

CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN OF JULY 12, 2009

Please Remember in Prayer

Carole Boris (newly-departed), Archpriest Michael, Monk Christian, Nadia, Kathy & Bill Parrish, Diane Evanusa, Marie, Thomas, Judith Kocinski, Jane Koshutko, Robert Evanusa, Nicholas & Linda, Nicholas, Anna, Yvonne, Katherine, Michael, Gregory, Todd & Olga Leisure, Nina Gordon, Constantina & Christos. Requests? Let Fr. John know.

Welcome!

As we warmly welcome all those who are visiting today, we are especially pleased to have with us Archpriest Samuel Kedala and Matushka JoAnne from Holy Spirit Orthodox Church in Wantage, NJ.

SUNDAY, JULY 12TH

5TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

8:40a.m. Hours
9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy
Blessing of Autos
Annual Picnic

SATURDAY, JULY 18TH

6:00p.m. Great Vespers

SUNDAY, JULY 19TH

6TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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



Recognition of Graduates – Sunday, July 12th

Today, at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, we will offer a short prayer in thanksgiving to God for those who have completed the school year, especially those who have graduated. May the Lord bless!

Blessing of Automobiles – Sunday, July 19th

It is a pious custom of Orthodox Christians to have their cars blessed both when newly acquired and on or near the feast of the Prophet Elias (July 20th), as he ascended into heaven on a fiery chariot. There will be a blessing of automobiles immediately following the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, July 19th. Following the veneration of the Cross, please go and stand by your car while Fr. John makes his way around the parking lot with the Holy Water. The parish picnic, hosted at the Boris Residence, will follow; no coffee hour this day.



On Spiritual Warfare

The demons that wage war on us through our shortcomings in virtue are those that teach unchastity, drunkenness, greed and envy. Those that wage war on us through our excessive zeal for virtue teach conceit, self-esteem and pride; they secretly pervert what is commendable into what is reprehensible.

St. Maximos the Confessor

READER SCHEDULE

Sunday, July 19th

Troy Duker

Sunday, July 26th

Jodi McElwee



Annual Picnic – Sunday, July 19th

Sunday, July 19th, at the Boris residence: 37710 Oyster Bay Ln., West Fenwick, DE 19975. All are invited!

If you would like to bring food and items for the picnic, please put your name, together with what you plan on bringing, on the sign-up sheet in the back. Questions regarding the meal, please see Lois Hamaty. Directions to the Boris residence can be picked up in the back of the church at the ushers' table.



Saint George's Greek Festival – July 24-26th

will be held at the Ocean City Convention Center, July 24-26th. Fr. John and his family will be going to the festival after coffee hour on Sunday, July 26th. If you're interested in going too, just let him know. Let's support our brethren in Ocean City!

Haven't Seen Someone in a While?

Give them an email or a call. Let them know that you miss seeing them in church. Be sure to tell them about our Annual Picnic next Sunday. All are invited!





OCA HOLY SYNOD REESTABLISHES DIOCESE OF WASHINGTON AND DIOCESE OF NY-NJ

On July 1, 2009, the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America met via teleconference, during which they reestablished, as separate dioceses, the Diocese of Washington and the Diocese of New York-New Jersey.

Declaring the Diocese of New York-New Jersey vacant, the hierarchs appointed His Beatitude, Metropolitan Jonah, to serve as *Locum Tenens*. The Holy Synod of Bishops also decided that His Beatitude's title, effective immediately, is "Archbishop of Washington, Metropolitan of All America and Canada." An official notification of these changes will be issued by the Holy Synod of Bishops shortly.

MOBILE CHURCH ON THE MOVE WITH RUSSIAN ARMY

Politonline.ru – July 2, 2009

The Russian Orthodox Church has ordered a mobile church from the Volgograd Heavy Transport Equipment Plant, *Politonline.ru* has noted. The new church will join rail churches and floating churches already in service. It is built on a converted KamAZ truck.

The church is square and olive-drab in color when it is mobile, in keeping with government standards for military vehicles. But it opens up into a chapel that meets all the canonical structural requirements of the Russian Orthodox Church. A system of pivots and hinges allows it to

unfold a cross-topped steeple. Inside, there is an altar and confessional. The total area inside the church is 40 square meters, room enough for about 50 people. There is also churchyard with a folding fence.

