

RESTORATION OF THE ICONS



# CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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## BULLETIN OF FEBRUARY 21, 2010

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21<sup>ST</sup>

#### SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY

8:40a.m. Hours  
9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy  
Installation of Council  
Coffee Hour / Choir Pr.  
Parish Council Meeting

### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22<sup>ND</sup>

7:00p.m. Lenten Vespers  
Greatest Story: Part I

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24<sup>TH</sup>

7:00p.m. Presanctified Liturgy  
Lenten Potluck

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27<sup>TH</sup>

#### MEMORIAL SATURDAY

9:00a.m. Memorial  
5:00p.m. Orthodoxy 101  
6:00p.m. Great Vespers

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28<sup>TH</sup>

#### ST. GREGORY PALAMAS

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

Q LORD JESUS CHRIST SON OF GOD  
HAVE MERCY ON ME A SINNER

#### READER SCHEDULE

Sunday, Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>

Gabriela Jones

Sunday, Mar. 7<sup>th</sup>

Jodi McElwee



#### Please Remember in Prayer

Gabriela Jones, Connie Mitsopolous, Anna Varone, Jerrie Rife, Michelle Wilson, Bill & Kathy Parrish, Carole Boris (newly-departed), Archpriest Michael, Monk Christian, 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? See Fr. John.

#### The 2010 Parish Council Installation – Today

The members of the 2010 Parish Council will be installed today at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. All members are asked to come forward to recite the oath of office and receive the blessing to serve. May the Lord grant them the wisdom, humility, and dedication necessary for godly service! The Council will meet today following the Coffee Hour.

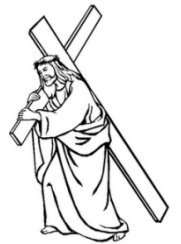


#### The New Counter Schedule

has been posted on the bulletin board. Council members are asked to please note which Sunday they have been assigned to. If you cannot count on a particular Sunday, please find a replacement.

#### Lenten Vespers / Orthodox Movie Nights

On Mondays this Great Lent, we will have the Lenten Vespers followed by the film, "The Greatest Story Ever Told"; a 1965 retelling of the life of Christ, from the Nativity through the Resurrection. The 199 minute film will be broken into five 40 minute segments.



#### Pre-Sanctified Liturgies / Lenten Potlucks

Those wishing to receive Holy Communion should prepare themselves as always by fasting and reading the appointed prayers from the prayer book. If you cannot keep a total fast from midnight the night before and you would still like to receive Holy Communion, you may eat a light lenten meal in the early morning, or by 12 noon at the latest, except if a medical condition necessitates food or water at a later time. Should you have any questions about fasting or anything else regarding this special service, please speak with Fr. John. There will be a lenten potluck after the Pre-Sanctified Liturgy for those who are able to attend. Those who wish to bring food are asked to please prepare a light lenten (no meat, dairy, or fish) dish or dessert. Thank you!

#### Minutes from the 2010 Annual Meeting

are available for viewing on the bulletin board in the coffee hour room. If you have any questions and/or suggestions please let Lois Hamaty (who kindly took the minutes) or Fr. John know.

#### Memorial Services

are being offered on Saturday mornings during Great Lent.



## DO ICONS WORK MIRACLES?

By Fr. John Whiteford



To put this question in proper perspective, let's consider a few other questions: Did the Ark of the Covenant work miracles (e.g. Joshua 3:15ff; 1st Samuel 4-6; 2nd Samuel 11-12)? Did the Bronze Serpent heal those bitten by snakes (Numbers 21:9)? Did the Prophet Elisha's bones raise a man from the dead (2nd Kings 13:21)? Did St. Peter's shadow heal the sick (Acts 5:15)? Did aprons and handkerchiefs that had touched St. Paul heal the sick and cast out evil spirits (Acts 19:12)?

The answer to these questions are, Yes, in a manner of speaking. Nevertheless, to be precise, it was God who chose to work miracles through these things. In the case of the Ark and the Bronze serpent, we have images used to work miracles. God worked a miracle

through the relics of the Prophet Elisha, through the shadow of a Saint, and through things that had merely touched a Saint. Why? Because God honors those who honor Him (1st Samuel 2:30), and thus takes delight in working miracles through his Saints, even by these indirect means. The fact that God can sanctify material things should come as no surprise to those familiar with Scripture. For example, not only was the Altar of the Temple holy, but anything that touched it was holy as well (Exodus 29:37). To reject the truth that God works through material things is to fall into Gnosticism.

