

# CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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## BULLETIN OF DECEMBER 3, 2017

### A Warm Welcome!

We warmly welcome all our visitors. It's good to have you with us!

### The Feast of St. Nicholas

is held annually on December 6<sup>th</sup>. We will have Great Vespers on the eve at 7:00pm and the Divine Liturgy at 9:00am on the day. At the end of the Liturgy we will have a special prayer to St. Nicholas, and the children of the parish will be given gold (chocolate) coins in honor of the Saint's great charity.



### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup>

#### 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

8:40a.m. Hours  
 9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy  
 Coffee Hr  
 Church School  
 Parish Council Mtg.

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup>

7:00p.m. Great Vespers

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>

#### St. Nicholas the Wonderworker

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

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup>

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

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>

#### 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

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

### The Parish Council

The 4<sup>th</sup> quarterly meeting will take place on Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, following the coffee hour. All are welcome to attend.

### Our Directory of Parishioners and Friends

is currently being updated. If you attend Christ the Savior Mission even infrequently and are not yet listed in our directory, please fill out a directory form in the back of the church. An updated directory will be made available at the candle stand in early 2018. Questions, please see Nissa Nancy. Thank you!



### Bible Study

is meeting each week at 5pm on Saturday, with Vespers following at 6pm. We are studying the Gospel of St. Matthew and are currently in chapter 6. All interested are welcome – all disinterested are especially welcome. :)

### Scheduling Confession

Fr. John is available at about any time to hear confessions: before or after services or at any other time by appointment.

### About Christmas

With all the hustle and bustle that revolves around Christmas and with all the temptations to spend the day "doing our own thing", let's not forget that Christmas is a Holy Day and belongs to the Lord Jesus; family, work, travel, entertaining, cooking, presents, etc., all come second to God. Bad habits? Break them and start new ones.



### Reminder: Matching Donation

In 2017, we have a matching donation program to build up our operating account. For every dollar we finish the year in the black (the positive), one dollar will be matched by the donor – up to \$12,000. What an opportunity!

### READER SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>

Gabriela Jones

Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>

Rdr. Nicholas Borodulia



CASH FLOWS THROUGH 10/31/17					CASH FLOWS IN NOVEMBER 2017					FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT		
OPERATING		OTHER		ALL	OPERATING		OTHER		ALL	AS OF: 12/3		
Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Net	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Net	Available	Restricted	Savings
73,807	70,584	13,720	13,143	+3,800	8,758	7,466	20,000	18,000	+3,292	3,496	5,139	0

## THE PARENTING VOCATION: LIVING THE LIFE OF CHRIST

by Fr George Morelli from the March 06 issue of *The Word* magazine

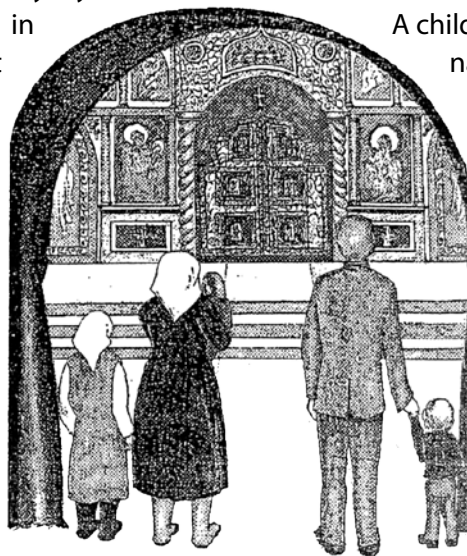
Consider Our Lord's words on the importance of how children are influenced: "And he said to his disciples, ... woe to him by whom they come! It would be better for him if a millstone were hung round his neck and he were cast into the sea, than that he should cause one of these little ones to sin" (Lk. 17:1-2). Parents and any caretakers of children have one of the most important vocations in the Church, namely to teach their children about Our Lord Jesus Christ and His message. Teaching may take many forms.

The place to start is with those who care for children themselves. Parents are the primary teachers of children by the blessed marriage they possess. One of the blessing prayers said by the priest in the Holy Mystery of Matrimony is: "Unite them in one mind and one flesh, and grant them fair children for education in thy faith and fear" (acknowledging the awesome, transcendent God).

If parents and others who teach or care for children are not keeping a "life in Christ," how can children be expected to follow Christ and His teachings? Psychologists have long emphasized the powerful effects of modeling on children (Bandura, 1986). Recently, news media have even reported that a gene for imitation has been discovered. Children have a propensity to make a neural copy of a behavior modeled and to repeat it (Milner and Goodale, 1996).

