

CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN OF JULY 13, 2008



SUNDAY, JULY 13TH

FATHERS OF FIRST 6 COUNCILS

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

MONDAY, JULY 14TH

7:00p.m. Bible Study

SATURDAY, JULY 19TH

ST. SERAPHIM OF SAROV

6:00p.m. Great Vespers

SUNDAY, JULY 20TH

5TH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

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



God is not a deceiver, that He should offer to support us, and then, when we lean upon Him, should slip away from us...

Order your soul; reduce your wants; live in charity; associate in Christian community; obey the laws; trust in Providence.

St. Augustine

READER SCHEDULE

Sunday, July 20th

Troy Duker

Sunday, July 27th

Jen Alexion



Please Remember in Prayer

Carol Boris, Nina Gordon, Jane Koshutko, Constantina, and Christos. If you have a prayer request, please let Fr. John know.

Volunteers Sought

A work team is needed this week to help complete the installation of our new cabinets / countertops: one person on Wednesday and two people on Thursday. Some heavy lifting is involved. If you would like to help please talk to Fr. John. Thanks!



Bible Study – Monday, July 14th

A Bible Study will be held at the church tomorrow night. The topic will be the Book of Revelation. This study, the first of a two part series, will cover an introduction to the Book as well as the first 11 chapters. All are encouraged to attend. Please bring your Bible, and if you like, a friend.

Blessing of Automobiles – Sunday, July 20th

There will be a blessing of automobiles immediately following the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, July 20th. Following the veneration of the Cross, please go and stand by your car while Fr. John makes his way around the parking lot with the Holy Water. Coffee-hour to follow.



Diocesan Assembly – September 15th

The Diocesan Assembly will be held this year at Ss. Peter & Paul in South River, NJ. A lay delegate is needed to accompany Fr. John.

Special Parish Meeting – September 21st

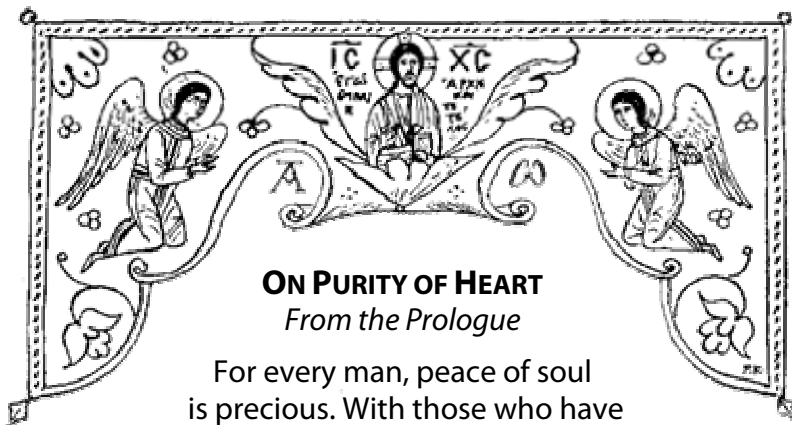
At the Annual Parish Meeting on January 21, 2007, the Finance Committee was commissioned to conduct a feasibility investigation regarding the purchase of land for future parish use. On Sunday, September 21st, there will be a Special Parish Meeting to hear the results of this investigation. All are asked to please attend. If you have any questions, please speak with Fr. John or one of the Council Members.



The Saturday Evening Service

is the first service of the Resurrection. The Divine Liturgy on the following morning is the second service. Sunday begins on the evening before, just as in the Bible, "there was an evening and morning the first day." Therefore, the Vespers on Saturday evening is not only for those who are preparing to receive Holy Communion but also for all the faithful. As Orthodox Christians we know that the joy of celebrating the Resurrection should not be regulated to simply the Divine Liturgy. Rather we do well to participate in both of these services, as the righteous ones of the Old and New Testament times worshipped in the evening and morning.