So yes, loosely speaking, Icons can work miracles—but to be precise, it is God who works miracles through Icons, because He honors those who have honored Him.



### RUSSIAN PRIEST PROVIDES SPIRITUAL CARE FOR HOLLYWOOD STAFF

From *interfax-religion.com*

Moscow, February 9, Interfax - Rector of the Transfiguration Cathedral in Los-Angeles has provided spiritual care for actors and staff members of the world "dream factory" for almost thirty years.



"Many of our parishioners work in film studios as directors and actors. There've always been many actors in our parish who actively participated in church life. Such famous actresses as Natalie Wood and Sandra Dee were my parishioners. I was familiar with Yul Brynner, who was a parishioner of Orthodox church in New York," Fr. Alexander told an Interfax-Religion correspondent on Tuesday.

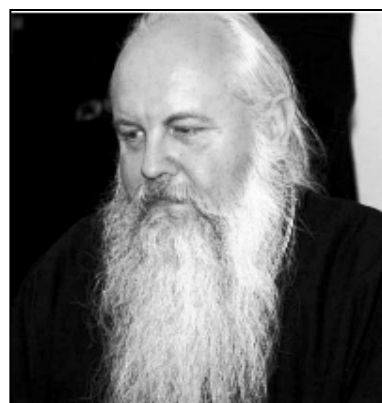
According to him, today several Hollywood stars, including Jennifer Aniston, adhere to Orthodoxy. Tom Hanks, who is also an Orthodox Christian, is an active guardian of St. Sophia Church of the Constantinople Patriarchate.

Fr. Alexander noted that many Americans converted to Orthodoxy after marrying to Greek or Russia women. As, for example, famous baseball player Alex Rodriguez.

Russian actors and directors living in Hollywood are also Fr. Alexander's parishioners. The priest told that active member of his parochial community actor Pavel Lychnikov had recently invited him to consecrate a film studio before filming a new film there.

Orthodox faith inspires some Hollywood actors to lead less bohemian lifestyle and overcome temptations, the interviewee of the agency said.

"Certainly, we try to help them control themselves. So that women participating in movies observed proprieties and chastity. Sometimes there's a possibility to influence their choice in favor of scenarios of moral character," Fr. Alexander said.





### THE SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY

*Commemorated on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Great Lent / Excerpt taken from GOARCH.org*

The Sunday of Orthodoxy is the first Sunday of Great Lent. The dominant theme of this Sunday since 843 has been that of the victory of the icons. In that year the iconoclastic controversy, which had raged on and off since 726, was finally laid to rest, and icons and their veneration were restored on the first Sunday in Lent; ever since, this Sunday has been commemorated as the "Triumph of Orthodoxy."

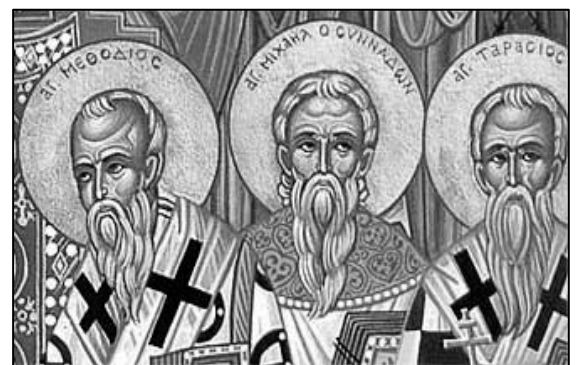
The name of this Sunday reflects the great significance which icons possess for the Orthodox Church. They are not optional devotional extras, but an integral part of Orthodox faith and devotion. They are held to be a necessary consequence of Christian faith in the incarnation of the Word of God, the Second Person of the Trinity, in Jesus Christ. They have a sacramental character, making present to the believer the person or event depicted on them. So the interior of Orthodox churches is often covered with icons painted on walls and domed roofs, and there is always an icon screen, or iconostasis, separating the sanctuary from the nave, often with several rows of icons. No Orthodox home is complete without an icon corner, where the family prays.

