



CHRIST & THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN OF MAY 22, 2011

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

Please Remember in Prayer

Don Young, Mat. Maura, Jerrie Rife, Wallace & Michelle Wilson, Victoria Kokkinos, Ed Tucker, Karen Nichols, Irene Clenney, Denise Royal, Gabriela Jones, Simeon, Scott & Maryann, Roman Szwec, Mat. Dunia, Patti Lease, Garrett Cuppels, Frs Michael & Andrew, Fr. 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.

Welcome Visitors

We warmly welcome all those who are visiting us today. It is a joy to have you with us for the Divine Services!

About Holy Water

The water that was blessed on Tuesday, May 17th, may be used for drinking (health of soul and body) and for blessing (homes, cars, gardens, etc.). Holy Water is grace-filled and offers health, protection, and sanctification. Often a bottle of Holy Water is kept in the refrigerator for frequent use throughout the year.



The Parish Council (Rescheduled)

will meet, Sunday, June 5th, following the coffee hour. All are welcome to stay for the meeting, though, voting privileges are reserved from those who have been blessed to hold office.

SUNDAY, MAY 22ND

5th Sunday of Pascha

8:40a.m. Hours
9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy
Open House @ Rectory

SATURDAY, MAY 28TH

5:00p.m. Orthodoxy 101
6:00p.m. Great Vespers

SUNDAY, MAY 29TH

6th Sunday of Pascha

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

On the Power of Meekness

"Nothing is more powerful than meekness. For as fire is extinguished by water, so a mind inflated by anger is subdued by meekness. By meekness we practice and make known our virtue, and also cause the indignation of our brother to cease, and deliver his mind from agitation."

St. John Chrysostom



Open House – Today!

Everyone is invited to an Open House at the rectory today, Sunday, May 22nd. The Open House will be in lieu of the coffee hour, although coffee is available following the veneration of the Cross. Absolutely everyone is invited – please come!

Have An Idea?

Do you have any idea that you would like to share about our Mission? Please share it with Fr. John or one of the Council Members – we are always looking for ways to improve the Mission!

Can You Offer a Ride to Church?

Please see Fr. John. Why not fill your empty seat with a fellow traveler to the Kingdom of God?



READER SCHEDULE

Sunday, May 29th

Constantine Mitsopoulos

Sunday, Jun 5th

Kathy Parrish



Feast of the Ascension – Thursday, June 2nd

Next week we celebrate the Lord's Ascension into Heaven, which occurred 40 days after His Resurrection from the dead. This is one of the 12 Great Feasts of the Church's liturgical year.

Prayer for Graduates

will be offered on Sunday, June 19th, at the end of the Liturgy.

HOMELESS CHICAGO MAN DONATES THOUSANDS TO DOWN-ON-HER-LUCK BANKER

By Craig Wall, FOX Chicago News

Chicago - A year ago, everything was going right for a woman we'll call Sandy.

She had a good job at a bank in the suburbs.

She and her 10-year-old son had a safe home.

But then the world came crashing down around the 39-year-old. She lost her job. She lost her house. And she and her son moved into her truck. Police found her and DCFS threatened to take away her son if she didn't find a safe place to stay.

She moved into a hotel with the help of a social worker who paid for a few nights stay with her own money. That's when Sandy's knight in shining armor showed up. And he's kept showing up, every day, paying her hotel bill, so she and her son can stay off the streets.

But Sandy's Good Samaritan isn't a Chicago big shot. He isn't living in a Loop highrise. He doesn't even have a job.

Sandy's Good Samaritan is Curtis Jackson, who's been homeless since 2004. He pays for Sandy's hotel room because she used to treat him with dignity and kindness when she did have a house -- and he pays for it by panhandling and giving the money to her.

"All I can do is get out there and put a sign in my hand, or put a cup in my hand and ask people to help me out, and everything I get, except maybe bus fare and something to eat, I give it to her,"

Jackson said as he stood at the corner of 55th and Harlem.

Jackson pays the nightly bill by pouring his bucket of change on the hotel counter. Since December, he's raised \$9,000, and he's given it all to Sandy. He said sometimes 40, 70, a hundred cars go by before someone gives him a few pennies or a few bucks.

Sandy can't believe it.

"I've donated to charities, I've helped other homeless families -- never realizing that one day we'd be in this situation," she said. "So thank God that we did have an angel waiting for us."

Jackson said he's a man of faith; homeless, but not hopeless, and he's got some words of wisdom for the people he sees bustling by every day.

"I have God. I'm one of the richest men on this earth, 'cause I have God," he said. "Money is not my master. That's what's wrong with this world: money is its master."

Sandy said she doesn't think she'll ever be able to repay Jackson, who's become like a brother.

"I'm out here for a purpose: to help someone, and that's all I'm trying to do is help someone that needs help right at this moment," he said. "And once she doesn't need help anymore, I'll move on to something else."



For additional coverage including a video report, please see: myfoxchicago.com.



ASSEMBLY OF BISHOPS ISSUES MESSAGE ANNOUNCING MAY 25-27 CHICAGO MEETING

Posted 5/18/2011 on OCA.org

CHICAGO, IL [OCA] -- In anticipation of the meeting of the members of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America, the following message was issued on the Feast of Mid-Pentecost, May 18, 2011.

"On Mid-Pentecost we hear the call of the Lord: Whosoever thirsteth, let him come to Me and drink [John 7:37]. If this is so, then let us all run to Him. Whatever you thirst for -- so long as it is not contrary to the Spirit of the Lord -- you will find relief in Him' [Saint Theophan the Recluse, 1815-1894].

