



CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN OF JULY 3, 2011

SUNDAY, JULY 3RD

3rd Sunday of Pentecost

8:40a.m. Pre-baptismal Prayers
 9:00a.m. Baptismal Liturgy
 Coffee Hour

TUESDAY, JULY 5TH

St. Elisabeth the New Martyr

9:00a.m. Molieben

SATURDAY, JULY 9TH

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

SUNDAY, JULY 10TH

4th Sunday of Pentecost

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

We rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance character, and character hope, and hope does not disappoint because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit. (Rom 5)

READER SCHEDULE

Sunday, July 10th

Constantine Mitsopoulos

Sunday, July 17th

Kathy Parrish



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!

Reception of the Hageman Family – Sunday, July 3rd

Today, Sunday, July 3rd, the Hageman family will be received into the Orthodox Church through the Mysteries of Holy Baptism and Chrismation. We offer our heartfelt congratulations and we ask that God grant them many blessed years!



Weekly Financials

Each week a financial snapshot will appear in the bulletin. A more detailed quarterly report will still be offered. Full financials are offered at the Council meetings. Questions? See Mike McFarland.

Many Thanks!

To those who donated items and/or helped with the Yard Sale yesterday. It was a great success – thank you! Alice Peters will offer a brief report today.



Financial Update

A financial summary covering the first six months of 2011 can be found on page 4 of this bulletin. If you have any questions regarding the summary, please see Fr. John, Michael McFarland, our treasurer, or one of the Parish Council Members.



Blessing of Automobiles – Sunday, July 17th

It is a custom of Orthodox Christians to have their cars blessed both when newly acquired and on or near the feast of the Prophet Elias (July 20th), as he ascended into heaven on a fiery chariot. There will be a blessing of automobiles immediately after the Liturgy on Sunday, July 17th.



Independence Day

As we celebrate the civil holiday of Independence Day, we ask that God bless our nation's civil authorities, armed forces, and citizens. May we trust in Him, seeking His will not only for ourselves but also for our entire nation. O Lord, be with us!



Saint George's Greek Festival

will be held at the Ocean City Convention Center, July 29-30. Great food, music, entertainment, shopping, and fellowship. Let's do our best to support our brothers and sisters in Ocean City!

Prayer List: Fr. Michael Mihalick, Fr. Gregory Safchuk, Fr. Christian, Mat. Dunia, Don Young, Jerrie Rife, Wallace & Michelle Wilson, Ryan & Kayla Wilson, Victoria Kokkinos, Ed Tucker, Karen Nichols, Denise Royal, Simeon, Scott & Maryann, Roman Szwec, Garrett Cuppels, Jane Koshutko, Nicholas & Linda, Nina Gordon, Mirela & Chris, Troy Duker, Mary Miranda, Bruce Eckerd, Stella.

OPERATING THRU 5/31/11			JUNE OPERATING			BUILDING FUND		
Income	Expense	Net	Income	Expense	Difference	Income	Goal	Difference
25,880	33,225	-7,345	5,092	4,720	+372	11,900	20,000	-8,100

ST. ELIZABETH THE NEW MARTYR

Commemorated on July 5

St. Elizabeth was an older sister of the Empress Alexandra of Russia, and was married to the Grand Duke Serge, a younger son of Tsar Alexander III and the Governor of Moscow. She converted from the Protestant faith to Orthodoxy several years after her marriage of her own free will, and organized women from all levels of society to help the sick and needy.

Grand Duke Serge was killed by an assassin's bomb on February 4, 1905, just as St Elizabeth was leaving for her workshops. She visited her husband's killer in prison and urged him to repent, giving him an icon. She eventually built a shrine over the site of her husband's martyrdom (which was said to have been destroyed by Vladimir Lenin himself in 1917).

After her husband's murder, she began to withdraw from her former social life. She founded the Convent of Sts. Martha and Mary in Moscow, a community of nuns which focused on worshiping God and helping the poor. She sold all her fine clothes and jewels, and moved out of her palace into the buildings that she had purchased on behalf of the convent.

St. Elizabeth and her sisters continued to visit the poor and hungry in Moscow. During the First World War, she nursed sick and wounded soldiers in the hospitals and on the battle front. She was respected and admired throughout Russia and people came to her for spiritual direction.

After her brother-in-law, Tsar Nicholas II, abdicated the throne and he and his family were placed under house arrest, St. Elizabeth was urged to abandon her convent and seek shelter with her remaining family in Western Europe. She refused all offers of help, saying she would not leave the other sisters and would die in Russia if that was His Will.



JULY CONGRATULATIONS!

