



CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN OF AUGUST 16, 2009

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16TH

ICON "NOT-MADE-BY-HANDS"

The Feast of Our Parish

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

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22ND

6:00p.m. Great Vespers

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23RD

11TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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



Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He maybe first.

Colossians 1:15-18

READER SCHEDULE

Sunday, August 23rd

Troy Duker

Sunday, August 30th

Kathy Parrish



Please Remember in Prayer

Carole Boris (newly-departed), Archpriest Michael, Monk Christian, Nadia, Kathy & Bill Parrish, Marie, Thomas, Judith Kocinski, Jane Koshutko, Robert Evanusa, Nicholas & Linda, Nicholas, Anna, Steven, Yvonne, Katherine, Michael, Gregory, Todd & Olga Leisure, Nina Gordon, Constantina & Christos. Requests? Let Fr. John know.

Welcome!

to all those who are visiting! Please consider staying for coffee hour!



Baptism of Christiana Milite

On Sunday, August 23rd, Baby Christiana Milite will receive Holy Baptism. The Baptismal-Divine Liturgy will begin at 9:00am. Following the service there will be a meal in her honor. All are invited!

Choir Practice

will be held on the two Sundays (8/16 and 8/23) before Met. Jonah's visit. Choir members are asked to please stay for these practices.

First Archpastoral Visit of Metropolitan Jonah

On August 29-30 (Saturday and Sunday), His Beatitude Metropolitan Jonah will make his first archpastoral visit to our parish. He will be here for Great Vespers on Saturday through a special meal at a local resort hotel following the Divine Liturgy on Sunday. More info coming soon!



A Sign-up Sheet

for the meal with Metropolitan Jonah on Sunday, August 30th, is in the back of the church. The meal will be a brunch at the Clarion Hotel in Ocean City. If are able to attend, please sign your name to the list. Suggested donation is \$15.00. For questions please see Fr. John as soon as possible. The R.S.V.P. deadline is next Sunday, August 23rd.



Prayers for Teachers and Students – August 30th

will be offered for the academic year by Metropolitan Jonah. Teachers and students will be asked to come forward near the conclusion of the Liturgy.

Parish Council

The next Council Meeting will be on Sunday, Sept. 20th.

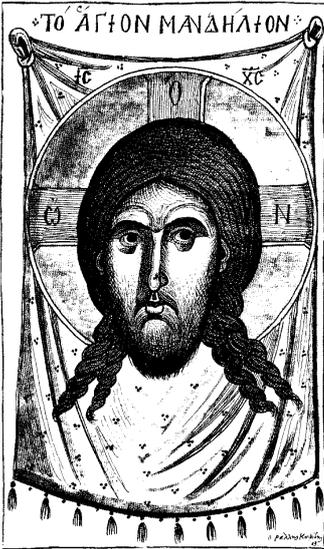
Orthodoxy 101 Coming to Saturday Night

Starting this September, Orthodox 101 will be meeting each Saturday evening from 5:00-5:45pm before the 6pm Vespers. The other classes will meet on Monday nights at 7pm.



Press Releases

Regarding Metropolitan Jonah's visit are available for those who would like to help submit the article to local media outlets.



Troparion - Tone 2

We venerate Thy most pure image, O Good One, and ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ God. Of Thy good will Thou wast pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh to deliver Thy creatures from bondage to the enemy. Therefore with thanksgiving we cry aloud to Thee: "Thou hast filled all with joy, O our Savior, by coming to save the world!"

Kontakion - Tone 2

Word of the Father, Who cannot be circumscribed, as we behold the victorious image of Thine Incarnation, not made by hands but divinely wrought in Thine ineffable and divine dispensation towards us, we honor it with veneration.