I remember when I was first in clinical-pastoral practice. Parents would come to me and present a behavioral problem. For example, their ten-year-old was smoking. Inside the shirt pocket or hanging out of the pocketbook of the parent would be a pack of cigarettes. This was and still is hypocrisy. It is nearly impossible to change the child's behavior. Parents, guardians, and others who have children in their care are supremely powerful models. I have never met one child in my pastoral or clinical career who bought into the usual "lame" explanations: "Well I can do it, and when you get to be my age then you can make up your own mind," or "You are not old enough yet." Children are bright enough to see right through such explanations.

The Holy Spirit imparts grace in the sacraments. The parents have to bring their children to their parish church where the Holy Spirit is sacramentally imparted. If a child is not brought in to be baptized, the child is not an Orthodox Christian. If the parents do not bring their children to attend Divine Liturgy, they do not receive the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Our Lord Jesus Christ. If the parents bring the child to church but do not go themselves, children see right through such hypocrisy, just as in the cigarette example above. The message is: "Grown ups do not have to go to church." So the child is no longer getting the grace of Christ. Often the greatest teaching, or, in this case, scandal, is teaching by what is not done.



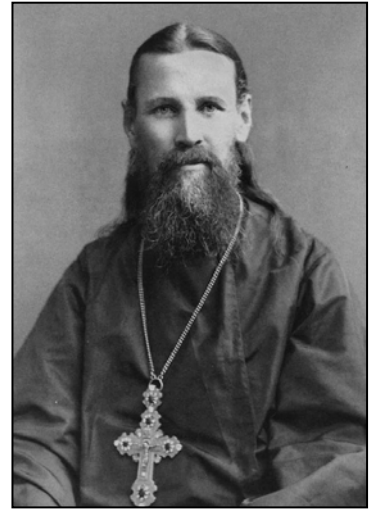
A child may hear a family conversation about a nasty neighbor or relative in which a parent says, "That no good for nothing @\$%^&," yet in church the child hears preached from the altar our Lord's words of love, forgiveness, and not holding anger against a brother. If they then see and hear their mothers or fathers doing just the opposite, does this add to the child's faith and commitment to Christ? It destroys it! And we wonder why morality and values are breaking down in modern times?

On the other hand, no one is perfect — parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, brothers, sisters, bishops, priests, teachers. We all sin and fall short. What a beautiful lesson could be taught to a child we care for, when we do fall short, if we go to the child and say, for example: "You know, I lost my temper today. It was not right, I am sorry and I will try to do better. This is what Jesus would want me to do." No one may speak exactly like this, using such words. However, using their own words parents will get across the substance of the message: I did wrong, I will try to do better and I want us all as a family to follow our Lord's teachings.

Thus, the first and most important lesson in Orthodox Christian parenting is to live the life in Christ as thoroughly as can be done. Despite our failings, we must remember the words of Jesus: "He said to them: The things that are impossible with men are possible with God" (Luke 18:27).

## FROM THE WRITINGS OF ST. JOHN OF KRONSTADT

*Commemorated December 20<sup>th</sup>*



- ❖ The enemy of our salvation especially strives to draw our heart and mind away from God when we are about to serve Him, and endeavors to adulterously attach our heart to something irrelevant. Be always, every moment, with God, especially when you pray to Him. If you are inconstant, you will fall away from life, and will cast yourself into sorrow and distress.
- ❖ Prayer is a golden link connecting the Christian man, the wanderer and the stranger upon earth, with the spiritual world of which he is a member, and, above all, with God the source of life. The soul came forth from God, and to God may it ever ascend through prayer.
- ❖ Watch yourself continually, in order that the spiritual life and spiritual wisdom should not be dried up within you. Meditate oftener upon what you read, or sing, or hear in church, or sometimes at home. Live as the saints lived: by their prayers, wisdom and virtues; in meekness, humility, and gentleness, not sparing yourself, but renouncing yourself, your rest, ease and enjoyment for the love of God and your neighbor, in patience, courage and struggle - have their faith, hope, and love. "Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; and ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding." (Luke 12:35-36)
- ❖ The tree firmly fixed in the earth by its roots grows and brings forth fruit. The soul of a man firmly fixed in God by faith and love, as by spiritual roots, also lives, grows spiritually, and brings forth the fruits of virtue pleasing to God, through which the soul lives now and shall live in the future world. The tree, when uprooted from the ground, ceases to live by the life which it received from the heart through the roots. Similarly, the soul of the man which has lost faith and love to God and does not dwell in God, in Whom alone it can live, spiritually dies. What the earth is to the plants, God is to the soul.
- ❖ Begin to fulfill the commandments relating to small things, and you will come to fulfill the commandments relating to great things: small things everywhere lead to great ones.

## ON FOUR TYPES OF COMMUNION WITH GOD

*By Elder Cleopa of Romania*

Our union with God in general terms comes about in two ways: through the mystical communion of the Body and Blood of the Lord and through spiritual communion.

