

CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

30838 Vines Creek Rd.; Dagsboro, DE 19939
 302-537-6055 (church) / orthodoxdelmarva.org /
 frjohn@orthodoxdelmarva.org

BULLETIN OF FEBRUARY 5, 2012

Welcome Visitors

We warmly welcome all those who are visiting us today. It is good to have you all with us!

Congratulations!

To Yvonne Eckerd, who entered into the catechuminate on February 2nd, the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple. May the Lord continue to bless her and direct her steps!



The "Souper" Bowl of Caring



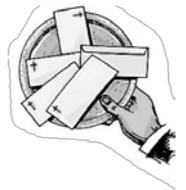
is an IOCC sponsored event designed to help local food banks and charities. On Super Bowl Sunday, February 5th, each parishioner is asked to bring a can of food (or more) for our local food pantry, and \$1.00 (or more) for our local pregnancy aid center. A special collection basket has been placed in the back of the church.

Website Update

Photos from the Annual Meeting have been posted to our website. Check them out!

Offering Envelopes

for 2012 are available in the back of the church. Please be sure that your envelopes number is noted on our list as this will greatly assist our counters.



Fast-free Week

Unless you are looking to broad your phylacteries (Matt. 23:5), during the week of the Publican and Pharisee, February 5-12, we do not fast, even on Wednesday and Friday.

Looking to Help with the Renovations?

Please let Fr. John know. There is much work to be done, and help is needed. Even if you don't have much time, every little bit helps!

Annual Meeting

If you missed last Sunday's Annual Meeting, handouts are in the back of the church. Questions? Please see Fr. John.

February Calendar

can be found on page 4 of this bulletin. As a reminder, please consult the Sunday bulletin for changes to the schedule. If you have any doubt concerning the service times, please call the church.



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH

Publican and Pharisee Sunday

8:40am Hours
 9:00am Divine Liturgy
 Coffee Hour

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH

5:00pm Bible Study
 6:00pm Great Vespers

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH

Prodigal Son Sunday

8:40am Hours
 9:00am Divine Liturgy
 Coffee Hour

READER SCHEDULE

Sunday, Feb. 12th

Bruce Eckerd

Sunday, Feb. 19th

Kathy Parrish



O LORD JESUS CHRIST SON OF GOD
 HAVE MERCY ON ME A SINNER

Prayer List: Fr. Michael Mihalick, Fr. Alexander Atty, Fr. Christian, Mat. Dunia, Kelly Elizabeth & child, Bill Parrish, Fazealle, Hayley, Tyler Pelesh, Jerrie Rife, Wallace & Michelle, Ryan & Kayla, Maleah Morsey, 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, Stella, Lilly Barnett, Amy F., Nedelina, Henrietta Stack, Archimandrite Pachomy.

OPERATING THRU 1/31/12			FEBRUARY OPERATING			RENOVATION TO PARISH CENTER		
Income	Expense	Net	Income	Goal	Difference	Income	Goal	Expense
5,322	4,454	+868	0	4,858	-4,858	30,501	60,000	15,945

CHRISTIANS FEAR LOSING FREEDOMS IN ARAB SPRING MOVEMENT

From USA Today / Oren Dorell and Sarah Lynch

CAIRO – From her home in a labyrinth of stone-walled alleyways, Samia Ramsis holds a key chain bearing the face of the Virgin Mary as she sits in her yellow pajamas on the morning of Orthodox Christmas. Sunlight pours in through a window. Outside, visitors come to look upon the spot where Egypt's Christians — most known as Copts — believe the Holy Family found refuge after fleeing Bethlehem and assassins sent by King Herod to kill the baby Jesus.

Once crowded with Christians, Cairo's Coptic quarter where Samia lives with her husband, Mounir, and two children is home to fewer than 50 Christian families. "We know many Christians have left," says Mounir Ramsis, speaking not only about this quarter but about all of Egypt. "But we love this country and will stay until death."

The Arab Spring uprisings that have toppled secular dictatorships in the Middle East and North Africa have unleashed long-suppressed freedoms that have allowed Islamic parties to gain a share of political power they have been denied for decades. Their rise is creating near-panic among ancient Christian communities that dot the Muslim world and predate Islam by centuries.

•In Tunisia, where the regime of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali was ousted last year after 32 years in power, the dominant political party, Ennahda, has worried some of Tunis' 22,000 Catholics by vowing to tilt the country's yet-to-be-written constitution toward sharia, or the detailed and often harsh system of Muslim theocratic laws.

•In Libya, Christians are uneasy as the powerful head of the Tripoli Military Council, Abdul Hakim Belhaj, who once led an Islamic militia with links to al-Qaeda, has said he plans to run for office in elections scheduled for April.

•In Afghanistan, no new building permits have

been issued for churches, and the last church open to the public was demolished over the summer. In Iraq, the Christian community has decreased by two-thirds since 2003 amid bombings of churches and assassinations of priests.

