



PROPHET ELIAS AND HIS CHARIOT

CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN OF JULY 18, 2010

Please Remember in Prayer

Irene Clenney, Gabriela Jones, Roman Szewc, Melvin, Mat. Dunia, Patti Lease, Peg Feeser, Anna Varone, Bill & Kathy Parrish, Frs Michael & Andrew, Monk Christian, Jane Koshutko, Robert Evanusa, Nicholas & Linda, Nicholas, Anna, Todd & Olga, Nina Gordon, Mirela & Chris, Jaroslav, Troy Duker, Frank & Mary Miranda, Kathy T., Mat. Emily & Nicholas, Bruce. Requests? Please see Fr. John.

Blessing of Automobiles – Sunday, July 18th

There will be a blessing of automobiles immediately following the Divine Liturgy today. This is an annual blessing offered on or near the feast of the Prophet Elias (July 20th) who ascended as if into heaven on a fiery chariot. 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. The coffee hour will follow.



SUNDAY, JULY 18TH

8TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

SATURDAY, JULY 24TH

5:00p.m. Bible Study
6:00p.m. Great Vespers

SUNDAY, JULY 25TH

9TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

Sin Prevents Belief – Not Logic

"Sin is that which prevents us from believing. Not logic. For this reason, if you tell an unbeliever to live for six months according to the ethics of the Gospel, and he does it, he will become a believer without even realizing it."

Fr. Epiphanius Theodoropoulos

READER SCHEDULE

Sunday, July 25th

Gabriela Jones

Sunday, April 1st

Jodi McElwee



Welcome to Our Visitors

We warmly welcome all those who are visiting from near and far. Please consider staying for a bite to eat at our coffee hour following the service. But even if you have to run, we thank you for worshipping with us today, and we wish you a blessed remainder of your visit to Delmarva!

Bible Studies

are being offered on Saturday evenings at 5:00pm during the July and August. We are currently studying the Epistle of St. James. The Vespers will be held at 6:00pm as usual.



Consistent Togetherness

The success of any athletic team is due not only to the talent of the players and coaches but also to a powerful sense of "togetherness" formed by consistently being with one another. The same is true for the Church. Spending the Lord's Day in communion with Him and one another will not only take us to the next level as a Mission but it will also bring us one step closer to the Kingdom where consistent togetherness is what it is all about.

Saint George's Greek Festival

will be held at the Ocean City Convention Center, July 30th through August 1st. Great food, music, entertainment, shopping, and fellowship. Let's do our best to support our brothers and sisters in Ocean City! Questions, please see Fr. John or call St. George's at 410-524-0990.



Haven't Seen Someone in a While?

Give them an email or a call. It is nice to hear from a friend from church. Let them know that you miss seeing them and hope that everything is okay.

CHURCH-SHIP WILL CONSIST OF LIGHTENER, BELL TOWER AND MUSEUM

Kiev, May 27, Interfax – Renowned traveler and deacon Fyodor Konyukhov and Bishop Iosif of Zaporozhye and Melitopol presented a sketch of future ship-shaped church.

"This church will be built in Byzantium style. We're going to build an entire complex: a lighthouse, a bell tower, a central church, where people will come to pray, an underground floor which will house a small museum of Fr. Fedor Konyukhov. By the way, windows on the underground floor will be made in form of illuminators," Bishop Iosif said as cited by the Ukrainian edition of the Komsomolskaya Pravda daily.

The church will be erected in Zaporozhye where the traveler was born. He voiced such an idea last fall when visiting this region of Ukraine.

"I traveled for forty years like Moses and decided to build a church in shape of a ship. It is very close to my heart and people can come here to pray, to escape vanity, to search for salvation in the sea of everyday life. This church is, in fact, a prototype of the arc," the traveler said.

He had already built a church and six chapels. On May 23, Pentecost, Bishop Iosif ordained him deacon.



