



# CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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## BULLETIN OF NOVEMBER 30, 2014

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup>

#### **Apostle Andrew**

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

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>

#### **St. Philaret the Merciful**

9:00a.m. Akathist

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup>

7:00p.m. Great Vespers

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup>

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

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>

#### **St. Nicholas the Wonderworker**

8:40a.m. Hours  
 9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy  
 6:00p.m. Great Vespers

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>

#### **26<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost**

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

*"Happiness can only be achieved by looking inward and learning to enjoy whatever life has and this requires transforming greed into gratitude."*

St. John Chrysostom

#### READER SCHEDULE

#### **Sunday, Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>**

George Kaloroumakis

#### **Sunday, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>**

Alexis Oleynik



#### **A Warm Welcome!**

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

#### **The Feast of St. Nicholas**

is held annually on December 6<sup>th</sup>. We will have Great Vespers with Litiya, Friday at 7:00pm and the Divine Liturgy, Saturday at 9:00am. At the end of Liturgy we will have a special prayer to St. Nicholas, and the children of the parish will be given gold (chocolate) coins in honor of the Saint's great charity.



#### **Appreciation is Extended**

to those who stay after on Sundays to help clean the chapel, coffee hour, and grounds. Thank you and may God bless you!

#### **Have a Question?**

Wondering about parish life, Orthodoxy, or some other spiritually related topic? Please feel free to speak with Fr. John in person or by phone (302-537-6055) or email (frjohn@orthodoxdelmarva.org).

#### **Turkeys for the Needy**

This year we were able to collect \$203.00 to offer Thanksgiving meals to the poor and homeless. May the Lord bless all those who made offerings!



#### **Crawlspace Work Project Update**

The work of Phase 1 of the crawlspace project is now complete. However additional funds are need to pay for what has been done. Your offerings are as necessary as they are appreciated. May the Lord bless!

#### **The Parish Council**

will meet on Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, following the coffee hour. All are welcome to attend.

#### **About Confession and Holy Communion**

As a reminder, confession can be heard before or after any service or class, or at any other time by appointment. Frequent communicants should make a good confession during the Nativity Fast; not just fulfilling some external rule but undertaking an inward catharsis. Those who do not approach the Chalice regularly should seek to avail themselves of Confession and Holy Communion during the Advent/Nativity season. If you made your confession in the presence of another Orthodox priest, please just let Fr. John know so he will not worry.



CASH FLOWS THROUGH 10/31/14					CASH FLOWS IN NOVEMBER 2014					PROJECT CRAWLSPACE			FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT		
OPERATING		OTHER		ALL	OPERATING		OTHER		ALL	AS OF: 11/30			AS OF: 11/30		
Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Net	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Net	Income	Expense	Net	Checking	Overdue	Mortgage
58,404	55,791	8,410	10,484	+539	4,377	5,806	203	203	-1,429	5,184	8,462	-3,278	7,301	0	350,074



## **SAINT PHILARET THE MERCIFUL**

*Commemorated on December 1<sup>st</sup> from the Prologue by St. Nikolai*

Philaret was from the village of Amnia in Paphlagonia. Early in life, Philaret was a very wealthy man, but by distributing abundant alms to the poor he himself became extremely poor. However, he was not afraid of poverty, and, not heeding the complaints of his wife and children, he continued his charitable works with hope in God, Who said: Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy (Matthew 5:7). Once, while he was plowing in the field, a man came to him and complained that one of his oxen had died in the harness and that he was unable to plow with only one ox. Philaret then unharnessed one of his oxen and gave it to him. He even gave his remaining horse to a man who was summoned to go to war. He gave away the calf of his last cow, and when he saw how the cow pined for her missing calf, and the calf for the cow, he called the man and gave him the cow too. And thus the aged Philaret was left without food in an empty house. But he prayed to God and placed his hope in Him. And God did not abandon the righteous one to be put to shame in his hope. At that time the Empress Irene reigned with her young son, Constantine. According to the custom of that time, the empress sent men throughout the whole empire to seek the best and most distinguished maiden to whom she could wed her son, the emperor. By God's providence, these men happened to stay overnight in Philaret's house, and they saw his most beautiful and modest granddaughter Maria, the daughter of his daughter Hypatia, and took her to Constantinople. The emperor was well pleased with her, married her, and moved Philaret and all his family to the capital, giving him great honors and riches. Philaret did not become proud as a result of this unexpected good fortune, but, thankful to God, he continued to perform good works even more than he had before, and thus he continued until his death. At the age of ninety he summoned his children, blessed them, and instructed them to cleave to God and to God's law, and with his clairvoyant spirit he prophesied to all of them how they would live out this life, as once had Jacob. After that he went to the Monastery of the Last Judgment and gave up his soul to God. At his death his face shone like the sun, and after his death an unusual, sweet fragrance came forth from his body and miracles took place at his relics. This righteous man entered into rest in the year 797. His wife, Theosevia, and all his children and grandchildren lived a God-pleasing life and reposed in the Lord.