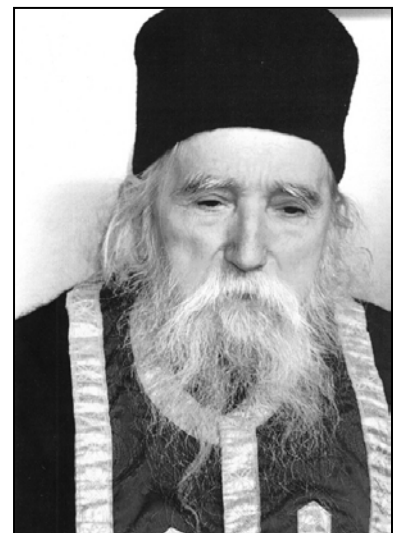
The first and most important communion with Christ takes place through the partaking of His Body and Blood at the Divine Liturgy.

The second way of communion and union with Christ is in the prayer of Jesus, during which the intellect is plunged into the heart and there says unceasingly, "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner."

The third way of communion with God our Creator takes place through the keeping of His commandments and the acquisition of the virtues.

And the fourth way of communion with Christ takes place through the reading and hearing of the Word of God in the Holy Scriptures.

Our Orthodox Church is the special, most holy place in which is realized our many-sided communion with Christ. Therein, all of our faithful, approaching the divine services with piety and faith, dwell in a mystical atmosphere and communion by the intellect, heart, prayer and participation in the divine communion of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.



**NATIVITY RESOURCES, ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE ON DEPARTMENT OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION WEB SITE**

From OCA.org

A variety of educational resources for the Great Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord are available on the web site of the Orthodox Church in America's Department of Christian Education at dce.oca.org.

A five-session study unit, "The Nativity Season," is available for use with five different age groups. It may be accessed at dce.oca.org/focus/nativity. The unit's objectives are to enable



the students to describe some of the elements of the Nativity season, including hymns, saints, fasting, and Old Testament preparation, and to define the Great Feast of the Nativity as God's long-awaited gift to us of a Savior.

Of special interest is the making of a "Jesse Tree" in lesson 4 for age levels 10-12 and 13-17. Both contain Jesse Tree materials, which

will offer students a good foundation for understanding how the Church views Old Testament prophecies and figures as leading to the Nativity of Jesus Christ.



**ST. JOHN OF DAMASCUS**

From the Prologue of Ochrid / Celebrated December 4<sup>th</sup>

John was first the chief minister to Caliph Abdul-Malik and later a monk in the Monastery of St. Sava the Sanctified. Because of his ardent defense of the veneration of icons during the reign of the iconoclastic Emperor Leo the Isaurian, John was maligned by the emperor to the Caliph, who cut off his right hand. John fell down in prayer before the icon of the Most-holy Theotokos, and his hand was



rejoined and miraculously healed. Seeing this miracle the Caliph repented, but John no longer desired to remain with him as a nobleman. Instead, he withdrew to a monastery, where, from the beginning, he was a model to the monks in humility, obedience and all the prescribed rules of monastic asceticism. John composed the Funeral Hymns and compiled the Octoechos (The Book of Eight Tones), the Irmologion, the Menologion and the Paschal Canon, and he wrote many theological works of inspiration and profundity. A great monk, hymnographer, theologian and soldier for the truth of Christ, Damascene is numbered among the great Fathers of the Church. He entered peacefully into rest in about the year 776 at the age of 104.

**DECEMBER CONGRATULATIONS!**

**Birthdays:**

- 12/2 Isabella Georgiana Milite
- 12/3 Gregory Parsells
- 12/4 Karen Nichols
- 12/6 Camelia Milite
- 12/6 Gabriela Vlahovici-Jones
- 12/11 Darrell Wilson
- 12/12 Alexander Parsells
- 12/27 Sophia Kokkinos
- 12/29 Fr. Daniel Hubiak

**Namesdays:**

- 12/4 *St. Alexander Hotovitsky*  
Alexander Parsells  
*St. Barbara*  
Ginny Borodulia  
Barbara Kaloroumakis  
Kathleen Moss
- 12/5 *St. Sava the Sanctified*  
Sava Cook
- 12/6 *St. Nicholas*  
Nicholas Borodulia  
Nicholas Evanusa  
Alyssa Nicoleta Mellinger
- 12/13 *St. Lucy*  
Ana Lucia Hageman
- 12/17 *Prophet Daniel*  
Fr. Daniel Hubiak  
Daniel Moss  
*St. Jacob the Patriarch*  
Jacob McFarland  
*St. Caleb*  
Caleb McFarland
- 12/18 *St. Sebastian*  
Sebastian Wyant
- 12/20 *St. Ignatius of Antioch*  
Oscar Hageman  
*St. Anastasia of Rome*  
Diaconisa Nancy Hall
- 12/27 *St. Stephen*  
Dn. Stephen Hall  
Bill Parrish  
Steven Parrish