

CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN OF FEBRUARY 4, 2018

A Warm Welcome!

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



2016 Annual Meeting of the Parish

Appreciation is expressed to all who prepared reports and attended last Sunday's Annual Parish Meeting. A summary, photos, the reports, and draft minutes will be made available on our website – the latter two will also be available for pickup at the ushers' stand. Once again – thank you! Questions about the meeting? Please just ask!

The "Souper" Bowl of Caring

is an IOCC sponsored event designed to help local food banks and charities. On Super Bowl Sunday, February 4th, each parishioner is asked to bring a can of food (or more) for our local food pantry, and \$1.00 (or more) for our local pregnancy aid center.



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH

Prodigal Son Sunday

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

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH

Memorial Saturday

5:00p.m. Memorial
 5:30p.m. Bible Study
 6:00p.m. Great Vespers

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH

Sunday of the Last Judgment

8:40a.m. Pre-Baptismal Prayers
 9:00a.m. Baptismal Divine Liturgy
 Coffee Hr
 Church School



Memorial Saturdays

On Saturdays during the Great Fast we remember those who have departed this life before us in the hope of the resurrection to eternal life. Memorial services will be offered during which the names of our departed family members and friends are commemorated. If you have not yet submitted a list for commemoration, please see Fr. John.

What are Meat-fare (2/11) and Cheese-fare (2/18) Sundays?

These are the final days we partake of meat and dairy products, respectively, until Pascha. During the week before Great Lent, called Cheese-week, though we aren't parking of meat anymore, dairy products are permitted on every day, including Wednesday and Friday. This week is meant to help transition us into the season of the Great Fast. Questions? Health concerns? Please ask Fr. John.

READER SCHEDULE



Sunday, February 11th

Joanne Patrick

Sunday, February 18th

Gabriela Vlahovici-Jones



The Rite of Forgiveness – Sunday, February 18th

The day before entering the Great Fast is called Forgiveness Sunday, for on this day we ask each other's forgiveness, remembering that there can be no true fast, no genuine repentance, no reconciliation with God, unless we are at the same time reconciled with one another. Don't miss it!

Looking Ahead:

- ❖ Feb. 11 – Meat-fare Sunday
- ❖ Feb. 18 – Cheese-fare Sunday
- ❖ Feb. 19 – Great Lent Begins
- ❖ Feb. 19-24 – Clean Week
- ❖ Feb. 25 – Sun. of Orthodoxy

Budget Fact: Weekly Collection Goal

According to the 2018 budget, our weekly collection goal is \$2,130.75.

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.

CASH FLOWS THROUGH 12/31/17					CASH FLOWS IN JANUARY 2018					FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT		
OPERATING		OTHER		ALL	OPERATING		OTHER		ALL	AS OF: 1/28		
Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Net	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Net	Available	Restricted	Savings
96,167	91,045	47,889	34,458	+18,553	6,969	9,233	2,100	0	-164	19,103	4,899	0

CANDLEWAX AND HEDGEHOGS – GROUNDHOG DAY

By Fr. Stephen Freeman

Candlewax and Hedgehogs—a peculiar way to entitle an article, I'll admit. But both have their associations with the second day of February. The first is more important so we'll begin there. The second day of February is one of the 12 great feasts, and is also celebrated by Christians in the West. The feast is the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, described in the second chapter of St. Luke's gospel.

There we are told that the Christ child was brought by his mother into the temple in fulfillment of the law, 40 days after his birth (February 2 is 40 days after December 25). The Old Testament Law commanded that "every male that openeth the womb (the first born child) shall be holy to the Lord." Thus the child was brought to the Temple in Jerusalem and an offering made on His behalf in thanksgiving to God for his birth.

The Most Holy Mother of God certainly kept this teaching of the Law. We are told that she brought her child to the Temple to make offering (and to receive her purification—another required rite of the Temple). There she was met by two people, one a woman, another a man, and both of them prophets. The woman, Anna the Prophetess, spoke to her concerning her child. The aged prophet Symeon, saw the mother and Child and exclaimed in words we repeat at every Vespers:

*Lord now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace.
For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation which Thou
hast prepared before the face of all people. To be a
Light to enlighten the nations and to be the glory of
Thy people Israel.*

This prophecy of St. Symeon has as its key phrase the description that Christ would be a "light to enlighten the gentiles." It is the emphasis on light that

brings these words each evening to the service of Vespers, when we give thanks to God for the Light He has given us. It is also for this reason that candles are blessed on this holy day. The candles of the Church (and especially those to be taken home and used by the faithful) are blessed on this day, because they remind us that Christ is the "light of the world."

