

BEFORE THY
CROSS.

WE
BOW



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH

16TH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

SUNDAY AFTER THE CROSS

8:40a.m. Hours

9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour

7:00p.m. Bible Study

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22ND

6:00p.m. Vespers

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23RD

17TH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

CONCEPTION OF THE BAPTIST

8:40a.m. Hours

9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour



Abba Xanthias once said, "A dog is better than I am, for he has love and he does not judge."



READER SCHEDULE

Sunday, Sept. 23rd

Hours: Jen Alexion
Epistle: Jen Alexion

Sunday, Sept. 30th

Hours: Mat. Emily
Epistle: Mat. Emily



CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN OF SEPTEMBER 16, 2007

Please Remember in Prayer

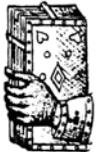
Bill Yanuk, who will be undergoing surgery this week, and Symeon Province, who is studying in China this academic year.

The Parish Council

will meet Sunday, September 30th, after the coffee hour.

A Bible Study – September 16th

Tonight, there will be a Bible Study on the Crucifixion of the Lord at 7:00pm at the church. All are invited to attend as we look at the significance of this great event that is so central to our lives.



Third Annual Diocesan Assembly

is to be held with His Beatitude Metropolitan Herman on Monday, November 5, 2007, at Ss. Peter & Paul Church in South River, New Jersey. A lay delegate is needed to accompany the priest. If you are interested, please see Fr. John.



Are You Interested?

in learning more about the Orthodox Faith? If so, please let Fr. John know. He is planning a class on Orthodox Christianity to supplement our Bible Studies, and he would like to know who is interested and their availabilities. This class would be for inquirers as well as those who are already Orthodox Christians.

Did You Know?

The Sunday bulletin and sermon, as well as the monthly calendar, are available on our parish website: orthodoxdelmarva.org. If you miss a Sunday and don't have the internet but would still like a copy of the bulletin and/or sermon 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, just ask one of the ushers.



About Our New Candles

Our new beeswax candles are from a different candle factory. The new supplier is St. Zosima Church Supply, whose apiaries are located in upstate New York. In addition to the wide variety of candle sizes this company supplies, St. Zosima also offers a 10% discount to mission parishes. For more information, please visit stzosima.com or speak with Fr. John.

Ongoing Fundraisers

In addition to our Scrip Program, which raises money for our Mission through the sale of gift cards, you can also show your support by purchasing Tastefully Simple Foods, through Ginny Seeley. For more information please contact Ginny at fourseeleys@comcast.net.



HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW THE SCRIPTURES?

- 1) What did James and John ask that displeased the other disciples?
 - a) to sit on Christ's right and left hand in the kingdom
 - b) to witness Christ's glory on Mount Tabor
 - c) to be saved from death
 - d) to judge the tribes of Israel
- 2) The word "Christ" means "Anointed".
 - a) true
 - b) false
- 3) Christ first sent the Twelve to preach to the _____?
 - a) Gentiles
 - b) Samaritans
 - c) Inhabitants of Jerusalem
 - d) House of Israel
- 4) After Judas betrayed Christ and left the Twelve, he was replaced by St. Paul, who was first called Saul.
 - a) true
 - b) false
- 5) What did Christ hand to Judas before he left to betray Him?
 - a) the money bag
 - b) a piece of bread dipped in the dish
 - c) a piece of broiled fish
 - d) a cup of wine
- 6) The word "Gospel" means "Salvation".
 - a) true
 - b) false
- 7) Jerusalem, the city of the great king, was built on Mount Olives.
 - a) true
 - b) false
- 8) Who was the Pharisee that climbed up into a sycamore tree so he could see Jesus as He was passing through Jericho?
 - a) Lazarus
 - b) Matthew
 - c) Zacchaeus
 - d) none of the above.
- 9) St. John was given the vision of Revelation on Cyprus.
 - a) true
 - b) false
- 10) Which Christian doctrine did the Sadducees reject?
 - a) Baptism
 - b) Resurrection
 - c) Restoration of the kingdom of Israel
 - d) Forgiveness of sins

For answers, please see your Bible or page 3 of this bulletin.



WISDOM FROM THE FATHERS

A brother questioned Abba Poemen saying, "If I see my brother committing a sin, is it right to conceal it?" The old man said to him, "At the very moment when we hide our brother's fault, God hides hides our own and at the moment when we reveal our brother's fault, God reveals ours too."



Another brother questioned him in these words, "What does, 'See that none of you repays evil for evil' mean?" (1 Thess. 5:15) The old man said to him, "Passions work in four stages – first, in the heart; secondly, in the face; thirdly, in words; and fourthly, through deeds. If you can purify your heart, passion will not come into your expression; but if it comes into your face, take care not to speak; but if you do speak, cut the conversation short in case you render evil for evil."



One brother at Scetis committed a fault. A council was called to which Abba Moses was invited, but he refused to go to it. Then the priest sent someone to say to him, "Come, for everyone is waiting for you." So he got up and went. He took a leaking jug, filled it with water and carried it with him. The others came out to meet him and said to him, "What is this, Father?" The old man said to them, "My sins run out behind me, and I do not see them, and today I am coming to judge the errors of another." When they heard that they said no more to the brother but forgave him.



