



CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN OF MAY 20, 2012

THE ASCENSION INTO HEAVEN

SUNDAY, MAY 20TH

6th Sunday of Pascha

8:40a.m. Hours
 9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy
 Coffee Hour
 Choir Practice
 7:00p.m. Great Vespers

MONDAY, MAY 21ST

Ss. Constantine & Helen

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 23RD

Leave-taking of Pascha

6:50p.m. Paschal Hours
 7:00p.m. Great Vespers w/ Litiya

THURSDAY, MAY 24TH

Ascension of the Lord

One of the Twelve Great Feasts

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

SATURDAY, MAY 26TH

5:00p.m. No Class
 6:00p.m. Reader's Vespers

SUNDAY, MAY 27TH

7th Sunday of Pascha

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

Welcome Visitors

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

Archpastoral Visit of Met. Jonah

His Beatitude will be visiting us to bless our new facilities in Berlin, MD on July 7-8th. 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.

Donors Are Sought

for the remaining items necessary to move into our new parish center: 8 trees, lumber for our sign and benches, & stain/paint/primer. If you would like to donate a(n) item(s), please see Fr. John immediately.



The Choir

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

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.



Feast of the Ascension – Thursday, May 24th

This 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.

Feast of Pentecost – Sunday, June 3rd

On Sunday, June 3rd, we celebrate the Descent of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, 50 days after Pascha. As a reminder, on this day we will have Vespers with the Kneeling Prayers immediately following the Divine Liturgy. There is a strong possibility that we will be in our new parish center on this Sunday. More information is forthcoming.



Prayer for Graduates

will be offered on Sunday, June 17th, at the end of the Liturgy.

READER SCHEDULE

Sunday, May 27th

Jodi McElwee

Sunday, June 3rd

Gabriela Jones



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	2,455	4,858	-2,403	48,021 + 30K	80,000	79,328



THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD INTO HEAVEN

When the day of the Jewish Pentecost drew near, the disciples of Christ returned from Galilee to Jerusalem. On the fortieth day after the resurrection of Jesus Christ they were all together in one house. Jesus Christ appeared to them and spoke with them saying, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to all creation. He who believes and is baptized will be saved, but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs shall accompany those who believe: in My name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover."

Then the Savior said to the disciples that soon the Holy Spirit would come upon them, and until that time He charged them not to depart from Jerusalem. He said, "I send the promise of My Father upon you; but stay in the city, until you are clothed with power from on high; for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

Conversing with the disciples, the Savior led them out of the city as far as Bethany, to the Mount of Olives. The disciples, overjoyed with the words of the Savior, surrounded Him and started to ask, "Lord will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" The Savior said to them, "It is not for you to know the times or seasons which the Father has fixed by His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth."

When He had said this, Jesus Christ lifted up His hands and blessed His disciples. While He blessed them, He parted from them and He was lifted up to Heaven, and soon a cloud took Him out of their sight. Thus our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ ascended in His physical body to Heaven and sat down at the right Hand of God the Father. His

human soul and body took on the indivisible glory with His divinity. In His divinity, He always is and will be in Heaven and everywhere.

The disciples worshipped the ascended Lord and for a long time continued to stand and gaze into Heaven after Him. Then two angels in white robes appeared before them and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into Heaven? This Jesus, Who was taken up from you into Heaven, will come to earth in the same way (that is, in the flesh), as you saw Him go into heaven."

After this the disciples of Jesus Christ returned to Jerusalem with great joy and stayed there together, awaiting the descent of the Holy Spirit. All of them, together in soul, spent the time in prayer and were continually in the Temple of God, praising and thanking God. With them were several women and Mary, the Most-holy Mother of the Lord Jesus Christ, with their relatives. In those days the apostles, prayerfully, by casting lots, chose from among the other disciples of Christ the twelfth apostle, Matthias, to take the place of Judas the betrayer, who perished.