•And Christians in Syria, where Muslims have risen up against President Bashar Assad, have been subjected to murder, rape and kidnappings in Damascus and rebellious towns, according to Christian rights groups, including Open Doors, which helps Christians facing persecution.

Many had hoped for better in an Arab movement that proponents said was about replacing tyrannies with democracies.

"The outlook is grim," says John Eibner, CEO of the California-based human rights group Christian Solidarity International.

"If the current trajectory continues, it's reasonable to think that within a generation these (Christian) communities will not look like functioning communities," Eibner says. "They'll look more like the once-flourishing Jewish communities" across the Arab world that are all but gone.

Nowhere is the irony more profound than in Egypt, where an estimated 8 million Christians live with more than 70 million Muslims.

Christians demonstrated alongside Muslims early last year to oust Hosni Mubarak. Before Mubarak's overthrow, Christians had suffered from years of church burnings and murders at the hands of radical Muslims who want an Islamic state free of religious minorities. And after the ouster, the military regime that has been running the country has refused to make any arrests in attacks on Christians.

Mina Bous, 25, a Copt who fled to Philadelphia, recalls cowering with his mother in 1997 as a mob stoned the family home and chanted anti-Christian slogans. But the difference then was that Mubarak ordered the military to protect Christian communities and jail extremists, Bous says.

In October, Copts organized a protest in downtown Cairo over the authorities' failure to investigate attacks, including the bombing of a church in Alexandria on New Year's Day 2011 that killed 20 people. The military attacked the demonstrators and 17 Christians were run down and killed by military vehicles, according to Human Rights Watch.



Bouls wants to bring his family to the United States because he says he is petrified by the new society forming in Egypt. The first free elections in decades held in the past two months handed power not to moderates but to members of the Muslim Brotherhood and radical Salafi candidates, who combined took nearly 70% of seats.

"If people try to rule the country with the Koran, with sharia law, that means they look to us as second-class people," Bouls says.

Small share of population

Christianity has existed in Egypt since the second century. The Muslim Brotherhood, a political movement that seeks a nation run according to Koranic law, has said Egypt would respect the rights of religious minorities to worship and dress as they please. Muslim Brotherhood executive member Abd Al-Rahman Al-Barr says Israel is to blame for clashes between Coptic protestors and security forces.

The Salafis, Muslim fundamentalists who want a complete application of sharia law that generally denies equal rights to women and religious minorities, also say Copts are safe in Egypt.

Abanob Magdi lives near Egypt's largest pyramid and says he is not optimistic about what lies ahead. "I saw on TV the other day a Salafi saying that if they get in power, beaches will be divided for men and women and women will have to be veiled," Magdi says as he walks through Coptic Cairo with friends.

Christians account for 4% of the people of the Middle East and North Africa. Despite being the birthplace of Christianity, the region now has the fewest number of Christians (13 million) and the smallest share of its population that is Christian of any other major geographic region, according to the Pew Center on Religion and Public Life...

Growing wave of restrictions

Some Middle Eastern countries remain relatively safe for Christians, says Carl Moeller, president of Open Doors. Jordan accepted thousands of Iraqi refugees, including Christians, who are allowed to practice their faith. Armenian Christians in Iran, while monitored by the government, can worship unhindered, though conversion is illegal, Moeller says.

But Christians in Tunisia, where the Arab Spring movement began, have faced a growing number of restrictions since the dictatorship fell, he says.

"Foreign Christians have been called into the police in Tunisia, (and) they've had their phones



tapped," he says. "There's definitely growing restrictions on Christians in Tunisia."

In Syria, where Christians have lived since the Apostle Peter established the first church in now-Turkish city of Antioch 2,000 years ago, cities that are strongholds of the Muslim Brotherhood have risen up against Bashar Assad. Christians make up more than 2 million of the country's 22 million people, and they fear that the uprising will bring Islamists to power, rights groups say.

In Afghanistan, Western nations that are spending billions of dollars on reconstruction and maintaining security have failed to get the government to protect Christians.

One of Jesus's own apostles, St. Thomas, brought Christianity to Afghanistan in the first century, and today there are 8,000 Christians there. But the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan does not recognize Afghan citizens as being Christians, and converting to Christianity is illegal.

Not a single public church remains. The last Christian church was destroyed by its landowner in March after the Afghan courts refused to uphold the legality of the congregation's lease.

In Iraq, after the United States ousted Iraq military dictator Saddam Hussein in 2003, the Christian population has gone from 1.5 million to a half million today. The exodus came amid 60 church bombings and the deaths of 900 Christians, says William Warda, chairman of the Hammurabi Human Rights Organization in Baghdad. "We consider that genocide," he says.

Malik says Western nations must stand up for the rights of Christians, who he says may be cleansed from lands where democratic elections are used to oppress minorities rather than empower them.

Malik says it must be done "in a way that is not misperceived on the other end." However, "the West should not be cowed."

For the full article, please see: usatoday.com