



# CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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## BULLETIN OF MAY 13, 2012

### Welcome Visitors

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

### Congratulations!

to all who are celebrating the civil holiday of "Mother's Day": mothers, grandmothers, mothers-in-law, god-mothers. May God grant you many blessed years!



### SUNDAY, MAY 13<sup>TH</sup>

#### 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pascha

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

### SATURDAY, MAY 19<sup>TH</sup>

5:00p.m. No Class  
 6:00p.m. Great Vespers

### SUNDAY, MAY 20<sup>TH</sup>

#### 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pascha

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

### Archpastoral Visit of Met. Jonah

His Beatitude will be visiting us to bless our new facilities in Berlin, MD on July 7-8<sup>th</sup>. More information will be forthcoming. Please set aside both Saturday and Sunday for the festivities!

### The Parish Council

will meet today to discuss the celebratory weekend at the new parish center. As always, everyone is welcome to stay for the meeting.

### The Choir

will meet on the following Sundays in preparation of the Metropolitan's visit and the blessing of our new parish center: May 20<sup>th</sup>, June 10<sup>th</sup> and June 17<sup>th</sup>. Please plan to stay for these important practices.

### Andrei and Lena's New Contact Info

8675 Marigold circle apt#217, Eden Prairie, MN 55344

### About Holy Water

The water that was blessed on Mid-Pentecost, 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.



### READER SCHEDULE

#### Sunday, May. 20<sup>th</sup>

Kathy Parrish

#### Sunday, May. 27<sup>th</sup>

Jodi McElwee



*Leave all human injustices to the Lord, for God is the Judge, but as for yourself, be diligent in loving everyone with a pure heart, and remember that you yourself are a sinner and in need of God's mercy.*

*St. John of Kronstadt*

### The Saturday Evening Class

is being postponed until the church moves to the new property. The Vespers will be held as usual at 6:00pm. Thank you for your understanding.

### 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?



### Feast of the Ascension – Thursday, May 24<sup>th</sup>

One of the Twelve Great Feasts. Don't miss it! Make plans now.

**Prayer List:** Fr. Michael Mihalick, Fr. Alexander Atty, Fr. Christian, Mat. Dunia, Ana Lucia, Bill Parrish, Hayley, Tyler Pelesh, Wallace & Michelle, Ryan & Kayla, Maleah Morsey, Victoria Kokkinos, Karen Nichols, Denise Royal, Jane Koshutko, Nina Gordon, Mirela & Chris, Bruce Eckerd, Stella, Ari, Nedelina.

OPERATING THRU 4/30/12			MAY OPERATING			RENOVATION TO PARISH CENTER		
Income	Expense	Net	Income	Goal	Difference	Income + Loan	Goal	Expense
23,394	21,059	+2,335	946	4,858	-3,912	48,021 + 30K	80,000	77,164



## **HOLY SYNOD CONCLUDES SPRING SESSION**

*From OCA.org / Posted 5/11/2012*

RIVES JUNCTION, MI [OCA] – Holy Dormition of the Mother of God here provided the setting for the Spring Session of the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America May 7-10, 2012.

In addition to reviewing a variety of matters affecting the life of the Church, the hierarchs participated in the daily cycle of services at the monastery, including the Divine Liturgy, which provided an essential spiritual dimension to their undertakings. They also visited the Ascension of the Lord Monastery, Clinton, MI, and the Vatra, the headquarters of the OCA's Romanian Episcopate, Grass Lake, MI.

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Jonah, presided at the opening Divine Liturgy and the sessions. In his address to his fellow hierarchs, he offered a comprehensive overview of his activities and ministries. The members of the Holy Synod also approved his travel schedule, as presented.

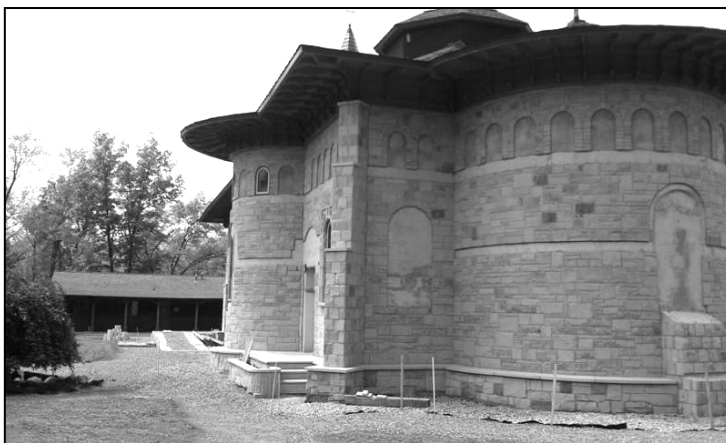
Highlights of the session include the following.