GUIDELINES FOR RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

The Holy Orthodox Church sets certain guidelines for members to prepare themselves for the joyous partaking of the divine Body and precious Blood of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ. These are:

1. Attendance at Church services the night before Liturgy.
2. Observance of the fasting regulations of the Church.
3. A recent confession of sins and absolution from a priest.
4. Fasting from all food, drink (including water), and smoking from midnight on the day which Holy Communion is to be received. **NOTE:** One should not fast from medications, or food or drink recommended by a doctor.
5. Abstinance from sexual relations the night before Liturgy and on the day of receiving Holy Communion.
6. Reading of the appointed prayers before and after receiving Holy Communion.

Questions or special circumstances? Please speak with your priest.

THE ICON "NOT-MADE-BY-HANDS"

The Icon "Not-Made-By-Hands" refers to the early Church Tradition that Christ made an image of Himself by pressing His face to a napkin and sending it to King Abgar of the neighboring kingdom of Edessa. The king had leprosy and believed that if he could just see an image of Christ, Whom he had heard so much about, that he would be healed, and this healing came to pass (except for one small spot on his face) when the image came to him. Christ also sent him a message telling him that one of His Disciples would come later and instruct the king. After the Ascension, the Apostle Jude Thaddeus came and baptized the king and the people of his kingdom, so that Edessa became the very first Christian kingdom. The last spot of leprosy was also healed at the time of King Abgar's baptism.



Saint Theophan the Recluse

Nothing comes without effort. The help of God is always ready and near, but is given only to those who seek and work, and only to those seekers who, after putting all their powers to the test, then cry out with their whole heart: "Lord, help us!"



Saint Anthony the Great

Do you want true intelligence? Then book learning isn't enough; you must also have spiritual knowledge. This includes being able to tell the difference between what is good and what is evil. Then you must avoid what is sinful and harmful to your soul and, with thanks to God, carefully keep what is good and what benefits your soul. If you do that, you are truly intelligent.





Q. What is Holy Repentance?

A. It is a Mystery through which our sins, when confessed before a priest, are forgiven and our communion with God is restored.

Q. Which sins can be forgiven by repentance and confession?

A. All sins which we commit after our baptism which we repent of and are confessed before a priest.

Q. Who gave authority to bishops and priests to forgive sins?

A. The Lord Himself who said to His apostles: "Receive ye the Holy Spirit. Whosoever sins you forgive, they are forgiven them, and whosoever sins you retain, they are retained."

Q. How often should one confess?

A. The oftener the better. The more we confess our sins, the cleaner our conscience will be, and the more easily and joyfully we will be able to keep the commandments of Christ. If we are a frequent communicant of the Body and Blood of Christ, at a minimum we should go to confession during the four Lenten seasons.

Q. How should one prepare before confession?

A. One should seek to acquire 1) a spirit of contrition or sorrow for one's sins, and 2) a firm desire to correct one's life and regain peace with God and one's fellow man.

Q. When can the priest hear my confession?

A. After any church service, or at any other time made by appointment.



BUILDING BRIDGES

a tale from long ago...

Once upon a time two brothers who lived on adjoining farms began to quarrel. It was the first time in 40 years that it became so serious. They would always work side by side. They shared machinery. They traded labor and goods as needed without a hitch.

Then it all fell apart. It began with a small misunderstanding and it grew into a major difference. Finally it exploded into an exchange of bitter words. After that there was only silence.

One morning there was a knock on John's door. He opened it to find a man with a carpenter's toolbox. "I'm looking for a couple of days work" he said. "Perhaps you would have a few small jobs here and there that I could help with?"

"Yes," said John, the older brother. "I do have a job for you. Look across the creek at that farm. That's my neighbor, in fact, it's my younger brother, Mark. Last week there was a meadow between us. But he took his bulldozer to the river levee and now there is a creek between us. Well, he may have done this to spite me, but I'll go him one better. See that pile of lumber by the barn? I want you to build me a fence – an 8 foot fence – so I won't need to see his place or face anymore."

The carpenter said, "I think I understand the situation. Show me the nails and the post hole digger and I'll be able to do a job that pleases you." The older brother had to go to town, so he helped the carpenter get the materials ready and then he was off for the day. The carpenter worked hard all that day measuring, sawing, nailing.

