



CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN OF SEPTEMBER 27, 2009

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH

16TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

8:40a.m. Hours
9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour
By-Law Committee Mtg

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH

7:00p.m. Orthodox Movie Night

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH

7:00p.m. Great Vespers

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1ST

PROTECTION OF THE THEOTOKOS

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

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3RD

5:00p.m. Orthodoxy 101
6:00p.m. Great Vespers

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4TH

17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

"He who has no love cannot be called a Christian...The whole Gospel is summarized in compassion. And this secures immortality and eternal life to man."

St. Justin Popovich

READER SCHEDULE

Sunday, Oct. 4th

Kathy Parrish

Sunday, Oct. 11th

Jodi McElwee



Please Remember in Prayer

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

Congratulations & Many Years!

to Bruce John Eckerd on the occasion of his entrance into the Orthodox Church through Holy Baptism. Bruce's patron saint is the Apostle John the Theologian, on whose feastday he was baptized. May the Lord God bless and keep him!

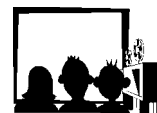


The By-Law Committee

will meet today, Sunday, September 27th, following the coffee hour.

Orthodox Movie Night – Monday, September 28th

This Monday evening at 7:00pm we will watch the film, "Gifted Hands", based on the true story of Dr. Benjamin S. Carson, whose lifelong journey led him to become director of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins Children's Center, a best-selling author and a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Runtime is 90 minutes.



Protection of the Theotokos – Thursday, October 1st

The Virgin Mary is the special protectress of Christians and each year on October 1st, the feast dedicated to her protection, we especially honor her and ask her intercession. Services are outline in the weekly schedule.

Yard Sale – Saturday, October 17th

Please bring any donated items for the yard sale to the church by Friday, October 16th. Any items not sold and not picked up by the person making the donation, will be taken to a local thrift shop to benefit local charities.



Scrip Announcement

Scrip cards are now available through Kathy Parrish and Jane Koshutko. Place your order one Sunday and receive your card the next!



The 2010 Calendars / Planners

To reserve a calendar or pocket planner please sign your name to the list in the back of the church. The total costs of the calendars and pocket planners, including shipping, are \$4.00 and \$3.00 respectively.

Best Wishes

to Troy Paul Duker who will be spending the next few months working in Ennis, Montana. We wish him the best, praying for a profitable trip and safe return home. May God be with him!

CHRISTIAN TOMBS DESECRATED IN AN HISTORIC ISTANBUL CEMETERY

From *DirectionsToOrthodoxy.org*

Istanbul (AsiaNews - Tue Sep 22 2009) – A Christian cemetery was desecrated in Istanbul. Unknown person or persons broke 90 tombstones that bore the sign of the cross and the name of the deceased. The incident occurred a few days ago in the historic cemetery of Valukli near the ancient Valukli Monastery, the only monastery dedicated to Our Lady still open in Istanbul, located outside the ancient walls of Theodosius, and which five non-resident nuns care for.



Istanbul's Christian cemeteries have been desecrated on a number of occasions in the past 20 years. The latest outrage brought back memories of the tragic events of September 1955 when churches, cemeteries and properties owned by Istanbul's Orthodox community were desecrated and destroyed in a pogrom. Eventually dubbed the September pogrom, the event was the brainchild of Turkey's political-bureaucratic-military establishment, known here as *Derin Devlet* or 'deep state'.

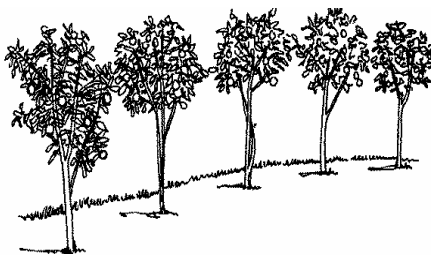
The pogrom has remained engraved in the memories of Istanbul's Christians who at that moment realised that their survival in the city would be difficult, if not impossible.

