



# CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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## BULLETIN OF JULY 21, 2019

### A Warm Welcome!

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

### Blessing of Chariots – Sunday, July 21<sup>st</sup>

Today, following the Post-Communion Prayers, we will have the annual Blessing of Chariots. It is a custom of Orthodox Christians to have their cars blessed both when newly acquired and on or near the feast of the Prophet Elias (July 20<sup>th</sup>), as he ascended as if into heaven on a fiery chariot.



### Saint George's Greek Festival

will be held at the Ocean City Convention Center, July 26-28. Great food, music, entertainment, shopping, and fellowship. Let's do our best to support our brothers and sisters in Ocean City! Questions, please call St. George's at 410-524-0990.

### Open Pool

After the Divine Liturgy, the pool will be open for swimming until 1pm. 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.



### SUNDAY, JULY 21<sup>ST</sup>

#### 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

8:40a.m. Hours  
 9:00a.m. Div. Liturgy  
 Blessing of Chariots  
 Coffee Hour / Open Pool

### SATURDAY, JULY 27<sup>TH</sup>

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

### SUNDAY, JULY 28<sup>TH</sup>

#### 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

8:40a.m. Hours  
 9:00a.m. Div. Liturgy  
 Coffee Hour / Open Pool



### Vacation Planning

An online directory of Orthodox churches in North America is available at [orthodoxyinamerica.org](http://orthodoxyinamerica.org). Everyone needs a vacation sometime, but who really wants or can afford a vacation from God? If you don't have the internet, ask your priest to help find you a parish while you are away. If you are planning to receive Holy Communion while away, it is good order to contact the priest in advance.

### Weekly Financials

Each week a financial snapshot appears at the bottom of page one in the bulletin. More detailed quarterly reports are offered at council meetings and full financials at the annual meeting. Questions? Want a set of envelopes? Please see our treasurer, Ioana Davidson.



### Have a Question About Orthodoxy or Parish Life?

You may reach Fr. John at any time by phone or email: 302-537-6055 or [frjohn@orthodoxdelmarva.org](mailto:frjohn@orthodoxdelmarva.org).

### Get the FREE "Orthodoxy in America" App

offers a church locator, news, social feeds, daily audio, trending photos, video and 360 tours from major Orthodox media outlets! [OrthodoxyInAmerica.org](http://OrthodoxyInAmerica.org)



### Haven't Seen Someone in a While?

Give an email or a call. Let them know that you miss them. Our parish is a family, and families check up on each other.

The person who truly loves God: 1) values knowledge of Him more than anything else, and 2) pursues such knowledge eagerly and ceaselessly.

*St. Maximos the Confessor*

✠	OPERATING			EARMARKED			ACCOUNTS		READER SCHEDULE	
	THRU 6/30	THIS MONTH	THIS YEAR	THRU 6/30	THIS MONTH	THIS YEAR	OPERATING			
INCOME	57,005	5,389	62,394	15,110	0	15,110	OPERATING	9,221	7/28	Rdr. George Kaloroumakis
EXPENSE	55,566	9,261	64,827	2,885	0	2,885	EARMARKED	18,839	8/4	Gabriela Vlahovici-Jones
NET	+1,439	-3,872	-2,433	+12,225	0	+12,225	SAVINGS	12,000	8/11	Beth Dunbar
							BUILDING	5,000	8/18	Rdr. Nicholas Borodulia

## GOD IS NOT LOVE

Fr. Joseph Gleason

If we accept the way that the modern world defines "love", then we would have to conclude that God is not love.

God is holy. He is a consuming fire. He is the way, the truth, and the life. God is a lot of things. But He is not love. — At least, not according to the way the world abuses the word "love".

If love is what two people feel when they "fall in love", then God is not love.

If love is a powerful emotion flowing through the hearts of two people who are "making love", then God is not love.

If love is what you feel when you deeply desire to have another person near you, and you cannot imagine being without that person, then God is not love.

God is not a feeling. God is not an emotion. God is not a desire. Therefore, God is not love. — At least, not according to the way the world abuses the word "love".

### FISH LOVE

A famous video has been making the rounds, describing what the author likes to call "fish love". His story goes like this:

"Young man, why are you eating that fish?"

"Because I love fish."

"Oh. You love the fish. That's why you took it out of the water and killed it and boiled it?"

"Don't tell me you love the fish. You love yourself, and because the fish tastes good to you, that's why you took it out of the water and killed it and boiled it."

