

CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN OF FEBRUARY 6, 2011



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6TH

Zacchaeus Sunday

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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH

7:00p.m. Reading Group
8:15p.m. Compline

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH

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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH

Publican and Pharisee Sunday

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



Looking Ahead:

- ❖ Feb. 27th – Meatfare Sunday
- ❖ March 6th – Cheesefare Sunday
- ❖ March 7th – Great Lent Begins
- ❖ March 25th – Annunciation
- ❖ April 17th – Palm Sunday
- ❖ April 22nd – Holy Friday
- ❖ April 24th – Pascha

READER SCHEDULE

Sunday, Feb. 13th

Kathy Parrish

Sunday, Feb. 20th

Jodi McElwee



Please Remember in Prayer

Melvin Woodell (newly-departed), Charles and Carolyn Hilton, Martha, Don Coughlin, Karen Nichols, Michelle Wilson, Howard Peters, Irene Clenney, Denise Royal, Gabriela Jones, Scott and Maryann, Roman Szvec, Mat. Dunia, Patti Lease, Garrett Cuppels, Bill & Kathy Parrish, Frs Michael & Andrew, Monk Christian, Jane Koshutko, Robert Evanusa, Nicholas & Linda, Nicholas, Anna, Nina Gordon, Mirela & Chris, Jaroslav, Troy, Frank & Mary Miranda, Kathy T., Bruce, Julia Plisko & family, Stella.

A Warm Welcome Back to Fr. Daniel!

It is our joy to have Fr. Daniel lead us once again in the Divine Services. Thanks are extended to him for sharing his wisdom in the sermon. We look forward to seeing him again in two weeks!



Reaching Fr. John While He is Away

If you need to reach Fr. John while he is away, please do so via email or the church cell phone, 302-537-6055. He should be back Tuesday.

Reading Group – Wednesday, February 9th

The handout is in the back of the church. All welcome to come!



The "Souper" Bowl of Caring

is an IOCC sponsored event designed to help local food banks and charities. On Super Bowl Sunday, February 6th, each parishioner is asked to bring a can of food (or more) for our local food pantry, and \$1.00 (or more) for our local pregnancy aid center. A special collection basket has been placed in the back of the church.

The New Parish Council

will receive their blessing to assume their duties at the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, February 13th. The first meeting of the new council will be following the coffee hour on this same day. All future council members are reminded to prepare themselves for this high calling and important day.



Fast-free Week

Unless you are looking to broaden your phylacteries (Matt. 23:5), during the week of the Publican and Pharisee, February 13-20, we do not fast, even on Wednesday and Friday.

Sitting and Standing In Church

It sometimes is asked, "When can I sit in church?" Generally speaking it is good to stand as much as one is able. However, there are times in which it is permitted to sit too, for instance during the sermon or announcements, or during the service when the Royal Doors are closed, or at any other time necessary. The important thing is to have a spirit of prayer whether we be standing or sitting.



CANDLEWAX AND HEDGEHOGS – GROUNDHOG DAY

By Fr. Stephen Freeman

Candlewax and Hedgehogs—a peculiar way to entitle an article, I'll admit. But both have their associations with the second day of February. The first is more important so we'll begin there. The second day of February is one of the 12 great feasts, and is also celebrated by Christians in the West. The feast is the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, described in the second chapter of St. Luke's gospel.

There we are told that the Christ child was brought by his mother into the temple in fulfillment of the law, 40 days after his birth (February 2 is 40 days after December 25). The Old Testament Law commanded that "every male that openeth the womb (the first born child) shall be holy to the Lord." Thus the child was brought to the Temple in Jerusalem and an offering made on His behalf in thanksgiving to God for his birth.

