



CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2010

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH

SUNDAY BEFORE THE CROSS

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

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH

7:00p.m. Great Vespers w/ Litiya

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH

EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS *One of the Twelve Great Feasts*

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

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH

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

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH

SUNDAY AFTER THE CROSS

8:40a.m. Hours
9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy
Annual Parish Picnic

Please Remember in Prayer

Howard Peters, Irene Clenney, Gabriela Jones, Roman Szwec, 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., Nicholas Parsells, Bruce, Julia Plisko & family.

The Parish Council

will meet today, Sunday, September 12th, following the coffee hour.

Parish Picnic – Sunday, September 19th

Everyone is invited for the annual parish picnic; this year being held at Constantine's condo on the beach. Save the date!

Reading Group

In the back of the church are handouts for our Reading Group, which will meet on Monday, September 20th. The text is "The Orthodox Church and the Environmental Movement". The author, Dr. Elizabeth Theokritoff is an Orthodox theologian and writer from England. The paper was originally written for the Syndesmos Orthodox Youth and Ecology Seminar, in Neamt, Romania, April 1994.



New Brochures

are available in the back of the church. Please feel free to pick some up for yourselves and for distribution. Many thanks to the Outreach Committee, which developed the brochure – great job!



Exaltation of the Holy Cross – September 14th

This feast commemorates the finding of the True Cross of Christ by St. Helen, the mother of St. Constantine the Great. On this day, Fr. Daniel Hubiak was ordained to the Holy Priesthood. We wish him and Mat. Dunia, many blessed years! Fr. Daniel and Mat. Dunia also celebrate their anniversary of marriage on September 16th. If you would like to send a card, their address is: 16 Wharf Court, Ocean Pines, MD 21811.

The Postfeast of the Exultation of the Precious Cross

is celebrated from September 14th through September 21st, the "leave-taking" of the feast. Throughout this time the troparion and kontakion for the feast are sung or said with our morning and evening prayers (we may also add, "Before Thy Cross"), and at meal times; the troparion before the meal and the kontakion after. These hymns can be found in your prayer book or Liturgy book.

From Our Fundraising Committee

We are still accepting recipes for our cookbook. They can be given to Jodi or Alice, or put in the recipe box on the table. Also, we are accepting donations for our fall yard/Bake sale to be held hopefully, in October. Questions? Please see Alice Peters.



Our wickedness shall not overpower the unspeakable goodness and mercy of God; our foolishness shall not overpower God's wisdom, nor our infirmity God's power.

St. John of Kronstadt

READER SCHEDULE

Sunday, Sept. 19th

Constantine Mitsopoulos

Sunday, Sept. 26th

Jodi McElwee





HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW THE SCRIPTURES?

- 1) What did James and John ask that displeased the other disciples?
 - a) to sit on Christ's right and left hand in the kingdom
 - b) to witness Christ's glory on Mount Tabor
 - c) to be saved from death
 - d) to judge the tribes of Israel
- 2) The word "Christ" means "Anointed".
 - a) true
 - b) false
- 3) Christ first sent the Twelve to preach to the _____?
 - a) Gentiles
 - b) Samaritans
 - c) Inhabitants of Jerusalem
 - d) House of Israel
- 4) After Judas betrayed Christ and left the Twelve, he was replaced by St. Paul, who was first called Saul.
 - a) true
 - b) false
- 5) What did Christ hand to Judas before he left to betray Him?
 - a) the money bag
 - b) a piece of bread dipped in the dish
 - c) a piece of broiled fish
 - d) a cup of wine
- 6) The word "Gospel" means "Salvation".
 - a) true
 - b) false
- 7) Jerusalem, the city of the great king, was built on Mount Olives.
 - a) true
 - b) false
- 8) Who was the Pharisee that climbed up into a sycamore tree so he could see Jesus as He was passing through Jericho?
 - a) Lazarus
 - b) Matthew
 - c) Zacchaeus
 - d) none of the above.
- 9) St. John was given the vision of Revelation on Cyprus.
 - a) true
 - b) false
- 10) Which Christian doctrine did the Sadducees reject?
 - a) Baptism
 - b) Resurrection
 - c) Restoration of the kingdom of Israel
 - d) Forgiveness of sins

For answers, please see your Bible or page 4 of this bulletin.



