

# CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

**BULLETIN OF MAY 26, 2019**



## SUNDAY, MAY 26<sup>TH</sup>

### Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

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

## SATURDAY, JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup>

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

## SUNDAY, JUNE 2<sup>ND</sup>

### Sunday of the Blind Man

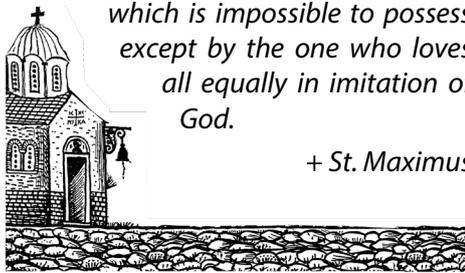
8:40a.m. Hours  
9:00a.m. Div. Liturgy; Coffee Hour



### On Love for Enemies

*"But I say to you," the Lord says, "love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, pray for those who persecute you." Why did He command this? So that He might free you from hatred, sadness, anger and grudges, and grant you the greatest possession of all, perfect love, which is impossible to possess except by the one who loves all equally in imitation of God.*

+ St. Maximus



### About Holy Water

The water that will be blessed on Mid-Pentecost may be used for drinking (health of soul and body) and for blessing (homes, cars, gardens, etc.). Holy Water is grace-filled and offers health, protection, and sanctification. Often a bottle of Holy Water is kept in the refrigerator for frequent use throughout the year.

### 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". We are at \$900. More info is at the candle stand and on [projectmexico.org](http://projectmexico.org). God bless you and them!



### Supporting A Local Pregnancy Center

A charitable drive, "Bottles of Blessing!", will run from Mother's Day, May 12 to Father's Day, June 16. 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.

### Two Suggestions

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



### Can You Offer a Ride to Church?

Please see Fr. John. Why not fill your empty seat with a fellow traveler to the Kingdom of God?

### 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](http://orthodoxdelmarva.org).



### Pool Opening Delayed

The installation of the new pool liner is now slated for the first week of June, making the earliest possible opening of the pool, June 9<sup>th</sup>. More information will be made available via the bulletin and email list.

✝	OPERATING			EARMARKED			ACCOUNTS		READER SCHEDULE	
	THRU 4/30	THIS MONTH	THIS YEAR	THRU 4/30	THIS MONTH	THIS YEAR	OPERATING			
INCOME	38,022	4,944	42,966	11,735	3,100	14,855	OPERATING	8,412	5/26	Megan Wilkinson
EXPENSE	37,044	9,261	46,305	800	0	800	EARMARKED	19,994	6/2	Beth Dunbar
NET	+978	-4,317	-3,339	+10,935	+3,100	+15,655	SAVINGS	12,000	6/9	Gabriela Vlahovici-Jones
							BUILDING	5,000	6/16	Rdr. Nicholas Borodulia

## WHY DO WE CALL IT PASCHA?

Fr. James Guirguis

My beloved, we are now in the joyous season of Pascha. It occurred to me that perhaps some of you do not know why we call what is known in the west as Easter by this term Pascha. What does it mean? Where did it come from? How can we celebrate it properly during these holy days that culminate in the feasts of Ascension and Pentecost?

Pascha, is a word that is Greek but originally derived from Hebrew and that word meant "Passover". We know that Passover is a feast celebrated by the Jewish people. This feast celebrates the miraculous events that led to the release of the Jews from slavery in Egypt. We read about this in the biblical account called Exodus, which is the second book of the Bible. The actual event that is called the Passover is the event that broke Egypt's back and made Pharaoh submit to the demands of Moses the prophet and release the people of God.

What was this event? It was the coming of the angel to kill and wipe-out the first-born of every living creature, both man and beast. Both Jews and Egyptians.

But God had a plan for those who loved Him and had faith. He instituted the Passover celebration where the