Young Turks have learnt about such tragic episodes only recently, when *Guz Sancisi*, a movie by young Turkish woman director Tomris Giritlioglu, was screened in local theatres to great review and box office success.

It is also important to keep in mind that Christian cemeteries are very large and serve as a reminder of the small Christian presence in this country. Given Istanbul's huge urban development, Christian cemeteries have become surrounded by human habitation and are coveted by developers. A law adopted in the 1930s transferred title to cemeteries to municipalities; hitherto, they had belonged to religious foundations.

Outraged and grieved by what happened, the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I (pictured) went to see the desecrated cemetery, asking why such acts continue to strike Christian graveyards.

Despite the seriousness of the incident, the local press did not report it.



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

SAINT
ISAAC



THE
SYRIAN

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



THE ORTHODOX STUDY BIBLE ON THE MOST-HOLY THEOTOKOS AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY

"For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed." – Luke 1:48

For two thousand years the Church has preserved the memory of the Virgin Mary as the prototype of all Christians - the model of what we are to become in Christ. The tradition of the Church holds that Mary remained a virgin all her life (see note on Matthew 12:46-50). While lifelong celibacy is not a model for all Christians to follow, Mary's spiritual purity, her wholehearted devotion to God, is certainly to be emulated.

Mary is also our model in that she was the first person to receive Jesus Christ. As Mary bore Jesus Christ in her womb physically, all Christians now have the privilege of hearing God within them spiritually. By God's grace and mercy we are purified and empowered to become like Him.

The honor we give to Mary also signifies our view of who Jesus is. From early times the church has called her Mother of God (Greek Theotokos, lit. "God-Bearer"), a title which implies that her Son is both fully man and fully God. As His Mother, Mary was the source of Jesus' human nature; yet the One she bore in her womb was also the eternal God.

Therefore, because of her character and especially because of her role in God's plan of salvation, Christians appropriately honor Mary as the first among the saints. The archangel Gabriel initiated this honor in his address to her: "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!" (Luke 1:28). This salutation clearly

indicates that God Himself had chosen to honor Mary. Her favored status was confirmed when she went to visit her cousin Elizabeth, who was then six months pregnant with John the Baptist. Elizabeth greeted Mary with these words: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" (Luke 1:42,43). And Mary herself, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, predicted the honor that would be paid her throughout history: "For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed" (Lk 1:48).

In obedience to God's clear intention, therefore, the Orthodox Church honors Mary in icons, hymns, and special feast days. We entreat her, as the human being who was most intimate with Christ on earth, to intercede with her Son on our behalf. We ask her, as the first believer and the Mother of the Church, for guidance and protection. We venerate her - but we do not worship her, for worship belongs to God alone.

In Matins, Vespers, and all the services of the hours of prayer, we sing this hymn, which expresses Mary's unique place in creation.

"It is truly right to bless you, O Theotokos, ever-blessed and most pure, and the Mother of our God. More honorable than the cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the seraphim, without defilement you gave birth to God the Word: True Theotokos, we magnify you."

MELANIE RINGA CONFIRMED AS OCA TREASURER

SYOSSET, NY [OCA Communications/ Wednesday, September 23, 2009] -- The Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America, at its 2009 Fall Session, confirmed Melanie Ringa as Treasurer of the Orthodox Church in America. A Certified Public Accountant, Melanie Ringa has an extensive background in accounting and finance. She is currently Associate Chancellor for Finance at Saint Vladimir's Seminary, Crestwood, NY. Ms. Ringa's name had been presented to the Holy Synod by the OCA Metropolitan Council during the Council's 2009 Fall Session. In discussing the selection of a new OCA Treasurer, members of the Metropolitan Council also passed a motion expressing thanks to outgoing Treasurer, the Rev. Michael Tassos, for his exemplary work for the OCA during a very difficult chapter in the Church's history.