ISLAM IN FAST DEMISE: IN AFRICA ALONE EVERYDAY, 16,000 MUSLIMS LEAVE ISLAM

From faithfreedom.org / By Ali Sina

Hitler said if a lie is repeated often enough and long enough, it would come to be perceived as truth. One such lie often repeated is "Islam is the fastest growing religion".

Despite the fact that Muslims by virtue of being poor and uneducated are much more reproductive than others, Islam as a religion is not growing but dying fast.

More and more Muslims are discovering that the violence evinced by some of their coreligionists is not an aberration but is inspired by the teachings of the Quran and the examples set by its author. Muslims are becoming disillusioned with Islam. They find out that the mechanistic ritual of praying five times per day, reciting verses that they do not understand and indeed mean nothing, getting up at taxing hours of the morning and abstaining from food and water until the sunset are not means to becoming more spiritual but are instruments to control their mind. These enlightened Muslims no more heed to the fear mongering



verses of the Quran that threaten to burn them and roast them in the fires of hell if they dare to think and question the validity of that book.

Every day thousands of Muslim intellectuals are leaving Islam. They find Islam inconsistent with science, logics, human rights and ethics. Millions of Iranians already have left Islam. The enlightened Muslims of other nationalities are not far behind. This is the beginning of a mass exodus from Islam.

It is a movement that is already in motion and nothing can stop it.

However the exodus from Islam is not reserved to the intellectuals but also the average Muslims are finding that Islam is not the way to God but to ignorance, poverty and wars. They are leaving Islam to embrace other religions especially the Christianity.

Perhaps it is best to listen to the truth coming from the mouth of the horse. The Internet site aljazeera.net published an interview with Ahmad Al Qataani **يناعطوقلا دمحا** An important Islamic cleric who said: "In every hour, 667 Muslims convert

to Christianity. Everyday, 16,000 Muslims convert to Christianity. Ever year, 6 million Muslims convert to Christianity."

What Muslims say among each other, is not the same thing that they say for the consumption of the Westerners.

These are huge numbers. If this trend continues we can expect to see Islam become insignificant in Africa in just a few decades. This is good news for those who are concerned about the on going slavery in Africa and the prospects of war and genocide.

In fact with the weakening of Islam, we can hope to see peace in many war-ridden parts of the world including Palestine. By now it should be clear that

any road map to peace between Israel and Palestine will be blocked by the Islamists and the terrorists. Peace in Middle East is not possible as long as Islam is the ideology of the masses.

It is important that we realize that this terrorism that is threatening the peace of the world and these wars that bleed the Muslim nations are not economically motivated but are they are hate motivated. They are religious wars. The weakening of Islam means peace for mankind.

Al Qataani and al Jazeera Network were alarmed by these huge numbers of Muslims leaving Islam, but humanity must rejoice over these numbers. The weakening of Islam means the triumph of mankind.

THE HOLY PROPHET ELIAS

From the Prologue by St. Nikolai Velimirovich

Saint Elias, one who saw God, a miracle-worker and a zealot for faith in God, was born of the tribe of Aaron from the town Tishba for which he was called the Tishbite. When St. Elias was born, his father Savah saw an angel of God hovering around the child, wrapping the child in fire and giving him a flame to eat. That was a foreshadowing of Elias's fiery character and his God-given fiery power. He spent his entire youth in godly thoughts and prayers withdrawing frequently into the wilderness to contemplate and to pray in solitude. At that time the Jewish kingdom was divided into two unequal parts: the kingdom of Judah consisting of only two tribes, the tribes of Judah and Benjamin with their capital in Jerusalem and the kingdom of Israel consisting of the remaining ten tribes with their capital in Samaria. The first kingdom was governed by the descendants of Solomon and the second kingdom was governed by the descendants of Jeroboam, the servants of Solomon. The greatest confrontation that the prophet Elias had was with the Israelite King Ahab and his evil wife Jezebel. For they, Ahab and Jezebel, worshipped idols and were turning the people away from serving the One and Living God. Before this, however, Jezebel, a Syrian, persuaded her husband to erect a temple to the Syrian god Baal and ordered many priests to the service of this false god. Through great miracles Elias displayed the power and authority of God: he closed up the heavens, so that there was not any rain for three years and six months; he lowered a fire from heaven and burned the sacrifice to his God which the pagan priests of Baal were unable to do; he brought down rain from heaven by his prayer; miraculously multiplied flour and oil in the home of the widow in Zerepath, and resurrected her son; he prophesied to Ahab that the dogs will lick up his blood and to Jezebel that the dogs will consume her flesh, all of which happened as well as many other miracles did he perform and prophesy. On Mount Horeb, he spoke with God and heard the voice of God in the calm of a gentle breeze. Before his death he took Elisha and designated him as his successor in the prophetic calling; by his mantle he divided the waters of the Jordan river; finally he was taken up into the heavens in a fiery chariot by flaming horses. He appeared on Mount Tabor to our Lord Jesus Christ together with Moses. Before the end of the world St. Elias will appear again to put an end to the power of the anti-Christ (Revelation, Chapter 11).



