

CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

BULLETIN OF JUNE 2, 2019



A Warm Welcome!

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

Feast of the Ascension – Thursday, June 6

This week we celebrate the Lord's Ascension into Heaven, which occurred 40 days after His Resurrection from the dead. This is one of the 12 Great Feasts of the Church's liturgical year. Come have a joyous feast and holy day!



SUNDAY, JUNE 2ND

Sunday of the Blind Man

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

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5TH

Leave-taking of Pascha

7:00p.m. Great Vespers

THURSDAY, JUNE 6TH

Ascension of the Lord

One of the Twelve Great Feasts

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

SATURDAY, JUNE 8TH

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

SUNDAY, JUNE 9TH

Holy Fathers of the 1st Council

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



Feast of Pentecost – Sunday, June 16

On Sunday, June 16, we celebrate the Descent of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, 50 days after Pascha. On this day we have Vespers with Kneeling Prayers immediately following the Liturgy. This is a High Holy Day, no one should miss. There will be Liturgy the next day, dedicated to the Holy Spirit.

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 \$910, which means that only \$90 is needed. 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.

amazon

smile



On Slander and Ridicule

Before you say something about someone, remember: Man can be broken by slander and ridicule. The word is stronger than a knife and a fist because it reaches great distances, acts for a long time and penetrates the very heart without leaving bruises.

Archpriest Andrei Tkachev



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 9th. More information will be made available via the bulletin and email list.

+	OPERATING			EARMARKED			ACCOUNTS		READER SCHEDULE	
	THRU 4/30	LAST MONTH	THIS YEAR	THRU 4/30	LAST MONTH	THIS YEAR	OPERATING			
INCOME	38,022	7,045	45,067	11,735	3,110	14,865	EARMARKED	4,723	6/2	Gabriela Vlahovici-Jones
EXPENSE	37,044	9,261	46,305	800	0	800	SAVINGS	19,994	6/9	Beth Dunbar
NET	+978	-2,216	-1,238	+10,935	+3,110	+15,665	BUILDING	12,000	6/16	Rdr. Nicholas Borodulia
								5,000	6/23	Megan Wilkinson



THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD INTO HEAVEN

When the day of the Jewish Pentecost drew near, the disciples of Christ returned from Galilee to Jerusalem. On the fortieth day after the resurrection of Jesus Christ they were all together in one house. Jesus Christ appeared to them and spoke with them saying, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to all creation. He who believes and is baptized will be saved, but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs shall accompany those who believe: in My name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover."

Then the Savior said to the disciples that soon the Holy Spirit would come upon them, and until that time He charged them not to depart from Jerusalem. He said, "I send the promise of My Father upon you; but stay in the city, until you are clothed with power from on high; for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

Conversing with the disciples, the Savior led them out of the city as far as Bethany, to the Mount of Olives. The disciples, overjoyed with the words of the Savior, surrounded Him and started to ask, "Lord will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" The Savior said to them, "It is not for you to know the times or seasons which the Father has fixed by His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth."

When He had said this, Jesus Christ lifted up His hands and blessed His disciples. While He blessed them, He parted from them and He was lifted up to Heaven, and soon a cloud took Him out of their sight. Thus our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ ascended in His physical body to Heaven and sat down at the right Hand of God the Father. His human soul and body took on the indivisible

glory with His divinity. In His divinity, He always is and will be in Heaven and everywhere.

The disciples worshipped the ascended Lord and for a long time continued to stand and gaze into Heaven after Him. Then two angels in white robes appeared before them and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into Heaven? This Jesus, Who was taken up from you into Heaven, will come to earth in the same way (that is, in the flesh), as you saw Him go into heaven." After this the disciples of Christ returned to Jerusalem with great joy and stayed there together, awaiting the descent of the Holy Spirit. All of them, together in soul, spent the time in prayer and were continually in the Temple of God, praising and thanking God. With them were several women and Mary, the Most-holy Mother of the Lord Jesus Christ, with their relatives. In those days the apostles, prayerfully, by casting lots, chose from among the disciples of Christ the twelfth apostle, Matthias, to take the place of Judas the betrayer, who perished.

