

BEFORE THY  
CROSS  
WE  
BOW



# CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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**BULLETIN OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2019**

## A Warm Welcome!

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

## The Postfeast of the Exultation of the Precious Cross

is celebrated from 9/14 through 9/21, the "leave-taking" of the feast. During this time the troparion and kontakion for the feast are sung or said with our morning and evening prayers (we also add, "Before Thy Cross"), and at meal times; the troparion before the meal and the kontakion after. See your prayer or Liturgy book.



## Fr. Daniel's Anniversary of Priesthood

Yesterday, Fr. Daniel Hubiak celebrated his 67<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination to the Holy Priesthood. Photos are on our website. Today, we will have a festive luncheon to mark the occasion. May God grant Fr. Daniel & Mat. Dunia many blessed years!

## "Polar Bear Club" Sunday – September 15<sup>th</sup>

The final day for swimming during the coffee hour will be Sunday, 9/15. 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, SEPTEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup>

### Sunday After the Exaltation

8:40a.m. Hours  
9:00a.m. Div. Liturgy  
Luncheon for Fr. Daniel  
"Polar Bear Club"

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup>

1:00p.m. Canoeing and Kayaking  
5:00p.m. Bible Study  
6:00p.m. Great Vespers

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup>

### 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost

8:40a.m. Hours  
9:00a.m. Div. Liturgy  
Coffee Hour  
Parish Council Meeting  
TBD Movie Outing

## Canoeing and Kayaking – September 21<sup>st</sup>

A fellowship event is being held at the Pocomoke River Canoe Company on Saturday, 9/21 at 1pm. The cost is approximately \$5 per person for one hour, thanks to our sponsors. Following 1 hour on the river, there will be a potluck back at the Parish Center, then daycare will be provided so adults can attend the Bible Study at 5pm. Vespers closes the evening at 6pm.



## The Parish Council – September 22<sup>nd</sup>

3<sup>rd</sup> quarterly meeting. Full reports will be presented. All are welcome!

## Downton Abbey Movie – September 22<sup>nd</sup>

A fellowship event is being held for those interested in seeing the Downton Abbey movie together on Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>. The movie will follow the parish council meeting. All are invited to attend. Please see Mat. Emily for details.



## Archdiocesan Assembly – September 28<sup>th</sup>

If you are interested in attending this year's Assembly of the Archdiocese of Washington at St. Luke's in McLean, VA, please let Fr. John know ASAP

## 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.



St. Alonius



## On the Way to Peace

*If a man is not set in his heart that there is no one else in the world but himself and God, he cannot find peace in his soul.*

✠	OPERATING			EARMARKED			ACCOUNTS		READER SCHEDULE	
	THRU 8/31	THIS MONTH	THIS YEAR	THRU 8/31	THIS MONTH	THIS YEAR	OPERATING			
INCOME	74,492	3,588	78,080	15,110	1,500	16,610	OPERATING	8,574	9/15	Beth Dunbar
EXPENSE	74,088	9,261	83,349	2,885	5,780	8,665	EARMARKED	13,059	9/22	Rdr. Nicholas Borodulia
NET	+404	-5,673	-5,269	+12,225	-4,280	+7,945	SAVINGS	12,000	9/29	Megan Wilkinson
							BUILDING	5,000	10/6	Rdr. George Kaloroumakis

## ON HOW THE WORLD HATES THE WITNESS OF ITS SIN

By St. Nikolai Velimirovich

***The world cannot hate you; but Me it hateth.*** (John 7:7)

Why does the world hate Christ the Lord? The Lord Himself immediately explained this: Because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil (John 7:7). Men do not hate anyone as much as a witness to their sin. Because of this, the greatest misdeeds of the world are committed at night, in darkness. But does God not see at night, in darkness? In truth, God sees, but the evildoers do not see God. And even if some of them believe somewhat in God, they think, because of their own insufficient enlightenment, that darkness is a curtain between men and God. The Lord Jesus Christ Himself clearly revealed that God is all-seeing, and that no darkness prevents His eyes from seeing. He Himself saw men at a distance, such as Nathaniel under the fig tree. He saw a donkey with its colt in another village. His sight was not impeded by spatial distance. He foresaw the denial of Peter, the betrayal of Judas, His own death and Resurrection, the destruction of Jerusalem, the eternity of His Church, the suffering of His followers, and the events at the end of time. His sight was not impeded by the distance of time. But what more is there to enumerate? And what is more hidden than the hearts of men? Is not the heart hidden by the thick curtain of the body? Are not the thoughts in the heart more hidden than the heart itself? Nevertheless, He penetrated the darkness of men's hearts and read their thoughts there: Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts? (Matthew 9:4). Brethren, it is no wonder that all those who thought or committed evil were afraid of such a witness. Is it a wonder, then, that the evildoers hated Him?