The associations of this feast with light is also where the hedgehogs come in. Christian cultures have usually never let the feasts of the Church stay within the Church itself, but have exported them to the house and farm. So it was that in Europe (particularly Germany) there arose a folk custom that on the Feast of the Presentation (also called "Candlemas" because candles were blessed on that day) that if a hedgehog [badgers in some areas] should come out of his burrow and see the light (and thus his shadow) he would return to his burrow because winter would last six more weeks.



German immigrants brought this

folk custom to America in the 1800's. There being no hedgehogs in North America, the groundhog was drafted to take its place. Thus the secular calendar in America celebrates "Groundhog Day." But only the faithful Christian knows and understands the secret of the Light that shines on February 2nd. Not the light of the sun, frightening a furry creature back into his hole, but the Light of Christ, which frightens all the evil powers that would do us harm. For an interesting theological meditation on Groundhog Day, I suggest you rent and view the movie by that title. Bill Murray finds redemption as he lives his way through a near eternity of Groundhog Days. But I will spare you.

ABOUT MAKING THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

1) The three fingers symbolize the three Persons of the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, & Holy Spirit.

2) The two fingers symbolize the two natures of Jesus Christ: divine & human.



We make the Sign of the Cross on our 1) forehead, 2) waist, 3) right shoulder, and then 4) left shoulder, thereby offering our whole mind, heart, and strength in service to the Lord.



PRAYERS TO THE MOTHER OF GOD FOR DELIVERANCE FROM ADDICTION

O most merciful Sovereign Lady, we run now to your holy protection. Despise not our petitions but mercifully hear us – wives, children, husbands, parents and all those bound by various additions. Hearken unto us for the sake of our Mother, the Church of Christ, for the salvation of our brothers and sisters who have fallen away and for the healing of the members of our families. O gracious Mother of God, touch their hearts and raise those up who are fallen in sin; establish them on the path of saving temperance. Implore your Son, Christ our God, to forgive us our sins and not to turn His mercy away from His people but that He would strengthen us in sobriety and chastity. Accept, O most holy Theotokos, the petitions of mothers shedding tears over their children, wives weeping over their husbands, children, orphans, the destitute, those under delusion, as well as all of us who venerate your icon. May your prayers carry our petitions to the throne of the Almighty. Cover us and preserve us from the snares and intrigues of the evil one and at the dreadful hour of our death enable us to pass through the trials without stumbling. By your prayers deliver us from eternal condemnation so that God's mercy may be upon us unto the ages of ages. Amen.

O most merciful Mother of our Sweetest Lord Jesus Christ, hear this our prayer: deliver us from every infirmity of soul and body and especially free your servant(s) / handmaiden(s) _____, suffering from alcoholism (and all manner of addition), that he (she, they) may not perish but be saved and thus always sing to God: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!



CALM IN THE EYE OF THE STORM

"He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty." - Psalm 91:1

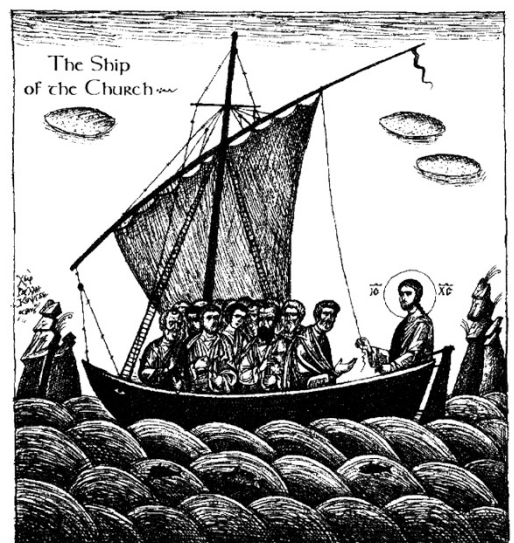
The eye of the storm is the most peaceful place on earth. While wind and rain wreak havoc all around, pilots who fly storm-tracker planes say that all is perfectly still in that special place. In Psalm 91, David speaks about...terror...plagues...ten thousand falling at your right hand... "but it will not come near you." Why? Listen: "He who dwells in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in Him will I trust. Surely He shall deliver [me]" (Ps 91:1-3).