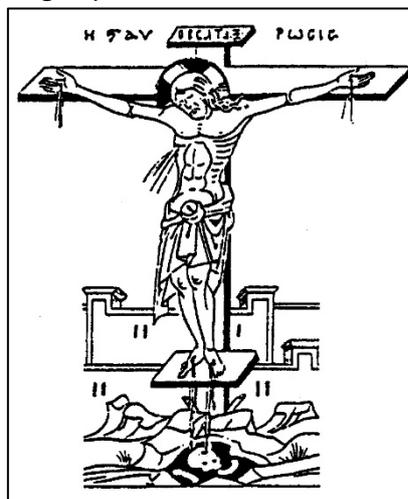
people would gather around a table and eat a lamb cooked with bitter herbs. When this lamb was slaughtered, God instructed that its blood was to be put across the door posts of each house. The blood would form a shape that you would see across the top rail of the door and across the two side posts on the left and the right. It would look very much like the Greek letter Pi. However in the modern Hebrew language the shape of the letter would be recognized as Tav which makes the sound "t". So, if a modern Jew were to look at the mark of the blood on the doors they would immediately think of the letter Tav. Why is this so interesting? Because during the time of the exodus and in the early Jewish history, the letter underwent development and changes. Tav didn't always look like the Greek letter for Pi, but looked like something much more recognizable to each of us. It looked almost exactly like a cross or a lower case "t".

What does this have to do with Pascha? Pascha takes its name from this feast of the Jews, where they took the blood of a spotless lamb and put it on the doors of the house in obedience to the Lord. This was the sign by which the Angel would pass over the house and would not kill anyone within the house. In this way, it was un-

derstood as a Passover and that is exactly what we celebrate during this beautiful season of Pascha. Only we have much more to celebrate than did the Jews in Egypt.

The Jews were in bondage and slavery in Egypt, but we were in the bondage and slavery of sin. The Jews worked for Pharaoh and the empire of Egypt, but we worked for Satan and his kingdom. The Jews picked a lamb without blemish and killed it in order to eat it and to place its blood on the door posts. God chose His only Son to be the lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world. And He did this upon the wood of the cross, in the shape of a "t". They ate of this lamb with bitter spices, yet in Holy communion, we eat the lamb of God with joy for what He has done for us and in us.

They spread the blood upon the door so that the angel might pass over the house and everyone in it. Yet we



were baptized into the death of Christ so that by the death that He died, He could offer us freedom from spiritual death and life immortal. Through the death of the Lord we are offered fullness of life. It is to live life in communion with the Holy Trinity, forever. Nothing in the

world can separate us from God because of the blood of the Lamb of God. This sacrifice has made death powerless over us. Even more than that, it has rejuvenated us and energized us with new life, the divine life of Christ through the Holy Spirit.

Pascha is a fulfillment of the feast of Passover celebrated long ago. It is our Passover celebration. It was celebrated with great symbolism in the past, but we celebrate it through fulfillment and in reality. Because of God's mercy and love, we now have the ability to live freely in Christ, in true life, and to grow in depth and knowledge of the Lord and to serve Him faithfully.

We see this glorious time in the Church as a foretaste and an entrance into the kingdom. Everything shines with the light of Christ. Everything takes on the joy of the resurrection. Everything becomes new again. We fasted for many weeks in order to be prepared and to be purified for this time in the presence of the renewed grace of God. We don't celebrate Pascha for merely a day. Not even for 40 days. Pascha is the eternal celebration of life in Christ.

Around the year 1815, we hear that St. Seraphim of Sarov had repented and prayed for nearly 1000 days while

upon a rock, he descended from that rock and began to greet all of the people with a familiar phrase that God had given to Him... "Christ is risen!" This is not just a hope. Christ is risen! This is my belief, this is my faith, this is my creed, this is my life. Christ is risen from the dead. And we who were in the tombs of spiritual and physical death are now given life. May this life not be wasted. May this life be lived as the saints themselves have lived it. Life is not about them or about the world. Everything is an offering to the living God.

St. John Maximovitch of San Francisco said, "the Son of God came to earth and became man that He might lead man into heaven and make him once again a citizen of Paradise, returning to him his original state of sinlessness and wholeness and uniting him unto Himself." If this is our way, He will be our joy. Because He lives, we shall also live with Him. This is the precious gift that has been given to us. Christ is risen! Indeed, He is risen!

---

## ASK FATHER: 3 QUESTIONS / 3 ANSWERS

### Question: How should I respond to people's questions about the Faith?

**Answer:** It is always good to remember the words of Scripture. The Apostle Peter says: "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and be ready always to give an answer to everyone who asks you a reason of the hope in you, with meekness and fear; having a good conscience..." (1Peter 3:15-16)

St. Peter gives us three practical things to do: 1) to seek the Lord's help; praying fervently to Him from the heart that He might inspire both us and those we are speaking with; 2) to have the courage to share the reasons why we believe; and 3) to speak, "with meekness and fear; having a good conscience".

