, and Syria have peacefully coexisted with all people in the region for two thousand years. As such, they must be respected and included in all decisions toward social and political justice.

MESSAGE OF THE ASSEMBLY OF BISHOPS

To our beloved Orthodox Christian faithful throughout North and Central America:

All things should be done decently and in order. (1 Cor. 14.40)

Beloved brothers and sisters in the Lord,

We, the members of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America, gathered in Chicago for our fourth annual meeting on September 17-19, 2013, greet you with paternal love, as we offer glory and thanks to our Triune God.

Forty-three Hierarchs convened in the unity of our holy Orthodox faith, mindful of our responsibility to each other and to the whole Church as the Body of Christ. We recognize our responsibility to "do all things decently and in order" as our foremost duty towards His holy Church and the people of Christ, especially the youth. We belong to the Church, which believes in and manifests the grace of the Triune God and the power of our Lord's passion and resurrection.

We opened our Assembly with the celebration of the Divine Liturgy and the sharing of the Holy Eucharist at the Holy Virgin Protection Cathedral (ROCOR) in Des Plaines IL. In professing our common witness and love for one another and the faithful entrusted to us by God, we shared the Holy Eucharist on a day when we also commemorated the 1700th anniversary of the Edict of Milan and proclaimed the importance of religious freedom, especially for religious minorities throughout the world. We expressed our sorrow that, seventeen centuries after its promulgation, the Ecumenical Patriarchate today does not enjoy fundamental religious freedoms guaranteed by the Emperor St. Constantine's edict.

In this regard, we urge people to remember that the Christians in Turkey, the Middle East and Egypt have peacefully coexisted with all people in the region for two thousand years. Furthermore, we appeal once again for the release of all those kidnapped, especially the Greek Orthodox Metropolitan Boulos Yazigi (brother of His Beatitude Patriarch John X of Antioch) and the Syriac Orthodox Archbishop Yohanna Ibrahim, both of Aleppo, Syria.

However, during this intense period of conflict throughout the Middle East, inasmuch as we represent millions of Orthodox Christians in the United States, Canada and Central America, we express our grave concern over the escalation of political unrest and ongoing violence in Palestine, Egypt, Iraq and more recently in Syria, but also the continuing threats and crimes against churches and people in Kosovo. In this regard, we repudiate any and all attacks on human beings, irrespective of race and religion, by means of violence, kidnapping, torture and killing. Moreover, we deplore the destruction of all places of worship. We are especially disheartened at the inexcusable indifference and unjustifiable inaction of authorities, which have failed to protect the Christian population and the broader public in these regions.

Moreover, following the example of Jesus Christ, who blessed the peacemakers in his Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5.9), we implore all involved parties and political authorities, especially those of the countries we represent, to pursue vigorously all peaceful means for the resolution of the conflicts and the termination of the murder of men, women and children.

We have also been apprised and are deeply concerned about the arrest and detention of Archbishop Jovan of Ohrid in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) as a result of exercising his fundamental human right of religious freedom. We urge our faithful to stand in prayer and solidarity for a prompt and positive resolution to this issue.

In his report as Chairman of the Assembly, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios raised the critical issues of a rising militant Islam marked by violence against ancient Christian communities throughout the world, including the Middle East, Nigeria, and the Philippines. He also referred to challenges created by the expanding secularism and scandalous poverty that characterize our contemporary world, emphasizing: "The sight of social injustice should trouble us. We should be worried if we find ourselves becoming 'mere spectators' in our world." We commend the prompt and practical response by the International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) as the Assembly's agency to people suffering under conditions of war, famine and natural disaster. We also express our prayers in support of the families involved and for the repose of the souls of the victims in the Naval Yard tragedy last Monday in Washington DC.

Throughout the meeting, we had a candid and fraternal evaluation of achievement hitherto and work that remains outstanding in our ministry as Orthodox in this region, observing that, despite the geographical expanse of our regional assembly, we are nevertheless bridged by our love for God. Therefore, mindful of our obligations as well as the challenges in order for us to affirm and realize the vision of the Assembly of Bishops for our Church in the Americas, and cognizant of the diversity and unique issues in our traditions, cultures and administrations, we reviewed and deliberated on ideas and possibilities for canonical restructuring of the Church in America, which was presented by the Committee for Canonical Regional Planning under the leadership of Archbishop Nicolae. In this regard, we reflected on and reaffirmed our commitment to the decisions and expectations of the Primate of the Orthodox Autocephalous Churches and the Pan-Orthodox Preconciliar Conferences.

Among the items on the agenda were reports from the Assembly's Secretariat, its 13 committees, and 14 agencies and endorsed organizations. We praise God for the open and sincere spirit of deliberation and cooperation that prevailed during the sessions of the Assembly and celebrate the larger vision of unity that lies before us.

Upon hearing the report from the Committee for Youth, we were delighted to bless a proposal to plan a conference of Orthodox youth on the local, regional, and national levels from across all jurisdictions of the Assembly of Bishops in order to foster closer relationships among our youth, create common programs and ministries in response to their shared challenges, and advance a common witness toward greater unity throughout our territory.

For all these things, we ask for your prayers as the precious people of God and our beloved Orthodox faithful, while we pray that the abundant blessings of our merciful God be always with all of you.



ON CHURCH GROWTH

The Church is not simply a building or edifice, nor is it an organization or institutional structure. It is essentially a community of people who are to be of God and imbued with His Spirit.

In the words of St. John Chrysostom, "The Church is a community made up of the souls of us men and cannot be built by stone and mortar, but must be built by the spiritual growth of its members into the full reality of Jesus Christ."

This is what Church growth is all about and how we must understand it.