WISDOM FROM THE FATHERS

A brother questioned Abba Poemen saying, "If I see my brother committing a sin, is it right to conceal it?" The old man said to him, "At the very moment when we hide our brother's fault, God hides our own and at the moment when we reveal our brother's fault, God reveals ours too."



Another brother questioned him in these words, "What does, 'See that none of you repays evil for evil' mean?" (1 Thess. 5:15) The old man said to him, "Passions work in four stages – first, in the heart; secondly, in the face; thirdly, in words; and fourthly, through deeds. If you can purify your heart, passion will not come into your expression; but if it comes into your face, take care not to speak; but if you do speak, cut the conversation short in case you render evil for evil."



One brother at Scetis committed a fault. A council was called to which Abba Moses was invited, but he refused to go to it. Then the priest sent someone to say to him, "Come, for everyone is waiting for you." So he got up and went. He took a leaking jug, filled it with water and carried it with him. The others came out to meet him and said to him, "What is this, Father?" The old man said to them, "My sins run out behind me, and I do not see them, and today I am coming to judge the errors of another." When they heard that they said no more to the brother but forgave him.





PRAYER BEFORE READING THE SCRIPTURES

Illumine our hears, O Master who lovest mankind, with the pure light of Thy divine knowledge. Open the eyes of our mind to the understanding of Thy gospel teachings. Implant also in us the fear of Thy blessed commandments, that trampling down all carnal desires, we may enter upon a spiritual manner of living, both thinking and doing such things as are well-pleasing unto Thee. For Thou art the illumination of our souls and bodies, O Christ our God, and unto Thee we ascribe glory, together with Thy Father, who is from everlasting, and Thine all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever unto ages of ages. Amen.

PRAYER BEFORE STARTING ANY WORK

O Lord Jesus Christ, Only-Begotten Son of Thy Eternal Father, Thou hast said with Thy most holy lips: "Without Me, you can do nothing." My Lord and my God, in faith I embrace Thy words with my heart and soul, and bow down before Thy goodness, help me, a sinner, to do in union with Thee this work which I am about to begin, in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMPLETING ANY WORK

Thou, O my Christ, art the sum and fullness of all that is good; fill my soul with joy and gladness, and save me, for Thou alone art all-merciful. Amen.

WHEN YOUR HUT'S ON FIRE

The only survivor of a shipwreck was washed up on a small, uninhabited island. He prayed feverishly for God to rescue him. Everyday he scanned the horizon for help, but none seemed forthcoming. Exhausted, he eventually managed to build a little hut out of driftwood to protect him from the elements, and to store his few possessions.



One day, after scavenging for food, he arrived home to find his little hut in flames, with smoke rolling up to the sky. He felt the worst had happened, and everything was lost. He was stunned with disbelief, grief, and anger He cried out, "God! How could you do this to me?"

Early the next day, he was awakened by the sound of a ship approaching the island! It had come to rescue him! "How did you know I was here?," asked the weary man of his rescuers. "We saw your smoke signal," they replied.

The Moral of This Story: *It's easy to get discouraged when things are going bad, but we shouldn't lose heart, because God is at work in our lives... even in the midst of our pain and suffering. Remember that the next time your little hut seems to be burning to the ground. It just may be a smoke signal that summons the Grace of God.*