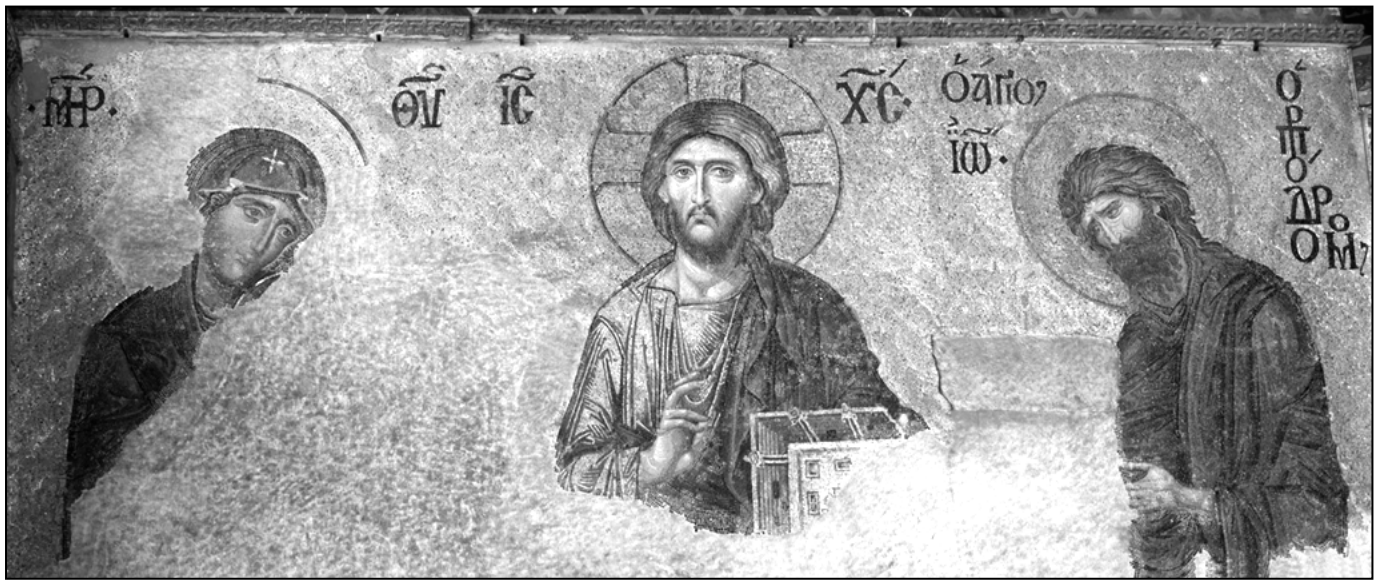
Ascended into Heaven, Jesus Christ, according to His own promise, invisibly always comes to earth among those who believe in Him and will come again to earth in visible form to judge the living and the dead, who will then rise from the dead. After this will begin the life of the next age, another, eternal life which for true believers and pious people will be completely blessed, but for disbelievers and sinners will be a time of great torment.

Troparion

Thou hast ascended in glory, O Christ our God, granting joy to Thy disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit. Through the blessing they were assured that Thou art the Son of God, the Redeemer of the world!

Kontakion

When Thou didst fulfill the dispensation for our sake and unite earth to heaven, Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God, not being parted from those who love Thee, but remaining with them and crying, "I am with you and no one will be against you!"



ICONOGRAPHER AND RUSSIAN HISTORIAN LAUNCHES UNIQUE WEBSITE FEATURING "HAGIA SOPHIA," CHURCH OF THE HOLY WISDOM

From OCA.org

An interesting new site illustrating the history of Constantinople's Church of the Holy Wisdom — popularly known as "Hagia Sophia" — recently appeared on the internet: <http://www.pallasweb.com/deesis>. A "must visit" for Orthodox Christians, especially those interested in Church history, iconography, mosaics, and ecclesiastical architecture, the site gives special attention to the magnificent "Deesis" mosaic in the church's south gallery. Depicting Christ flanked by the Theotokos and Saint John the Forerunner, the exquisite mosaic was uncovered in the 1930s. It's one of the world's most beloved icons of Our Lord.

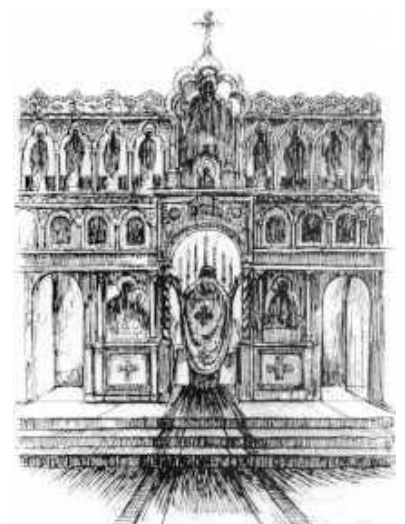
Built by the Byzantine Emperor Justinian in the early sixth century, Hagia Sophia replaced two earlier churches, the first built in 380 AD. It is an engineering marvel, inasmuch as its massive freestanding central dome — the world's largest of its kind — has withstood everything from earthquakes to invasions for 1500 years. After the fall of Constantinople in 1453 AD, it became a mosque. Its current status — that of a state museum — dates back to the early 1900s.

