



CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

10315 Carey Road; Berlin, MD 21811
 302-537-6055 (church) / orthodoxdelmarva.org /
 frjohn@orthodoxdelmarva.org

BULLETIN OF AUGUST 19, 2018

A Warm Welcome!

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

Maleah's Surgery

The surgery to remove Maleah Morsey's brain tumor will take place on Monday, August 20th, at John's Hopkin's in Baltimore. May the Lord guide the minds and hands of her surgeons and the entire medical team, granting Maleah healing and full recovery!



Vacation Church School – Many Thanks!

Sincere appreciation is expressed to all the children, their parents, and the parishioners who helped with the first-ever Vacation Church School at Christ the Savior! We would like to especially acknowledge and thank Kelly Hageman, Cecilia Wyant, or Mat. Emily, who organized and oversaw the 3-day camp. May the Lord bless you all for your good work!



Website Update: VCS

Many photos from the camp are on our website, together with a short video – check them out: orthodoxdelmarva.org

Open Pool

Today, after the Divine Liturgy, the pool will be open for swimming. A certified lifeguard will be on duty, but parents should still watch their children. Notes: 1) Swimming will begin after the food is blessed. 2) Toys, food, and garbage should be cleaned up before leaving for home. Thanks!



Prayers for Teachers and Students – August 26th

will be offered for the new academic year on Sunday, August 26th. Teachers and students will be asked to come forward near the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy.

Did You Know We're on Facebook?

"Like" us to receive our posts, and so that your friends can get to know your church a little. Who knows who else may "Like" us too?
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Christ-the-Savior/202922375995>



Bible Studies

are being held on Saturday evenings at 5:00pm in the "Quiet Room", and will conclude just before the Vespers at 6:00pm. This is a great and enjoyable way to learn together about your Faith. Everyone is invited to attend. Questions are welcome and discussion is lively. Come and see!

Going to the Hospital?

Please let your priest know, so that he can add you to the prayer list, or, if you like, pay you a visit. If you know someone else is in the hospital please let Fr. John know.



SUNDAY, AUGUST 19TH

13th Sunday of Pentecost

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

SATURDAY, AUGUST 25TH

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

SUNDAY, AUGUST 26TH

14th Sunday of Pentecost

9:00a.m. Hours
 Divine Liturgy
 Blsg. for the Academic Yr.
 Coffee Hour / Open Pool

Our religion is founded on spiritual experience, seen and heard as sure as any physical fact in this world. Not theory, not philosophy, not human emotions, but experience.

St. Nikolai Velimirovich

READER SCHEDULE

Sunday, August 19th

Rdr. Nicholas Borodulia

Sunday, August 26th

Megan Borodulia



CASH FLOWS THROUGH 7/31/18					CASH FLOWS IN AUGUST 2018					FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT		
OPERATING		OTHER		ALL	OPERATING		OTHER		ALL	AS OF: 8/19		
Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Net	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Net	Available	Restricted	Savings
60,017	64,631	8,510	5,880	-1,948	4,553	9,233	1,000	1,000	-4,680	7,894	4,964	12,000

AT LEAST SIX REASONS TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION

By Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis / From MyOCN.net

So that they may be to those who partake of them for vigilance of soul, forgiveness of sins, communion of Your Holy Spirit, fulfillment of the kingdom of heaven, confidence before You and not in judgment or condemnation.

Holy Communion is the centerpiece of the Orthodox Christian church. The Divine Liturgy points us to Holy Communion as not only the climax of the service but the very reason for worshipping. We worship in a corporate context so that we can receive Holy Communion, so that we can touch the Divine God.

The study of Orthodox theology generates questions that often times are answered in the text of the Divine Liturgy. Such is the case with today's reflection. After the Holy Gifts have been consecrated, the priest kneels before the Holy Altar table and continues the prayer of consecration with a list of six reasons to receive Holy Communion. Because in most churches, this prayer is inaudible, I want to share with you not only its words, but their rich meaning.

So that they may be to those who partake of them for vigilance of soul— Holy Communion is like food for the soul. The soul is the God-like part of each of us. It came from God. It desires to be filled with God. It is threatened by the cares of life and the stresses of the world. It is quenched through the receiving of Christ through Holy Communion. Communion, when we receive with proper spiritual disposition, awakens the soul, encourages the soul and keeps the soul vigilant. When we are not receiving Communion, it is much easier for the soul to fall into despair. Just like the hungry person needs food in order to function correctly, we need the Body and Blood of Christ for us to function at our best.