Anniversaries:

7/4 Fr. Christian Lesinsky

Birthdays:

7/7 Yvonne Eckerd
7/12 Ellen Gundersen
7/13 Gerald Milite
7/22 Maksimilian Morsey
Alexandra Boris

Namesdays:

7/5 *St. Elisabeth the New Martyr*
Elisabeth Parsells
7/11 *St. Olga the Princess of Kiev*
Olga Klymuk
7/16 *St. Valentina*
Isabelle Bekeshka
7/17 *St. Marina*
Denise Royal
7/24 *St. Christiana*
Christiana Josephine Milite

On Pascha 1918, Soviet soldiers came to the convent and ordered her to leave Moscow to join the royal family near Ekaterinburg. She was allowed to leave with a novice, Sister Barbara, but was not permitted to say goodbye to the other sisters.

After arriving in Ekaterinburg, St. Elizabeth was denied access to the Tsar's family. She and Sister Barbara were placed in a convent, where she was warmly received by the sisters.

At the end of May St. Elizabeth and St. Barbara were moved to the nearby village of Alopevsk with the Grand Dukes Sergius, John, and Constantine, and the young Count Vladimir Paley. They were all housed in a schoolhouse on the edge of town. St. Elizabeth was placed under guard, but was permitted to go to church and work in the garden.

On the night of July 5, they were all taken to a place in the woods, twelve miles from Alopevsk, and executed. Grand Duke Sergius was shot, but the others were thrown down a mineshaft, with grenades being tossed in after them. St. Elizabeth lived for several hours, and could be heard singing hymns by local villagers who came up to the mineshaft after the murderers had left.

A few days later, the bodies of St. Elizabeth and St. Barbara were recovered from the mineshaft after the pro-Tsarist armies took Alopevsk. They were ultimately taken to Jerusalem in 1920, and buried in the church of St. Mary Magdalene on the Mount of Olives.

**ARCHPASTORAL LETTER OF HIS GRACE, BISHOP MICHAEL
RE-AFFIRMING THE SANCTITY OF MARRIAGE**

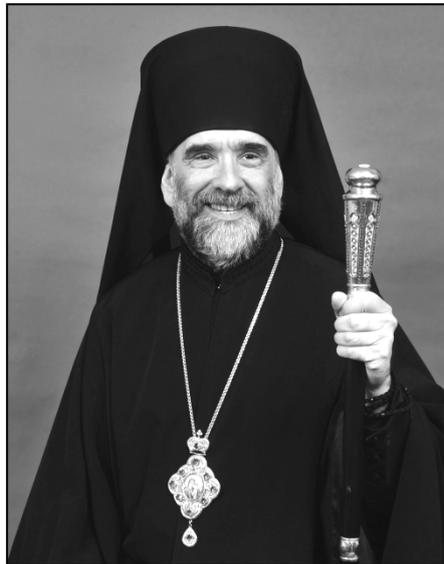
June 24, 2011 – Feast of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist

Beloved Fathers and Mothers, Brothers and Sisters:
Christ is in our midst! – He is and ever shall be!

On this very day, we have witnessed the successful efforts of public officials in the State of New York to legally re-define the meaning of marriage to include unions between two persons of the same gender. It is important for us, as Christians of the Orthodox Church, preserving the Tradition of teaching the truth handed down by the Lord Himself, “the faith which was once for all delivered to the Saints” (Jude 3), to re-affirm the meaning of marriage given to us in His Sacred Scripture.

In the document, *Affirmations on Marriage, Family, Sexuality, and the Sanctity of Life*, written and adopted by the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America in 1992, we read (in part) the following summary of the teaching of our Faith on this matter:

- 1) God wills that men and women marry, becoming husbands and wives. He commands them to increase and multiply in the procreation of children, being joined into “one flesh” by His divine grace and love. He wills that human beings live within families (Genesis 1:27; 2:21-24; Orthodox Marriage Service).
- 2) The Lord went even further to declare that people who look at others to lust after them in their hearts have “committed adultery” (cf. Matthew 5:27-30).
- 3) Christ’s apostles repeat the teachings of their Master, likening the unique marriage between one man and one woman to the union between Christ and His Church which they experience as the Lord’s very body and His bride (Ephesians 5:21-33; 2 Corinthians 11:2).
- 4) Marriage and family life are to be defended and protected against every open and subtle attack and ridicule.
- 5) Sexual intercourse is to be protected as a sacred expression of love within the community of heterosexual monogamous marriage in which alone it can be that for which God has given it to human beings for their sanctification.



