



# CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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## BULLETIN OF FEBRUARY 17, 2013

### A Warm Welcome!

We warmly welcome all of our visitors. We are very pleased to have you with us today! Please consider staying after the service for fellowship at our coffee hour in the hall.

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17<sup>TH</sup>

#### Zacchaeus Sunday

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

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23<sup>RD</sup>

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

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24<sup>TH</sup>

#### Publican and Pharisee Sunday

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

### Catechumen Meetings

are being held twice a month following the coffee hour. This month's second meeting is today, Sunday, February 17<sup>th</sup>.

### The Parish Council – Sunday, Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>

will be blessed to assume their duties at the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, February 24<sup>th</sup>. Following the coffee hour on this same day, the new council will meet to elect officers. All council members are reminded to prepare themselves for this high calling and important day with prayer, a recent confession, and Holy Communion.



### The New Directory of Parishioners and Friends

is at the candle stand in draft form. Please review it to see if there are any mistakes or omissions. Final revisions are being made in the next few weeks before it goes to print.

### On the Church

*"The likeness of Thy Church, O Lord, is that woman who went behind and touched the hem of Thy garment, saying within herself: 'If I do but touch His garment I shall be whole' (Mt. 9:21). So the Church confesses her wounds, and desires to be healed."*

St. Ambrose of Milan, 4<sup>th</sup> C



### The Sacrament of Confession

Parents with children, age 7 or older, are asked to speak with Fr. John about scheduling confession for their children. Likewise, adults who have questions about confession or would like to schedule an appointment for themselves are asked to speak with Fr. John. All Orthodox Christians should regularly avail themselves of this holy mystery, especially if they are frequent communicants.

### Altar Servers Meeting – Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>

A meeting of altar servers will take place on Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, following the coffee hour. All those who already serve in the altar or have interest in doing so are asked to be present for this important meeting. We need volunteers for this important ministry/privilege. Questions, please see Fr. John.



### Have Something on Your Mind?

Feel free to talk to your priest. Fr. John can be reached any time: 302-537-6055 or frjohn@orthodoxdelmarva.org.

### READER SCHEDULE

#### Sunday, Feb. 24th

Kathy Parrish

#### Sunday, Mar. 3<sup>rd</sup>

Bruce Eckerd



**Living:** Fr. Alexander Atty, Fr. Christian, Mat. Dunia, Hayley, Tyler Pelesh, Wallace & Michelle, John Trax, Maleah Morsey, Victoria Kokkinos, Karen Nichols, Denise Royal, Jane Koshutko, Nina Gordon, Mirela & Chris, Bruce Eckerd, Stella, Ari, Nedelina, Liliana, Nada and child, Jess and child, Irene Clenney, Katie Hawley. **Departed:** Fr. Michael Mihalick, Kathryn, Avramia.

CASH FLOWS						FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT					
OPERATING THRU 12/31/12			RENOVATION THRU 12/31/12			FEBRUARY OPERATING			ASSETS & LIABILITIES – 2/17/13		
Income	Expense	Net	Income	Expense	Net	Income	Goal	Difference	Checking	Overdue	Due 2/2014
69,126	59,676	+9,450	73,436	95,780	-22,344	3,077	4,858	-2,781	+3,551	0	-29,225

## 'GOD WOULD NOT SEND YOU THIS BABY IN ORDER TO LET YOU PERISH':

### A ROMANIAN MOM'S MIRACLE PREGNANCY

by Peter Baklinski / From *lifesitenews.com*

BUCHAREST, Romania, July 4, 2012 – Daniela Popa's husband was away on spiritual retreat in Mount Athos, Greece, when she suddenly began to experience a high fever that she could not bring under control. It was May 2005. Daniela's worries increased when she also began to experience heavy fatigue, intense sweating, and swollen neck glands. When Daniela's husband Richard finally returned, an emergency biopsy revealed stage 2 Hodgkin lymphoma, or cancer of the lymphatic system.

Natural treatment proved ineffective and within months, Daniela was fighting for her life against the most aggressive form of the cancer (stage 4).

"The fever was higher, my glands had grown bigger and I was itching all over my body," recalled Daniela in an interview with *Familia Ortodox* magazine.

