



# CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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## BULLETIN OF JULY 22, 2007



### Fervent Prayers are Sought

for Jane Koshutko who will be undergoing surgery this Tuesday in Baltimore. Please also remember Rich (Michael) Evanusa and Kathy Parrish, who are at home recovering from their own surgeries.

### The Parish Council

will meet on Sunday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, following the Divine Liturgy.

### Saint George's Greek Festival

will be held this year at the Ocean City Convention Center from Friday, July 27<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, July 29<sup>th</sup>. There is a flyer on page four of this bulletin. Fr. John and his family will be going to the festival after coffee hour next Sunday. Let Fr. John or Matushka Emily know if you are interested in going together. Let's do our best to support our Orthodox brothers and sisters in Ocean City!



### The Tastefully Simple Fundraiser

is still underway. If you would like to place an order for this fundraiser you may do so today and next Sunday. Order forms and brochures are available in the coffee hour room. To place an order you may see the Parrish's or you may contact Ginny Seeley directly, fourseeleys@comcast.net. Please don't pass up this opportunity to support your church by purchasing some "tastefully simple" food. Remember, 100% of the profits are graciously being donated to our Mission!

### Bible Studies

will be held the next few months on the following days / topics:

- ❖ Sunday, July 29<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm: Transfiguration of the Lord
- ❖ Monday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm: Nativity of the Theotokos
- ❖ Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm: Crucifixion of the Lord

### Blessing of Automobiles

It is a pious custom of Orthodox Christians to have their cars blessed both when newly acquired and on or near the feast of the Prophet Elias (July 20<sup>th</sup>), as he ascended into heaven on a fiery chariot. If you would like your car blessed, please see Fr. John and he will bless it for you. This short but important blessing can be done at the church following any service or at any other time by appointment.



### The Dormition Fast

Each year the Church observes a two week fast from August 1<sup>st</sup> through August 15<sup>th</sup>, the feast of the Dormition (or "Falling Asleep") of the Mother of God. This feast commemorates the death, burial, resurrection, and ascension into heaven of the Virgin Mary.

**SUNDAY, JULY 22<sup>ND</sup>**  
**8<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF PENTECOST**  
8:40a.m. Hours  
9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy  
Coffee Hour

**THURSDAY, JULY 26<sup>TH</sup>**  
**ST. JACOB OF ALASKA**  
7:00p.m. Compline

**SATURDAY, JULY 28<sup>TH</sup>**  
6:00p.m. Vespers

**SUNDAY, JULY 29<sup>TH</sup>**  
**9<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF PENTECOST**  
8:40a.m. Hours  
9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy  
Coffee Hour  
7:00p.m. Bible Study



Blessed is he who always has before his eyes that "the earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof" (Ps. 23:1), and keeps in mind that God is powerful to arrange for His servants as is pleasing to Him.

*Saint Barsanuphius*

### READER SCHEDULE

**Sunday, July 29<sup>th</sup>**

Hours: TBD  
Epistle: TBD

**Sunday, August 5<sup>th</sup>**

Hours: Matushka Emily





## CONCERNING THE EFFECTS OF RECEIVING THE BODY AND BLOOD OF OUR LORD

There are at least four major benefits which may be expected after partaking of Christ's Body and Blood, namely:

### 1. Intimate union with Christ through His love.

Through this union we mingle with God and share with Him. As God is love, when we partake of Him through Holy Communion we become partakers of His love. It should be added that these Gifts from God are truly free. He compels no one to accept, just as in true love there is no compulsion, but absolute free to either accept or reject.

### 2. Strengthening of the body and soul.

Eating ordinary food only nourishes a person's body; but eating Christ's Flesh and Blood strengthens and nourishes both the body and soul. When the soul is nourished, a person is better able to live, grow and develop spiritually. This means that the ability to resist sin is greatly increased, thus enhancing the desire and capacity to be more virtuous, righteous, compassionate and considerate. We can be sure that this is so since Christ said: "I am the bread of life, he who comes to Me shall not hunger and he who believes in Me shall never thirst" (Jn 6:35), and then: "For My Flesh is true food and My Blood is true drink" (Jn 6:55).

With these statements Christ expounded the eternal nourishment value of His Flesh and Blood. Unlike ordinary food which only temporarily strengthens the body, true Divine food strengthens the soul eternally.

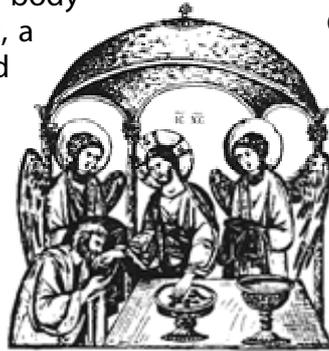
The strengthening effect of these Gifts, is another indicator of Christ's great love for us. Christ gave us certain Commandments to follow if we are able to inherit the Kingdom of Heaven. Scripture teaches that evil is spread through man by various demonic powers (Eph 6:12). Without Divine intervention man does not have the strength to fight these extremely powerful, fleshless creatures – as Christ said: "...for without Me you can do nothing" (Jn 15:5). Man alone does not have the strength to become perfect. Not wishing man to be condemned to hell, Christ nourishes us with His Body

and Blood – giving us a Perfect Food with which to become perfect.

### 3. Preparation for eternal life with God.

Partaking in Communion prepares us to share with God, an eternally joyful life after the resurrection of the dead. Christ is God and therefore lives forever – by eating His Body and Blood, we are blended with Him and will likewise live forever. This is Christ's promise when He said: "He who eats My Flesh and drinks My Blood has eternal life; and I will raise him up on the last day" (Jn 6:54).