The Most Holy Mother of God certainly kept this teaching of the Law. We are told that she brought her child to the Temple to make offering (and to receive her purification—another required rite of the Temple). There she was met by two people, one a woman, another a man, and both of them prophets. The woman, Anna the Prophetess, spoke to her concerning her child. The aged prophet Symeon, saw the mother and Child and exclaimed in words we repeat at every Vespers:

*Lord now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace.
For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation which Thou
hast prepared before the face of all people. To be a
Light to enlighten the nations and to be the glory
of Thy people Israel.*

This prophecy of St. Symeon has as its key phrase the description that Christ would be a "light to enlighten the gentiles." It is the emphasis on light

that brings these words each evening to the service of Vespers, when we give thanks to God for the Light He has given us. It is also for this reason that candles are blessed on this holy day. The candles of the Church (and especially those to be taken home and used by the faithful) are blessed on this day, because they remind us that Christ is the "light of the world."

The associations of this feast with light is also where the hedgehogs come in. Christian cultures have usually never let the feasts of the Church stay within the Church itself, but have exported them to the house and farm. So it was that in Europe (particularly Germany) there arose a folk custom that on the Feast of the Presentation (also called "Candlemas" because candles were blessed on that day) that if a hedgehog [badgers in some areas] should come out of his burrow and see the light (and thus his shadow) he would return to his burrow because winter would last six more weeks.

German immigrants brought this folk custom to America in the 1800's. There being no hedgehogs in North America, the groundhog was drafted to take its place. Thus the secular calendar in America celebrates "Groundhog Day." But only the faithful Christian knows and understands the secret of the Light that shines on February 2nd. Not the light of the sun, frightening a furry creature back into his hole, but the Light of Christ, which frightens all the evil powers that would do us harm.

For an interesting theological meditation on Groundhog Day, I suggest you rent and view the movie by that title. Bill Murray finds redemption as he lives his way through a near eternity of Groundhog Days. But I will spare you.



ABOUT MAKING THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

1) The three fingers symbolize the three Persons of the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

2) The two fingers symbolize the two natures of Jesus Christ: divine and human.



We make the Sign of the Cross on our 1) forehead, 2) waist, 3) right shoulder, and then 4) left shoulder, thereby offering our whole mind, heart, and strength in service to the Lord.



GOD'S COFFEE

From an anonymous source

Recently a friend sent me an email that grabbed my attention. It was about a group of college alumni, well-established in their careers, who began talking at a reunion about the impact that a professor of theirs had made on each of their lives. They decided to go visit their old professor, who was now retired. During their visit their conversation turned into complaining about the stress in their work and lives.



Offering his guests coffee, the professor went to the kitchen and returned with a large pot of coffee and an assortment of cups - porcelain, plastic, glass, crystal, some plain looking, some expensive, some exquisite - telling them to help themselves to the coffee.

When all the alumni had a cup of coffee in hand, the professor said, "Notice that each of you took one of the nicer-looking cups. You didn't take any of the plain ones. While it is normal for you to want the best for yourselves, that has become the source of your problems and stress. The cup itself adds nothing to the quality of the coffee. What all of you really wanted was coffee, not the cup, but you consciously went for the best cups...and then you began eyeing each other's cups. You compared the quality of your cup with the quality of a friend's cup."



The professor continued, "Now consider this: Life is the coffee; your job, money and position in society are the cups. They are just tools to hold and contain life. The style of cup one has does not define or change the quality of life an individual lives. Sometimes, by concentrating only on the cup, we fail to enjoy the coffee God has provided us. The happiest people don't have the best of everything. They just make the best of everything."

Here is the lesson for today: God brews the coffee, not the cups. Enjoy your coffee! Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly. Joyfully give thanks to the Father. Spend time with God...over coffee.

"Being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father." (Col 1:11-12a)

ON CEASELESS PRAYER

By St. Basil the Great

Prayer is a request for what is good, offered by the devout to God. But we do not restrict this "request" simply to what is stated in words... We should not express our prayer merely in syllables, but the power of prayer should be expressed in the moral attitude of our soul and in the virtuous actions that extend throughout our life... This is how you pray continually - by joining yourself to God through your whole way of life, so that your life becomes one continuous and uninterrupted prayer.



ON THE JESUS PRAYER

By Kyriacos C. Markides

The Jesus Prayer, "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy upon me a sinner", is the most powerful way of contacting God. It fills one with grace as he or she keeps this prayer in his or her heart and mind. Ideally one should reserve a certain amount of time every day and engage in this form of prayer. Furthermore, as one engages in routine activities such as washing dishes, taking a walk, or waiting at a bus stop one can recite the prayer. Then the person will reach a point when the Prayer will be an ongoing activity within his or her consciousness even while asleep or even while one engages in intellectually challenging activities like solving mathematical equations. Prayer becomes a form of breathing, an ongoing activity within the person that sanctifies his or her entire being.



