



CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN OF SEPTEMBER 16, 2018

A Warm Welcome!

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

Congratulations to Alexander Gray!

on his enrollment in the catechumenate today. May the Lord continue to lead him on the road to His heavenly Kingdom!



Many Years to the Hubiaiks – September 16th

Fr. Daniel and Mat. Dunia celebrate their anniversary of marriage on September 16th. We wish them many blessed years!

Welcome Back!

to Dn. Steven and Nissa Nancy who have returned from a summer away!



“Polar Bear Club” Sunday – September 16th

Weather-permitting, today will be the final day for swimming after the Divine Liturgy. All are welcome to take one last dip in the “frigid” waters. Parents please watch your children even though a lifeguard is on duty.

The Parish Council

will meet on Sunday, September 16th for the 3rd quarterly meeting. Full reports will be presented. All are welcome to attend!

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 conclude just before the Vespers at 6:00pm. 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.



Safety First

Please be attentive to our children's safety; especially in the parking lot and pool. Parents are asked to please stay with their children at all times or leave them in the supervision of another adult.



Haven't Seen Someone in a While?

Give them a call. See how they are doing. Let them know that you not only miss them but also care enough to see if everything is okay. A kind word can go a long way.



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH

Sunday After the Precious Cross

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

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22ND

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

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23RD

18th Sunday of Pentecost

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

Those who follow the path of Christ's commandments are reborn spiritually and are transfigured. It's not the same for everyone to the same extent, but depends on their zeal. They're crucified with Jesus Christ and divine Grace makes them resemble Him Whom they love. Herein lies the theology of the Cross, which St. Paul hymns as the light of divine love.

Elder Iosif Vatopaidinos

READER SCHEDULE



Sunday, September 23rd

Rdr. Nicholas Borodulia

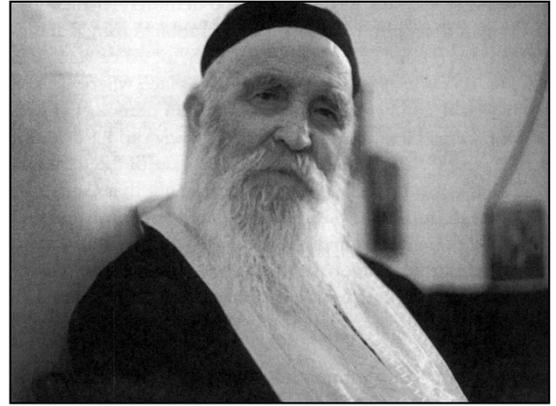
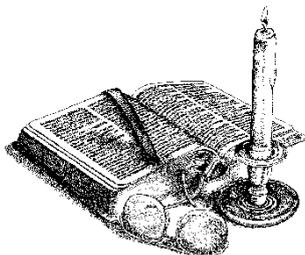
Sunday, September 30th

Megan Borodulia

CASH FLOWS THROUGH 8/31/18					CASH FLOWS IN SEPTEMBER 2018					FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT		
OPERATING		OTHER		ALL	OPERATING		OTHER		ALL	AS OF: 9/16		
Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Net	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Net	Available	Restricted	Savings
68,529	73,864	10,510	7,880	-2,705	3,908	9,233	470	420	-5,325	9,852	4,964	12,000

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW THE SCRIPTURES?

- 1) It is impossible to please God without ____?
 - a) good works
 - b) love
 - c) charity
 - d) faith
- 2) What is the fourth Commandment?
 - a) Thou shalt not make any graven image
 - b) Thou shalt not commit adultery
 - c) Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy
 - d) Thou shalt have no other gods before Me
- 3) Why was Abraham counted righteous?
 - a) for his good works
 - b) he followed the law
 - c) for his faith
 - d) all of the above
- 4) It is ok to seek the guidance of a psychic.
 - a) true
 - b) false
- 5) For where your ____ is, there will your heart be also.
 - a) reward
 - b) riches
 - c) mind
 - d) treasure
- 6) Who asked Herod for the head of John the Baptist?
 - a) Herodias
 - b) the daughter of Herodias
 - c) Athaliah
 - d) Candace
- 7) There are 200 Psalms in the Bible?
 - a) true
 - b) false
- 8) The Cross was made of the following types of wood:
 - a) cedar, oak, cypress
 - b) cedar, cypress, pine
 - c) olive, cypress, pine
 - d) olive, oak, pine
- 9) According to the Gospels, Christ was transfigured in glory before Peter, James, and John on Mount _____.
 - a) Herman
 - b) Zion
 - c) Tabor
 - d) none of the above
- 10) What does Emmanuel mean?
 - a) Jesus
 - b) Savior
 - c) Man of God
 - d) God with us



