



CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN OF NOVEMBER 29, 2009

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH

25TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH

7:00p.m. Reading Group

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2ND

7:00p.m. Compline; Confessions

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5TH

5:00p.m. Video on St. Nicholas
6:00p.m. Great Vespers

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6TH

26TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

ST. NICHOLAS OF MYRA

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

On Showing Mercy

Do not become harsh and unmerciful. Think that behind the one who seeks charity from you, is the Lord Himself... Give charity for your own benefit as well as for the benefit of those who are really poor. The Lord will reward you.

St. John Chrysostom



The 2010 Annual Meeting of the Parish

will be held on Sunday, January 17, 2010. Please mark this date on your calendars. All full and part time members of the Parish are asked to be in attendance.

From Last Sunday's Sermon – an Epilogue

The five ways in which the Virgin Mary prepared herself during her time in the Temple to become the Mother of God were: 1) studying the Word of God, 2) working with her hands, 3) tending to the needs of the poor, 4) fasting to subdue the flesh to the spirit, and 5) communing with God in prayer. Contrast her example with the Christmas preparations so prevalent today: 1) the crazy atmosphere of Black Friday X-mas shopping, 2) secular "holiday" parties which, in an effort to be politically correct, forget the Reason for the Season – Christ Himself, and 3) the pressure to celebrate Christmas entirely at home without giving thanks and praising God in Church. Without question, the Church was wise to give us the great example of the Virgin Mary during the Nativity Fast. Let us honor her by following her ways.



Please Remember in Prayer

Bill Parrish (in Mercy Hospital in Baltimore), Carole Boris (newly-departed), Archpriest Michael, Monk Christian, Nadia, Kathy 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, Mirela & Chris, Jaroslav, Troy Paul Duker, Frank & Mary Miranda, Kathy T. Requests? Let Fr. John know.

Reading Group – November 30th

This Monday at 7:00pm we will be discussing the "Manhattan Declaration", a 4700-word document signed by Orthodox, Catholic, and Evangelic leaders addressing the sanctity of life, traditional marriage, and religious liberty. For more information, please see page 2 of this bulletin and/or pick up a copy in the back of the church. All invited!



Video and Vespers for Saint Nicholas

This Saturday, December 5th, at 5:00pm there will be a 30 minute video on the life of St. Nicholas. There will be no Orthodoxy 101 this evening. The video, which is interesting for adults and children alike, will answer among other things:

- ❖ Why St. Nicholas is called the "Real Santa."
- ❖ What St. Nicholas did to be put in prison.
- ❖ Why St. Nicholas is the patron of travelers.
- ❖ How Saint Nicholas' relics ended up in Bari, Italy.
- ❖ Why St. Nicholas is known as the "Wonder-worker."



READER SCHEDULE

Sunday, Dec. 6th

Jodi McElwee

Sunday, Dec. 13th

Gabriela Vlahovici-Jones



UNPRECEDENTED COALITION OF RELIGIOUS LEADERS CALL AMERICANS TO STAND FOR SANCTITY OF LIFE, MARRIAGE, AND RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Washington D.C., Nov 20, 2009 / 06:21 am (CNA) – An unprecedented coalition of prominent Christian clergy, ministry leaders, and scholars has crafted a 4,700-word declaration addressing the sanctity of life, traditional marriage, and religious liberty. The declaration issues “a clarion call” to Christians to adhere to their convictions and informs civil authorities that the signers will not “under any circumstance” abandon their Christian consciences.

The statement, called “the Manhattan Declaration,” has been signed by more than 125 Catholic, Evangelical Christian, and Orthodox leaders, and will be made fully public at a noon press conference in the National Press Club in Washington DC on Friday.

“We are Christians who have joined together across historic lines of ecclesial differences to affirm our right—and, more importantly, to embrace our obligation—to speak and act in defense of these truths. We pledge to each other, and to our fellow believers, that no power on earth, be it cultural or political, will intimidate us into silence or acquiescence,” the statement says.

“We recognize the duty to comply with laws whether we happen to like them or not, unless the laws are gravely unjust or require those subject to them to do something unjust or otherwise immoral,” the signatories explain.

But they also made clear that “we will not comply with any edict that purports to compel our institutions to participate in abortions, embryo-destructive research, assisted suicide and euthanasia, or any other anti-life act; nor will we bend to any rule purporting to force us to bless immoral sexual partnerships, treat them as marriage or the equivalent, or refrain from proclaiming the truth,

as we know it, about morality and immorality and marriage and the family.”

The Manhattan Declaration is the result of several months of dialogue among Orthodox, Catholic, and evangelical Christian leaders culminating in a gathering of approximately 100 leaders in New York City on September 28, 2009.

Attendees considered an early draft of the “Manhattan Declaration, A Call of Christian Conscience,” but the document was entrusted to a drafting committee that included Dr. Timothy George of Beeson Divinity School at Samford University, Dr.

Robert P. George of Princeton University, and renowned Evangelical leader Charles Colson.

The signatories explained that they speak now because in order “to defend principles of justice and the common good that are now under assault.”

“We will fully and ungrudgingly render to Caesar what is Caesar’s, but we will under no circumstances render to Caesar what is God’s.”