### **More About St. Philaret**

Virtue is like a thirst. When a man begins to drink of it, he becomes more thirsty and seeks to drink of it all the more. He who begins to exercise the virtue of compassion knows no measure and acknowledges no limit. St. Philaret was no less generous when he was impoverished than when he was wealthy. When his granddaughter became empress, he became a rich man once again, but no less generous. One day, he told his wife and children to prepare the best feast that they could and said: "Let us invite our King and Lord, with all His noblemen, to come to the feast." Everyone thought that the old man was thinking of inviting to dinner his son-in-law, the emperor, and they all worked as hard as they could and prepared the feast. Meanwhile, Philaret went around the streets and gathered all the needy, the beggars, the blind, the outcasts, the lame and the infirm, and brought them to the feast. Placing them at the table, he ordered his wife and sons to serve at the table. After the feast was completed, he put a gold coin in the hand of each guest and dismissed them. Then everyone understood that by "the King" he meant the Lord Christ Himself, and by "the noblemen" he meant beggars and those in need. He also said that one need not look at the money that one gives to beggars, but rather one should mix up the money in one's pocket and give only what the hand removes from the pocket. The hand will draw out whatever God's providence ordains.



## FOR CONSIDERATION

*From the Prologue By St. Nikolai Velimirovich*

**A tale of Elder Barlaam to Joasaph:** The citizens in a certain town had a custom of choosing as king a stranger who did not know their laws and customs. After they had crowned him king, they clothed him in beautiful robes, fed him abundantly and surrounded him with every luxury. However, as soon as one year had elapsed, they deposed their king, stripped him of all his goods and his clothes, and drove him completely naked to a distant island, where he had neither bread nor roof nor companions, and where he would die in misery and humiliation. The citizens of this town would then choose another king, also a stranger and also for one year; then a third, then a fourth, then a fifth and so forth. But it once happened that they chose a very wise and cautious man. He learned from his servants



what had happened to the kings of this town after their year. Therefore, over the course of the whole year he zealously gathered food and goods and daily sent them to that island. When the year had run out and when he was stripped of his clothing and cast onto the island, he found himself amidst an enormous quantity of food, silver, gold and precious stones, and continued to live there even better than he lived as king in that town.

**The interpretation is this:** The town represents the world; the citizens represent the evil spirits; the kings are men, either foolish or wise. The foolish men think only of the pleasures of this life, as if it were eternal; but in the end, death cuts everything off and they, naked of all good works, go to hell. The wise, however, perform many good works, and send these good works ahead of them to the other world. At their repose, the wise kings - the good men - depart to that world where their accumulated riches await them, and where they reign in greater eternal glory and beauty than they reigned here on earth.

## TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF ORTHODOXY

- 1) What 6<sup>th</sup> century saintly Byzantine emperor outlined the idea of Symphony between Church and State?
- 2) What does the word "Jihad" mean in Arabic?
- 3) How many Ecumenical Councils were there?
- 4) (True or False) The Nicæan Creed was written to correct false teachings.
- 5) (True or False) According to Islamic law, Christians are free to practice their faith on the Arabian Peninsula provided they do so in the privacy of their own homes.
- 6) How many natures and wills does Christ have? What are they?
- 7) Which Ecumenical Council upheld the veneration of icons?
- 8) (True or False) A skete is a very large monastery where every monk or nun follows the same practice and discipline as the others.
- 9) In what year did the Great Schism between the Roman Catholic and Orthodox Churches occur?
- 10) What does the Latin word "Filioque" mean?



## Answer to Quiz

- 1) St. Justinian the Great
- 2) "Jihad" literally means "struggle". Sometimes thought to mean "Holy War" because Muslims struggle to bring the world into submission to Allah by whatever means necessary, including violent force.
- 3) Seven.
- 4) True.
- 5) False, Christian may not practice their faith even in private.
- 6) Two - one divine and the other human.
- 7) The seventh Council held in Nicæa 787.
- 8) False. A skete is a small monastic community, loosely organized around a leader, each monk or nun keeping, for the most part, their own spiritual disciplines and practices.
- 9) 1054 AD
- 10) "and the Son".