Icons are venerated by burning lamps and candles in front of them, by the use of incense and by kissing. But there is a clear doctrinal distinction between the veneration paid to icons and the worship due to God. The former is not only relative; it is in fact paid to the person represented by the icon. This distinction safeguards the veneration of icons from any charge of idolatry.

The theme of the victory of the icons, by its emphasis on the incarnation, points us to the basic Christian truth that the one whose death and resurrection we celebrate at Easter was none other than the Word of God who became human in Jesus Christ.

### CONFESSION OF FAITH FROM THE SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY

As the prophets beheld, as the Apostles have taught, as the Church has received, as the teachers have dogmatized, as the Universe has agreed, as Grace has shown forth, as Truth has revealed, as falsehood has been dissolved, as Wisdom has presented, as Christ Awarded, thus we declare, thus we assert, thus we preach Christ our true God, and honor His Saints in words, in writings, in thoughts, in sacrifices, in churches, in Holy Icons; on the one hand worshipping and reverencing Christ as God and Lord; and on the other hand honoring as true servants of the same Lord of all and accordingly offering them veneration.



**This is the Faith of the Apostles, this is the Faith of the Fathers, this is the Faith of the Orthodox, this is the Faith which has established the Universe.**

## **SAINT RAPHAEL, BISHOP OF BROOKLYN**

*Commemorated February 27<sup>th</sup> / From dce.oca.org.*

**Founder of 30 parishes; magazine publisher; fluent in Arabic, Russian, Greek and English; spiritual father to Orthodox from New York to California and Mexico to Canada: these are partial descriptions of Saint Raphael, commemorated on February 27.**

Born in Syria in 1860, Rafla Hawaweeny had to flee to Lebanon with his family to escape persecution of Christians. His parish priest, like many believers in much earlier centuries, was martyred, a victim of the anti-Christian riots that roared through Damascus the year Rafla was born. Though his family was able to return to Syria, Rafla never forgot that the faith is often under attack and must be defended.

The young boy's education was always geared toward the priesthood, and at 17, an excellent student, he was chosen to attend the School of Theology on the island of Halki in Greece. After graduation he returned to Syria, visiting parishes with the Patriarch. In 1889 he was sent to Moscow, where he was ordained to the priesthood, and then given the rank of archimandrite, with the name Raphael.

In 1895, Archimandrite Raphael came to New York at the invitation of the Syrian Orthodox community there. He served New York faithfully, but felt great concern about other Arab Christians in towns and cities across the country who had no pastors and were often drawn to non-Orthodox churches that offered worship in English and the chance to be part of a church community. In 1896, he set out across the country to find and minister to these people. He would sometimes walk around visiting families all day Saturday, then take a long journey by train to another town so that he could perform the Sunday Divine Liturgy there. He preached, taught, performed the sacraments, and with loving firmness encouraged everyone to remain strong in their Orthodox faith.

As leader of the Russian Mission to America, the Russian hierarch was acknowledged as the head of the Church in America and of all the ethnic groups within it; no ethnic jurisdictions as yet existed. In 1903, the hierarch was Bishop Tikhon, later to be canonized. Needing help with his growing American flock, Bishop Tikhon asked the Holy Synod of Bishops in Russia to name Saint Raphael as Bishop of Brooklyn, which they did. He became the first bishop to be consecrated in America.

In the next years he assisted Bishop Tikhon in administering the Diocese, consecrated the grounds for St. Tikhon's Monastery, and began publishing "The Word" (in Arabic "Al-Kalimat) Magazine to reach the far parishes of the Syro-Arab Mission which he still led. He also continued his pastoral visits, urging the use of English where appropriate, until his death in 1915.

One reading for this week is Proverbs 6:6, advising us to "watch the ant" and "consider her ways, and be wise."



Saint Raphael had the energy and wisdom that the verse praises. But more important, he had the love for people, whatever their ethnicity, that makes a bishop a true father to his flock.

### **Troparion - Tone 1**

Your proclamation has gone forth throughout North America, calling the scattered sheep into the unity of the church. Hearing your voice, they responded to your teaching, and through your writings you instructed them in piety. Now guided by your example, O Father Raphael, we sing hymns of praise unto Christ our God. Glory to Him Who gave you strength! Glory to Him Who granted you a crown! Glory to Him Who, through you, grants healing to all!

