

CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN OF AUGUST 13, 2006

SUNDAY, AUGUST 13TH - *fish, wine, & oil*

**LEAVE-TAKING OF TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD
SAINT TIKHON OF ZADONSK**

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

MONDAY, AUGUST 14TH

7:00p.m. Vigil

TUESDAY, AUGUST 15TH

DORMITION OF THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS

One of the Twelve Great Feasts

8:40a.m. Hours
9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy
Blessing of flowers
7:00p.m. Vespers

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16TH - *fish, wine, & oil*

ICON "NOT MADE BY HANDS" – Patronal Feast

8:40a.m. Hours
9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy

THURSDAY, AUGUST 17TH

7:00p.m. Compline

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19TH

6:00p.m. Vespers

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20TH

8:40a.m. Hours
9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour
Parish Council Meeting

Dormition of the Most-Holy Theotokos

The feast of the Dormition or Falling-asleep of the Mother of God possesses two distinct aspects inseparably linked in the mind of the believer. On the one hand, there is death and burial and, on the other, resurrection and ascension into heaven. Insofar as the Son of God assumed human nature in the womb of the Virgin, she who was the means of His Incarnation was resurrected and taken up into heaven in the divine glory of her Son. In heaven the Mother of God constantly intercedes before Her Son for the salvation of the entire world.

The Postfeast of the Dormition

Is celebrated from August 15th through August 23rd, the "leave-taking" of the feast. Throughout this time the troparion and kontakion for the feast are sung or said with our morning and evening prayers, and at meal times; the troparion before the meal and the kontakion after.

Our Parish's Patronal Feast

Will be celebrated on Wednesday, August 16th, with the commemoration of the Icon of the Savior "Not-Made-By-Hands". Vespers will be served on Tuesday evening at 7:00p.m., and Divine Liturgy on Wednesday morning at 9:00a.m. . Let us offer our thanks to God for all his blessings upon our church!

If You Are Hospitalized

Please be sure to let your priest know. Even if you do not want a visit from your priest, prayers can be offered on your behalf. When you check in to the hospital, put yourself in the hands of the Divine Physician as well as the earthy ones!

The Service of Compline

Is the service of prayer before retiring to bed – it is the "evening prayers" of the Church. In Compline we give thanks to God for the day which has just passed and we express hope that He will grant us a restful sleep during the coming night, as well as a peaceful repose after death with all the Saints. This service, which is not lengthy (only about 15-20 minutes), brings a peaceful conclusion to our busy day and can be read at home without a priest, as well as in church with one.





Troparion - Tone 1

In giving birth you preserved your virginity, in falling asleep you did not forsake the world, O Theotokos. You were translated to life, O Mother of Life, and by your prayers, you deliver our souls from death.

Kontakion - Tone 2

Neither the tomb, nor death could hold the Theotokos, who is constant in prayer and our firm hope in her intercessions. For being the Mother of Life, she was translated to life by the One who dwelt in her virginal womb.



Saint Theophan the Recluse

Nothing comes without effort. The help of God is always ready and near, but is given only to those who seek and work, and only to those seekers who, after putting all their powers to the test, then cry out with their whole heart: "Lord, help us!"



GUIDELINES FOR RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

The Holy Orthodox Church sets certain guidelines for members to prepare themselves for the joyous partaking of the divine Body and precious Blood of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ. These are:

1. Attendance at Church services the night before Liturgy.
2. Observance of the fasting regulations of the Church.
3. Fasting from all food, drink (including water), and smoking from midnight on the day which Holy Communion is to be received. **NOTE:** One should not fast from medications, or food or drink recommended by a doctor.
4. Reading of the appointed prayers before and after receiving Holy Communion.

Questions or special circumstances? Please speak with your priest.