THE EXALTATION OF THE PRECIOUS CROSS

Celebrated on September 14th

Saint Helen, the mother of Saint Constantine the Great, when she was already advanced in years, undertook, in her great piety, the hardships of a journey to Jerusalem in search of the cross, about the year 325. A temple to Aphrodite had been raised up by the Emperor Hadrian upon Golgotha, to defile and cover with oblivion the place where the saving Passion had been suffered. The venerable Helen had the statue of Aphrodite destroyed, and the earth removed, revealing the Tomb of our Lord, and three crosses. Of these, it was believed that one must be that of our Lord, the other two of the thieves crucified with Him; but Saint Helen was at a loss which one might be the Wood of our salvation. At the inspiration of Saint Macarius, Archbishop of Jerusalem, a lady of Jerusalem, who was already at the point of death from a certain disease, was brought to touch the crosses, and as soon as she came near to the Cross of our Lord, she was made perfectly whole. Consequently, the precious Cross was lifted on high by Archbishop Macarius of Jerusalem; as he stood on the ambo, and when the people beheld it, they cried out, "Lord have mercy." It should be noted that after its discovery, a portion of the venerable Cross was taken to Constantinople as a blessing. The rest was left in Jerusalem in the magnificent church built by Saint Helen, until the year 614. At that time, the Persians plundered Palestine and took the Cross to their own country (see Jan. 22, Saint Anastasius the Persian). Late, in the year 628, Emperor Heraclius set out on a military campaign, retrieved the Cross, and after bringing it to Constantinople, himself escorted it back to Jerusalem, where he restored it to its place.

BROKEN TO BE MORE BEAUTIFUL

From "Surviving the Loss of a Loved One" by Fr. Anthony Coniaris

Many years ago the architect planned that the walls of the Royal Palace be covered with sheets of beautiful mirrors from Paris. But when the shipment of glass arrived from Paris every mirror had been smashed in travel. The entire shipment was destroyed! The entrance could not be completed. Just as the workmen started gathering the broken pieces together to discard them the architect said, "Wait a minute. I've got an idea!" He then took them up in his hands and walked over to the entry. The skilled architect then put some glue on the wall and arranged the tiny pieces. He did this several times until he had an enormous distortion in reflections, sparkling with a rainbow of brilliant colors! At no point were they broken alike and at no point was the angle exact. Today, the Royal Palace is a dazzling brilliant display of prisms, reflecting light! As I read this story I could only think of one line, "Broken to be more beautiful!"



God takes the broken things in our lives, as the architect took the broken pieces of those mirrors and makes them over into the better things of his divine purpose. God can do wonders with a broken heart and a broken life if we will give Him the pieces. But this is exactly what most of us refuse to do: take the pieces to Him! I love the proverb which says, "God can draw straight even with crooked lines."

He can use your grief to help build a better you, if you will bring the pieces to Him.



THE BLOOD OF CHRIST AND THE SKULL OF ADAM

The mount of Calvary or Golgotha means in Hebrew the "place of the Skull." Some biblical scholars have erroneously attested that it was called this name because the rock formations there resembled a skull. Yet, the actual reason for the name comes from an ancient Jewish tradition that the skull of Adam was brought on the Ark by Noah, and then buried under Calvary.

At the moment of Christ's death, the earth quaked and the rock was split in two, thus allowing the atoning Blood of Christ to literally flow over the bones of Adam. This is why in Orthodox iconographical depictions of the Crucifixion, we see a skull and crossbones at the base of the Cross.

ABOUT THE THREE-BARRED CROSS

The Three-barred Cross is common to most Slavic Orthodox lands. The three bars distinguish the Holy Cross as the Cross of Christ, as opposed to other crosses used by the Romans. The smaller upper bar represents the sign placed above the Lord's head, which read, "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews". The slanted lower bar reflects the fate of the thieves crucified on either side of the Lord: one side pointing up to Paradise, the other downward to Hades.

On either side of the Cross are often pictures the spear used to pierce the Lord's side, and the pole with the sponge used to give Him sour wine to drink.

Answers to Scriptural Questions

- 1) a, Mark 10:37
- 2) a, true
- 3) d, Matthew 10:6
- 4) b, St. Paul was not one of the Twelve. Judas was replaced by Matthias in Acts 1:26.
- 5) b, John 13:26-27.
- 6) b, "Gospel" means "Good News".
- 7) b, Psalm 48:2 and Matthew 5:35
- 8) d, It was Zacchaeus but he was a tax collector, not a Pharisee.
- 9) b, St. John received the Revelation on Patmos.
- 10) b, Matthew 22:23.