The world cannot hate you. Whom? All of you who participate in the evil of the world and who, because of your participation, dare not witness against the world. How can those who fear men witness against men? How can those who seek the glory of men bring the condemnation of men against themselves?

O my brethren, it is better for us if the world hates us, and Christ loves us--than if the whole world loves us and glorifies us, and Christ turns His face from us, saying: I know you not. If the world hates us, let us be comforted by the words of the Savior: If the world hate you, ye know that it hated Me before it hated you (John 15:18).

O Blessed Lord, the Source of all blessings, strengthen our hearts, that we may not be frightened when the world hates us. Only bless and love us, O Good Savior. To Thee be glory and praise forever. Amen.



## LONG-HANDLED SPOONS

By and unknown author

A holy man was having a conversation with the Lord one day and said, 'Lord, I would like to know what Heaven and Hell are like.' The Lord led the holy man to two doors.

He opened one of the doors and the holy man looked in. In the middle of the room was a large round table. In the middle of the table was a large pot of stew, which smelled delicious and made the holy man's mouth water. The people sitting around the table were thin and sickly. They appeared to be famished. They were holding spoons with very long handles that were strapped to their arms and each found it possible to reach into the pot of stew and take a spoonful. But because the handle was longer than their arms, they could not get the spoons back into their mouths. The holy man shuddered at the sight of their misery and suffering. The Lord said, 'You have seen Hell.'

They went to the next room and opened the door. It was exactly the same as the first one. There was the large round table with the large pot of stew which made the holy man's mouth water. The people were equipped with the same long-handled spoons, but here the people were well nourished and plump, laughing and talking. The holy man said, 'I don't understand.'

It is simple,' said the Lord. 'It requires but one skill. You see they have learned to feed each other, while the greedy think only of themselves.'



## AN EXPLANATION OF THE ORTHODOX THREE-BAR CROSS

By Fr. Theodore Jurewicz

### The Top Bar - The Explanation:

The top bar is the title-board, which Pilate ordered to be hung in mockery over Christ's head on the Cross. On this board was inscribed: "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews" in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin (abbreviated to the Greek initials 'INBI' or the Latin initials 'INRI' in the Western tradition). This is replaced with the Christian inscription: "King of Glory" – below the knees of the angels. On the title-board is inscribed the initials 'IC XC', being the first and last letters of Christ's name in Greek. In addition, just above Christ's arms we see the inscription: 'NIKA', which in Greek means: "He conquers" or "He is victorious." Frequently, we see these last two inscriptions together: 'IC XC NIKA', meaning: "Jesus Christ is victorious" (over death and sin).



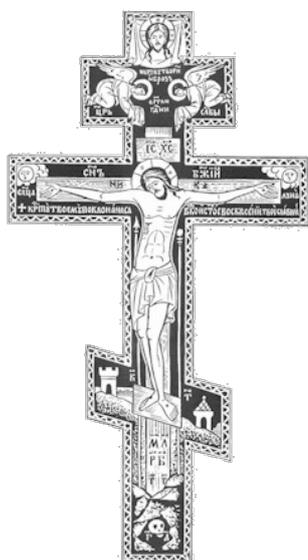
### The Middle Bar - The Explanation:

The middle bar is that on which the Lord's hands were nailed. On either top corner we see the depiction of the sun (left) and the moon (right), for "The sun hid its light, and the moon turned to blood." (Joel 2:31) The inscription: "Son of God" is placed on both sides of Christ's head, and below His arms we read the inscription: "Before Thy Cross we bow down, O Master, and Thy holy Resurrection, we glorify". The halo of Christ is inscribed with three Greek letters meaning "The Being" or "He Who Is", to remind us that Christ is the same God Who identified Himself with those words to Moses in the Old Law.



