

CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN OF MAY 6, 2018

A Warm Welcome!

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

Meeting of Mother's Helpers

Today, May 6th, after coffee hour, there will be a short meeting of young girls, age 12-18, who would like to consider being part of the Mother's Helpers ministry. Questions or can't make the meeting? Please see, Fr. John. Thank you!



Did You Know? Average Sunday Attendance

This year is 73 souls (& bodies). Previously: 64, 64, 60, 72, 60, 50, 46, 38.

SUNDAY, MAY 6TH

Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

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

SATURDAY, MAY 12TH

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

SUNDAY, MAY 13TH

Sunday of the Blind Man

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



Supporting A Local Pregnancy Center

A charitable drive, "Bottles of Blessing!", will run from Mother's Day, May 13th to Father's Day, June 17th. You can pick up a Baby Bottle after services to take home and collect your loose change (cash and checks also accepted!). This is to benefit The Shirley Grace Pregnancy Center in Berlin where women are cared for materially and spiritually.

Appreciation is Expressed

To the donors of the new benches and area rugs for the choir area and altar table! May the Lord bless them for their generosity! Do you want to sponsor a project too? Greaaaaat! Please just see Fr. John.

Annual Memorial Day Pilgrimage

The Memorial Day Pilgrimage to Saint Tikhon's Monastery in South Canaan, PA is Monday, May 28th. For more info, please see: memorialdaypilgrimage.com.



Two Suggestions

1) Invite someone new to church; 2) Talk to someone new today.



Have An Idea?

Do you have any idea that you would like to share about our Mission? Please let Fr. John or one of the Council know as we always look for ways to improve the Mission!



READER SCHEDULE

Sunday, May 13th

Joanne Patrick

Sunday, May 20th

Megan Borodulia



Did You Know?

Christ the Savior Mission participates in Amazon Smile, a program in which a small donation is made by Amazon to our church for every purchase you make on Amazon. Using Amazon Smile is easy, quick, and will help support your church. For more info, please see orthodoxdelmarva.org.



CASH FLOWS THROUGH 3/31/18					CASH FLOWS IN APRIL 2018					FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT		
OPERATING		OTHER		ALL	OPERATING		OTHER		ALL	AS OF: 5/6		
Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Net	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Net	Available	Restricted	Savings
21,918	27,699	4,100	2,000	-3,681	13,058	9,233	1,030	1,000	+3,855	4,990	5,264	12,000

ASK FATHER: 1 QUESTION / 1 ANSWER

Question: Why did the Lord not appear to everyone after His Resurrection? Why just the disciples?

Answer: Excellent question! First, a little background. During the earthly ministry of Christ, the Lord willingly assumed our human flesh, together with what is called the blameless passions (hunger, thirst, fatigue, sleep, decay, etc.). In so doing, His divinity was veiled or hidden, being recognized only in part by those who had "eyes to see". After rising from the dead, the Lord's body was no longer subject to corruption; it was a spiritual body, more capable of revealing His divinity.



Since as the Scriptures record that "no one can see God and live", Christ appeared only to those who would not be harmed by witnessing His resurrection and the glory of His divinity. We recall how the guards became "as dead men" at the appearance of mere angels. What if they had seen the Risen Christ? They would undoubtedly have suffered a greater fate. Even St. Paul, an Israelite among Israelites, when he was still Saul the great persecutor of the Church, suffered when he saw the Risen Christ on the road to Damascus. He was not only knocked off his horse but also blinded and unable to eat for three days.

This is why during the three years Christ spent with His disciples, He was not only preparing them for His death and resurrection, but He was purifying their hearts so that they might see God, so that they might behold His divinity no longer veiled by the fallen human nature He had come to heal. Near the end of the preparation, the best of His disciples, Peter, James, and John, were given a preview of His glory on Mount Tabor when the Lord was transfigured before them; at this the disciples became "greatly afraid" and the Lord told them to "tell the vision to no one until He has risen from the dead". Finally, at the end of their preparation, during the Passion week, the Lord said to His disciples, "Behold you are now clean, but not all of you (speaking of Judas)." The moment had finally come. After all the miracles, all the teaching, the disciples were finally purified to behold the glory of God, and with this the Lord says, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in Him!" Then He prayed, "Holy Father, I desire that those whom Thou hast given Me may behold My glory, the glory which I had with You before the world was." Then speaking of His Death and Resurrection, He tells the disciples, "you now have sorrow. But I will see you again, and your heart will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you."

