



CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN OF JULY 13, 2014

A Warm Welcome!

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

Saint George's Greek Festival

will be held at the Ocean City Convention Center, July 11th through 14th. Great food, music, entertainment, shopping, and fellowship. Let's do our best to support our brothers and sisters in Ocean City! Questions, please see Fr. John of call St. George's at 410-524-0990.



Blessing of Automobiles – Sunday, July 20th



It is a custom of Orthodox Christians to have their cars blessed both when newly acquired and on or near the feast of the Prophet Elias (July 20th), as he ascended into heaven on a fiery chariot. There will be a blessing of automobiles (bikes, tricycles, scooters, etc.) immediately after the Liturgy on Sunday, July 20th.

Open Pool

Following the Divine Liturgy and until 1pm, 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.



Why Not?

Consider sponsoring an item from our "Liturgical Needs" list which is posted in the back of the church at the candle stand. If you have a question about anything on this list, please see Fr. John.

Haven't Seen Someone in a While?

Give them an email or a call. Let them know that you miss them.



Vacation Planning

An online directory of Orthodox churches in North America is available at orthodoxyinamerica.org. Everyone needs a vacation sometime, but who really wants or can afford a vacation from God? If you don't have the internet, ask your priest to help find you a parish while you are away.

Spiritual Reading

is an important way for Christians to grow in their relationship with God. This is because the more we come to understand our Faith the better we can live it. What spiritual book are you currently reading? Want a recommendation, just ask Fr. John.



Many Thanks!

to Protopresbyter Daniel and everyone who helped in any way during Fr. John's absence! It is appreciated!

SUNDAY, JULY 13TH

5th Sunday of Pentecost

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

SATURDAY, JULY 19TH

6:00p.m. Great Vespers

SUNDAY, JULY 20TH

6th Sunday of Pentecost

Prophet Elias

8:40a.m. Hours
 9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy
 Blessing of Chariots
 Coffee Hour/Open Pool



O LORD JESUS CHRIST SON OF GOD
 HAVE MERCY ON ME A SINNER

READER SCHEDULE

Sunday, July 20th

Joanne Patrick

Sunday, July 27th

Gabriela Jones



CASH FLOWS THROUGH 6/30/14					CASH FLOWS IN JULY 2014					FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT		
OPERATING		OTHER		ALL	OPERATING		OTHER		ALL	ASSETS & LIABILITIES – 7/13		
Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Net	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Net	Checking	Overdue	Mortgage
39,142	34,344	6,231	9,850	+1,179	1,715	5,379	0	0	-3,664	8,802	0	356,992



ATTRIBUTES OF THE PERFECT CHURCH

By VRev. Vladimir Berzonsky

"One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, 'Come, I will show you the bride of the wife of the Lamb'" (Revelation 21:9)

Here we are near the end of the Bible in the Revelation experience. Is it not odd that one of the angels with the seven bowls with the seven last plagues is here inviting us to witness the glorious marriage of the Lamb whom we know to be our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ as the bridegroom? Also to recognize that the bride is none other than the holy Church all dressed in radiant white, symbol of purity and innocence? It tells us about angels. They are as their name implies, "sent" as messengers by the Holy Trinity to humanity. An angel like this brought the reader to the vision of the destruction of the great harlot, Babylon. Here the angel is announcing the glorious wedding of the Lamb of God and the Bride, the holy Church that the Lord bought with the great price of His Cross. The Bride-Church is a symbol of all who have the following attributes of unblemished flawless virtues radiating from their souls.

St. Paul set forth the attributes of the perfect Church. In Revelation those who dwell in such a Church are among those in the New Jerusalem coming down from heaven to belong to Christ the Lamb of God who comes to claim His bride. From the apostle to the gentiles, we find characteristics:

They are people who are **devoted to one another**: "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love." [Romans 21:10] When we read this, how does it resonate on the conscience of each member of the community we call Church?

These are people who can say of their fellow parishioners that they: **"Honor one another above themselves."** [Romans 12:10] It means that each member in good standing holds all others in the congregation above themselves. They feel it an honor to be part of such a community of believers. Does this really happen?

It's mandatory to dwell in harmony with one another: **"Live in harmony with one another."** [Romans 12:16] It means that nothing is as important as to preserve peace among the family of Christ. Of

course there are differences of opinion in the parish -- everybody understands that -- but they also realize that without the peace of God that passes all understanding, their Eucharist is hollow because their relations are shallow and worldly, not godly.

Love one another: "Let no debt remain outstanding except the debt to love one another." [Romans 13:8] Until we can realize the order from the Divine Liturgy: "Let us love one another that with one accord we may confess...Father, Son and Holy Spirit..." as Jesus said, we are talking nonsense when we say we love God. Here the expectation is that by the time we approach heaven, we have made love a way of life.



Accept one another: "Accept then one another, just as Jesus accepted you." [Romans 15:7] To accept is to realize there are differences, and yet they do not

prevent us from forgiving. The French say: To understand is to forgive. Acceptance is not approval - not even tolerance. It is compassion.

