



TASTE... ..and SEE

CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN OF NOVEMBER 25, 2007

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 25TH
26TH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST
8:40a.m. Hours
9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26TH
7:00p.m. Orthodox 101

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1ST
6:00p.m. Vespers

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2ND
27TH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST
8:40a.m. Hours
9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour

Prayer Before Work

O Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of the eternal Father, Thou hast said, "Without me you can do nothing." In faith I embrace Thy words, O Lord, and bow before Thy goodness. Help me to complete the work I am about to begin for Thine own glory: in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayer After Work

Thou, O Christ, art Thyself the fulfillment of all good things! Fill my soul with joy and gladness, and save me, for Thou art all merciful.

READER SCHEDULE

Sunday, Dec. 2nd
Hours: Mat. Emily
Epistle: Mat. Emily
Sunday, Dec. 9th
Hours: Jen Alexion
Epistle: Jen Alexion



Congratulations and Happy 1st Birthday

to Jacob McFarland who turns one year old on November 29th! Today's special coffee hour will be in his honor! May God grant little Jacob many more blessed years!

Our Directory of Parishioners and Friends

is continually being updated. If you attend Christ the Savior Mission even infrequently and are not yet listed in our directory, please fill out a directory form in the back of the church. Updates to the directory are posted in the Sunday bulletin in between printings.

Orthodox 101 – A Class on Our Faith

will meet again this on Monday, November 26th. The class will pick up where we left off with St. Constantine the Great (4th century) and will cover through the Great Schism between the Orthodox Churches and the Roman Catholic Church (11th century). All are invited!



Sympathy is Expressed

to Joe and Ginny Seeley, and their family, on the repose of Joe's father, Mel Seeley who passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family and closest friends, on Sunday, November 18th. May the Lord grant consolation to those who mourn and blessed repose to the newly departed!

The Nativity Fast

began on Thursday, November 15th, and ends with the celebration of the Divine Liturgy on Christmas Day, December 25th. During this period, in addition to abstaining from certain types of foods, we should also seek to free ourselves from sin by making a good Confession and, if we are not frequent communicants, by receiving Holy Communion.



Pledge Sheets for 2008

are available for pickup in the back of the church. If you make offerings to help support our Mission, please consider filling out a pledge form. Your pledge: 1) will be kept confidential, 2) will help us budget better for next year, and 3) will help our Mission grow. Should you have any questions about pledging, please speak with Fr. John or Susan Pappas, our treasurer.

A Big "Thank You"

to those who have offered so selflessly of their time, financial resources, building materials, and expertise for the preparation of our new church home! There is still much work to be done, but we are making a good start as each of us offers what he or she can. Be assured that the Lord sees all of your efforts and sacrifice, and He will reward each according to his or her labors!



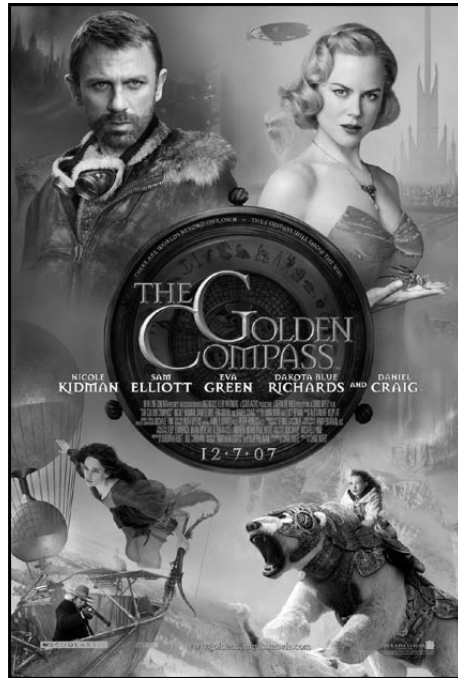
THE FILM – “THE GOLDEN COMPASS”

The Golden Compass, a fantasy film starring Nicole Kidman that is scheduled to be released into theaters on 7 December 2007, has been drawing fire from concerned Christians. The film is based on Northern Lights (released in the U.S. as The Golden Compass), the first offering in Philip Pullman's His Dark Materials trilogy of children's books, a series that follows the adventures of a streetwise girl who travels through multiple worlds populated by witches, armor-plated bears, and sinister ecclesiastical assassins to defeat the oppressive forces of a senile God.

Books of the trilogy have sold more than 15 million copies around the world, with Northern Lights winning the Carnegie Medal for Children's Literature in 1995 and in 2007 being awarded the 'Carnegie of Carnegies' for the best children's book of the past 70 years. The Amber Spyglass, the final book of the series, won The Whitbread Prize in 2001, making it the first children's book to do so.