So much of what is called "love" today is actually "fish love". — A young couple "falls in love". A young man and young woman "fall in love". What does that mean? That means that he saw in this woman someone who he felt could provide him with all of his physical and emotional needs, and she saw in this man somebody she felt could provide for her needs. But each person is looking out for their own needs. It's not love for the other. The other person becomes a vehicle for my gratification.

"My dream woman." "The man of my dreams." "A vehicle for my gratification."

According to the modern English language — "Love" = "Lust" And if love is the same as lust, then God is not love.

### THE GOLDEN CALF

Over 3,000 years ago, when the devil convinced the Israelites to worship the golden calf in the wilderness, he was sneaky about it. He knew the name they used for God, and he didn't ask them to change it. He did not say, "Stop worshiping your god, and start praying to Baal, or to Molech, or to some other god." Instead, he just convinced them to setup an idol which had no resemblance to God.

The devil let them keep the same word for God, and keep the same priesthood as they had before. He just had them setup a golden calf, and call the idol by God's name. Aaron the high priest made a proclamation and said,

Tomorrow is a feast to the LORD!

This is the same sort of thing they would say in other situations, when they were actually worshiping the Lord correctly. The word "LORD" here is an English rendering of the Hebrew word "YHWH", which is a proper name for God. In this particular case, the words did not change. The only thing that changed was the definition of a particular word. The word "LORD" had previously referred to the God who created the entire universe, and who had miraculously led Moses and the Israelites out of Egypt. But now, in this case, the word "LORD" was used in reference to the golden calf.

By changing the definition of one word, the Israelites fell into

idolatry. While their words claimed that they were worshiping the Lord, in truth they were just worshiping a lifeless statue made of gold.

In cultures where the Hindu religion is popular, people continue worshipping cows today. But among cultures that are more traditionally Christian, the devil has to take a slightly different approach. Setting up a golden calf and calling it the "LORD" is not subtle enough to fool most people.

So instead of redefining the word "LORD" or the word "God", why not just redefine a word that is closely identified with God?

### REDEFINING LOVE

One of the most beloved passages in the Bible is 1 John 4:8, which explicitly says:

"... God is love."



And of course the Scriptures speak truthfully. But this truth is only helpful to those who know what love is. If the reader thinks that love is a feeling, or that love is sex, or that love is the lowest possible score in a tennis match, then saying "God is love" will do nothing but cause confusion.

I am reminded of this vile poem by J.V. Cunningham:

GOD

*God is love. Then by inversion...*

*Love is God, and sex conversion.*

I could hardly bring myself to share such a disgusting poem with anyone — except for the fact that it almost perfectly sums up the idolatry which has become rampant today in Western society, even within the Church.

The devil has redefined the word "love" to mean its opposite. The powers of evil have convinced us that love has nothing to do with patience, personal responsibility, or self-sacrifice.

"Love" has thus become the new golden calf, the new idol, the new false god at whose feet the modern world has been commanded to bow.

We are fed a constant lie about what it means to "love". And then the advocates of hell blithely remind us that "God is love". By this linguistic slight of hand, they tell us that God is lust, God is selfishness, and that God is sodomy.

But if this is what "love" is, then this is precisely what God is not. Pretending otherwise is nothing short of idolatry. It is no different from erecting a statue of a golden calf, and naming it "Jesus".

"Jesus saves", you say? Well, no, this one cannot save. Not this "Jesus".

"God is love", you say? Well, no, He most definitely is not. Not this "love".

The word "love" is used over three hundred times in Holy Scripture. And we cannot change the teachings of Scripture. The Bible talks about love so frequently, and so extensively, that we cannot afford to ignore it.

The only reasonable course of action is for us to repent. We need to repent of the way we have abused the word "love". We need to repent of our idolatry.

### WHAT IS LOVE?

In Scripture, the Holy Spirit inspired the apostle Paul to write 1 Corinthians 13:4-6, providing us with a proper description of love:

- Love is patient
- Love is kind
- Love does not envy
- Love does not boast
- Love is not proud
- Love does not dishonor others
- Love is not self-seeking
- Love is not easily angered
- Love keeps no record of wrongs
- Love does not delight in evil
- Love rejoices with the truth

Reviewing this list, it is very difficult to see how anything in the modern "free love" or "LGBT" movements have anything to do with genuine love. Tell an unmarried couple that it is wrong to fornicate, and there will be nothing patient or kind in the way they respond to you. Tell homosexuals that they don't have a right to sleep with whomever they want, and find out for yourself whether or not they are easily angered.

If love is not self-seeking, then why do they place such a high priority on their own sexual pleasure?

If love does not delight in evil, why do they delight in every form of sexual activity which is condemned by Holy Scripture?

