



CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN OF FEBRUARY 12, 2012

Welcome Visitors

We warmly welcome all those who are visiting us today. It is good to have you all with us!

Congratulations!

To Yvonne Eckerd, who entered into the catechuminate on February 2nd, the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple. May the Lord continue to bless her and direct her steps!

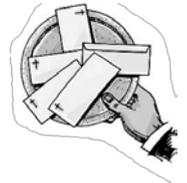


Bible Study Update

We are currently studying the 1st Epistle of St. Paul to Timothy. The class meets on Saturday evenings at 5pm. All invited!

Offering Envelopes

for 2012 are available in the back of the church. Please be sure that your envelopes number is noted on our list as this will greatly assist our counters.



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH

Prodigal Son Sunday

8:40am Hours
 9:00am Divine Liturgy
 Coffee Hour

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH

5:00pm Bible Study
 6:00pm Great Vespers

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH

Sunday of the Last Judgment

Meatfare Sunday

8:40am Hours
 9:00am Divine Liturgy
 Coffee Hour
 Installation of Council



The Parish Council – Sunday, Feb. 19th

will be blessed to assume their duties at the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, February 19th. Following the coffee hour on this same day, the new council will meet to elect officers. All council members are reminded to prepare themselves for this high calling and important day with prayer, a recent confession, and Holy Communion.

What are Meatfare (2/19) and Cheesefare (2/26) Sundays?

These are the final days we partake of meat and dairy products, respectively, until Pascha. During the week before Great Lent, called Cheese-week, though we aren't partaking of meat anymore, dairy products are permitted on every day, including Wednesday and Friday. This week is meant to help transition us into the season of the Great Fast. Questions? Health concerns? Please ask Fr. John.

The Rite of Forgiveness – Sunday, Feb. 26th

Great Lent begins this year on Monday, Feb. 27th. The Sunday before the Great Fast is called Forgiveness Sunday, for on this day we ask each other's forgiveness, remembering that there can be no true fast, no genuine repentance, no reconciliation with God, unless we are at the same time reconciled with one another. Please don't miss it, otherwise we will repeat this Rite the following Sunday(s).



READER SCHEDULE

Sunday, Feb. 19th

Kathy Parrish

Sunday, Feb. 26th

Gabriela Jones



Prayer List: Fr. Michael Mihalick, Fr. Alexander Atty, Fr. Christian, Mat. Dunia, Kelly Elizabeth & child, Bill Parrish, Fazealle, Hayley, Tyler Pelesh, Jerrie Rife, Wallace & Michelle, Ryan & Kayla, Maleah Morsey, Victoria Kokkinos, Ed Tucker, Karen Nichols, Denise Royal, Simeon, Scott & Maryann, Roman Szewc, Garrett Cuppels, Jane Kosutko, Nicholas & Linda, Nina Gordon, Mirela & Chris, Troy Duker, Mary Miranda, Bruce, Stella, Lilly Barnett, Amy F., Nedelina, Henrietta Stack, Archimandrite Pachomy.

OPERATING THRU 1/31/12			FEBRUARY OPERATING			RENOVATION TO PARISH CENTER		
Income	Expense	Net	Income	Goal	Difference	Income	Goal	Expense
5,322	4,454	+868	1,036	4,858	-3,822	30,501	60,000	19,191



65 ORTHODOX BISHOPS RAISE VOICES AGAINST DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES RULING

From the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops / assemblyofbishops.org

Record of Protest Against the Infringement of Religious Liberty by the Department of Health and Human Services

The Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America, which is comprised of the 65 canonical Orthodox bishops in the United States, Canada and Mexico, join their voices with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and all those who adamantly protest the recent decision by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, and call upon all the Orthodox Christian faithful to contact their elected representatives today to voice their concern in the face of this threat to the sanctity of the Church's conscience.

In this ruling by HHS, religious hospitals, educational institutions, and other organizations will be required to pay for the full cost of contraceptives (including some abortion-inducing drugs) and sterilizations for their employees, regardless of the religious convictions of the employers.

The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees the free exercise of religion. This freedom is transgressed when a religious institution is required to pay for "contraceptive services" including abortion-inducing drugs and sterilization services that directly violate their religious convictions. Providing such services should not be regarded as mandated medical care. We, the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops, call upon HHS Secretary Sebelius and the Obama Administration to rescind this unjust ruling and to respect the religious freedom guaranteed all Americans by the First Amendment.

DAILY READINGS FOR MOBILE DEVICES AVAILABLE

BROOKLINE, MA [goarch.org]

The web team at the Greek Orthodox Department of Internet Ministries has developed a Daily Readings App for mobile devices. The app can be used on iPhones and iPad tablets, and Android and Nokia phones.

In addition to providing access to a daily, searchable lectionary and typicon, the Readings App also allows mobile phone users to read the lives of the saints and look up fasting guidelines according to the calendar of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

"We are dedicated to helping Orthodox Christians use technology for the proclamation of the Good News of the Gospel and for the advancement of Orthodox ministry," explains Jamil Samara, Director of Internet Ministries for goarch.org.

The Daily Readings Mobile App
There is no better way to carry the Church's prescribed Scripture & devotional readings with you at all times.

Now available for iPhone, Android and Nokia mobile devices.

METROPOLITAN JONAH TO CONSECRATE HOLY CHRISM DURING HOLY WEEK

From OCA.org / SOUTH CANAAN, PA [OCA]

For the first time since his election as Primate of the Orthodox Church in America in November 2008, His Beatitude, Metropolitan Jonah will consecrate Holy Chrism in conjunction with the celebration of the Vespereal Liturgy of Great and Holy Thursday at the Monastery Church of Saint Tikhon of Zadonsk here April 12, 2012.