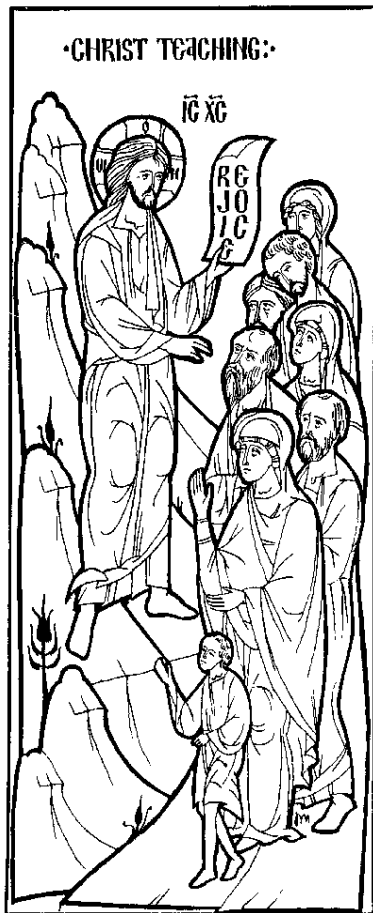
The site is the work of Bob Atchison, an iconographer and Russian historian from Seattle, WA who now lives in Austin, TX. His interest in Hagia Sophia, and especially its Deesis mosaic, dates back to his childhood. The site, which includes invaluable historical information, illustrations, maps and plans, and original photographs not readily found elsewhere, is of special interest to Orthodox Christians in general, and specifically to those desiring deeper insights into Orthodox Church history, iconography, liturgy, and ecclesiastical architecture.

INVISIBLE PRIEST

A comment reported on the Portland, Maine, TV station, Channel 6:

"We could take a cue from Orthodoxy, whose priests stand with their backs to their congregation, leading a liturgy that is neither clever nor impassioned, but simply beautiful, like stone smoothed by centuries of rhythmic tides. It's an austere ritual, in the sense of - there's nothing new here; it's sublime, in the sense of - creating a clearer view into Heaven. The priest can be any priest. Who he is, what he looks like, how he speaks, and what he thinks matter little. He hasn't written the service that he officiates. It isn't about him or his prowess. He's an interchangeable functionary draped in brocaded robes, obscured by incense, and, as such, never points to himself, a flawed human, pointing ever and only to the Perfection of the Mysterious Divine. That is the role of every priest or preacher - invisibility, while making God seen."





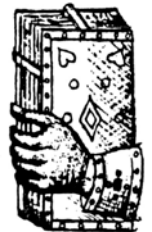
TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

- 1) We are Christ's disciples if we:
 - A. Keep His commandments.
 - B. Love one another.
 - C. Take up our crosses and follow Him.
 - D. All of the above.
- 2) The first bird Noah sent forth from the ark.
 - A. dove
 - B. raven
 - C. nuthatch
 - D. eagle
- 3) Moses received the Ten Commandments 50 days after Passover.
 - A. True
 - B. False
- 4) What happened 50 days after Christ rose from the dead?
 - A. Christ ascended into Heaven.
 - B. The Christians received the Holy Spirit.
 - C. St. Matthias replaced the Judas among the Twelve.
 - D. St. Stephen, the first martyr, was stoned to death.
- 5) To "speak in tongues" means to use words no one can understand.
 - A. True
 - B. False

For answers to these questions, please consult your Bible or page 4.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

1. D, all of the above.
2. B, raven. Genesis 8:7 The raven is an unclean bird, Leviticus 11:15 and Deuteronomy 14:14 The second bird Noah sent forth from the ark was a dove which is a clean bird, Deuteronomy 14:11-20. This prefigured the gift of the Holy Spirit (in the form of a dove) which would come when the old man, subject to sin, was drowned in the waters of Holy Baptism.
3. A, true. This prefigured the Christians receiving the Law of God written on the fleshy tablets of the heart, rather than cold and hard stony tablets.
4. B, the Christians received the Holy Spirit on Pentecost.
5. B, false. The gift of speaking in tongues meant precisely the opposite. The Book of Acts records how the Apostles were able to proclaim the wonderful works of God to every person in Jerusalem, not in gibberish but to each in their own language.



DON'T BE A FISH OUT OF WATER

St. John Chrysostom, the superb homilist who was called the "Golden-mouthed", was especially concerned for the spiritual and moral development of his flock and, as a result, he was especially interested in teaching them how to pray. As trees cannot live without water, so man's soul cannot live without prayerful contact with God, he taught. If you deprive yourself of prayer, you will become like a fish out of water because as water is life for a fish, so is prayer for you.

