



CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2013

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH

Nativity of the Theotokos

One of the Twelve Great Feasts

8:40a.m. Hours
 9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy
 Coffee Hr. / Open Pool

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH

7:00p.m. Great Vespers w/ Litiya

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH

Exaltation of the Precious Cross

One of the Twelve Great Feasts

8:40a.m. Hours
 9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy
 Lenten Meal
 6:00p.m. Great Vespers

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH

Sunday After the Cross

8:40a.m. Hours
 9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy
 Coffee Hr. / Open Pool

Orthodox Christianity has not been tried and found wanting; it has been found difficult and left untried.

G. K. Chesterton

READER SCHEDULE

Sunday, Sept. 15th

Bruce Eckerd

Sunday, September 22nd

Joanne Patrick



Exaltation of the Holy Cross – September 14th

This feast commemorates the finding of the True Cross of Christ by St. Helen, the mother of St. Constantine the Great. On this day, the founding priest of our Mission, Fr. Daniel Hubiak was ordained to the Holy Priesthood. We wish him and Mat. Dunia, many blessed years! There will be a lenten meal offered following the Divine Liturgy for all in attendance.



“Polar Bear Club” Sunday – September 15th

Next Sunday will be the final day for swimming during the coffee hour and until 1:30pm. All are welcome to take one last dip in the “frigid” waters. Parents please watch your children even though a lifeguard is on duty.



Church Cleaners Needed

We are in need of a few volunteers to help clean the chapel each week, following the Sunday Divine Liturgy. The work is minimal and the blessings, great! If you are willing to help, please see Fr. John.

Greeters Needed

Those who are interested in serving as Greeters – persons who especially welcome visitors, above and beyond the warm welcome offered by all – are asked to please see Darrell Wilson.



Living: Fr. Alexander Atty, Fr. Christian, Mat. Dunia, Hayley, Tyler Pelesh, Wallace & Michelle, John Trax, Karen Nichols, Denise Royal, Jane Koshutko, Nina Gordon, Mirela & Chris, Bruce Eckerd, Stella, Ari, Nedelina, Liliana, Irene Clenney, Katie Hawley, Rob & Jenny Barbarita, George & Ellen, Lorraine, Susan Pappas, Jerry Knode, Daria Virvan, Ryan and Kayla Wilson, Nancy. **Departed:** Frank Pappas, Mary Sue.

CASH FLOWS THROUGH 5/31/13					CASH FLOWS IN SEPTEMBER 2013					FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT		
OPERATING		OTHER		ALL	OPERATING		OTHER		ALL	ASSETS & LIABILITIES – 9/08		
Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Net	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Net	Checking	Overdue	Due 2/2014
27,450	21,348	23,473	17,245	+12,330	3,475	2921	350	0	+904	+2,176	0	-12,963

ON OUR CHOICE

By St. Theophan the Recluse

God does not desire the death of a sinner, but He does present a choice, and only he who chooses salvation will be saved. If our consent were not required, God could save everyone in a single instant, for He wants everyone to be saved. In that case, no one at all would perish. But our free will does not always act wisely; it becomes stubborn and does not obey even God. That is how we perish.



ON SIN AND THE WILL OF GOD

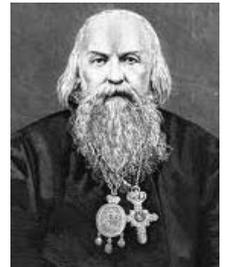
By St. Anthony the Great

Things that are done according to nature aren't sins, but those done by choice; it's not a sin to eat, so that the body will be properly maintained in life without any evil thought, but it is to eat without gratitude and improperly and without restraint; neither is it a sin to look with chastity, but it is a sin to look with envy, pride and desire; it is not a sin to listen quietly, but it is with anger. It's not a sin to let the tongue be unrestrained in thanksgiving and prayer, but it is to speak evil; to not let your hands do acts of mercy, but to commit murder and theft. So each of our members sins if it does evil instead of good, doing things its own way and not according to the will of God.

ON THE KEEPING OF THE GOSPEL COMMANDMENTS

By St. Ignatius Brianchaninov

The Lord's commandments are Spirit and life. They save the doer of them. They restore a dead soul to life. They make a carnal and worldly person spiritual. On the other hand a person who neglects the commandments ruins himself and remains in a carnal and worldly state, in a fallen condition, and develops the fall in himself. This animal man does not receive the gifts of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him.