The consecration of Chrism is a Rite reserved for the Primates of autocephalous Orthodox Churches. The last time Holy Chrism was consecrated in the Orthodox Church in America was in 2004.

Chrism, unlike Holy Unction and other blessed oils used in Orthodox rites, contains a number of ingredients, including olive oil, white table wine, styrax, benzoin, aromatic incenses extracted in oil, roseoil, basil, balsam, Venetian turpentine, galangal, oils of bergamot, clove, marjoram, thyme and sandalwood, and extracts of ginger root, calamus root, nutmeg, and orris root. The final choice, however, is based on the availability of fragrant oils.

"The preparation for the Consecration of Holy Chrism will begin on Holy Monday morning, April 9, prior to the celebration of Hours and the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts," according to Archpriest John Jillions, OCA Chancellor. "Once the process begins with the opening prayer service and the blessing of the ingredients, the Chrism is heated and stirred continuously until Holy Wednesday evening. While the Chrism is being stirred, the Holy Gospels are read continuously by priests, except when divine services are celebrated."

After the Holy Chrism is consecrated, it is then distributed to all parishes and missions for use in the celebration of the Holy Mysteries.

"At this time, we are asking for clergy to help with the preparation of the Chrism," Father John continued. "It is planned that the reading of the Gospels and stirring of the Chrism will be done in 2-hr shifts."



ON CHRIST THE ARTIST

A Reflection from the Prologue of Ochrid

An artist is one who, from crude and shapeless stone, carves and shapes forms similar to living creatures. An artist is one who weaves a multi-colored blanket from the wool of sheep. An artist is one who builds a magnificent palace out of earthly bricks. But what kind of artist on earth can be compared to Christ the Artist, who from illiterate men creates wise men, who from fishermen creates apostles, who from cowards creates heroes, who from the immoral creates saints? But all must be given over to the hand of the artist, in order to be fashioned into that which the artist knows and is capable of doing. All things, in truth, must be given over to the hand of the artist. Even men must give themselves over to the hand of Christ, in order for Him to carve, to weave or to build that which only He knows and is capable of. Nineteen past centuries

witness to us, that all of them who did not protest [against Him] but rather gave themselves over to Christ the Artist and from the boorish and the ignorant became angel-seeing children of God.

FEBRUARY CONGRATULATIONS!

Birthdays:

2/6 Andrew Hageman
2/10 Christopher Morsey
2/17 Daria Parsells
2/25 Constantine Cook
Isabella Morsey



PRAYER BEFORE THE GOSPEL

By VRev. Vladimir Berzonsky

"Illumine our hearts, O Master who lovest mankind, with the pure light of Thy divine knowledge, and open the eyes of our minds to the understanding of Thy gospel teachings... that trampling down all carnal desires, we may enter upon a spiritual manner of living, both thinking and doing such things that are well pleasing unto Thee." (Priest's prayer before the Gospel)

The Divine Liturgy from the opening through the sermon is called "Liturgy of the Word." We mean by Word the living Word who is the Son of God having come into the world as Jesus Christ in order to save sinners, the first among them being me. The readings of epistle and gospel are about the Word of God explained for us, a lesson for our instruction; but we might ask:

A. Why does the instruction happen here, when we assemble for the Holy Eucharist;

B. Why is it important to listen to the readings – more than significant – mandatory, so that the Church will never allow the Holy Sacrifice to be offered unless the readings from the Bible precede the Communion?

Readings from Holy Scripture are read in nearly all of the sacred services both liturgical and private. A vital connection bonds Christ as Word with Christ as Living Sacrifice.

"Every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the Word which I have spoken to you. Abide in Me, and I in you." (John 15:2)

I hope to receive Holy Communion, but my Lord is telling me that I am already in communion with Him. "Every branch that bears fruit He prunes," so the afflictions that upset me are for my welfare. I came hoping for relief, to somehow leave Church having shed the pain and anguish that I brought with me for the Lord to remove. He is telling me that I'm being pruned. The dead leaves I've been clinging onto must be clipped off. The rotted fruit that gives me only heartburn has to be eliminated from my memory if my soul is to be sweet and I am to be pure again to "taste and see how good the Lord is." He is telling me: "You are already clean." Am I really, or is the pollution from my past clogging up the arteries from my mind to my heart? Proleptic phrases are saying that Christ's point of view is different, since He doesn't look at me the way I see myself, at this moment in fleeting time when my failings possess me. How can I possibly see what He sees in me, unless I accept the forgiveness that only He can bestow, and then get on beyond this wallowing in my inadequacies and take a seat at His mystical table?

"Because of the Word which I have spoken to you."

Yes, Lord Jesus, I have heard Your word spoken through Your holy lips two millennia ago, heard and written down by Your chosen apostles to enter my heart by the voice of the deacon, to resonate in my feeble mind and ring a silent sound that stimulated me to take it to heart. That is what You must have meant as remembered and recorded by Your divine apostle John. You entered through my ear to my mind and descended into my heart. Your Word rests there – more than a spoken word, You abide there for my comfort and peace. Your Father in You, You in me and I in You; and wonder of wonders, the heavenly Father, Creator of heaven, earth and of me also in me: All through the power and gift of the Holy Spirit, third Person of the Holy Trinity. Aware of all that, I feel now I am ready to receive You from the sacred chalice.