About sunset when the farmer returned, the carpenter had just finished his job. The farmer's eyes opened wide, his jaw dropped. There was no fence there at all. It was a bridge – a bridge stretching from one side of the creek to the other! It was a fine piece of work, handrails and all. And the neighbor, his younger brother, was coming across, with his hand outstretched.

"You are quite a brother to build this bridge after all I've said and done."

The two brothers stood at each end of the bridge, and then they met in the middle, taking each other's hand. They turned to see the carpenter hoist his toolbox on his shoulder.

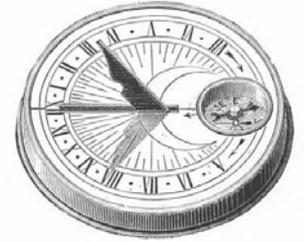
"No, wait! Stay a few days. I've a lot of other projects for you," said the older brother. "I'd love to stay on," the carpenter said, "but, I have many more bridges to build."



NEVER OWNING THE SUNDIAL

From Parish Publishing LLC

Philips Brooks, a noted pastor and author, once told a story of a primitive tribe to whom a sundial had been given. They wanted to honor it and keep it sacred, so they built a small roofed hut to put it in. We should be careful not to smile, for great numbers of civilized people take many of God's gifts and treat them in just the way the tribe did that didn't understand what a sundial was for.



How many there are who take God's gifts, not to use for larger life, but to keep and protect. So they put them in banks and in safe deposit boxes. They house them and build a roof over them. Those primitive people never did own that sundial. It was not something to use and serve with, but something to be kept, to be guarded, to be concerned about. They had, in a measure, to live for it, not by it.

So, too often our gifts from God, our treasures and our talents, never belong to us. We have to keep them, worry about them, care for them, and share them in such a way that others will be drawn to Christ. Nothing really belongs to us until we pass it on to others.



THE PARISH COMMUNITY: OUR LIFE IN CHRIST AN EXCERPT FROM "THE ORTHODOX PARISH IN NORTH AMERICA" BY VREV. THOMAS HOPKO

Heart: Liturgical Worship and Sacramental Service

Jesus says that God must be loved first of all with all one's heart. In biblical usage, the heart is the center of a person's being. It is the ground of a person's life, the seat of a person's will, and the source of a person's activity, beginning with one's words. It is the "place where God bears witness to himself," according to St. Isaac of Syria; the place in a person, according to St. Macarius, which contains God himself, and Christ and the Holy Spirit, and the whole of creation, visible and invisible, spiritual and material, good and evil.

A person's heart reveals what he or she really is, and really thinks, and really wants and really does. "For where your treasure is," Jesus tells us, "there will your heart be also." (Matthew 6:21)

The heart of a parish, if it is Christ's one holy Church, will be totally given to God. In this sense, the heart of an Orthodox Christian parish will be its liturgical and sacramental worship. Worship will constitute the parish's core. It will be the parish's essential mode of self-realization. It will be its basic reason for being, the foundational purpose for its existence and life.

An Orthodox Christian parish is first and foremost a worshipping community. It exists to praise, bless and glorify God, to ceaselessly sing the thrice-holy hymn to the life-creating Trinity. Its essential purpose is to baptize people in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit; to enable them to die in Christ and to be raised with Him to newness of life; to be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit; to hear God's word, to respond to God's gospel, to confess and repent of our sins, to participate in the eucharistic sacrifice of Christ's Body and Blood; and to actualize God's Kingdom on earth, in spirit and truth, by faith and grace, until Christ comes in glory at the close of the age.

HAVE AN IDEA?

Have an idea about how to make our Mission better, or on how you can offer your service to our Church? Please speak with Fr. John. As St. Paul says, the Church is composed of many members each with his or her own talents and gifts for the building up of the Body of Christ. If we offer our talents and gifts in God's service, He will bless us for this and we will find greater fulfillment and happiness.