THE EXALTATION OF THE PRECIOUS CROSS

Celebrated on September 14th

Saint Helen, the mother of Saint Constantine the Great, when she was already advanced in years, undertook, in her great piety, the hardships of a journey to Jerusalem in search of the cross, about the year 325. A temple to Aphrodite had been raised up by the Emperor Hadrian upon Golgotha, to defile and cover with oblivion the place where the saving Passion had been suffered. The venerable Helen had the statue of Aphrodite destroyed, and the earth removed, revealing the Tomb of our Lord, and three crosses. Of these, it was believed that one must be that of our Lord, the other two of the thieves crucified with Him; but Saint Helen was at a loss which one might be the Wood of our salvation. At the inspiration of Saint Macarius, Archbishop of Jerusalem, a lady of Jerusalem, who was already at the point of death from a certain disease, was brought to touch the crosses, and as soon as she came near to the Cross of our Lord, she was made perfectly whole. Consequently, the precious Cross was lifted on high by Archbishop Macarius of Jerusalem; as he stood on the ambo, and when the people beheld it, they cried out, "Lord have mercy." It should be noted that after its discovery, a portion of the venerable Cross was taken to Constantinople as a blessing. The rest was left in Jerusalem in the magnificent church built by Saint Helen, until the year 614. At that time, the Persians plundered Palestine and took the Cross to their own country (see Jan. 22, Saint Anastasius the Persian). Late, in the year 628, Emperor Heraclius set out on a military campaign, retrieved the Cross, and after bringing it to Constantinople, himself escorted it back to Jerusalem, where he restored it to its place.





CONQUERING FEAR

Written by the Very Rev. Vladimir Berzonsky

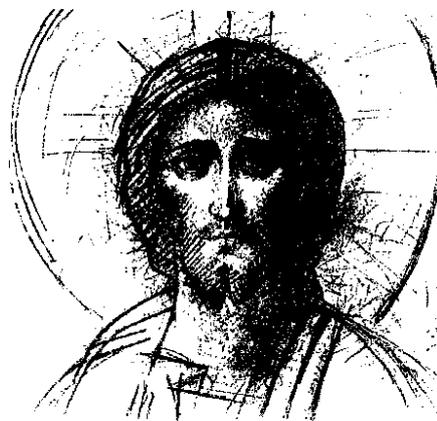
"Then Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.' And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'" (John 20:21).

This alone if nothing else one realizes and takes away from the Divine Liturgy—the peace of Christ. This makes it worth every effort to be present among Christ's loved ones. Who is more frightened than those Galileans in Jerusalem on the day when Jesus Christ had been crucified, and they were certain that they were next. Trembling with fear, expecting at any moment for the door to be broken in and to be driven away for execution – suddenly He appears, not through the door but in their midst. He was there all the time, or rather there in their presence incognito. That even ought to inspire all of us, especially when we are afraid.

The great spiritual lay writer Paul Evdokimov wrote: "A lay person is also one who is freed by his faith from 'the great fear' of the bomb, of cancer, of Communism, of death. The faith of such a person is always a way of loving the world, a way of following the Lord even into hell." (Ages of the Spiritual Life, p. 242) Yes, that was the last century. Today we no longer fear Communism, thank the Lord, but we have exchanged fears. Then our presidents thought to protect the USA with a defense shield that would prevent attacks from beyond our borders. Now we have become fearful of attacks within our land. Consider the exercises we go through to take a flight. We arrive at least an hour before scheduled takeoff, are sure to have an official photo image, have tickets in our name, baggage all vetted, then computers, coats, even shoes are sent through the screening apparatus, there is the possibility of a body search, and we are told to be suspicious of our fellow passengers. When out walking or jogging after dark, I cross over to the other side of the street if I notice a woman ahead of me alone, lest I startle her and

cause her anxiety. Add to that road rage, the expression of pent-up hostility that people behind steering wheels vent on other vehicles as if the highways and streets were fields of combat and the drivers were the enemy. This is life in the new millennium.

You may find temporary relief from pills from the drug store's shelves, even stronger with a physician's prescription. However, you will discover the glorious lasting peace offered by our Lord, God and Savior, Jesus Christ, a peace transcending anything the world has to offer, by clearing your mind and heart from the clutter of remembered offenses done to you with the help of the Holy Spirit within your soul, sweeping away all the detritus of hurts no longer in your power to react to, and thank Christ for the overwhelming gift of affection symbolized in the Cross. Then while you are in Church,



forget your watch and what is going on around you. Learn to imbibe the peace of God that surpasses the ability to understand what God is doing for you and with your acceptance. Even if it lasts but a moment, try to cling to it, thank Him for the feeling, and strive to keep it with you as long as you are able, as you return to the challenges of the world outside.