FROM THE COUNSELS OF ELDER PHILOTHEOS OF PARA

True happiness is not the honors and pleasures of the body. True happiness is virtue. As many as fight to acquire virtue, to put into practice the commandments of God, these are truly happy.

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When the enemy tempts you with thoughts of faithlessness, with all your heart say, "I believe completely whatever the Church believes, whatever Christ says in the Holy Gospels, whatever the Holy Apostles and Holy Fathers said. I don't, however, believe you, devil, for you are a liar and a thief.

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If a man builds a house and leaves it without a roof, this house can't be used at all. In the same way, if a man acquires all the virtues but not love, the house remains roofless and is of no benefit at all.

Answer to Scriptural Questions

1. d, Hebrews 11:6
2. c, Exodus 20:8-11
3. c, Romans 4:1-3
4. b, Deuteronomy 18:10-14
5. d, Matthew 6:21
6. b, Mark 6:21-25
7. b, 150
8. b, Isaiah 60:13
9. d, Although early church tradition holds that the place of the Transfiguration was Mt. Tabor, none of the Gospel accounts mention it by name.
10. d, Matthew 1:23



TRIBULATION IN THIS LIFE

Fr. Steven C. Kostoff



Our parish Prayer Request List is currently, as is often the case, filled with the names of men, women and children who are in some condition of illness, suffering or loss. We have recently been praying for our own beloved parish child, Elias Wendland, who has been in the hospital struggling with pneumonia; and a child in our sister parish in Columbus who appears to have been born with a debilitating or fatal illness. In fact, such prayer lists are by nature a sustained chronicle of the kind of human suffering and misery we pray and hope to avoid. As we pray to God for relief and recovery from these flesh-and-blood manifestations of our "human condition," we fulfill a ministry that all Christians need to embrace with seriousness. Our part is to hold these persons before God in prayer. The results we leave up to God. It is only human to pray with greater intensity when a particular person in need of prayer is close to us. But we need to pray for everyone who is on our "list" as the names come to us. That is one of our roles as the "people of God" who are aware of living in a fallen world that has yet been redeemed by Christ.

I am not going to embark on a meditation concerning God's mercy, justice, and love in the face of human suffering: the question of "theodicy" as it is often called. That will always remain a mystery. However, we should always bear in mind that the New Testament makes no promise of a life free of precisely the kind of human suffering we are speaking about here. There is no "bargain" or "deal" with God, that in return for our faith and belief in Christ, we will be given a long, peaceful and prosperous life! That fantasy may exist in the minds of TV evangelists and "name it and claim it" preachers, but it is not in the Scriptures. Christians with a mature faith know better. (We of course believe in the possibility of "miraculous" recovery, and have countless instances of such healing throughout the Church's long history. In fact, the Sacrament of Anointing is based on our openness to just such a possibility. But that is a different issue.) Jesus Christ suffered and died on the Cross. His resurrection from the dead transformed that suffering into a passage that leads to a glorified life with God. As the Lord, He is the "first-fruits" of that promised resurrection and glorified life. That is the hope of Christians in the

face of suffering and death, both of which are absolutely inevitable. And that is a hope that unbelievers cannot share regardless of how "optimistic" they may be about life - in my humble opinion, a very unconvincing optimism. That hope may be realized here and now in the recovery that we pray for, or it may have to patiently await its eschatological fulfillment at the end of time.