- In his report to the Holy Synod, Archpriest John Jillions, Chancellor, reviewed his work at the Chancery, spoke of the good working relationship he maintains with Metropolitan Jonah, and cited the professionalism of the other officers and members of the Chancery staff. He summarized the work of a number of committees and updated the hierarchs on a number of other current issues.
- Archpriest Eric G. Tosi, Secretary, updated the hierarchs on staff changes and the development of job descriptions for department chairs. He also reported on the Orthodox Health Plan.
- In her comprehensive report, Ms. Melanie Ringa, Treasurer, noted that a surplus was realized at the conclusion of the first quarter of 2012. She also reported that, with the approval of the Metropolitan Council, a bequest has been used to pay down the Honesdale National Bank loan. Further, she updated the hierarchs with regard to an estate that had been left to the OCA.
- Archpriest Leonid Kishkovsky of the Department of External Affairs updated the hierarchs on a number of recent developments throughout the Orthodox world. In related news, the members of the Holy Synod appointed His Grace, Bishop Alexander of Toledo and the Bulgarian Diocese chair of the Department of External Affairs.
- In other episcopal appointments, the hierarchs confirmed His Eminence, Archbishop Nathaniel as Chair of the Holy Synod Canonical Commission and the Holy Synod Canonization Commission.
- In response to questions presented by Father Tosi concerning the Procedures for Petitioning for Ordination and the logistics of conducting psychological evaluations, the members of the Holy Synod reaffirmed that all candidates for ordination — as well as clergy wishing to transfer into the OCA — must undergo the approved battery of psychological evaluations. They further recommended that any Bishop who does not have direct access to



the services offered at the seminaries should retain the services of a local psychologist. Each Bishop is also encouraged to solicit mental health professionals to assist in interpreting test results.

- The hierarchs requested that the OCA Clergy Guidelines and Policies, Standards and Procedures for Sexual Misconduct be translated into Spanish, Russian and French.
- With regard to OCA clergy being placed "on loan" to serve in other jurisdictions, the hierarchs reaffirmed their previous decision that, especially in long-term cases, this should be discouraged.
- Protodeacon Peter Danilchick and Eric Namee, members of the Secretariat of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in North and Central America, offered a presentation on the Assembly's work. They emphasized the importance of inter-Orthodox efforts on the grass roots level while fielding a number of questions ranging from organizational concerns to the endorsement of Orthodox military chaplains. In a related matter, Thaddeus Wojcik, OCA General Counsel, offered comments on the Assembly's articles of incorporation and by-laws.
- In response to questions of a pastoral nature vis-à-vis non-Chalcedonian Christians, the members of the Holy Synod reaffirmed that they are received into the Church through the sacraments of Confession and Communion. However, should they later return to their own Church, they no longer would be admitted to communion in the Orthodox Church.
- Protocols associated with the Sacred Antimensia were reviewed. The hierarchs reaffirmed that Antimensia should contain relics of martyrs, although relics of Holy Confessors are acceptable. Antimensia may be replaced by a new bishop, who may also update them by placing his signature under that of the previous bishop.
- In response to a proposal of Metropolitan Jonah, diocesan bishops with five years' tenure will be elevated to the dignity of Archbishop. Hence, His Grace, Bishop Nikon; His Grace, Bishop Tikhon; His Grace, Bishop Benjamin; and His Grace, Bishop Alejo were congratulated on their elevations. Statements will be issued to their respective dioceses concerning this decision.
- The hierarchs formally noted that Sunday, May 6, 2012 marked the 10th anniversary of the late Bishop Innocent [Gula]. May his memory be eternal!



Each diocesan hierarch offered a report on the life of his respective diocese. In closed sessions, the hierarchs addressed a number of legal and related matters.

The members of the Holy Synod expressed their deep gratitude to Archbishop Nathaniel for his hospitality in hosting the meeting and to Abbess Gabriella and the nuns of Holy Dormition Monastery.

His Grace, Bishop Ireneu, the monks of Holy Ascension Monastery, and the Vatra staff also were thanked for hosting the hierarchs' visits.

In addition to those hierarchs noted above, other bishops participating in the Holy Synod Spring Session included His Grace, Bishop Tikhon of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania; His Grace, Bishop Melchisedek of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania; His Grace, Bishop Michael of New York and New York and New Jersey; His Grace, Bishop Matthias of Chicago and the Midwest; His Grace, Bishop Mark, Auxiliary Bishop of Baltimore; and His Grace, Bishop Irénée Auxiliary Bishop of Quebec City and Administrator of the Archdiocese of Canada.

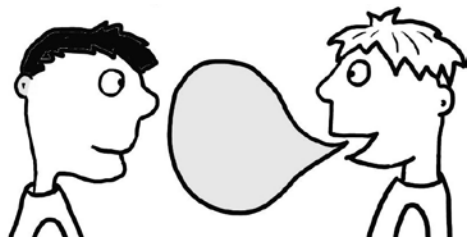


## ASK FATHER: 3 QUESTIONS / 3 ANSWERS

### 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?