The series' author, Philip Pullman, is an avowed atheist who has averred that "I don't profess any religion; I don't think it's possible that there is a God; I have the greatest difficulty in understanding what is meant by the words 'spiritual' or 'spirituality.'" Critics of Pullman's books point to the strong anti-religion and anti-God themes they incorporate, and although literary works are subject to a variety of interpretations, Pullman left little doubt about his intentions when he said in a 2003 interview with The Sydney Morning Herald that "My books are about killing God." (Conservative British columnist Peter Hitchens labeled Pullman "The Most Dangerous Author in Britain" and described him as the writer "the atheists would have been praying for, if atheists prayed.")

Bill Donohue, president of The Catholic League, has condemned The Golden Compass as a "pernicious" effort to indoctrinate children into anti-Christian beliefs and has produced a 23-page pamphlet titled The Golden Compass: Unmasked in which he maintains that Pullman "sells atheism for kids." Donohue told interviewer John Gibson on 9 October 2007 why he believes Christians should stay away from the film:



"Look, the movie is based on the least offensive of the three books. And they have dumbed down the worst elements in the movie because they don't want to make Christians angry and they want to make money. Our concern is this, unsuspecting Christian parents may want to take their kid to the movie, it opens up December 7th and say, this wasn't troubling, then we'll buy the books. So the movie is the bait for the books which are profoundly anti-Catholic and at the same time selling atheism."

Other reviewers, however, have described Pullman's works as being more generally anti-

religion rather than specifically anti-Christian or anti-Catholic:

In "His Dark Materials," Pullman's criticisms of organized religion come across as anti-authoritarian and anti-ascetic rather than anti-doctrinal. (Jesus isn't mentioned in any of the books, although Pullman has hinted that He might figure in a forthcoming sequel, "The Book of Dust.") His fundamental objection is to ideological tyranny and the rejection of this world in favor of an idealized after-life, regardless of creed. As one of the novel's pagan characters puts it, "Every church is the same: control, destroy, obliterate every good feeling."

<http://snopes.com/politics/religion/compass.asp>

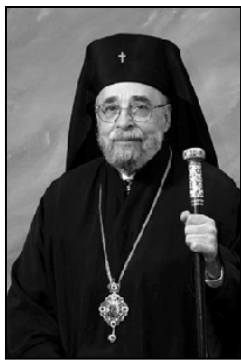


FOR MORE INFORMATION ON “THE GOLDEN COMPASS”

Watch an online video of the Catholic League's President, Bill Donohue, discussing the potential dangers of the new children's film which is to open on December 7, 2007, and other books by the author Philip Pullman:

<http://catholicleague.org/videos/>

IN MEMORIAM: HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP PETER, RETIRED ARCHBISHOP OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY



On Monday, November 19, 2007, His Eminence, Archbishop Peter, retired ruling hierarch of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey fell asleep in the Lord.

Funeral services for His Eminence, Archbishop Peter, will be served at Holy Virgin Protection Cathedral, 59 East 2nd Street, New York, NY. On Monday, November 26, he will be waked from 3:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., with a Memorial served at 7:00 p.m. On Tuesday, November 26, His Eminence will be waked from 3:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., with the Funeral Service for a Hierarch served at 7:00 p.m. On Wednesday, November 28, a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at 9:00 a.m., celebrated by His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman and members of the Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church in America, with final prayers following the Liturgy. After a memorial luncheon, Archbishop Peter will be interred at St. Tikhon's Monastery in South Canaan, PA. May His Eminence, Archbishop Peter's memory be eternal!

ON THE WILL OF GOD AND ON FREEDOM

By Saint Silouan of Mount Athos

The Holy Spirit sets us all on different paths: one man lives a life of silent solitude in the desert; another prays for mankind; still another is called to minister to Christ's flock, or to preach, or give comfort to the suffering; while yet another serves his neighbor by the fruits of his labor or by his goods – and all these are gifts of the Holy Spirit accorded in varying degrees: to some thirty-fold, some sixty, and some an hundred.



Many people think to themselves, "I have sinned much – plundered and killed, used violence, slandered and led a wanton life; and done many other wrong things." And shame keeps them from the path of repentance. But they forget that in God's sight all their sins are merely as drops of water in the sea.

O my brethren the world over, repent while there is still time. God mercifully awaits our repentance. And all heaven and all the Saints look for our repentance. As God is love, so the Holy Spirit in the Saints is love. Ask, and the Lord will forgive. And when you receive forgiveness, there will be joy and gladness in your soul, and the grace of the Holy Spirit will enter your soul...