And so, the Lord gradually prepares and purifies us, making it possible for us to see His divine glory and rejoice in it, rather than suffer from it. This is the whole purpose for the postponement of His 2nd Coming when so that we might have time to prepare. The Apostle Peter counsels us: "The Lord is not slow concerning His promise, but is long-suffering toward us, not desiring that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance... For the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night... Therefore, beloved, knowing beforehand, beware lest being led away with the error of the lawless, you fall from your own steadfastness. But grow in grace and in knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen." (2Pe 3:17-18)

ABOUT THE FACT OF CHRIST'S RESURRECTION

From NewAdvent.org

The fact of Christ's Resurrection is attested by more than 500 eyewitnesses, whose experience, simplicity, and uprightness of life rendered them incapable of inventing such a fable, who lived at a time when any attempt to deceive could have been easily discovered, who had nothing in this life to gain, but everything to lose by their testimony, whose moral courage exhibited in their apostolic life can be explained only by their intimate conviction of the objective truth of their message. Again the fact of Christ's Resurrection is attested by the eloquent silence of the Synagogue which had done everything to prevent deception, which could have easily discovered deception, if there had been any, which opposed only sleeping witnesses to the testimony of the Apostles, which did not punish the alleged carelessness of the official guard, and which could not answer the testimony of the Apostles except by threatening them "that they speak no more in this name to any man" (Acts 4:17). Finally the thousands and millions, both Jews and Gentiles, who believed the testimony of the Apostles in spite of all the disadvantages following from such a belief, in short the origin of the Church, requires for its explanation the reality of Christ's Resurrection, for the rise of the Church without the Resurrection would have been a greater miracle than the Resurrection itself.





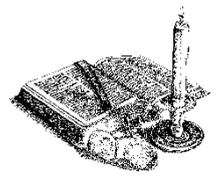
ABOUT THE 'DEISIS' ICON

The word 'Deisis' comes from a Greek word meaning 'prayer' or 'intercession'. In iconography it represents a group of three persons: Christ, seated in majesty in the center, with His Mother to His right and John the Forerunner to His left. The persons are slightly bowed while raising their hands in a gesture of humbly asking. Sometimes this icon is expanded to include many figures: apostles, hierarchs, and other saints. Yet the positions immediately to the right and left of Christ always belong to the Virgin and the Baptist of whom Christ spoke when He said, "to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but to those for whom it has been prepared by My Father."

A PUZZLING SCRIPTURAL VERSE

'He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver.'

Malachi 3:3



This verse puzzled some women in a Bible study and they wondered what this statement meant about the character and nature of God. One of the women offered to find out the process of refining silver and get back to the group at their next Bible Study.

That week, the woman called a silversmith and made an appointment to watch him at work. She didn't mention anything about the reason for her interest beyond her curiosity about the process of refining Silver.

As she watched the silversmith, he held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up. He explained that in refining silver, one needed to hold the silver in the middle of the fire where the flames were hottest as to burn away all the impurities. The woman thought about God holding us in such a hot spot; then she thought again about the verse that says: 'He sits as a refiner and purifier of silver.' She asked the silversmith if it was true that he had to sit there in front of the fire the whole time. The man answered that yes, he not only had to sit there holding the silver, but he had to keep his eyes on the silver the entire time it was in the fire. If the silver was left a moment too long in the flames, it would be destroyed. The woman was silent for a moment. Then she asked the silversmith, 'How do you know when the silver is fully refined?' He smiled at her and answered, 'Oh, that's easy -- when I see my image in it.'