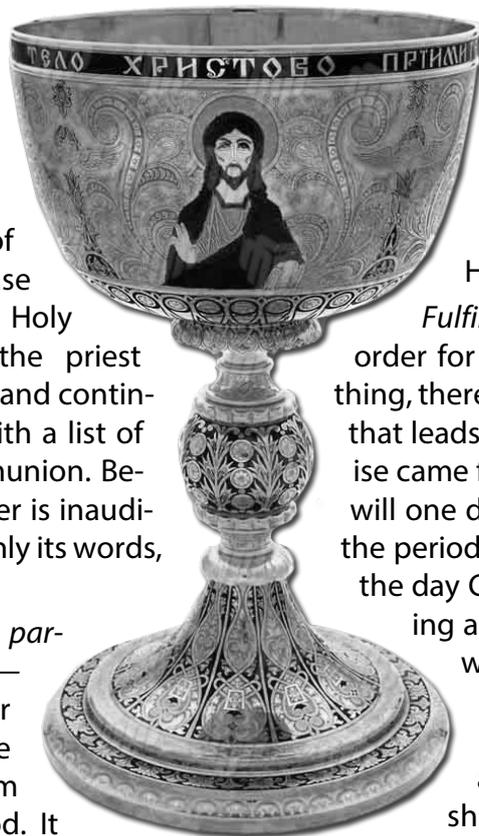
*Forgiveness of sins—*The Greek word used here is "afesin" which means "remission" or "wiping out" of our sins. Holy Communion, in concert with our personal repentance (which includes the sacrament of confession), helps to wipe out our sins on a continual basis so that we can work toward a oneness with

the Lord. Prayer, fasting, moral living, reconciliation, worship, all these things that are pre-requisites in order to receive Communion, help us live in Christ in this life as we prepare to live with Him in the next.

*Communion of Your Holy Spirit—*In this instance, "communion" or "koinonia" in Greek, means fellowship. When we share fellowship with the Holy Spirit, we receive His grace and are both healed and strengthened of the things that are infirm and lacking in us. Having prayed for the Holy Spirit to come down upon us, as He comes down on the Gifts we presented, we now pray that He not only come down on us, but that He comes into each of us.

*Fulfillment of the kingdom of heaven—*In order for there to be a fulfillment of something, there has to be a beginning or a promise that leads to eventual fulfillment. The promise came from Christ, that those who believe will one day inherit His Kingdom. We live in the period of time between this promise and the day Christ comes again to judge the living and the dead, and to grant to those who are righteous His eternal Kingdom. So we pray that the promise of Christ will be fulfilled in our lives, and in the lives of those we are worshipping with. Holy Communion is a necessary step in this journey, as it gives us the spiritual sustenance to pass through this life on our journey to eternal life. Holy Communion helps bring the promise to its eventual fulfillment.

*Confidence before You—*Many of us lack confidence. We lack confidence in material things. We lack confidence in ourselves. We lack confidence in others. And many lack confidence in spiritual things. We either wonder if the promises of Christ are just as He said them, or we worry if we will be worthy of the promised Kingdom. Holy Communion, among other positive things, helps us to have confidence in both spiritual challenges. By receiving often, we are strengthened to live our Christianity in a secular world which often challenges and ridicules what we believe. By receiving often, with



proper preparation, we have confidence that indeed God does love us and desires us to be with Him. Staying away from this Eucharistic encounter with Christ for long periods of time will either make us feel not confident (we are afraid to approach) or make us feel indifferent. Receiving often can only be a confidence-builder.

Not in judgment or condemnation—And as if to reassure us that it is okay to receive, these words are added to the prayer. No one is every worthy to receive the Body and Blood of Christ. We receive these through His divine mercy. We can prepare ourselves to receive, but we cannot proclaim ourselves worthy. So, we ask the Lord to deem us worthy to receive, and for this act to be one that instills confidence in us and does not lead to condemnation. To receive without preparation, to receive in anger, to receive when engaged in an immoral lifestyle, these things lead to condemnation. We all sin, we all need God's mercies and we all need them each time we receive Communion. For how can a sinful human being, even one who strives not to sin, be able to touch God? Only through His mercies.

There are many reasons to receive Communion, six of them highlighted in this prayer—for a heightened sense of vigilance in our souls, for the remission of our sins, in order to enjoy fellowship and grace with the Holy Spirit, as a pre-cursor to inheriting the Kingdom of heaven, for confidence and encouragement and in order to avoid judgment and condemnation.

Lord, make me worthy continually to partake of Your Holy Gifts. I know that I am never worthy to receive them, but allow me through Your Grace to be able to receive them often. Through Your Holy Gifts, may I find a heightened sense of spiritual awareness and may they help lead to a wiping away of my sins. Allow me to experience the grace and fellowship of the Holy Spirit through Them, and may they lead to my eventual entrance into Your heavenly Kingdom. May the receiving of Holy Communion give me confidence, lead me away from judgment and condemnation and lead me to You. Amen.