There are two ways to go through a storm: in panic or in peace. When a storm suddenly threatened their boat the disciples cried, "Do You not care that we are perishing?" And where was Jesus?

Sleeping peacefully in the back of the boat. That's because the Lord wanted to teach His disciples three things:

- 1) To get to where God wants to take you, you must go through certain storms. It's not optional.
- 2) When you're in the center of God's will, the storm can't take you under. It's in the storm, not the calm, that you discover this.
- 3) When it's over you come out knowing God better, and you're more equipped to help others!

So trust in the Lord (commit yourself to Him, lean on Him, hope confidently in Him) forever; for the Lord God is an everlasting Rock [the rock of ages]" (Is 26:4). That's what it means to live in the eye of the storm!





HOW TO COMMUNICATE

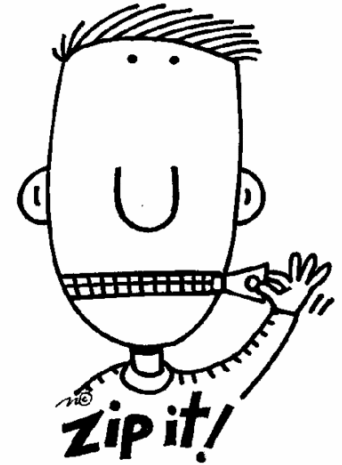
"If you want people to understand you, then you must become like them. That's the move which God made: He became human, He spoke our language, He communed with us on all human levels except sin, and that's how He managed to truly communicate with us. So, not only did Christ, Who came and saved us, meet us where we were, but He did something else as well: He surrendered Himself for our life. In other words, He forsook everything which was His and gave Himself up for our sake."

- Metropolitan Athanasios of Limassol

18 BIBLE VERSES TO HELP KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT

From likeateam.com

Sometimes it is best to keep your mouth shut. Talking too much can get anyone into trouble. Here is some simple advice found in the Bible as to when to keep your mouth shut!



1. In the heat of anger. [Proverbs 14:17](#)
2. When you don't have all the facts. [Proverbs 18:13](#)
3. When you haven't verified the story. [Deuteronomy 17:6](#)
4. If your words will offend a weaker brother. [1 Corinthians 8:11](#)
5. When you are tempted to joke about sin. [Proverbs 14:9](#)
6. When you would be ashamed of your words later. [Proverbs 8:8](#)
7. When you're tempted to make light of holy things. [Ecclesiastes 5:2](#)
8. If your words would convey a wrong impression. [Proverbs 17:27](#)
9. If the issue is none of your business. [Proverbs 14:10](#)
10. When you are tempted to tell an outright lie. [Proverbs 4:24](#)
11. If your words will damage someone's reputation. [Proverbs 16:27](#)
12. If your words will destroy a friendship. [Proverbs 25:28](#)
13. When you are feeling critical. [James 3:9](#)
14. When it is time to listen. [Proverbs 13:1](#)
15. If you may have to eat your words later. [Proverbs 18:21](#)
16. If you have already said it more than one time (Then it becomes nagging). [Proverbs 19:13](#)
17. When you are tempted to flatter a wicked person. [Proverbs 24:24](#)
18. When you are supposed to be working instead. [Proverbs 14:23](#)

WHAT MAKES A TRUE CHRISTIAN

St. Herman of Alaska

A true Christian is made by faith and love toward Christ. Our sins do not in the least hinder our Christianity, according to the word of the Savior Himself. He deigned to say: not the righteous have I come to call, but sinners to salvation; there is more joy in heaven over one who repents than over ninety righteous ones. Likewise concerning the sinful woman who touched His feet, He deigned to say to the Pharisee Simon: to one who has love, a great debt is forgiven, but from one who has no love, even a small debt will be demanded. From these judgments a Christian should bring himself to hope and joy, and not at all come to despair. One needs the shield of faith.