ON THE HOLY SPIRIT

By St. Isaac the Syrian

When the Holy Spirit makes His dwelling place in someone, he does not cease to pray, because the Spirit will constantly pray in Him. Then, neither when he sleeps nor when he is awake, will prayer be cut off from his soul; but when he eats and drinks, when he lies down or works, even when he is immersed in sleep, the perfumes of prayer will breathe in his heart spontaneously. From then on he will not possess prayer only at limited times, but always.



ABOUT BEING A PARISH COUNCIL MEMBER

The ministry of serving the local church – the parish – is a blessed and vital work. It is a ministry that requires work, theological understanding, humility, good will and learning.

The By-Laws of a particular parish describe the particular responsibilities of council members.

While the council member serves the local church, the vision and activity of the member goes beyond the parish entity.

The concern for *institutional maintenance* is but one concern. The *means* by which the Parish Church can more effectively *expand* and *extend* its teaching and preaching ministry are an important part of the parish council member's calling.

The Parish Council member is called to understand that he or she is a true *disciple* of Christ and *co-worker* with the Apostles. Those that serve on the Parish Council are responsible for the growth and extension of the Church, for transforming our "membership" through "discipleship," for winning others to the Faith.

Parish Council ministry is much more than just care of the assets of the church, and payment of bills. Council members are called to be involved in stewardship, evangelization, growth, catechetics, missions and charity as direct extension of the mission of Christ.

The Parish Council Member seeks to maintain and enhance the parish's current levels of ministry while defining ways by which the parish might be expanded by embracing the lost, searching, the inactive, the unchurched, the lukewarm, the disenchanted, and the spiritually homeless within the community at large.

Parish Council Members teach by their example of stewardship of time, talent, and treasure. They preach the Gospel whenever they strive for a consensus which serves to bring others into the life of Christ and His Church.



THE PARISH COUNCIL MEMBER:

- ❖ is a servant of Jesus Christ, coworker with the Apostles, and assistant to the Priest.
- ❖ is responsible for more than just the care of the church's assets and payment of bills.
- ❖ is to assist in transforming parish membership into authentic Christian discipleship through evangelization, education, liturgical worship, missions, and charity.
- ❖ is to teach by example thru his or her own stewardship of time, talent, and treasure.
- ❖ is to set aside his or her own will to assist in discerning and implementing God's will.

They reveal the Good Shepherd's concern for His flock when they seek that which is for the salvation of all, striving to do God's will, not their own – apart from an obvious gift for leadership, Council Members must also possess other gifts – patience, faith, tolerance, humility, kindness, honor, trustworthiness - that are all-too-often overlooked. They must be persons of *vision*, capable of discerning *who and what God wants His Church to be*, for "where there is no vision, the people perish" (Proverbs 29:18).

Above all, everything the Parish Council Member does must reveal love for God and neighbor, thereby leading by his or her own example, for "by this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35).

Adapted from an article by Fr. Thomas Hopko

CONCERNING THE RESURRECTION OF THE BODY AND SOUL

Saint Tikhon of Zadonsk

Christ was risen, and so we too must be resurrected with Christ, in order to ascend with Him. Our resurrection is two-fold: in body and in spirit. Our bodily resurrection will take place on the Last Day. We speak of this when we recite the Creed, the Symbol of Faith: "I look for the resurrection of the dead." To be resurrected spiritually is to depart from our sins, to turn away from the vanities of this world, and to abide in true repentance and faith; to take up the struggle against any sin, to do the will of our Heavenly Father, to live His truth, and to follow Christ, the Son of God, with humility, love, meekness, and patience. This is the new creation of which the Holy Apostle Paul speaks when he says, "if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature" (1 Cor. 5:17); a new person, renewed through repentance and faith, a true Christian, a living member of Christ and an heir to the Kingdom of God.