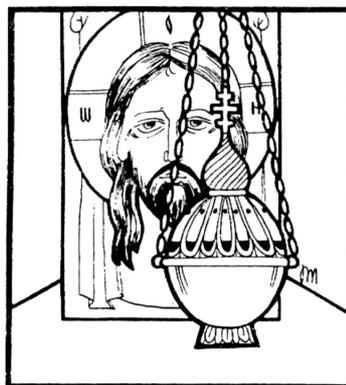
Saint Anthony the Great

Do you want true intelligence? Then book learning isn't enough; you must also have spiritual knowledge. This includes being able to tell the difference between what is good and what is evil. Then you must avoid what is sinful and harmful to your soul and, with thanks to God, carefully keep what is good and what benefits your soul. If you do that, you are truly intelligent.



THE ICON "NOT-MADE-BY-HANDS"

The Icon "Not-Made-By-Hands" refers to the early Church Tradition that Christ made an image of Himself by pressing His face to a napkin and sending it to King Abgar of the neighboring kingdom of Edessa. The king had leprosy and believed that if he could just see an image of Christ, Whom he had heard so much about, that he would be healed, and this healing came to pass (except for one small spot on his face) when the image came to him. Christ also sent him a message telling him that one of His Disciples would come later and instruct the king. After the Ascension, the Apostle Jude Thaddeus came and baptized the king and the people of his kingdom, so that Edessa became the very first Christian kingdom. The last spot of leprosy was also healed at the time of King Abgar's baptism.





Q. What is Holy Repentance?

A. It is a Mystery through which our sins, when confessed before a priest, are forgiven and our communion with God is restored.

Q. Which sins can be forgiven by repentance and confession?

A. All sins which we commit after our baptism which we repent of and are confessed before a priest.

Q. Who gave authority to bishops and priests to forgive sins?

A. The Lord Himself who said to His apostles: "Receive ye the Holy Spirit. Whosoever sins you forgive, they are forgiven them, and whosoever sins you retain, they are retained."

Q. How often should one confess?

A. The oftener the better. The more we confess our sins, the cleaner our conscience will be, and the more easily and joyfully we will be able to keep the commandments of Christ. If we are a frequent communicant of the Body and Blood of Christ, at a minimum we should go to confession during the four Lenten seasons.

Q. How should one prepare before confession?

A. One should seek to acquire 1) a spirit of contrition or sorrow for one's sins, and 2) a firm desire to correct one's life and regain peace with God and one's fellow man.

Q. When can the priest hear my confession?

A. After any church service, or at any other time made by appointment.



BUILDING BRIDGES

a tale from long ago...

Once upon a time two brothers who lived on adjoining farms began to quarrel. It was the first time in 40 years that it became so serious. They would always work side by side. They shared machinery. They traded labor and goods as needed without a hitch.

Then it all fell apart. It began with a small misunderstanding and it grew into a major difference. Finally it exploded into an exchange of bitter words. After that there was only silence.

One morning there was a knock on John's door. He opened it to find a man with a carpenter's toolbox. "I'm looking for a couple of days work" he said. "Perhaps you would have a few small jobs here and there that I could help with?"

"Yes," said John, the older brother. "I do have a job for you. Look across the creek at that farm. That's my neighbor, in fact, it's my younger brother, Mark. Last week there was a meadow between us. But he took his bulldozer to the river levee and now there is a creek between us. Well, he may have done this to spite me, but I'll go him one better. See that pile of lumber by the barn? I want you to build me a fence – an 8 foot fence – so I won't need to see his place or face anymore."

The carpenter said, "I think I understand the situation. Show me the nails and the post hole digger and I'll be able to do a job that pleases you." The older brother had to go to town, so he helped the carpenter get the materials ready and then he was off for the day. The carpenter worked hard all that day measuring, sawing, nailing.

About sunset when the farmer returned, the carpenter had just finished his job. The farmer's eyes opened wide, his jaw dropped. There was no fence there at all. It was a bridge – a bridge stretching from one side of the creek to the other! It was a fine piece of work, handrails and all. And the neighbor, his younger brother, was coming across, with his hand outstretched.

"You are quite a brother to build this bridge after all I've said and done."

The two brothers stood at each end of the bridge, and then they met in the middle, taking each other's hand. They turned to see the carpenter hoist his toolbox on his shoulder.

"No, wait! Stay a few days. I've a lot of other projects for you," said the older brother. "I'd love to stay on," the carpenter said, "but, I have many more bridges to build."

