



CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN OF JULY 20, 2014

A Warm Welcome!

We warmly welcome all of our visitors, especially Fr. Daniel Kovalak, who will offered today's homily! It's good to have you with us!

Blessing of Chariots – Today

It is a custom of Orthodox Christians to have their cars blessed both when newly acquired and on or near the feast of the Prophet Elias (July 20th), as he ascended as if into heaven on a fiery chariot. There will be a blessing of automobiles (bikes, tricycles, scooters, etc.) immediately after the veneration of the Cross at the end of Liturgy today.



Open Pool

Following the Divine Liturgy and until 1pm, the pool will be open for swimming. A certified lifeguard will be on duty, but parents should still watch their children. Be safe and enjoy! Questions? Please see Fr. John.



Why Not?

Consider sponsoring an item from our "Liturgical Needs" list which is posted in the back of the church at the candle stand. If you have a question about anything on this list, please see Fr. John.

Haven't Seen Someone in a While?

Give them an email or a call. Let them know that you miss them.



Vacation Planning

An online directory of Orthodox churches in North America is available at orthodoxyinamerica.org. Everyone needs a vacation sometime, but who really wants or can afford a vacation from God? If you don't have the internet, ask your priest to help find you a parish while you are away.

Dormition Fast – August 1-14th

Each year the Church observes a 2 week fast from August 1st through August 15th, the feast of the Dormition (or "Falling Asleep") of the Mother of God. This great feast is called the Summer Pascha as it commemorates the death, burial, resurrection, and ascension of the Virgin Mary.



Looking Ahead – 3 Great Feasts in August

In the month of August we celebrate three Great Feasts: Transfiguration of the Lord (8/6), Dormition of the Theotokos (8/15), and Our Parish Feast – The Icon Not-Made-By-Hands (8/16). Please note these days and make a special effort to attend the Services.

Have Something on Your Mind?

Feel free to talk to your priest. Fr. John can be reached anytime via phone, 302-537-6055 or email, frjohn@orthodoxdelmarva.org.

SUNDAY, JULY 20TH 6th Sunday of Pentecost Prophet Elias

8:40a.m. Hours
 9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy
 Blessing of Chariots
 Coffee Hour/Open Pool

WEDNESDAY, JULY 23RD "Joy of All Who Sorrow"

9:00a.m. Akathist

SATURDAY, JULY 26TH 6:00p.m. Great Vespers

SUNDAY, JULY 27TH 7th Sunday of Pentecost

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

On Christian Mission

Acquire the Spirit of Peace and a thousand around you will be saved.

St. Seraphim of Sarov

READER SCHEDULE

Sunday, July 27th

Gabriela Jones

Sunday, August 3rd

Alexis Oleynik



CASH FLOWS THROUGH 6/30/14					CASH FLOWS IN JULY 2014					FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT		
OPERATING		OTHER		ALL	OPERATING		OTHER		ALL	ASSETS & LIABILITIES – 7/20		
Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Net	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Net	Checking	Overdue	Mortgage
39,142	34,344	6,231	9,850	+1,179	2,490	5,379	0	0	-2,889	9,577	0	356,992

THE BLESSING OF AUTOMOBILES

O Lord our God, Who makes the clouds Thy chariot and Who walks on the wings of the wind, Who has sent to Thy servant, the Prophet Elias, a chariot of fire, Who has guided man to invent this (car, truck, motorcycle, etc.) which is as fast as the wind. We thank Thee for Thou hast provided Thy servants with this vehicle to serve their various needs. Therefore, O Master, pour out now upon it Thy heavenly blessings; assign to it a guardian angel to preserve it from all evil. And as Thou didst grant faith and grace by Thy deacon Philip to the man from Ethiopia who was sitting in his chariot and reading holy Scripture, show the way of salvation to Thy servants. So that helped by Thy grace and always intent on doing good works, they may after all the trials of their pilgrimage on earth, attain to everlasting joys, through the intercessions of our Most-pure Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, by the power of the precious and life-giving Cross; through the prayers of the holy Angels; of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker and of all the Saints: For Thou art the Provider and Sanctifier of all things and to Thee do we ascribe glory, and to Thy Only-begotten Son, and Thy All-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.



