



CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

BULLETIN OF MAY 12, 2019

A Warm Welcome!

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

New Catechumens: The Howard Family

Today, we congratulate Lowen and Rachael Howard, together with their children Judah, Lewis, and Martin, on their entrance into the catechumenate. May the Lord continue His blessings upon them!



Project Mexico: Anya and Seva Klimitchev



We are pleased to help send Anya and Seva to build homes for the poor as part of Project Mexico & St. Innocent Orphanage. Help us reach the goal of \$1,000 by earmarking your donation for "Project Mexico". More info is at the candle stand and on projectmexico.org. God bless you and them!

Children's Egg Hunt

Today, during the coffee hour. Postponed from last week because of rain. If it rains again today, our final rain date will be next Sunday. Sorry!

Mother's Day Congratulations!

Today, we thank and honor all mothers, grandmothers, mothers-in-law, godmothers, and our church "Matushki" (little mothers)! May God grant you many years!



Supporting A Local Pregnancy Center

A charitable drive, "Bottles of Blessing!", will run from Mother's Day, May 12th to Father's Day, June 16th. You can pick up a Baby Bottle to take home and collect your loose change (cash / checks accepted!). To benefit The Grace Center for Maternal and Women's Health in Berlin where women are cared for materially & spiritually.



Photos From Holy Week and Pascha

Are now available on our website: orthodoxdelmarva.org. Thanks to the photographers! Check them out!



Pool Liner Replacement – Thank You Heroes!



Sincere appreciation is expressed to those who donated for the pool liner replacement! Goal reached! All the children thank you, and may God bless you!

Annual Memorial Day Pilgrimage

The Memorial Day Pilgrimage to Saint Tikhon's Monastery in South Canaan, PA is Monday, May 27th. For more info, please see: memorialdaypilgrimage.com.



Two Suggestions

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

Did You Know? Average Sunday Attendance

This year is 77 souls (& bodies). Previously: 73, 64, 64, 60, 72, 60, 50, 46, 38.

SUNDAY, MAY 12TH

Holy Myrrh-Bearing Women

8:40a.m. Hours
 9:00a.m. Div. Liturgy; Coffee Hour
 Children's Egg Hunt

SATURDAY, MAY 18TH

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

SUNDAY, MAY 19TH

Sunday of the Paralytic

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



Witnessing to the Resurrection

And so the apostles gave witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus with great power. And great grace was on them all. Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly. (Acts)



+	OPERATING			EARMARKED			ACCOUNTS		READER SCHEDULE	
	THRU 4/30	THIS MONTH	THIS YEAR	THRU 4/30	THIS MONTH	THIS YEAR	OPERATING			
INCOME	38,022	1,659	39,681	11,735	1,020	12,755	EARMARKED	17,329	5/12	Gabriela Vlahovici-Jones
EXPENSE	37,044	9,261	46,305	800	0	800	SAVINGS	12,000	5/19	Rdr. Nicholas Borodulia
NET	+978	-7,602	-6,624	+10,935	+1,020	+11,955	BUILDING	5,000	5/26	Megan Wilkinson
									6/2	Beth Dunbar

ABOUT THE PASCHAL TROPARION – CHRIST IS RISEN!

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs, bestowing life!

Upon those in the tombs... has at the very same time two meanings, for the Resurrection of Christ destroys both sin and death. If we be in the tombs of sin, we are brought out; if we be in the tomb of death, we will be brought out.

This is made manifest in the Gospel of John (5:25) when the Lord says, "the hour is coming and now is, when the dead (those in sin) will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live." This is a reference to the "first resurrection", which is the resurrection of the soul from sin. "Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all those who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth..." (verses 28-29). This refers to the future or "second resurrection," that of the body.



The immediate resurrection we experience, and the first benefit of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, is that of the soul being raised from the deadness of sin. The nature of the "second resurrection", whether it will be for "the resurrection of life" or "the resurrection of condemnation" (5:29), is dependent upon whether or not we experience our rising from the deadness of sin, now in this life.

So, when we sing the hymn, "Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs, bestowing life!" – we acknowledge that the living are being raised from sin and the biologically dead, will be raised; the fruitfulness of the Resurrection of Christ is beneficial for both the living and the dead; and for the present age and the age to come.

ABOUT SEEKING THE LIVING AMONG THE DEAD

St. Nikolai Velimirovich

Why do you seek the living One among the dead? (St. Luke 24:5)

The angel of God asks the Myrrh-bearing women as though in astonishment: "Why do you seek the living One among the dead?" As though the perceiver of the mystery of God and God's power wanted to say: "How could you have thought for a moment that He is the hostage of death? Do you not know that He is the principal source of life? Do you not know that all life is through Him and that not one living thing can borrow not even a drop of life from any other source? Did He not fully reveal to you His authority over life and death on earth? Who gave life to the lifeless Lazarus? Who took away the life of the barren fig tree?"

O my brethren, let us also cease to look for the living among the dead. If there are some of us who are still seeking Christ among the dead, let them desist from this soul-destroying effort. This is the vain effort of the Jews, pagans and non-Christians. We know that the Lord and Giver of life is not in the tomb but on the Throne of Glory in the heavens. The spirit, not darkened by sin, looks up into heaven and does not see the tomb; and the spirit, darkened by sin, looks into the tomb and does not see heaven. Sin and virtue govern the spiritual vision of man and reveals to each man its own world at cross-purposes with one another. Sin overthrows the vision of the spirit to the earth and reveals to it the corruption of the world. Virtue uplifts the spirit to heaven and reveals to it the eternal world and the resurrected Christ as the King in that world.

O my brethren, let us not seek life among creation, but from the Creator. Let us not commit an even graver sin i.e., let us not seek the Creator in the tomb of creation nor the Illuminating, Immortal One in the darkness of death.

O Lord Jesus, Victor over death, we cry out to You: resurrect us also into life eternal from the corruption and darkness of death. To You be glory and thanks always. Amen.

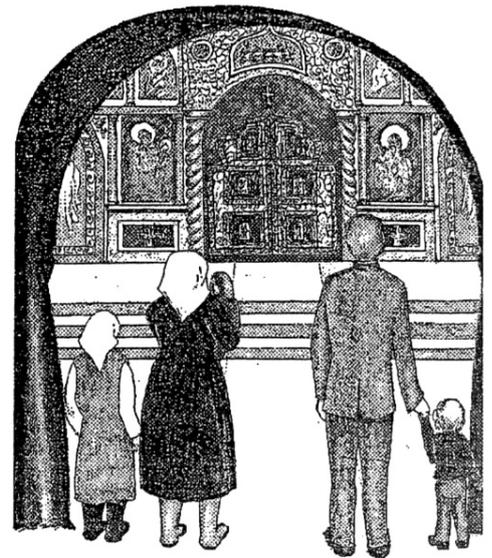


DRAWING NEAR TO GOD: RELIABLE SIGNS?

From St Barsanuphius of Optina (+1913)

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.



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.

THOUGHTS ON STEWARDSHIP

From Parish Publishing, LLC

All of us are caretakers. Nothing belongs to us; everything belongs to God. Not all men and women realize this, but Christians do and strive to please God in the use of all that God has put in their care. Yes, you are a caretaker... God's caretaker!

Think of time as a priceless gift; develop an awareness of its incomparable value and examine your conscience in this light. Are you using your time according to God's plan, or are you throwing it away? If tomorrow were never to dawn, what would you do for God today?



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)

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
5/12	Joshua & Elena Valliant
5/24	David & Miroslava Hill
5/29	Darrell & Deborah Wilson

Namesdays:

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

Errors? Omissions? Please see Fr. John.