The mobile church has its own generator, air conditioner and heating system. It can be broken down and made mobile again within four hours, by two people. "Our church will be able to travel to the farthest military units and subdivisions in the most severe climatic zones and inaccessible locations," boasted its chief designer. The mobile church made its battlefield debut earlier this month at exercises in the Nizhny Novgorod Region.



FOR CONSIDERATION

From the Prologue of Ochrid by St. Nikolai Velimirovich

If you give alms to the poor, know that as much as you do good works for your fellow man so much you do for yourself and even more for yourself. St. Anthony says: "Both life and death comes to us from our fellow man." St. Peter Damaskin writes: "As the poor should give thanks to God and love the rich who do them good, so even more should the rich should give thanks to God and to love the poor because they are saved by the Providence of God both now and in the future ages [life to come] because of their alms [Charity]. For without the poor, they not only cannot gain salvation of their souls but they cannot avoid the temptations of wealth." Alms which are given out of vanity or with disdain do not benefit anything. In earlier times, the wealthy ones brought gold to the hermits and begged them to accept it. It is a rare occurrence that the hermits gladly accepted alms and, when they did accept it, they accepted it out of compassion toward the wealthy ones giving it. The most destitute of men received alms out of compassion!

WORLD'S OLDEST CHRISTIAN BIBLE DIGITIZED

By Nardine Saad

LONDON (AP) — The surviving pages of the world's oldest Christian Bible have been reunited — digitally.

The early work known as the Codex Sinaiticus has been housed in four separate locations across the world for more than 150 years. Starting Monday, it became available for perusal on the Web at <http://www.codexsinaiticus.org> so scholars and other readers can get a closer look at what the British Library calls a "unique treasure."

Scot McKendrick, head of Western manuscripts at the British Library, said the book "offers a window into the development of early Christianity and firsthand evidence of how the text of the Bible was transmitted from generation to generation."

The 4th-century book, written in Greek on parchment leaves, has been housed in four separate locations across the world for more than 150 years. It has been digitally reunited in a project involving organizations from Britain, Germany, Russia, and Egypt, each of which possessed parts of the 1,600-year-old manuscript.

They worked together to publish new research into the history of the Codex and transcribed 650,000 words over a four-year period.

Juan Garces, the Codex Sinaiticus project manager, said it was a "definitely a historical moment."

The Codex was both a key Christian text and "a landmark in the history of the book, as it is arguably the oldest large bound book to have survived," McKendrick said.

Codex Sinaiticus, which loosely translated means "the book from Sinai," was discovered at the Monastery of Saint Catherine at Mount Sinai by German Bible scholar Constantine Tischendorf in the mid-19th century. Much of it eventually wound up in Russia — just how exactly the British Library won't say, citing lingering sensitivity over the circumstances surrounding its removal from the monastery.

The British Library bought 347 pages from Soviet authorities in 1933. Forty-three pages are at the University Library in Leipzig, Germany, and six fragments are at the National Library of Russia in St. Petersburg. And in 1975, monks stumbled on 12 more pages and 40 fragments stashed in a hidden room at the monastery at Mount Sinai.



Garces said the only other Bible that rivals Codex Sinaiticus in age is Codex Vaticanus, which was written around the same time but lacks parts of the New Testament. Codex Sinaiticus is the oldest book that contains a complete New Testament and is only missing parts of the Old Testament and the Apocrypha.

"It's such an important book — that's why it should be accessible," Garces said, adding that "if you would have liked to see it before you would have had to travel to four countries in two continents. If you want to see the manuscript right now all you have to do is go online and experience it for yourself."

As it survives today, Codex Sinaiticus comprises just over 400 large leaves of prepared animal skin, each of which measures 380 millimeters by 345 millimeters (15 inches by 13.5 inches).