STRATEGIC PLAN WORKING DRAFT AVAILABLE ON OCA WEB SITE

From OCA.org

SYOSSET, NY [OCA] -- The "Working Draft of a Strategic Plan for the Orthodox Church in America," prepared by the Strategic Planning Committee of the OCA's Metropolitan Council, is now available on-line in PDF format on the OCA web site at:

<http://www.oca.org/PDF/NEWS/2010/2010-0624-strategicplan-v4.6.pdf>.

The committee, which includes clergy and lay members representing a broad geographic spectrum, was commissioned by the Metropolitan Council and the Holy Synod of Bishops to develop a draft Strategic Plan for the OCA. According to the introduction to the Working Draft, "the goal is to provide an initial version of the plan in time for discussion and perhaps adoption at the 16th All-American Council in the fall of 2011." As such, the draft is designed to elicit feedback from all segments of the Church. Based on the feedback received, the plan will be revised.

"This Strategic Plan is meant to be roadmap for us, as the Church, as we continue to witness to God's Kingdom in the early parts of the 21st century," according to Priest John Vitko, a committee member. "In developing this roadmap, it is critically important that we reach out to all the members of the Church for their prayerful input."

Subject to the blessing of each diocesan Bishop, interactive dialogues are being conducted at diocesan assemblies to garner input from delegates. The Working Draft also will be made available to other Church institutions and individual parishes and parishioners through a variety of means for their feedback and input.

Those wishing to offer input on the Working Draft are encouraged to send comments and observations to ocastratplan@oca.org. Hard copies of the draft will be made available for sharing at the parish level, while an upcoming issue of The Orthodox Church magazine will be devoted to the plan.



TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOUR EYES

By an Anonymous Author

There was a blind girl who hated herself because she was blind. She hated everyone, except her loving boyfriend. He was always there for her. She told her boyfriend, 'If I could only see the world, I will marry you.'

One day, someone donated a pair of eyes to her. When the bandages came off, she was able to see everything, including her boyfriend.

He asked her, 'Now that you can see the world, will you marry me?' The girl looked at her boyfriend and saw that he was blind. The sight of his closed eyelids shocked her. She hadn't expected that. The thought of looking at them the rest of her life led her to refuse to marry him.

Her boyfriend left in tears and days later wrote a note to her saying: 'Take good care of your eyes, my dear, for before they were yours, they were mine.'

This is how the human mind often works when our status changes. Only a very few remember what life was like before, and who was always by their side in the most painful situations.

Life Is a Gift

Today before you say an unkind word - Think of someone who can't speak. Before you complain about the taste of your food - Think of someone who has nothing to eat. Before you complain about your husband or wife - Think of someone who's crying out to God for a companion. Today before you complain about life - Think of someone who went too early to heaven. Before whining about the distance you drive Think of someone who walks the same distance with their feet. And when you are tired and complain about your job - Think of the unemployed, the disabled, and those who wish they had your job. And when depressing thoughts seem to get you down - Put a smile on your face and think: you're alive and still around.