As the choir sings "Lay aside all earthly cares," you may imagine yourself wafting upward where the angels and saints hover above. The Spirit is like the helium in a balloon within you – let it fill you with peace. Your cares are like the heavy sand bags, weighing you down and preventing your ascent. Cut them off. You can see the priest ahead of you taking into the sacred altar the precious gifts of Jesus Christ Himself, offered by Him for the life of the world, and He invites you to proceed with Him. What's holding you back? Are you enslaved to the wrongs, insults and injuries inflicted on you by the world, or do you belong to His Kingdom? If the latter, then don't dally. Go with Him.

CLOSER TO GOD: MONK WHO LIVES ON TOP OF A 131-FOOT PILLAR

From Catholic.org

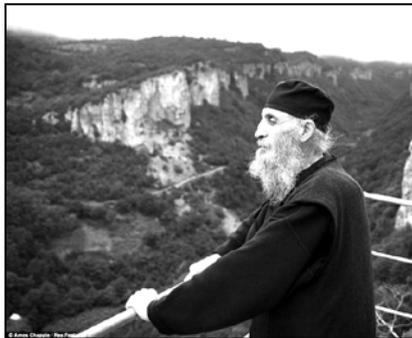
Maxime Qavtaradze, a 59-year-old Orthodox monk, has taken his devotion to God - to new heights - literally. Fr. Maxime has lived a life of virtual solitude on top of a pillar high above his Georgian monastery for 20 years.

LOS ANGELES, CA - When he wants to leave the Katskhi Pillar, he spends 20 minutes getting down a 131-foot ladder. Supplies are winched up to him by his followers. He only comes down twice a week to pray with his followers.



Having worked as a crane operator before taking his orders in 1993, Fr. Maxime has always had a head for heights. "It is up here in the silence that you can feel God's presence," he says. His only visitors are priests and a group of troubled young men who seek solace in the monastery at the foot of the pillar.

Photographer Amos Chapple paid a visit to Fr. Maxime. He was not at first allowed up onto the pillar. Chapple had to spend four days taking part in seven hours of daily prayers including a four hour stint from 2 a.m. until sunrise. Finally allowed to scale the "dicey" ladder to the top, he was worried that it might be too dark to get back down. Reaching the top, Fr. Maxime told Amos that he became a monk after a stretch in prison and decided he wanted to make a change.



He first slept in a refrigerator when he first moved to the top of the pillar. He now has a bed inside a cottage.

The Katskhi Pillar was used by stylites, Christians who lived on top of pillars to avoid worldly temptation until the 15th century when the practice was stopped following the Ottoman invasion of Georgia. For centuries the 131-foot high pillar lay abandoned and locals could only look up at the mysterious ruins at its summit.

A group led by the mountaineer Alexander Japaridze in 1944 made the first documented ascent of the pillar and discovered the remains of a chapel and the skeleton of a stylite who had reposed there. With the

collapse of communism, and the resurgence of religion in Georgia, Fr. Maxime decided to live atop the pillar in the way of the old stylites.

"When I was young I drank, sold drugs, everything. When I ended up in prison I knew it was time for a change. I used to drink with friends in the hills around here and look up at this place, where land met sky. We knew the monks had lived up there before and I felt great respect for them."

ON OBEDIENCE AS A SHIELD AGAINST PRIDE

By St. Nikolai Velimirovich

He who desires to be saved must be absolutely obedient to spiritual authority. Without this obedience, a man can perish even with the greatest desire for salvation. The great saints, who prescribed obedience as the condition for salvation, also fulfilled the act of obedience to perfection. When St. Simeon chose the pillar for his asceticism, it struck the other ascetics as some kind of novelty. Because they did not know if this form of asceticism was of the Spirit of God or of the spirit of pride, the desert fathers sent spiritual men to determine the answer. The monks were to command Simeon in their name to come down from the pillar. If he did not want to come down, it would have meant that his elevation on the pillar was from the spirit of pride. But if he obeyed the command and began to descend, they were to leave him as he was, for his readiness to obey would show that his asceticism was from the Holy Spirit. When those sent arrived and told Simeon that the council of the holy fathers of the desert commanded him to descend from the pillar, Simeon immediately began to climb down the ladder. Seeing his obedience, they cried out to him rejoicing: "Do not come down, holy Father, but remain where you are. We see now that your asceticism is of God."