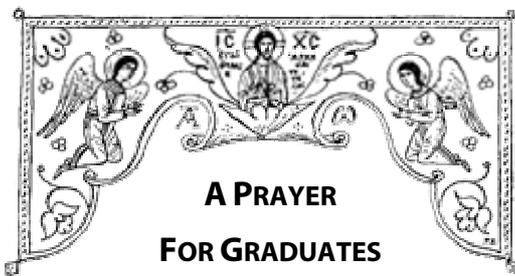
On these parchment leaves is written around half of the Old Testament and Apocrypha, the whole of the New Testament and two early Christian texts not found in modern Bibles. Most of the first part of the Bible manuscript — containing most of the so-called historical books, from Genesis to 1 Chronicles — is missing and presumed to be lost.

"From Parchment to Pixel: The Virtual Reunification of the Codex Sinaiticus," an exhibit about the Bible's reunification process, opened at the British Library on Monday and runs until Sept. 7.

The digitized manuscript includes more than 800 pages and fragments, including the pages discovered in 1975 — published for the first time.

"There's a high demand," Garces said. "Our Web site has crashed because people want to look at it."

For more information, please visit: <http://www.codexsinaiticus.org>



A PRAYER FOR GRADUATES

O Lord, grateful of Thy great benefits which Thou hast so richly bestowed upon us in Thy loving-kindness, we bless and give thanks to Thee and we beseech Thee to look graciously upon us and these graduates, who have completed their courses of study. Pour into their hearts, minds, and upon their lips, the spirit of wisdom, understanding, piety, and godly fear; enlighten them with the light of Thy knowledge, and bestow upon them strength and steadfastness, that they may quickly apprehend and willingly embrace all that they have received which is good and profitable, and in accordance with Thy divine law. Grant that they grow in wisdom and understanding. May they prosper in good works for the glorification of Thy holy name. Give them health and long life that they may labor for the building up and glory of Thy holy Church, this nation, and of all Thy people. For Thou art a God, Who is mighty in mercy and gracious in strength, and to Thee we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

My son, if you will receive My words and hide My commandments with you, so that you attend to wisdom, you shall extend your heart to understanding; yea, if you cry after knowledge and lift up your voice for understanding; if you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures, then you shall understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord gives wisdom; out of His mouth come knowledge and understanding. He lays up sound wisdom for the righteous; He is a shield to those who walk uprightly. He keeps the paths of judgment, and guards the way of His saints. Then you shall understand righteousness and judgment and honesty, every good path. (Proverbs 2:1-9)

LIFE IS A SERIES OF PROBLEM-SOLVING OPPORTUNITIES

The problems you face will either defeat you or develop you – depending on how you respond to them. Unfortunately, most people fail to see how God wants to use problems for good in their lives. We react foolishly and resent our problems rather than pausing to consider their benefits.

Here are 5 ways God wants to use the problems in your life:

1. God uses problems to DIRECT you.

Sometimes God must light a fire under you to get you moving. Problems often point us in a new direction and motivate us to change. Is God trying to get your attention? "Sometimes it takes a painful situation to make us change our ways." Proverbs 20:30

2. God uses problems to INSPECT you.

People are like tea bags 'if you want to know what's inside them, just drop them into hot water!' Has God ever tested your faith with a problem? What do problems reveal about you? "When you have many kinds of troubles, you should be full of joy, because you know that these troubles test your faith, and this will give you patience." James 1:2-3

3. God uses problems to CORRECT you.

Some lessons we learn only through pain and failure. It's likely that as a child your parents told you not to touch a hot stove. But you probably learned by being burned. Sometimes we only learn the value of something (health, money, a relationship) by losing it". "It was the best thing that could have happened to me, for it taught me to pay attention to your laws." Psalm 119-71-72

4. God uses problems to PROTECT you.

A problem can be a blessing in disguise if it prevents you from being harmed by something more serious. Last year a man was fired for refusing to do something unethical that his boss had asked him to do. His unemployment was a problem – but it saved him from being convicted and sent to prison later when management's actions were eventually discovered. "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good." Genesis 50:20

5. God uses problems to PERFECT you.

Problems, when responded to correctly, are character builders. God is far more interested in your character than your comfort. Your relationship to God and your character are the only two things you're going to take with you into eternity. "We can rejoice when we run into problems; they help us learn to be patient. And patience develops strength of character in us and helps us trust God more each time we use it until finally our hope and faith are strong and steady." Romans 5:3-4

Here's the point: God is at work in your life – even when you do not recognize it or understand it. But it's much easier and profitable when you cooperate with HIM!