Ascended into Heaven, Jesus Christ, according to His own promise, invisibly always comes to earth among those who believe in Him and will come again to earth in visible form to judge the living and the dead, who will then rise from the dead. After this will begin the life of the next age, another, eternal life which for true believers and pious people will be completely blessed, but for disbelievers and sinners will be a time of great torment.

Troparion

Thou hast ascended in glory, O Christ our God, granting joy to Thy disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit. Through the blessing they were assured that Thou art the Son of God, the Redeemer of the world!

Kontakion

When Thou didst fulfill the dispensation for our sake and unite earth to heaven, Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God, not being parted from those who love Thee, but remaining with them and crying, "I am with you and no one will be against you!"

ASK FATHER: 4 QUESTIONS / 4 ANSWERS

Q: Is there a dress code in the Orthodox Church, and if so, why?

A: First, it should be said, that it is a recent phenomenon in some Roman Catholic and Protestant churches to advertise “casual”, “relaxed” or even no dress code at all for worship and fellowship. This answer will not directly critique this practice other than to say that this has never been part of and is a clear departure from Orthodox Christian tradition.

Both the Old and New Testaments are full of calls to modesty and respectfulness not only in inward spirit but also in outward appearance as the one is connected to and influences the other. Since the time of Adam and Eve, who covered themselves with clothing after the Fall, the way in which one dressed has been directly connected to the way in which one relates to God and one’s neighbor. Cleanliness, simplicity, appropriateness, humility, etc., are not only virtues of the soul but also virtues of the body, which, St. Paul tells us, is the temple of the Holy Spirit.

Q: So, what IS the dress code?

A: The Scriptures offer us a dress code, with not only calls to the aforementioned virtuous principles, but also specific details in relation to: cross-dressing (Deut. 22:5), body markings (Deut. 14:1, Lev. 19:28), braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire (1 Tim. 2:9, 1 Pet. 3:3-4), and head coverings (1 Cor. 11) to name a few.

Now to be sure each of these references has nuances related to culture and epoch; for example, men wear kilts in Scotland. Yet, just as it would be incorrect to overlook these nuances, so too would be incorrect to be dismissive of the teaching itself. Therefore, throughout the Orthodox world, the Scriptural teaching remains the ideal or standard, yet the application remains pastorally flexible in order to bring about spiritual growth and progress in the faithful. For this reason, one will observe both strict adherence to the dress code such as in monasteries or parishes whose faithful are from traditionally Orthodox cultures, as well as appropriate flexibility in churches who pastorally care for and missionize non-Orthodox societies. In general, it is a good idea to be aware of the dress code, and not only refrain from being critical of it but also to respectfully follow it because it has salvific import for us and others.

Q: What is the dress code at our parish?

A: There are four basic categories: 1) men, 2) women, 3) children, and 4) everyone.

1) Men should not wear hats, bandanas, shorts, sleeveless shirts, or casual footwear like sneakers.

2) Women should not wear miniskirts, spandex-tight clothing, low-cut or revealing tops (unless covered with a sweater or other garment), or casual footwear like sneakers.

3) Children should be given a little more flexibility but should still wear “church clothes” so that they know they are somewhere that is special and holy.

4) Everyone should refrain from clothing that is immodest, ostentatious, a fashion-statement, or otherwise distracting from the prayerful and sacred space of the Lord’s House. Clothing or bodily adornments with images, symbols, or writing should not be worn or at least covered up, so that the holy icons and Word of God do not have to compete with the logo of our favorite sport team, the name of a music band, or the slogan of our political party.

This being said, we should not take it upon ourselves to enforce the dress code upon anyone else, especially visitors to the parish. As people become

familiar with Orthodox Christianity, they will slowly start to adapt themselves to the ways of the Church, naturally growing in Christ with that which pertains to both soul and body. As always, if you have questions or concerns, please speak with Fr. John.