To move this reflection from the general to the particular, I would like to bring up a recent experience. In a prayer request submitted by Presvytera Deborah just last week, I read the following: "Please pray for Juana, a young beggar girl we encountered in Antigua who has no hands or feet. Pressing on my heart." I would like to further provide a bit of background about our short and unsettling encounter with this little girl. Our Mission



Team made a trip to Antigua toward the end of our recent stay in Guatemala, after visiting the monastery of the Holy Trinity and celebrating the Liturgy there with Madres Ines and Maria. Antigua is a very old Guatemalan city popular with visitors and tourists. This is a typical one-day excursion for most Mission Teams - an opportunity to "wind down" and relax a bit after a week or more of work at the Hogar. It is a kindness organized by

the Hogar which also provides the transportation in the person of Jorge, brother of Madre Ivonne and indefatigable Mission Team coordinator - a wonderful and good-hearted man. As is our "tradition" on our many parish teams, we visit one of the many fine restaurants in Antigua for a group meal together. This year we took eight of the *senoritas* with us so that we could treat them to a meal and some shopping.

While in the restaurant I noticed an obviously poor young girl enter carrying a large purse. She may have been ten years old or so. Sadly, I noticed that her one arm was missing from just below the elbow, but she managed to hold up the purse at her elbow joint. A fuller glance revealed that both arms were missing at about the same point. It then became clear that the girl entered the restaurant...

continued on page 4...



WHEN YOUR HUT'S ON FIRE

The only survivor of a shipwreck was washed up on a small, uninhabited island. He prayed feverishly for God to rescue him. Everyday he scanned the horizon for help, but none seemed forthcoming. Exhausted, he eventually managed to build a little hut out of driftwood to protect him from the elements, and to store his few possessions.

One day, after scavenging for food, he arrived home to find his little hut in flames, with smoke rolling up to the sky. He felt the worst had happened, and everything was lost. He was stunned with disbelief, grief, and anger. He cried out, "God! How could you do this to me?"

Early the next day, he was awakened by the sound of a ship approaching the island! It had come to rescue him! "How did you know I was here?," asked the weary man of his rescuers. "We saw your smoke signal," they replied.

The Moral of This Story: It's easy to get discouraged when things are going badly, but we shouldn't lose heart, because God is at work in our lives.... even in the midst of our pain and suffering. Remember that the next time your little hut seems to be burning to the ground. It just may be a smoke signal that summons the Grace of God.

Tribulation in this Life continued from page 3...

in order to "beg," as she began to move from table to table with a rather awkward gait. (During her time in the restaurant, someone also noticed that she walked in a peculiar manner because she obviously had no feet. There was only a rather primitive contraption at the end of each leg, resembling a shoe, that helped her maintain her balance). The way the patrons were reacting told me that this was not so unusual of a sight. Reflect for a moment on how the management in one of our nicer restaurants here would "protect" their patrons from such an encounter! For all we knew, that same girl may have come to this restaurant often to seek alms, and I appreciated that possibility. It seems much more organic and honest, perhaps even breaking down some of the usual social stratification that we are so accustomed to. Yet, since our social and cultural setting does shelter us from such encounters, it proved to be unsettling for everyone, I believe, as mentioned above. It was impossible not to feel great pity for this girl.

Unfortunately, though, it appeared from my perspective that she was not being very successful that day. Christ taught us that our left hand should not know what our right hand is doing in terms of almsgiving (MATT. 6:3-4). I do not want to violate the Lord's teaching, but I do not want you to think that we also ignored this poor little girl's request for assistance as others may have been doing. We called her over and put something in her purse. Presvytera asked her "what is your name?" and she answered with a very warm and friendly smile, "Juana." That smile alone rendered rather meaningless and empty a great deal of our "talk" about the "quality of life." With that same smile on her face, she turned and left the restaurant. We will probably never see Juana again - or perhaps on our next Mission Team visit to Antigua? Be that as it may, she left an indelible and haunting image that will be hard to forget. Hence, she is now a unique person and child of God not forgotten in our prayer.

Such is the world we live in for countless human beings, including children. Juana is representative of the flawed and fallen world we inhabit. Think, just for a moment, of her future. Yet she, and the world as it is, are the "object" of God's continuing love. That love - incarnate in Christ - does not make suffering disappear, but it has transformed its meaning. Christians have to now incarnate that love in their care for others, making Christ present in a tangible manner whenever called upon to do so. That may be the most convincing "proof" of Christ's presence among us as a living reality, and not just as an ideal from the past.

Fr. Steven C. Kostoff is the parish rector of Christ the Savior/Holy Spirit Orthodox Church in Cincinnati, OH. He is also an adjunct faculty member at Xavier University in Cincinnati, where he teaches in the theology department.