Serve one another: "You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge in sinful nature. Rather serve one another in love." [Galatians 5:13] Is this not the meaning of foot washing? What more powerful an example can there be than the Son of God washing the feet of fishermen? Are we above the Master?

Forgive one another: "Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." [Colossians 3:13] You will be stopped and forbidden entry into heaven if you come with a grudge defiling your soul.

Encourage one another: "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing." [I Thessalonians 5:11] We are ordered to build up the confidence and to reinforce the positive images of all your sisters and brothers in Christ. There's no place for a downer or defeatist in Paradise.



TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOUR EYES

By an Anonymous Author

There was a blind girl who hated herself because she was blind. She hated everyone, except her loving boyfriend. He was always there for her. She told her boyfriend, 'If I could only see the world, I will marry you.'

One day, someone donated a pair of eyes to her. When the bandages came off, she was able to see everything, including her boyfriend.

He asked her, 'Now that you can see the world, will you marry me?' The girl looked at her boyfriend and saw that he was blind. The sight of his closed eyelids shocked her. She hadn't expected that. The thought of looking at them the rest of her life led her to refuse to marry him.

Her boyfriend left in tears and days later wrote a note to her saying: 'Take good care of your eyes, my dear, for before they were yours, they were mine.'

This is how the human mind often works when our status changes. Only a very few remember what life was like before, and who was always by their side in the most painful situations.

Life Is a Gift

Today before you say an unkind word - Think of someone who can't speak. Before you complain about the taste of your food - Think of someone who has nothing to eat. Before you complain about your husband or wife - Think of someone who's crying out to God for a companion. Today before you complain about life - Think of someone who went too early to heaven. Before whining about the distance you drive Think of someone who walks the same distance with their feet. And when you are tired and complain about your job - Think of the unemployed, the disabled, and those who wish they had your job. And when depressing thoughts seem to get you down - Put a smile on your face and think: you're alive and still around.

WHY DO WE WEAR A CROSS?

From Orthodox.net

In pre-Christian times, the Cross was the instrument of a shameful and horrible death. The Romans invented it and used it in order to intimidate the peoples whom they had subjugated. Everyone looked on this instrument of execution - the shameful Cross - with horror.

But a remarkable change took place with respect to the Cross after Our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified on it. The Lord suffered and died on the Cross. He took horrible sufferings upon Himself in order to save us from sins. The Cross received great glory, such as no other object made by the hands of man has possessed. The Cross became the sign of our salvation, through which we receive the power of God - the grace of God.

The Cross is the first and greatest Christian sacred object. When the priest sanctifies water, he immerses the Cross in it, and the water becomes holy. When we wear the Cross on our chest, our body constantly touches it, and from this touch it, too, is sanctified. The Cross that we wear protects us from danger.

In Communist Russia, believing people would wear a Cross at great risk, since there could be much unpleasantness from the godless for this. But these remarkable people were not afraid to confess their faith, and they would fearlessly wear a Cross. One ought not to look upon the Cross as some kind of jewelry like a bracelet or brooch. The Cross must adorn our soul and not our clothing, and must constantly remind us that we are Orthodox Christians, called to live according to our faith, which is founded on the Savior's sufferings on the Cross.



WARNING: SENSE OF HUMOR NEEDED! "NO EXCUSE SUNDAY"

Author Unknown



To make it possible for everyone to attend church next Sunday, we are going to have a special "No Excuse Sunday." Cots will be placed in the foyer for those who say, "Sunday is my only day to sleep in." There will be a special section with lounge chairs for those who feel that our seats are too hard. Eye drops will be available for those with tired eyes from watching TV late Saturday night. We will have steel helmets for those who say, "The roof would cave in if I ever came to church." Blankets will be furnished for those who think the church is too cold and fans for those who say it's too hot. Scorecards will be available for those who wish to list the hypocrites present. Relatives and friends will be in attendance for those who can't go to church and cook dinner, too. We will distribute "Stamp Out Stewardship" buttons for those who feel that the church is always asking for money.

One section will be devoted to trees and grass for those who like to seek God in nature. Doctors and nurses will be in attendance for those who plan to be sick on Sunday. The sanctuary will be decorated with both Christmas poinsettias and Easter lilies for those who never have seen the church without them. We will provide hearing aids for those who can't hear the preacher and cotton for those who can!

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.

FOR CONSIDERATION

From the Prologue by St. Nikolai Velimirovich

By true repentance, by tears, prayers and good works, the most filthy soul can be utterly cleansed and changed. Therefore, be careful not to rejoice in remembering the sin of a repentant sinner, but give thanks to God and marvel that light has been brought from darkness. The Egyptian Pharaoh Amases was of low birth, and, when he came to the throne, the people showed him scant respect, remembering his ancestry. In order to outwit the people and gain the respect due to him, he took a metal laver, in which the feet of visitors to the court were usually washed, and caused it to be heated to white heat and made into the likeness of an idol. Then the Pharaoh set the idol up in the street. The people, seeing it, began to bow down to it and give it divine honor. Then the Pharaoh disclosed the source of the material used for it. The people understood that the Pharaoh wanted to prove in this way that they must not bear in mind his former state, but accept what he was now, and they began to give the Pharaoh the respect due to royalty.