10 COMMANDMENTS FOR DRIVERS

- I. Always begin a trip with prayer, making the Sign of the Cross and entrusting yourself to the Lord.
- II. Never drink and drive.
- III. Never try to shorten the time of a trip. If you started out late, you will arrive late. Do not speed.
- IV. Apologize to a driver whom you have interfered with, even when you did not intend to. After all, when we are walking, and bump someone, we apologize without thinking. So why should there be a different ethic behind the wheel?
- V. Always yield way to someone who is in a great hurry, or is driving aggressively. If you do not yield, he will still pass you, but the situation will be more dangerous.
- VI. Give a wave of thanks to a driver who makes way for you.
- VII. Drive in such a way that you won't fear seeing a police car. Remember that God is watching, even if the police are not.
- VIII. Stay as far away as possible from cars that have dents or show signs of accidents. But be careful not to judge, or you may share in their misfortune.
- IX. Never speed up when another driver tries to pass you, or to get into your lane. Do not treat your neighbor in a way you do not want to be treated.
- X. After every trip, thank God for its safe completion. Be thankful after any trip, and not just a successful one. After all, almost always it could have been worse!

THE HOLY PROPHET ELIAS

From the Prologue by St. Nikolai Velimirovich

Saint Elias, one who saw God, a miracle-worker and a zealot for faith in God, was born of the tribe of Aaron from the town Tishba for which he was called the Tishbite. When St. Elias was born, his father Savah saw an angel of God hovering around the child, wrapping the child in fire and giving him a flame to eat. That was a foreshadowing of Elias's fiery character and his God-given fiery power. He spent his entire youth in godly thoughts and prayers withdrawing frequently into the wilderness to contemplate and to pray in solitude.

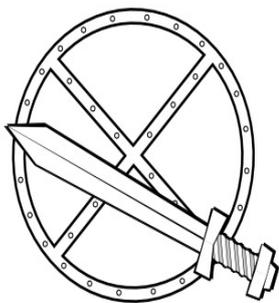
At that time the Jewish kingdom was divided into two unequal parts: the kingdom of Judah consisting of only two tribes, the tribes of Judah and Benjamin with their capital in Jerusalem and the kingdom of Israel consisting of the remaining ten tribes with their capital in Samaria. The first kingdom was governed by the descendants of Solomon and the second kingdom was governed by the descendants of Jeroboam, the servants of Solomon. The greatest confrontation that the prophet Elias had was with the Israelite King Ahab and his evil wife Jezebel. For they, Ahab and Jezebel, worshipped idols and were turning the people away from serving the One and Living God. Before this, however, Jezebel, a Syrian, persuaded her husband to erect a temple to the Syrian god Baal and ordered many priests to the service of this false god. Through great miracles Elias displayed the power and authority of God: he closed up the heavens, so that there was not any rain for three years and six months; he lowered a fire from heaven and burned the sacrifice to his God which the pagan priests of Baal were unable to do; he brought down rain from heaven by his prayer; miraculously multiplied flour and oil in the home of the widow in Zerepath, and resurrected her son; he prophesied to Ahab that the dogs will lick up his blood and to Jezebel that the dogs will consume her flesh, all of which happened as well as many other miracles did he perform and prophesy. On Mount Horeb, he spoke with God and heard the voice of God in the calm of a gentle breeze. Before his death he took Elisha and designated him as his successor in the prophetic calling; by his mantle he divided the waters of the Jordan river; finally he was taken up into the heavens in a fiery chariot by flaming horses. He appeared on Mount Tabor to our Lord Jesus Christ together with Moses. Before the end of the world St. Elias will appear again to put an end to the power of the anti-Christ (Revelation, Chapter 11).