We all suffer here on earth, and seek freedom, but few there are who know the meaning of freedom, and where it is to be found.

I, too, want freedom, and seek it day and night. I learned that freedom is with God and is given by God to humble hearts who have repented and sacrificed their wills before Him. To those who repent, the Lord gives His peace and the freedom to love Him. And there is nothing better in the world than to love God and one's fellow-man. In this does the soul find rest and joy.



WHEN DID THE NATIVITY FAST ORIGINATE?

We do not know precisely at what date the observance of the Nativity Fast (Advent) was introduced into the Church. Documents establish that, towards the end of the fourth century, the Nativity of Christ was celebrated by some on December 25th and by others on January 6th.

The Council of Saragossa, in Spain, decided (in 380) that, from December 17th until Epiphany, no one could absent himself from services. In Gaul (modern day France), in the sixth century, a sort of Lent was observed from November 11th until Christmas. Advent was celebrated in Rome, under Pope St. Gregory the Great, towards the end of the sixth century.

The Nativity Fast seems to have come into the practice of the Churches of the Byzantine rite a little later when in the ninth century the Greeks fasted from November 15th through Christmas.

From "The Year of Grace of the Lord – A Scriptural and Liturgical Commentary on the Calendar of the Orthodox Church" by a Monk of the Eastern Church.

CHURCH BELLS

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Long ago, church bells were rung far more often than today. They indicated the time, warned of fire or other dangers, and even announced whether the baby just born to the queen was a boy or girl. (A different number of rings was used.) Of course, they also called the faithful to church, and that's often the only purpose they are used for today.



One thing that is the same for bells of any time is that someone must ring them. As loud as a bell can be, it will not be heard unless someone takes the time to pull its rope.

In the same way, as powerful as is the Bible's message, it will not be heard unless people take the time to study it (at home as well as in church), sing it (in the choir and elsewhere), and live it (everywhere)!

So somewhere in your schedule, find time to hear God's message of hope and to bring it to those in need.



ON CUTTING OFF UNNECESSARY DESIRES

By Abba Dorotheos of Gaza

A man "takes a little walk and sees something. His thoughts say to him: 'Go over there and investigate,' and he says to his thoughts, 'No, I won't!' and he cuts off his desire. Again he finds someone gossiping, and his thoughts say to him, 'You go and have a word with them,' and he cuts off his desire and does not speak. Or again his thoughts say to him, 'Go and ask the cook what's cooking?' and he does not go, but cuts off his desire. Then he sees something else, and his thoughts say to him, 'Go down and ask, who brought it?' and he does not ask.

A man denying himself in this way comes little by little to form a habit of it, so that from denying himself in little things, he begins to deny himself in great things without the least trouble. Finally, he comes not to have any of these extraneous desires, but whatever happens to him he is satisfied with it, as if it were the very thing he wanted.

THE PIOUS AGATHONIK: A LESSON IN PRAYER

There once lived in Russia a pious man by the name of Agathonik. From the time he was a small child he was taught by his parents to say every single day before the Icon of the Mother of God, this prayer: *Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Mary full of Grace, the Lord is with you.*



Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb, for you have born the Savior of our souls. And this prayer, Agathonik always did. Later, when he had grown up and started life on his own, he got absorbed in the cares and fuss of life and said this prayer rarely, and finally gave it up altogether.

One day, he gave a traveling pilgrim lodging for the night. The pilgrim was a hermit from the Thebaid who had received a vision in which he was told to go to Agathonik and rebuke him for having given up the prayer to the Mother of God.

Agathonik for his part told the monk that he said the prayer for many years and never saw any results from the prayer. Therefore, what difference could there be if the prayer was said or not.

The hermit said to him: "You are indeed thankless and at the same time spiritually blind! Don't you have any idea how many times this prayer has saved you? Remember how in your youth you were wonderfully saved from drowning? Don't you recall that an epidemic of infectious disease carried off many of your friends to the grave, but your health remained? Do you remember when you were driving with a friend, you both fell out of the cart; he broke his leg, but you were unhurt? Do you not know that a young man of your acquaintance who used to be well and strong is now lying weak and ill, whereas you are in good health and feel no pain?"

And the hermit reminded Agathonik of many other times such benefits were given to him because of his prayer. The hermit concluded: "Know this, that all those troubles were warded off from you by the protection of the most holy Mother of God because of that short prayer, by which you lifted up your heart every day into union with God. Take care now, go on with the prayer and do not give up praising the Queen of Heaven lest she should forsake you."