Why meekness, fear, and a good conscience? Meekness because the Lord Himself is humble and doesn't force anything on anyone. Fear because we ourselves are mere human beings and the things of God are mysterious and beyond our full comprehension. And a good conscience because we ourselves must be seeking to do what is right, seeking to follow the way of the Lord, if we are going to lead others in the same. If we can pass along the spirit of meekness, fear, and a good conscience, to the person we are speaking with, then they will have all the necessary prerequisites to learning the true Faith. Without this spirit, even the most perfect teaching from the most perfect Teacher will not be enough. We recall how some even departed from the Christ because they lacked meekness, fear of God, and a good conscience.



### Question: But how can I help the person, if I don't really know what to say?

**Answer:** Even if we can't fully answer every question (and really, who can?), we can still help people by referring them to someone who might know a little more than us or to some profitable book on the subject. By so doing, they will be assured that what we are telling them is not our own personal belief but the universal teaching of the Church. And even if they never speak with the person we referred them to or never open the book we suggested, at the very least they will know that Orthodox Christianity is not about personal opinions but instead a common and universal witness to the Truth.

### Question: But what if the conversation starts to turn argumentative?

**Answer:** Arguments about the Faith seldom bear fruit; the Christian life is communicated better by example than by argument. And so, if the conversation seems to turn argumentative, it might be best to follow the above advice and humbly refer the person to someone else or to some pertinent material on the subject in question.

By humbly removing ourselves from the conversation, we can actually help the person more than if we continued to debate them. This is because the person will more easily accept the answer to their question if they don't have to swallow their pride by "giving in". We all know how once a conversation turns into an argument, it can be less about the question and its answer than about who is going to "win" the debate. We should try to avoid this at all costs. Even if we might know well the answer to the question, it could be that the person needs to hear the answer from someone else. Humbling taking ourselves out of an argument is not losing; it is giving a chance for the other person to be won over by the Lord.



## ST. TIKHON'S MONASTERY ANNOUNCES 115TH MEMORIAL DAY PILGRIMAGE SCHEDULE MAY 24-27, 2019

*From OCA.org*

It was on the Friday before Memorial Day in 1905 that a group of faithful set out from Mayfield, PA—some by train, buggy, or wagon, others by foot—and crossed Mount Salem to a designated meeting place in the town of Waymart, PA. Once everyone had gathered, the procession continued on foot to the village of South Canaan and the sacred grounds of the newly founded Saint Tikhon's Monastery. Archbishop Tikhon, the monastery's founder and future Patriarch of Moscow, and the monastery's first Abbot, Father Arseny, led the procession marking the first Memorial Day Pilgrimage to Saint Tikhon's Monastery, America's oldest Orthodox monastic community.

Today, Saint Tikhon's Monastery remains a "beating heart" for America's Orthodox Christian faithful. Year after year, pilgrims have returned each Memorial Day weekend to its grounds "where saints have walked" as a means of reconnecting with God and the spiritual tradition of the Church. They attend the rich and festive services, meet old friends and make new ones, enjoy time with family, take in a spiritual word from one of the fathers of the monastery, remember loved ones who have departed to the next life, and receive comfort for souls burdened with the cares of this one.

This year's 115th Memorial Day Pilgrimage, slated to be held May 24 through May 27, 2019, continues the tradition established by Saint Tikhon and Father Arseny. Pilgrims will once again be especially graced by the presence of the Myrrhstreaming Hawaiian Iveron Icon of the Mother of God and by the participation and presence of numerous hierarchs, clergy, faithful, and friends from across America and beyond.

A wide variety of liturgical services, lectures, choral presentations and opportunities for prayer and fellowship will be available at this year's Pilgrimage. In addition, Saint Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary [STOTS] will hold its 77th Commencement Exercises on Saturday, May 25.

### SCHEDULE FOR MEMORIAL DAY, MAY 27

- 7:10 AM — Divine Liturgy – Monastery Church
- 10:00 AM — Hierarchical Divine Liturgy - All Saints Bell Tower Chapel
- 1:00 PM — Veterans' Panikhida & Memorial Service - All Saints Bell Tower Chapel
- 1:30 PM — Akathist to Saint Alexis of Wilkes-Barre - Monastery Church
- 2:15 PM — Molieben to the Most Holy Theotokos and Anointing of the Sick, Infirm, and all Pilgrims - All Saints Bell Tower Chapel
- 4:00 PM — Vespers and Matins - Monastery Church