FOR CONSIDERATION

From the Prologue of Ochrid

Moses spoke to the sons of Israel: "I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. Choose life...that you may live" (Deuteronomy 30:19). There are some decisive moments in the life of men when, indeed, it is left up to man to choose between life or death. Judas, in a decisive moment, was corrupted by silver and he chose death, i.e., the sin of avarice [greed]. When the general wanted to elevate Marinus the soldier (August 7) to the rank of an officer (centurion), envious men accused him of being a Christian. The general permitted him only three hours to contemplate and to choose between life or death, i.e., either to deny Christ or to die. Marinus, hearing the words of his superior, went to the local bishop, Theotechnus, and asked him for advice. The bishop led Marinus into the church, stood him before the Gospel and pointing his hand, at first to the Gospel and after that to the sword which hung from Marinus' waist, said to him: "Choose courageous man, one of these two; either to wear the sword and serve the earthly king temporarily and, after death, be lost eternally or to become a soldier of the Heavenly King and lay down your life for His Holy Name which is written in this Book and to reign with Him in eternal life." Marinus immediately decided, kissed the Book of the Holy Gospel and departed through death into life eternal.



ASK FATHER: ONE QUESTION / ONE ANSWER

Question: Why can't girls serve in the altar?

Answer: Great question! Especially for today when there is a tendency to confuse "equality" with "sameness" when looking at gender related issues.

First, we have to say that just as apples and oranges are both equally fruits and they are not the same, so too men and women are equal but not the same.

In the Church, men and women are equals in that both were created in the image of God and both are called to become like Him by being filled with the Holy Spirit. In Galatians 3:28, St. Paul even writes that "there is neither male nor female: for you are all one in Christ Jesus." Please pardon the expression but when it comes to giving His grace, God is an "equally-opportunity lender."

Now, though God made men and women equal, He obviously didn't make them the same. For instance, with the exception of Arnold Schwarzenegger, who had a baby in the movie *Junior*, men cannot give birth to children. Only women have been given the amazing opportunity to carry a child in the womb; nurturing it, caring for it, being in a very real sense "one" with the child in a way that fathers can never experience. Of course, this doesn't make women better than men, just different.

In a similar manner, though men and women are both equally part of the "royal priesthood" (1 Peter 2:9), God has given the responsibility of the sacramental priesthood to men. Perhaps because a male priest more easily represents, the God-man, Jesus Christ, Who is the Great High-Priest. Or perhaps because the Lord chose twelve men to be His apostles. Whole books have been written on this subject, starting with the Scriptures themselves. But, honestly, when it comes down to it, we really don't know why God has chosen men to be priests. All we know is that He has. Why did God make it so that women can bear children and men can't? Who knows! All we know is that God made it this way. This is His world and His Church. And, by the way, thank God for that!

And so, since women don't become priests, the Church doesn't train them behind the altar as servers. Girls usually apply their talents to other forms on ministry: in the choir, as church school teachers, caring for those in need, and perhaps most importantly, raising children in the Lord. I am reminded of the words of St. Theophan the Recluse, "Of all the holy works, the education of children is the most holy."

Finally, I will mention that in most women's monasteries, where there are no men to assist the priest in the altar, the nuns fulfill this responsibility. Likewise, in most churches it is a woman – the Virgin Mary – who is depicted on the main wall in the altar above the Holy of Holies. She is depicted in this spot because of both her great holiness as well as her special role in salvation history. After all, according to Church teaching, she not only entered the Holy of Holies as a little girl, but she also became the Holy of Holies, bearing the living God in her virginal womb. This is why of all the saints, men and women from every generation, she alone is called "full of grace", "blessed by all generations," and "more honorable than the cherubim, more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim." How did she achieve such heights? Because, like with the priesthood and pregnancy, this was how God ordained it, and she wholeheartedly embraced His will. What a great example for all of us - men and women alike!



ON THE DIVINE CRAFTSMAN

St. Methodius of Olympus

Seeing man, His fairest work, corrupted by envious treachery, God could not endure, with His love for man, to leave him in such a condition, lest he should be forever defective, and bear the blame for eternity; but He dissolved him again into his original components, so that, by remodeling, all the blemishes in him might waste away and disappear. For the melting down of the statue in the former case corresponds to the death and dissolution of the body in the latter, and the remodeling of the material in the former, to the resurrection after death in the latter.