This "life" that Christ refers to is not related to the life here on earth, since it is obvious that all men "live" here, even non-Christians. Nor does He refer to "life" of the general resurrection. Rather, Christ refers to the glorious life which some Christians will inherit as a reward for righteous living. How necessary it is for us to partake in Christ's Body and Blood; by being with Him, our souls are washed and transformed – made beautiful – then, after death, we would not expect punishment and hell, but the unspeakable rewards of the Heavenly Kingdom.



### 4. Unity through love with other Christians.

Christ has only one Body, by partaking of It, each and everyone of us also becomes united into one body – the Body of Christ. Christ's love for us is made perfect in unity, since not only is it reciprocated between ourselves and Christ, but amongst ourselves as well. This is what Christ meant when He established the Church.

The Church is not a building where people pray, it is the Body of Christ – a living organism, in which we all unite in love with Him and amongst ourselves, when we partake of Holy Communion (1 Cor 10:17). Christ is the head of His Body, the Church (Col 1:18), and not some bishop, patriarch, theologian or other mortal man. The Orthodox Church is thus infallible, since Christ being God, is infallible; we can then be sure that our Divine nourishment can never be false or corrupted, even if those who perform this Sacrament are themselves imperfect or unworthy.

# DEBUNKING the DA VINCI CODE

## AN EXCERPT FROM DEBUNKING THE DA VINCI CODE

by Rev. Fr. Steven Tschlis

Perhaps the most outrageous and ludicrous assertion made in this novel is the character of Sir Leigh Teabing's statement that "the marriage of Jesus and Mary Magdalene is part of the historical record." Two reasons are then given for this amazing assertion. First, according to Robert Langdon, the novel's main character, "Because Jesus was a Jew and the social decorum during that time virtually forbid a Jewish man to be unmarried. According to Jewish custom, celibacy was condemned." Second, Teabing insists that the marriage of Jesus and Mary Magdalene is mentioned specifically in two ancient documents, The Gospel of Philip and The Gospel of Mary Magdalene, which he calls, together with the Dead Sea Scrolls, "the earliest Christian records."

There is not one shred of evidence accepted by any credible historian stating that Jesus was married to Mary Magdalene. First, while it is true that "Jewish custom" encouraged marriage, it was not at all unheard of for Jews to practice celibacy. Perhaps the two most famous cases are Jeremiah, the Old Testament prophet of the 7th century B.C. who abstained from marriage as a sign to the Jewish people that the end of the kingdom of Judah was near (Jeremiah 16:1-9); and the Qumran community, a proto-monastic sect within Judaism at the time of Jesus responsible for producing and probably preserving the Dead Sea Scrolls so often mentioned in The Da Vinci Code as part of the "earliest Christian records." Actually, the Dead Sea Scrolls, initially discovered in 1947, contain no "Christian records" whatsoever because they are the products of an ancient Jewish community. Rather, they contain – among other things – some of the oldest known manuscripts of the Old Testament. Ironically, the Dead Sea Scrolls were produced by a community of male Jewish celibates, precisely the kind of people Langdon asserts couldn't have existed within Judaism at Jesus' time.

Second, both The Gospel of Philip and The Gospel of Mary Magdalene are commonly called "gnostic" gospels by New Testament scholars and historians today. They are pseudonymous works notoriously unreliable as historical documents and in fact contain no historical outline of events in the life of Christ whatsoever, in stark contrast to the canonical New Testament Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John that clearly speak in historical terms of the birth, baptism, ministry, crucifixion and resurrection of Christ.



## MARY MAGDALENE IN REAL LIFE

Saint Mary was from Magdala in Galilee on the Sea of Tiberias, and for this was named Magdalene. When the Lord Jesus cast out seven demons from her, from which she had been suffering, she became His faithful and inseparable disciple, following Him and ministering unto Him even to the time of His crucifixion and burial. Then, returning to Jerusalem together with the rest of the Myrrh-bearers, she prepared the fragrant spices for anointing the body of the Lord. And on the Lord's day they came very early to the tomb, even before the Angels appeared declaring the Resurrection of the Lord. When Mary Magdalene saw the stone taken away from the tomb, she ran and proclaimed it to Peter and John. And returning to the tomb and weeping outside, she was deemed worthy to be the first of the Myrrh-bearers to behold the Lord arisen from the dead, and when she fell at His feet, she heard Him say, "Touch Me not." After the Lord's Ascension, nothing certain is known concerning her. Some accounts say that she went to Rome and later returned to Jerusalem, and from there proceeded to Ephesus, where she ended her life, preaching Christ. Although it is sometimes said that Saint Mary Magdalene was the "sinful woman" of the Gospel, this is nowhere stated in the tradition of the Church, or in the Holy Gospels themselves, which say only that our Lord cast seven demons out of her, not that she was a fallen woman.



18th Annual

# *Greek Festival*

July 27, 28 and 29, 2007

Friday and Saturday – Noon to 11 p.m.

Sunday – Noon to 9 p.m.

Ocean City Convention Center

## **Admission**

Noon to 5 p.m. – \$2

After 5 p.m. – \$3



Children under 14  
accompanied by an  
adult FREE at all times.

## **FREE Parking**

at the  
Convention Center

Decorated  
and  
Air Conditioned Hall

**Delicious Greek Food and Pastries**

**Imports, Gifts, Arts and Crafts**

**Live Folk Dancing Performances**

by the Demetrakia Dancers of Baltimore

**Live Music by Zephyros**

beginning at 5 p.m. daily

**\$5,000 Raffle**

only 100 tickets will be sold

*sponsored by*

*St. George Greek Orthodox Church in Ocean City, Maryland*