ON PURITY OF HEART From the Prologue

For every man, peace of soul is precious. With those who have attained peace of soul, the body can be in constant motion; in work, in pain, but their souls, affixed to God, always remain in unwavering peace. St. Seraphim of Sarov teaches: "It is necessary to concern oneself with all means in order to preserve peace of soul and not to be disturbed by the insults of others. That is why it is necessary, at all costs, to restrain yourself from anger with the help of vigilance over one's self, preserving the mind and heart from indecent movements. For preserving peace of soul, it is also necessary to avoid judging others. By not judging and by silence, peace of the soul is preserved. When a man is in such a state of mind, he receives divine revelations. In order for man to be preserved from judging others, he must be vigilant over himself; he must not receive from anyone non-spiritual thoughts and he should be dead toward everything worldly. We must tirelessly guard the heart from indecent thoughts and influences. 'With closest custody, guard your heart for in it are the sources of life.' (Proverbs 4:23). From perpetual vigilance over the heart, purity is born, in which the Lord is seen according to the words of eternal truth: 'Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God'".

The Service Schedule

is printed on a weekly basis in the Sunday Bulletin. The monthly schedule is also available in the back of the church and on our parish website. Since the website has the service schedule for the whole rest of the year you may want to consult it before planning a vacation or event, so as to avoid conflicts with fasts or feasts. Changes to the schedule appear in the Sunday bulletin. As always, if you have any questions about the services, please feel free to contact Fr. John.

Looking Ahead

In the month of August we celebrate three Great Feasts: Transfiguration of the Lord (8/6), Dormition of the Theotokos (8/15), and Our Parish Feast – The Icon Not-Made-By-Hands (8/16). Please note these days and make a special effort to attend the Services.



A Women's Group

is in the process of being formed at Christ the Savior. The opening event will be breakfast on Saturday, July 26th. If you are interested in this group, please speak with Mat. Emily. Sorry, men it's only for the ladies!



NEW TO OUR WISH LIST!

Gospel Book from OrthodoxGifts.com

This Gold Plated Enameled Gospel Cover offers exquisite detail and fine workmanship. It is imported from Greece. Interior page finishing is available in either red or gold. Measures 13 3/4" x 2 1/3" x 9 7/8".

Price: \$925.00

FROM THE SAYINGS OF THE DESERT FATHERS

A hunter, wandering through the desert, came upon Abba Anthony while he was making jokes with the brethren; and he was shocked. Wishing to teach the hunter that it is necessary sometimes to relax with the brethren, the old man said to him: "Put an arrow in your bow and bend it." The hunter did so. "Bend it a little more," said Anthony. The hunter obeyed. "And still more," Anthony told him. "But if I draw the string too tight," said the hunter, "the bow will snap." And the old man said to him: "It is the same in the work of God. If in the case of the brethren we draw the string too tight, they will snap under the strain. So it is necessary sometimes to relax with them." When the hunter heard this, he was filled with compunction, and profiting much from what the old man had said, he went his way. And the brethren, greatly strengthened, departed to their own place.





STANDING CONFERENCE OF CANONICAL ORTHODOX BISHOPS IN THE AMERICAS

ORTHODOX BISHOPS STATEMENT ON SAME-SEX UNIONS: MORAL CRISIS IN OUR NATION

SCOBA - The Standing Conference of the Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas

As members of the Standing Conference of the Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas (SCOBA), representing more than 5 million Orthodox Christians in the United States, Canada and Mexico, we are deeply concerned about recent developments regarding "same sex unions."

The Orthodox Christian teaching on marriage and sexuality, firmly grounded in Holy Scripture, 2000 years of church tradition, and canon law, holds that marriage consists in the conjugal union of a man and a woman, and that authentic marriage is blessed by God as a sacrament of the Church. Neither Scripture nor Holy Tradition blesses or sanctions such a union between persons of the same sex.

Holy Scripture attests that God creates man and woman in His own image and likeness (Genesis 1:27-31), that those called to do so might enjoy a conjugal union that ideally leads to procreation. While not every marriage is blessed with the birth of children, every such union exists to create of a man and a woman a new reality of "one flesh." This can only involve a relationship based on gender complementarity. "God made them male and female... So they are no longer two but one flesh" (Mark 10:6-8).