The signatories of the Manhattan Declaration explain that although public sentiment has moved in a pro-life direction, “pro-abortion ideology prevails in many places of power and influence.”

“Our government promotes and funds scientific research in which the lives of tiny human beings in the early embryonic states of development are treated as disposable research material.”

They also contend that “public policies contribute to the weakening of the institution of marriage, including the discredited idea of unilateral divorce,” while “influential individuals and organizations are seeking to redefine marriage to embrace same-sex partnerships and to recognize multiple-party sexual unions that are beyond same-sex marriage.”



HOW TO READ / SIGN THE MANHATTAN DECLARATION

The Manhattan Declaration is available online for review in its entirety at <http://www.manhattandeclaration.org>. The number of signatures has grown rapidly since the document’s release on Friday, November 20, 2009. Copies of the declaration are also available in the back of the church. We will be discussing the Manhattan Declaration tomorrow, Monday, night at our Reading Group at 7pm.



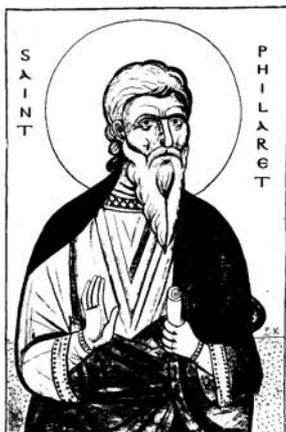
ORTHODOX PRIEST WHO CONVERTED MUSLIMS MURDERED IN RUSSIA

From OrthodoxyToday.org / RIA Novosti / Nov. 20, 2009

A Russian Orthodox priest, Fr. Daniel Sysoyev, who carried out missionary work among immigrants from ex-Soviet republics, many of them Muslims, received over a dozen death threats before his murder on Thursday, a Russian paper said. Fr. Daniel of St. Thomas Church in Moscow foresaw his death, writing in his internet diary that he had received telephone threats from Muslims. Fr. Daniel's evening 'talks' for inquirers included several especially designed for Muslims.

Daniel Sysoyev, 34, was shot dead by a masked gunman in St. Thomas Church in southern Moscow on Thursday evening. The killer entered the church, asked for Sysoyev by name, and opened fire with a pistol at close range. The priest was hit in the head and died later in hospital. His assistant was badly wounded in the attack. "The main theory is that religious motives are behind the crime," a spokesman for the investigating committee of the Prosecutor-General's Office said in comments broadcast on the Rossiya state-run TV channel. The Komsomolskaya Pravda paper said on Friday that Sysoyev had revealed in a recent interview with one of its journalists that he had received 14 death threats by phone and email. "They've threatened to cut my head off 14 times," the paper quoted the priest as saying. "The Federal Security Service got in touch with me a year ago to say they had uncovered a murder plot against me."

Sysoyev also told the paper that in the past year, his church had "christened 80 Muslims, among them Tatars, Uzbeks, Chechens and Dagestanis." He was also quoted as saying that other Orthodox priests were "afraid" to carry out missionary work among Muslim immigrants. "They are afraid of revenge from the Muslim world," he said.



SAINT PHILARET THE MERCIFUL

Commemorated December 1st / From the Prologue of Ochrid by St. Nikolai

Philaret was from the village of Amnia in Paphlagonia. Early in life, Philaret was a very wealthy man, but by distributing abundant alms to the poor he himself became extremely poor. However, he was not afraid of poverty, and, not heeding the complaints of his wife and children, he continued his charitable works with hope in God, Who said: Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy (Matthew 5:7). Once, while he was plowing in the field, a man came to him and complained that one of his oxen had died in the harness and that he was unable to plow with only one ox. Philaret then unharnessed one of his oxen and gave it to him. He even gave his remaining horse to a man who was summoned to go to war. He gave away the calf of his last cow, and when he saw how the cow pined

for her missing calf, and the calf for the cow, he called the man and gave him the cow too. And thus the aged Philaret was left without food in an empty house. But he prayed to God and placed his hope in Him. And God did not abandon the righteous one to be put to shame in his hope. At that time the Empress Irene reigned with her young son, Constantine. According to the custom of that time, the empress sent men throughout the whole empire to seek the best and most distinguished maiden to whom she could wed her son, the emperor. By God's providence, these men happened to stay overnight in Philaret's house, and they saw his most beautiful and modest granddaughter Maria, the daughter of his daughter Hypatia, and took her to Constantinople. The emperor was well pleased with her, married her, and moved Philaret and all his family to the capital, giving him great honors and riches. Philaret did not become proud as a result of this unexpected good fortune, but, thankful to God, he continued to perform good works even more than he had before, and thus he continued until his death. At the age of ninety he summoned his children, blessed them, and instructed them to cleave to God and to God's law, and with his clairvoyant spirit he prophesied to all of them how they would live out this life, as once had Jacob. After that he went to the Rodolfia Monastery and gave up his soul to God. At his death his face shone like the sun, and after his death an unusual, sweet fragrance came forth from his body and miracles took place at his relics. This righteous man entered into rest in the year 797. His wife, Theosevia, and all his children and grandchildren lived a God-pleasing life and reposed in the Lord.