"Mid-Pentecost is, in the words of the Pentecostarion, 'the middle of those days which commence with Christ God's saving rising and which are sealed by Pentecost.' It is a most radiant and majestic feast in that it is 'illuminated by both the feasts' -- flashing forth like a flawless diamond upon which brilliant light is shined from right and left, and gushing forth like a powerful fountain of water which is fed by two mighty streams. Let us all quaff deeply of 'the waters of piety' which flow from Him Who is the very well-spring of Life! 'Having been enlightened by the Resurrection and Christ the Saviour, O ye brethren, and having reached the midst of the feast of the Master, let us truly keep the commandments of God, that we may be counted worthy to celebrate the Ascension and be vouchsafed the coming of the Holy Spirit' [Doxastikon on the Praises].

"Beginning on the Leavetaking of the Feast of Mid-Pentecost, Wednesday, May 25, and continuing through Friday, May 27, we members of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America will gather in Chicago to pray and work together, doing our part in building up the Holy Church in this land to the glory of God and the salvation of souls. Among things to be discussed during the sessions in Chicago will be the work of our Assembly's thirteen committees, its Secretariat, and the fourteen agencies and endorsed-organizations. The prayers of all our Christ-loving clergy, monastics, and lay people are earnestly requested, that the same Spirit Whom our Saviour poured forth as Living Water to sate the thirst of His Holy Disciples might inspire us as we labor for His glory."

The Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America (formerly known as the Episcopal Assembly of North and Central America) is one of twelve bishops' assemblies which have been established in different geographical regions throughout the world. It is made up of all the active, canonical Orthodox bishops of North and Central America, of every jurisdiction.

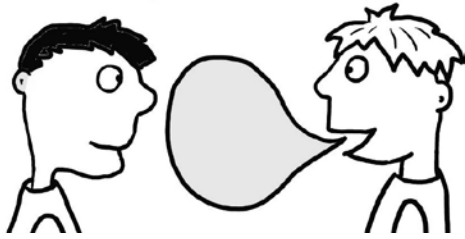
The purpose of the Assembly of Bishops of North and Central America is to preserve and contribute to the unity of the Orthodox Church by helping to further her spiritual, theological, ecclesiological, canonical, educational, missionary and philanthropic aims. To accomplish this, the Assembly has as its goals: i) the proclamation and promotion of Church unity in North and Central America; ii) the strengthening of the common pastoral ministry to all the Orthodox faithful of this region; and iii) a common witness by the Church to all those outside her. In addition, the Assembly has as an express goal iv) the organization of the Church in North and Central America in accordance with the ecclesiological and the canonical tradition of the Orthodox Church.

ASK FATHER: 3 QUESTIONS / 3 ANSWERS

Question: How should I respond to people's questions about the Faith?

Answer: It is always good to remember the words of Scripture. The Apostle Peter says: "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and be ready always to give an answer to everyone who asks you a reason of the hope in you, with meekness and fear; having a good conscience..." (1Pe 3:15-16)

St. Peter gives us three practical things to do: 1) to seek the Lord's help; praying fervently to Him from the heart that He might inspire both us and those we are speaking with; 2) to have the courage to share the reasons why we believe; and 3) to speak, "with meekness and fear; having a good conscience".



Why meekness, fear, and a good conscience? Meekness because the Lord Himself is humble and doesn't force anything on anyone. Fear because we ourselves are mere human beings and the things of God are mysterious and beyond our full comprehension. And a good conscience because we ourselves must be seeking to do what is right, seeking to follow the way of the Lord, if we are going to lead others in the same. If we can pass along the spirit of meek-

ness, fear, and a good conscience, to the person we are speaking with, then they will have all the necessary prerequisites to learning the true Faith. Without this spirit, even the most perfect teaching from the most perfect Teacher will not be enough. We recall how some even departed from the Christ because they lacked meekness, fear of God, and a good conscience.

Question: But how can I help the person, if I don't really know what to say?

Answer: Even if we can't fully answer every question (and really, who can?), we can still help people by referring them to someone who might know a little more than us or to some profitable book on the subject. By so doing, they will be assured that what we are telling them is not our own personal belief but the universal teaching of the Church. And even if they never speak with the person we referred them to or never open the book we suggested, at the very least they will know that Orthodox Christianity is not about personal opinions but instead a common and universal witness to the Truth.

Question: But what if the conversation starts to turn argumentative?

Answer: Arguments about the Faith seldom bear fruit; the Christian life is communicated better by example than by argument. And so, if the conversation seems to turn argumentative, it might be best to follow the above advice and humbly refer the person to someone else or to some pertinent material on the subject in question.

By humbly removing ourselves from the conversation, we can actually help the person more than if we continued to debate them. This is because the person will more easily accept the answer to their question if they don't have to swallow their pride by "giving in". We all know how once a conversation turns into an argument, it can be less about the question and its answer than about who is going to "win" the debate. We should try to avoid this at all costs. Even if we might full well know the answer to the question, it could be that the person needs to hear the answer from someone other than us. Humbling taking ourselves out of an argument is not losing; it is giving a chance for the other person to be won over by the Lord.

THOUGHTS ON STEWARDSHIP

From Parish Publishing, LLC

All of us are caretakers. Nothing belongs to us; everything belongs to God. Not all men and women realize this, but Christians do and strive to please God in the use of all that God has put in their care. Yes, you are a caretaker... God's caretaker!

Think of time as a priceless gift; develop an awareness of its incomparable value and examine your conscience in this light. Are you using your time according to God's plan, or are you throwing it away? If tomorrow were never to dawn, what would you do for God today?