By September, Daniela was hardly able to walk anymore. Her swollen glands made her neck double in size. The pain and the abundant sweating made it practically impossible for her to sleep at night.

"I would change my clothes a dozen times a night, and my fever would not go below 38 °C (100.4 °F)," she recounted.

Daniela began a desperate regimen of chemotherapy which was to be followed by radiotherapy, but had to stop after her body refused to cooperate with the grueling treatment. Subsequent tests revealed why. Daniela had contracted tuberculosis.

The body of the sick woman was now saturated with a matrix of chemotherapy drugs and nine antibiotics that she had taken for six weeks to combat tuberculosis. A tomography was scheduled to determine how much damage the tuberculosis had caused to Daniela's lungs.

#### Two lives in the balance

Daniela was about to receive the most challenging news of her life.

"During the tomography, I realized that something was not exactly right. The machine stopped. Then a pause followed, and then it restarted."

What Daniela did not know was that the doctor had stopped the machine when he noticed that his patient was not the only one being scanned.

Daniela was pregnant. The doctor restarted the scan only after consulting with Daniela's husband Richard.

"Basically, I was irradiated twice," said Daniela.

The newly discovered life in Daniela's womb now had three strikes against it. Not only did the little one have to contend with the toxic environment of chemotherapy drugs and tuberculosis antibiotics,

but it also had just received a double-dose of radiation, which is known to cause severe health defects to unborn babies.

Doctors strongly urged the parents to terminate.

"At that moment I had very little faith," said Richard to LifeSiteNews. "I only thought of my wife's health and nothing about God. I was sure that abortion was the



The Popa family in Israel last month. Richard & Daniela and their children Mihaela, Andrei, and Antonie.

best solution."

After the tomography, only one doctor had words of encouragement for the distraught Daniela. "Do you think God has sent you this baby in order to let you perish?"

#### 'You have no right over the life of that child'

Daniela and Richard approached their 'spiritual father', Orthodox priest Ion Popescu, and asked if they should follow the advice of the doctors.

"You have no right whatsoever over the life of that child," the priest responded gently.

After these words, Daniela and Richard remember experiencing a "big burden" being lifted from their shoulders and "moved onto God's shoulders."

With new hearts, the couple now turned to their faith as a previously untapped source of courage, hope, and strength. Up until now they had placed

their trust in doctors and drugs to overcome the sickness. Now, with a baby in the picture, and with the blessing of their spiritual father, they decided to place all their trust in God.

Stepping out in faith, Daniela decided to interrupt all treatments and give no more thoughts to her sickness. She focused exclusively on the life of the child in her womb.

Daniela and Richard dedicated their unborn child to the Mother of God praying, "Holy Mother of God, please take care of this child. We give it to you; it is yours. May your will be done."

The couple begged for prayers from the faith-filled people who lived in their area. Their plight inspired an entire monastery, where Daniela's brother is a monk, to storm heaven with prayers for the protection of the mother and child and for a safe delivery.

Daniela turned to the "Holy Mysteries" of her faith for strength and healing. Every week she received the Anointing of the Sick. She frequented the sacrament of Confession to make her soul right with God. She made every effort to regularly receive Jesus into her ailing body in Holy Communion.

One gynecologist, however, continued to insist that Daniela abort, pointing out that "you can't have it all: get healed, see your child live, and also see it free of malformation".

But that doctor was wrong.

### **A miracle**

On January 17 2007, the feast day of Saint Anthony the Great, little Antonie came into the world. To the astonishment of all the doctors, numerous tests revealed that the child was perfectly healthy.

"We regard this miracle as the fruit of the prayers of many of our brethren – monks, priests, and laymen," the parents say.

The doctors were even more astonished by the improved condition of Daniela's health. An X-ray after the baby's birth showed a complete absence of tuberculosis.

"The doctor held up both my X-rays – the one before and the one after the birth – and she couldn't believe that they belonged to the same person, who had been so sick and had not taken any conventional treatment over the past months."

Further tests indicated that even Daniela's cancer was in remission.

"What happened to Daniela is simply a miracle," said Richard to LifeSiteNews. "We believe that putting our faith in God is what cured my wife. It was such a hopeless case. And such hopeless cases cannot be solved by medicine alone, but by prayer, a lot of prayer."