If love is not proud, why do they have homosexual "pride" parades?

Whether a man sleeps with his girlfriend, or whether he sleeps with another man, his actions have nothing whatsoever to do with "love". His deeds are impatient, unkind, and dishonoring to others. He is envious, self-centered, and proud. He delights in evil, and rejects the truth. And

if you remind him of this, he is very easily angered. This is not love. This is the opposite of love.

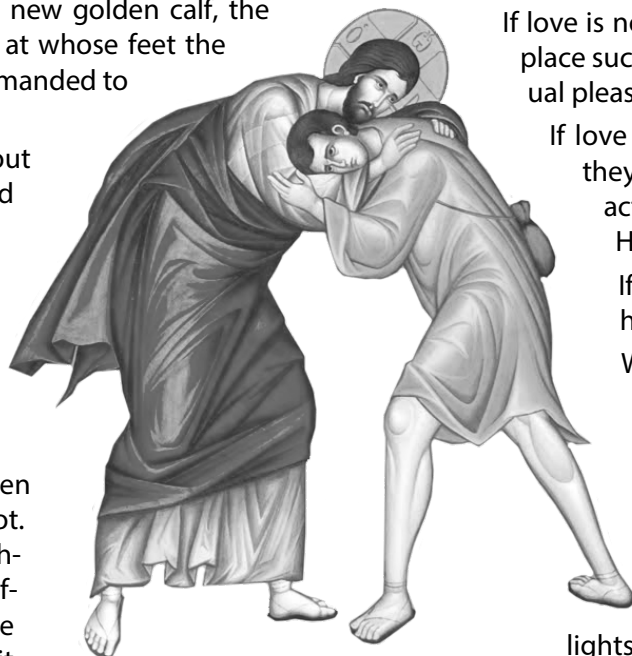
### WHO IS LOVE?

If we truly understand love, then we speak truthfully when we say, "God is love".

In the following paragraphs, click on the links to see the underlying passages from Holy Scripture.

Jesus is God. Therefore, Jesus is Love. That means Love became a man who walked with us on earth. Love confronted sinners. Love told people to repent. Love told people to love one another. Love told people to stop sinning.

Love insulted false teachers, calling them hypocrites, whitewashed tombs, and snakes. Love got angry with people who lacked compassion. Love made a whip,



knocked down tables, and drove out people who were defiling the temple.

Love healed the sick, gave sight to the blind, and raised the dead. Love warned people of hell, and provided a way for them to enter heaven. Love was always good, but Love was not always nice.

Love is the Resurrection and the Life. Love promises that all those who follow Him will live forever.

Love is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. Love says that sexually immoral people shall have

their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.

Love is patient. He has given us many opportunities for repentance. And if we do repent, then we will rejoice with Him forever in heaven. But those who refuse to repent will eventually be cast into the eternal flames of hell.

Love must reign, until Love puts all enemies under his feet.

And this will truly be the point where Love Wins.



### **ON THE DIVINE CRAFTSMAN**

*St. Methodius of Olympus*

Seeing man, His fairest work, corrupted by envious treachery, God could not endure, with His love for man, to leave him in such a condition, lest he should be forever defective, and bear the blame for eternity; but He dissolved him again into his original components, so that, by remodeling, all the blemishes in him might waste away and disappear. For the melting down of the statue in the former case corresponds to the death and dissolution of the body in the latter, and the remolding of the material in the former, to the resurrection after death in the latter.

## **10 COMMANDMENTS FOR DRIVERS**

- I. Always begin a trip with prayer, making the Sign of the Cross and entrusting yourself to the Lord.**
- II. Never drink and drive.**
- III. Never try to shorten the time of a trip. If you started out late, you will arrive late. Do not speed.**
- IV. Apologize to a driver whom you have interfered with, even when you did not intend to. After all, when we are walking, and bump someone, we apologize without thinking. So why should there be a different ethic behind the wheel?**
- V. Always yield way to someone who is in a great hurry, or is driving aggressively. If you do not yield, he will still pass you, but the situation will be more dangerous.**

- VI. Give a wave of thanks to a driver who makes way for you.**
- VII. Drive in such a way that you won't fear seeing a police car. Remember that God is watching, even if the police are not.**
- VIII. Stay as far away as possible from cars that have dents or show signs of accidents. But be careful not to judge, or you may share in their misfortune.**
- IX. Never speed up when another driver tries to pass you, or to get into your lane. Do not treat your neighbor in a way you do not want to be treated.**
- X. After every trip, thank God for its safe completion. Be thankful after any trip, and not just a successful one. After all, almost always it could have been worse!**