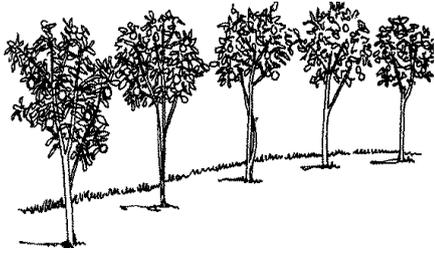
### The Bottom Bar - The Explanation:

The slanted bottom bar is the footrest. There is some question of whether it was actually on the Cross of Christ, but it is acknowledged to be a necessary attribute of the Cross, worthy of veneration and prophetically alluded to in the words [Let us] worship the footstool of His feet... (Ps. 98:5). In prayers for the Ninth Hour, the Church likens the Cross to a type of balance of righteousness: "Between two thieves Thy Cross did prove to be a balance of righteousness: wherefore one of them was dragged down to Hades by the weight of his blasphemy whereas the other was lightened of his transgressions unto the comprehension of theology. O Christ God, glory to Thee." The meaning of this prayer is as follows: the Cross of Christ stood for a scale of justice between the two thieves: for one of them sank in to hell, dragged down by his blasphemous words; and the other, the wise thief, ascended into heaven, because of his repentance. The church fathers attempted to render tangible the thought of the unfaithful thief going to hell for his blasphemy through the just judgment of God (the lower end of the bar), and of the wise thief going to heaven for his repentance and his praise of God (the upper end).



### The Images - The Explanation:

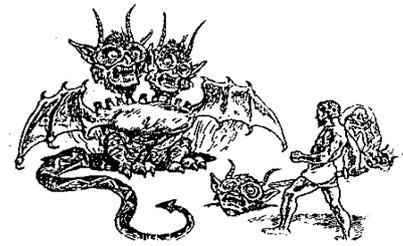
On the Cross is our Savior, Jesus Christ. Note that He does not wear a crown of thorns, and that His feet are nailed with two nails. Behind the body of Christ, on either side, are a lance (which pierced Him) and a sponge (which was soaked with gall and offered to Christ to drink) on a pole made of reed or cane. On the body of Christ is depicted blood and water flowing forth from His side. Below the feet of Christ is four Slavonic letters meaning: "The place of the skull became Paradise". Hidden in a cave under the earth is 'the skull of Adam'. We are thus reminded that Adam our forefather lost Paradise through the tree from which he wrongly partook; Christ is the new Adam, bringing us Salvation and Paradise through the tree of the Cross. The city of Jerusalem is depicted in the background, for He was crucified outside the city walls.



SAINT  
ISAAC



THE  
SYRIAN



Abba John used to say that the saints are like a group of trees, each bearing different fruit, but all watered from the same source. The practices of one saint differ from those of another, but it is the same Spirit that works in all of them.

The Desert Fathers

Blessed is the one who knows his own weakness, because awareness of this becomes for him the foundation and beginning of all that is good and beautiful. Love sinners but hate their works; and do not despise them for their faults, lest you also be tempted.

St. Isaac the Syrian

The demons have no means of taking possession of a man's spirit or body, no power to forcibly enter his soul, unless they first deprive him of all his holy thoughts, and make him empty and devoid of spiritual contemplation and reflection.

St. John Cassian



### SOME INSTRUCTIONS OF ST. TIKHON OF ZADONSK

#### Seek a blessing from God when eating and drinking

When you wish to eat or drink, call on the Name of the Lord and ask for a blessing of Him for your food and drink, saying: "Lord, bless!" And then you will taste and enjoy the good things of your Lord. For everything that is God's is good, "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof (Psalm 23:1)."

#### On Clothing

Do not adorn your body with stylish clothes, as some are accustomed to do, but let your clothing be appropriate to your station. A Christian's garment is the clothing of the Spirit. It should adorn the soul and not the body. The beauty of the soul is the image of God in which we were created. Seek this beauty and it shall be enough for you.

#### On the Conduct of a Pure Heart

Treat every man, not with flattery, but simply, just as you do yourself. As you appear outwardly, be so inwardly as well; and what you say to one person let the same be in your heart also.

### THE EARTH IS THE LORD'S AND THE FULLNESS THEREOF (PSALM 24:1)

The principle behind stewardship is that every material thing, though you may call it yours... actually belongs to God. God owns it all: your land, your property, your income, your life. This is God's world. When you give a truly significant portion of your money, you are only setting apart for God's use a portion of the money that has been entrusted to you by God. The person who gives sacrificially does so because he or she knows whose world this is!