Daniela, who is now cancer free and enjoys good health, believes that she went through this time of trial so that "God's power would be shown".

"Through the miracle that we lived, God's power was shown".

The couple has learned to "thank God for this trial", saying that it has set a "fire in our hearts for God".

They will be forever grateful for the words of their 'spiritual father', words that they say were the "beginning of a miracle".

"Can you imagine where we would be if we did not have Father Ion Popescu giving us such holy advice?" said Richard. "Maybe Daniela and Antonie would no longer be with me today."

*Editor's note: Richard told LifeSiteNews that Antonie, now 6, is a "clever, beautiful, obedient boy" with "a lot of energy" who is "loved by all". Daniela continues to enjoy good health and the blessing of being surrounded by her loving family including Mihaela, 17, and Andrei, 16.*



Daniela Popa with her miracle 6-year-old Antonie



Doctors said to Daniela: "you can't have it all: get healed, see your child live, and also see it free of malformation". Antonie, now 6, is a "clever, beautiful, obedient boy" with "a lot of energy" who is "loved by all".

## **LIVE TO GIVE... WHAT?**

*From Parish Publishing LLC*

Waiting for a red light to turn green, my eye caught some bold graffiti on a corner telephone pole. "I live 2 give," was the large black spray-painted message. "Well, that's different," I thought to myself. In fact, it struck me as a rather noble sentiment... at first. But then, the incongruity of a generous thought delivered by means of a careless defacing of property became apparent.

I live 2 give



### **What makes a gift a real gift?**

I wondered what kinds of gifts does this person "live to give?" And what types of "gifts" are unwelcome ones... graffiti? Thoughtlessness? Cheap attention getters? What makes a gift a real gift? How about quality control! And before judging another, how about my own kind of gifts and my own quality control? Who sets my standard?

Because God gives first to you and to me, giving should be a response to God's loving gifts. God's gifts set the standard! My gifts cannot be on par with God's gifts to me, by my gifts, large or small, can be my way of showing love and glorifying God. With the best of intentions, I should give my best, knowing that God's grace will overcome my inadequacy. Hopefully, I, too, "can live 2 give," but live to give my best to God and others!

## **KING DAVID'S ACCEPTABLE OFFERING**

*From Parish Publishing LLC*

King David was truly remarkable in the depth of his devotion to God, but no less remarkable was the distance he was able to fall away from God at times. At one point fairly late in his reign, David ordered a census to be taken of the population of his kingdom. For reasons that are not clear from Scriptures, this census was a sin against God.

The Bible does not even hint at why this aroused God's anger, but we may assume that the wrongness of the act was so obvious at the time that the biblical author did not feel that he needed to explain it.

It was so clearly wrong that even Joab, the commander-in-chief of David's army, strongly advised the king not to do it, but David ordered it done anyway. Soon thereafter, a plague, which was understood to be God's punishment for David's sin, killed 70,000 men in Israel in three days. The plague ended before Jerusalem itself was touched by it, and David was deeply repentant of his sin.



### **David's Sacrifice**

The prophet Gad came to David with God's instruction. David was to offer a sacrifice at the place where the angel of death stopped. That spot happened to be the farm of a Jebusite named Araunah.

Araunah was working at his threshing floor harvesting grain when David approached and asked to purchase the threshing floor to build an altar unto the Lord. Araunah felt that it would be a great honor to serve the king and offered to give David not only the threshing floor for the location, but also his oxen for the sacrificial animals and the threshing sleds and ox yoke for the firewood.

But David replied, "No, but I will buy it from you for a price; I will not offer burnt offerings to the Lord my God which cost me nothing."

### **The gift must cost the giver**

II Samuel 24:18-25 speaks loudly to us of honoring God. David could have accepted Araunah's generous offer but in so doing he would have dishonored God and himself. The kingdom of God requires sacrificial devotion, and that can only be so when the gift costs the giver.

David knew that the sacrifice would have far less value and meaning if he offered to God that which belonged to another. It was meaningful only if it cost him. David knew something that Christians often overlook... that stewardship, which is another name for honoring God, is not an optional part of our faith, but an integral element of it. In fact, without stewardship, the rest of our Christian witness is devalued; just as David's sacrifice would have been had he not paid for it.