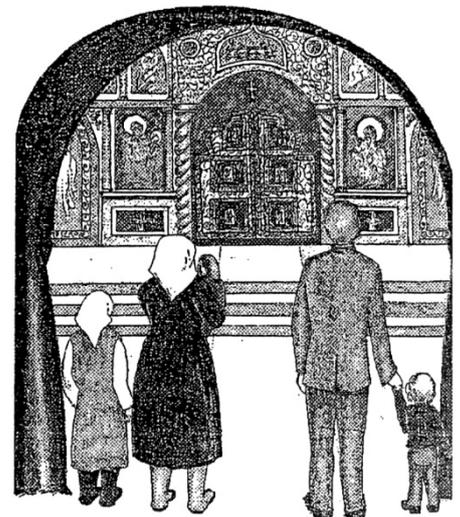
If today you are feeling the heat of the fire, remember that God has his eye on you and will keep watching you until He sees His image in you.

DRAWING NEAR TO GOD: RELIABLE SIGNS?

St. John Climacus was asked if there are reliable signs by which it's possible to know whether a soul is drawing near to God or moving away from Him. After all, regarding ordinary things there are clear signs as to whether they're good or not. When, for instance, cabbage, meat or fish begin to rot, it's easy to notice it, since the rotting items begin to give off a foul odor, the color and taste change, and its external appearance witnesses to its deterioration. Well, what about the soul? After all, it's bodiless and can't give off a bad smell or change its appearance. To this question the Holy Father replies, "A sure sign of the deadening of the soul is the avoidance of church services."

A man who has grown cold towards God begins first of all to flee attending church. At first he tries to come to services later, and then he ceases altogether to visit God's temple.

From St Barsanuphius of Optina (+1913)





A QUESTION OF WEIGHT: A BIG SIN & MANY SMALL SINS

At one time two women came to Confession to a certain elder. The first of them was burdened by one terrible sin, for which her conscience troubled her continuously, and the other had no grave sin but only the "usual" little ones.

The elder, having listened to them, ordered that they go to the orchard and bring stones from it. To her who had the one serious sin, he said: "You take the heaviest stone that you can lift and bring it to me." And to the other he said: "Here's a bag for you. Gather small stones and bring them here." When they both had fulfilled their tasks, the elder thanked them for their obedience and said: "And now, take back that which you have brought to me and put it in its previous place." The first sinner did this without difficulty, but the other lost her head and returned with virtually a full bag because she couldn't remember which stone she took from where and she was afraid to deceive the elder.

So then the elder said to her: "Look, your acquaintance has a heavy sin, but she remembers it and constantly mourns over it all the time, but the tears of repentance wash away any sin. You are unable to mourn over your sins because you don't even remember them, but the weight of your bag is no less than the weight of a big stone."

Indeed, we must all learn that our many "small" sins, the majority of which are forgotten, in their mass form a terrible weight, which pulls us toward the underworld if we do not free our souls from them by true repentance.

MAY CONGRATULATIONS

Birthdays:

- 5/1 Logan Morsey
- 5/3 Ramona Sterca
- 5/9 Gabriel Morsey
- 5/11 Barbara Kaloroumakis
- 5/12 Caleb McFarland
Lydwina, Diemel
- 5/21 Kelly Hageman
- 5/26 Dominic Morsey
Elisabeth Parsells
- 5/29 Irene Clenney
- 5/30 Michael McFarland

Anniversaries:

- 5/1 Daniel & Kathleen Moss
- 5/21 Darrell & Deborah Wilson

Namesdays:

- 5/5 *St. Irene the Great Martyr*
Irene Clenney
Irene Gurka
- 5/7 *St. Alexis of Wilkes-Barre*
Christopher Morsey
- 5/8 *St. Emilia*
Mat. Emily Parsells
Jodi McElwee
- 5/21 *Ss. Constantine & Helen*
Constantine Cook
Constantine Mitsopoulos
Ellen Kaloroumakis
Eliana Milite
Mirona Bendfeldt
- 5/29 *St. Theodoisa*
Theodosia Wyant

Errors? Omissions? Please see Fr. John.



CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!