Q: What about the church’s pool?

A: The same basic principles apply with regard to modesty and respect for the Lord and our brothers and sisters in Christ. What we wear in the church’s pool should be a step above what is acceptable at the beach (or perhaps a few steps!). Although, we do have an exceedingly strict “no bikinis or speedos” policy :, there is no need to buy a new berka-style bathing suit; one can simply wear a T-shirt or shorts over what should be covered. This is actually what the Apostle Peter did when swimming in the Lord’s presence at the Sea of Galilee (see John 21:7). And so, enjoy swimming in the pool, the fellowship with each other, the presence of the Lord, and His blessing for your modesty and respectfulness!



GUARDING THE MIND AND THE HEART

Saint Nicodemus of the Holy Mountain

Everyone finds calm and rest at their center. As snails find rest within their crusty shell, as octopus in their chambers, as four-footed land animals in their dens, and as birds in their nests, so also with man, whose mind has the natural attribute to be calm, to find rest and to be in peace when it enters the heart and the inner man. Man too has the body as a region and dwelling, and the heart as its own center and room for resting. St. Isaac called the heart "the house of understanding."



And as the animals when troubled and frightened run to their dens to be protected, so also the mind of man, when troubled by some assault of evil thoughts or some other internal or external circumstance, runs to the heart and shouts, "My Jesus help me! My Jesus save me!" and is thus liberated. St. John Climacus said: "The name of Jesus chastises enemies" and "Let the memory of Jesus be united with your breathing and then you will know the benefit of silence." The Apostle Peter preached: "And there is salvation in no one else [except Jesus], for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). This is why St. Macarios also noted: "For as it is not possible for the eye to see without light and for speech to be made without a tongue, or for hearing to take place without an ear, so also it is not possible without Christ to be saved and to enter the kingdom of heaven."

JUNE CONGRATULATIONS!

Anniversaries:

- 6/2 Gregory & Danyella Parsells
- 6/4 Dn. Steve & Nissa Nancy Hall
- 6/12 Fr. John & Mat. Emily Parsells
- 6/17 Alan & Denise Royal
- 6/22 Francis & Renie Abdow
- 6/24 Bill & Kathy Parrish
- 6/27 George & Ellen Kaloroumakis

Birthdays:

- 6/4 Danyella Parsells
- 6/6 Nicholas Parsells
- 6/9 Miroslava Hill
- 6/9 Anya Klimitchev
- 6/14 Cheryl Kokkinos
- 6/17 Alexander Azar
- 6/17 David McAlpin
- 6/19 Richard Evanusa
- 6/22 Ioana Davidson
- 6/24 Theodosia, Wyant
- 6/28 Renie Abdow
- 6/30 Christiana Milite
- 6/30 Bill Parrish
- 6/30 Elena Valliant

Namesdays:

- 6/14 *Prophet Elisha*
Eliseea Theodora Bendfeldt
- 6/29 *Holy Apostles Peter & Paul*
Darrell Paul Wilson

Not on the list? Please see Fr. John.

FROM THE SAYINGS OF THE DESERT FATHERS

A hunter, wandering through the desert, came upon Abba Anthony while he was making jokes with the brethren; and he was shocked. Wishing to teach the hunter that it is necessary sometimes to relax with the brethren, the old man said to him: "Put an arrow in your bow and bend it." The hunter did so. "Bend it a little more," said Anthony. The hunter obeyed. "And still more," Anthony told him. "But if I draw the string too tight," said the hunter, "the bow will snap." And the old man said to him: "It is the same in the work of God. If in the case of the brethren we draw the string too tight, they will snap under the strain. So it is necessary sometimes to relax with them." When the hunter heard this, he was filled with compunction, and profiting much from what the old man had said, he went his way. And the brethren, greatly strengthened, departed to their own place.