The union between a man and a woman in the Sacrament of Marriage reflects the union between Christ and His Church (Ephesians 5:21-33). As such, marriage is necessarily monogamous and heterosexual. Within this union, sexual relations between a husband and wife are to be cherished and protected as a sacred expression of their love that has been blessed by God. Such was God's plan for His human creatures from the very beginning. Today, however, this divine purpose is increasingly questioned, challenged or denied, even within some faith communities, as social and political pressures work to normalize, legalize and even sanctify same-sex unions.

The Orthodox Church cannot and will not bless same-sex unions. Whereas marriage between a man and a woman is a sacred institution ordained by God, homosexual union is not. Like adultery and fornication, homosexual acts are condemned by Scripture (Romans 1:24-27; 1 Corinthians 6:10; 1 Timothy 1:10). This being said, however, we must stress that persons with a homosexual orientation are to be cared for with the same mercy and love that is bestowed by our Lord Jesus Christ upon all of humanity. All persons are called by God to grow spiritually and morally toward holiness.

As heads of the Orthodox Churches in America and members of SCOBA, we speak with one voice in expressing our deep concern over recent developments. And we pray fervently that our nation will honor and preserve the traditional form of marriage as an enduring and committed union only between a man and a woman.

The Standing Conference of the Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas (SCOBA) is an Eastern Orthodox organization designed to help cooperation among the canonical Orthodox Christian jurisdictions to be found in the Americas. It acts as a clearinghouse for educational, charitable, and missionary work in the Americas.

JULY CONGRATULATIONS!

Birthdays:

- 7/7 Genevieve Dudkin
- 7/12 Ellen Gundersen
- 7/13 Gerald Milite
- 7/22 Alexandra Boris
- 7/28 Frank Pappas

Namesdays:

- 7/5 *St. Elisabeth the New Martyr*
Elisabeth Parsells
- 7/11 *St. Olga the Princess of Kiev*
Olga Holowach
Olga Nesterenko
Olga Vernigor-Leasure
- 7/16 *St. Valentina*
Isabelle Bekeshka
- 7/17 *St. Marina*
Denise Royal

If your name is not on this list and it should be, please see Fr. John, as soon as possible!



The following are highlights from a recently conducted survey on Religion in America. This extensive survey, by the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life, is based on interviews with more than 35,000 American adults, detailing the religious makeup, religious beliefs and practices as well as social and political attitudes of the American public. How would we answer these questions? What do our answers tell us about ourselves and our community? Are we more secular or churchly people? Where is our main focus?

Question: How important is religion in your life?

U.S. Religious Traditions	Very	Somewhat	Not too/ not at all	Don't know
Protestants	85%	13%	2%	0%
Roman Catholics	56%	34%	9%	1%
<i>Orthodox Christians</i>	56%	31%	12%	0%
National Total:	56%	26%	16%	1%

Question: How often do you participate in religious education in your community?

U.S. Religious Traditions	Weekly	Monthly/Yearly	Seldom/Never	Don't know
Protestants	33%	20%	47%	1%
Roman Catholics	13%	16%	71%	1%
<i>Orthodox Christians</i>	10%	21%	68%	1%
National Total:	23%	17%	59%	1%

Question: Outside of religious services, how often do you pray?

U.S. Religious Traditions	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Seldom/Never	Don't know
Protestants	69%	17%	4%	8%	2%
Roman Catholics	58%	21%	7%	13%	1%
<i>Orthodox Christians</i>	60%	17%	5%	16%	2%
National Total:	58%	17%	6%	18%	2%

Question: Outside of religious services, how often do you study the Scriptures?

U.S. Religious Traditions	Weekly	Monthly/Yearly	Seldom/Never	Don't Know
Protestants	48%	20%	31%	1%
Roman Catholics	21%	21%	57%	1%
<i>Orthodox Christians</i>	22%	21%	55%	2%
National Total:	35%	18%	45%	1%

Question: How often do you share your faith or view on God?

U.S. Religious Traditions	Weekly	Monthly	Yearly	Seldom/Never	Don't know
Protestants	28%	15%	15%	39%	3%
Roman Catholics	14%	9%	13%	62%	2%
<i>Orthodox Christians</i>	11%	10%	16%	62%	2%
National Total:	23%	13%	14%	47%	3%

In next week's bulletin, there will be a sampling of questions relating to Social and Political Views.

For more information on this survey, please visit: <http://religions.pewforum.org/>