As children of God, we are called to conform our sexual behavior to the commandments of Christ. As Christians, whether single or married, we are called to a life of chastity, pleasing to the Lord. This means struggling against those passions that incline us to “fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23) – fornication, homosexual activity, or adultery. One person may have to overcome his or her inclination toward partners of the opposite sex outside of the blessed union of marriage; another person may have to overcome his or her inclination toward others of the same sex. We are all called to live our lives according to the will of God and thereby partake of the way of salvation.

No matter what the prevailing pressure of the culture or the legislation of the state may proclaim, the timeless teaching of the Church echoes the rule of marriage revealed to us by the Lord, written in the Scripture, and re-affirmed by the wisdom and examples of the Saints. Gay marriage or any other unblessed sexual activity is not the love that the Lord extols. Because “we have the mind of Christ” (1 Cor. 2:16), no matter what the government or society may say, like St. Peter and the Apostles, “we must obey God rather than men”

(Acts 5:29). We need not be afraid to stand in opposition to prevailing trends, as the earliest followers of Our Lord stood bravely and boldly, upholding the ideal of Christian marriage in the non-Christian empire of their time.

Having said this, we must never forget the Lord’s greatest commandment of love, which includes, after loving God above all else, the imperative, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Mark 12:31). This means we must never condemn anyone, but reach out to everyone with the living, healing, saving love of God in Christ Jesus. It means to walk in truth toward all, to do what is right for all, and to affirm what is good and holy on behalf of all.

Let us bear witness to the truth taught by Our Lord, and lived by His Saints, in our daily conversations with our families, our fellow Christians, our neighbors and co-workers. Let us teach the Orthodox Christian vision of marriage, as a path to salvation shared by husband and wife, to our children,

godchildren, and all those who come under our care as parents, godparents, pastors, and Christian educators.

Let us join in prayer that the people of faith across the states of New York and New Jersey will continue to stand fast in the divinely revealed truth of what marriage means. And let us by our example witness to the life of chastity to which every hu-

man person, made in the image and likeness of God, is called.

With my humble prayers and love in Christ, I remain

Devotedly yours in His service,

+ MICHAEL

Bishop of New York & the Diocese of NY and NJ



PRAYERS OF SAINT PHILARET OF MOSCOW



For the Coming of the New Day

O Lord, grant me to greet the coming day in peace. Help me in all things to rely upon Thy holy will. In every hour of the day reveal Thy will to me. Bless my dealings with all who surround me. Teach me to treat all that come to me throughout the day with peace of soul, and with firm conviction that Thy will governs all. In all my deeds and words guide my thoughts and feelings. In unforeseen events let me not forget that all are sent by Thee. Teach me to act firmly and wisely, without embittering and embarrassing others. Give me strength to bear the fatigue of the coming day with all that it shall bring. Direct my will, teach me to pray, pray Thou Thyself in me. Amen.

For the Acceptance of God's Will

O Lord, I know not what to ask of Thee. Thou alone knowest what are my true needs. Thou lovest me more than I myself know how to love. Help me to see my real needs which are concealed from me. I dare not ask for either a cross or blessed consolation. I only desire whatever Thou dost choose to send me. My heart is open to Thee. Visit and help me, for Thy great mercy's sake. Chastise me and help me, cast me down and raise me up. I worship in silence Thy holy will and Thine inscrutable ways. I offer myself as a sacrifice to Thee. I put all my trust in Thee. I have no other desire than to fulfill Thy will. Teach me how to pray. Pray Thou Thyself in me. Amen.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY – 1ST HALF OF 2011

ORDINARY INCOME		
Category	Jan – Jun 11	Budget
Stewardship	\$19,497	\$23,500
Candles	\$1,841	\$1,750
Bookstore	\$157	\$250
Charity	\$885	\$1,288

ORDINARY INCOME / EXPENSES		
Category	Jan – Jun 11	Budget
Income	\$25,880	\$29,500
Expenses	\$33,225	\$35,460
Net Income	-\$7,345	-\$5,960

OTHER INCOME		
Category	Jan – Jun 11	Budget
Building Fund	11,992	n/a
10 th Anniversary	1,005	n/a
In Memory	50	n/a

About the Financial Summary

The **ordinary income and expenses** figures shown in the chart on the left designates those funds which are being used towards our operating budget.

The **other income** figures shown at the bottom of the chart on the left indicate those funds which were donated for a specified purpose outside of our operating budget.

Our net ordinary income, as far as the budget goes, is a negative \$7,345. This does not take into account the \$12,047 which has been donated toward the building fund, 10th Anniversary, and offerings given in memory of the departed. Our overall net is a positive \$2,938.

The next financial summary will be in October and will contain the three-quarter-year figures. Full financial reports are presented at every Parish Council meeting.

Questions? Please see Michael McFarland.