Prepare today for the next time you will receive Communion.

TRUE SUCCESS

By Fr. Theodore Stylianopoulos

Many people labor under the wrong concept of success. This is the idea of achieving possessions, status, or power. A person's self-image is measured by what he or she earns or possesses, by what he or she socially can do or economically control. However, the Saints teach another radically different concept of success based on faithfulness and discipleship. True success is measured by the depth of one's personal communion with God, concern for the salvation of souls and the advancement of the Kingdom. A truly successful person is a saint – one who seeks wholeness in God, who strives to grow in the image of Christ, who finds fulfillment and happiness in loving and serving others for God's glory.



ON FEAR AND LOVE

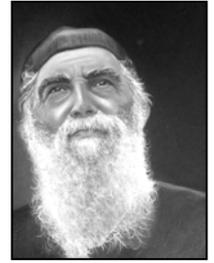
By St. Isaac the Syrian

Just as it isn't possible for someone to cross the great sea without a ship, so someone can't reach love without fear. We can cross the tempestuous sea placed between us and the spiritual paradise only with the ship of repentance, borne by the oarsmen of fear. If these oarsmen of fear don't handle the ship of repentance well, by which we cross the sea of this world toward God, we will be drowned in it. Repentance is the ship, fear is the rudder, love the divine harbor. So fear puts us in the ship of repentance, and we cross the tempestuous sea and it guides us to the divine harbor, which is love where all those who labor and have been enlightened by repentance arrive. And when we have reached love, we have reached God. And our journey has ended and we have reached the island which is beyond this world.

THE IMPORTANCE OF SPIRITUAL HELP FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

By Elder Paisios the Athonite

Parents have to help their children spiritually when they are little; because then, even their faults are little and they can easily be corrected. It's like a fresh potato; if you scratch it a little, it's peeled. If, however, it gets older and staler, you will need a sharp knife to clean it; and if it has some dark spots, you'll need to dig deeper. If the children are filled with Christ from an early age, they will always remain close to Him. And even if they should stray a little when they grow up, either because of a phase of rebellion they're going through or because of bad influences, they are sure to return to their senses. This is because the fear of God and the devotion that watered their hearts - when they were young - cannot ever be eradicated.



ON THE CORRECTION OF EVIL

By Elder Porphyrios

Our purpose is not to condemn evil, but to correct it. With condemnation people can get lost, with understanding and assistance they will be saved. Evil begins from bad thoughts. When you are bitter and indignant, even just with your thoughts, you spoil a spiritual atmosphere. You prevent the Holy Spirit from acting and allow the devil to increase the evil. You should always pray, love and forgive, driving out of yourself every evil thought.



HUMILITY – A KEY TO BIBLICAL UNDERSTANDING

From the writings of Bishop Ignatius

One elder passed seventy weeks in fasting, eating food only twice a week, as he begged the Lord to reveal to him the meaning of a passage in Holy Scripture. But God would not reveal it to him. Seeing this, the elder said to himself, "I have labored long and hard, and I have accomplished nothing. I will go to my brother and ask him."

When he had left his cell and locked the door behind him, an angel from the Lord appeared and said to him: "Seventy weeks of fasting did not bring you nearer to God. Now, however, when you have humbled yourself and resolved to go to your brother with your question, I have been sent to you to explain the meaning of this passage." And fulfilling this, the angel departed.

A PRAYER OF A SICK PERSON

O Lord Jesus Christ, our Savior, Physician of souls and bodies, who didst become man and suffer death on the Cross for our salvation, and through Thy tender love and compassion didst heal all manner of sickness and affliction; do Thou O Lord, visit me in my suffering, and grant me grace and strength to bear this sickness with which I am afflicted, with Christian patience and submission to Thy will, trusting in Thy loving kindness and tender mercy. Bless, I pray Thee, the means used for my recovery, and those who administer them. I humbly pray Thee, look upon my weakness, and deal not with me after my sins, but according to the multitude of Thy mercies. Have compassion on me, and deliver me from this sickness and suffering I am undergoing. Grant that my sickness may be the means of my true repentance and amendment of my life according to Thy will, that I may spend the rest of my days in Thy love and fear: that my soul, being helped by Thy grace and sanctified by Thy Holy Mysteries, may be prepared for its passage to the Eternal Life, and there, in the company of Thy blessed Saints, may praise and glorify Thee with Thine Eternal Father and Life-giving Spirit. Amen.