BROKEN TO BE MORE BEAUTIFUL

From "Surviving the Loss of a Loved One" by Fr. Anthony Coniaris

Many years ago the architect planned that the walls of the Royal Palace be covered with sheets of beautiful mirrors from Paris. But when the shipment of glass arrived from Paris every mirror had been smashed in travel. The entire shipment was destroyed! The entrance could not be completed. Just as the workmen started gathering the broken pieces together to discard them the architect said, "Wait a minute. I've got an idea!" He then took them up in his hands and walked over to the entry. The skilled architect then put some glue on the wall and arranged the tiny pieces. He did this several times until he had an enormous distortion in reflections, sparkling with a rainbow of brilliant colors! At no point were they broken alike and at no point was the angle exact. Today, the Royal Palace is a dazzling brilliant display of prisms, reflecting light! As I read this story I could only think of one line, "Broken to be more beautiful!"



God takes the broken things in our lives, as the architect took the broken pieces of those mirrors and makes them over into the better things of his divine purpose. God can do wonders with a broken heart and a broken life if we will give Him the pieces. But this is exactly what most of us refuse to do: take the pieces to Him! I love the proverb which says, "God can draw straight even with crooked lines."

He can use your grief to help build a better you, if you will bring the pieces to Him.



THE BLOOD OF CHRIST AND THE SKULL OF ADAM

The mount of Calvary or Golgotha means in Hebrew the "place of the Skull." Some biblical scholars have erroneously attested that it was called this name because the rock formations there resembled a skull. Yet, the actual reason for the name comes from an ancient Jewish tradition that the skull of Adam was brought on the Ark by Noah, and then buried under Calvary.

At the moment of Christ's death, the earth quaked and the rock was split in two, thus allowing the atoning Blood of Christ to literally flow over the bones of Adam. This is why in Orthodox iconographical depictions of the Crucifixion, we see a skull and crossbones at the base of the Cross.

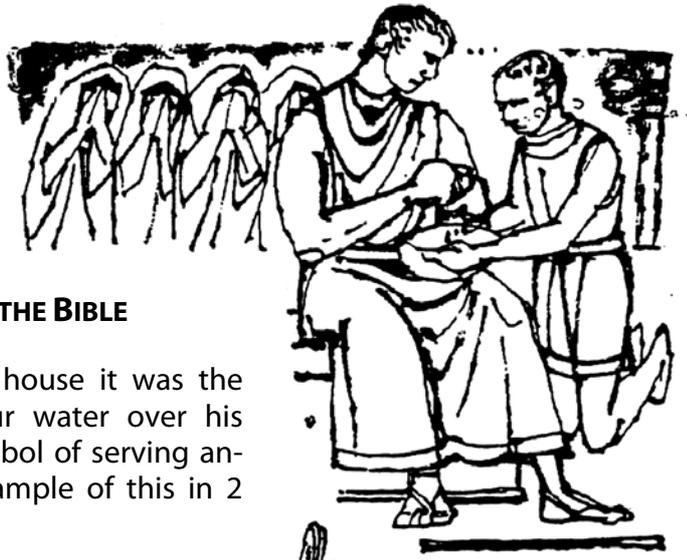
ABOUT THE THREE-BARRED CROSS

The Three-barred Cross is common to most Slavic Orthodox lands. The three bars distinguish the Holy Cross as the Cross of Christ, as opposed to other crosses used by the Romans. The smaller upper bar represents the sign placed above the Lord's head, which read, "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews". The slanted lower bar reflects the fate of the thieves crucified on either side of the Lord: one side pointing up to Paradise, the other downward to Hades.

On either side of the Cross are often pictures the spear used to pierce the Lord's side, and the pole with the sponge used to give Him sour wine to drink.

Answers to Scriptural Questions

- 1) a, Mark 10:37
- 2) a, true
- 3) d, Matthew 10:6
- 4) b, St. Paul was not one of the Twelve. Judas was replaced by Matthias in Acts 1:26.
- 5) b, John 13:26-27.
- 6) b, "Gospel" means "Good News".
- 7) b, Psalm 48:2 and Matthew 5:35
- 8) d, It was Zacchaeus but he was a tax collector, not a Pharisee.
- 9) b, St. John received the Revelation on Patmos.
- 10) b, Matthew 22:23.



HAND SYMBOLS IN THE BIBLE

When a guest came to a house it was the duty of a servant to pour water over his hands. This became a symbol of serving another person. Find an example of this in 2 Kings 3:11.

When we wash our hands all the dirt goes away and we are clean. Washing the hands became a symbol of innocence. It meant, "I am not guilty." Read what Pilate did in Matthew 27:24.

To kiss the hand of someone was a way of showing very deep respect for him. We still use the saying "to kiss hands." Can you remember when this is done and to whom?

When a Jew took an oath or made a solemn promise, he "lifted up his hand" (read this in Genesis 14:22-24). Does not a person do the same thing in a court of law when he takes an oath?

To "give one's hand to another" was a symbol of making a binding friendship. Kings used this symbol too, when they made an alliance with each other. Read an example of this in 2 Kings 10:15.

The right hand was the symbol of strength – can you think of why? You can read about this in Psalm 17:7, 20:6, and 44:3.

