



CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN OF MAY 6, 2012

Welcome Visitors

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

Archpastoral Visit of Met. Jonah

His Beatitude will be visiting us to bless our new facilities in Berlin, MD on July 7-8th. More information will be forthcoming. Please set aside both Saturday and Sunday for the festivities!

The Parish Council

will meet today to discuss the celebratory weekend at the new parish center. As always, everyone is welcome to stay for the meeting.

The Feast of Mid-Pentecost

On this feast we bless water, recalling how the Lord cried out to all in the midst of the feast, "If anyone thirsts let him come to me and drink!" The Blessing of Water will be served on Tuesday, May 8th at 7:00pm, and the Divine Liturgy will be served on Wednesday, May 9th at 9:00am. All are encouraged to attend!



About Holy Water

The water that will be blessed on Tuesday, May 17th, at 7:00pm, may be used for drinking (health of soul and body) and for blessing (homes, cars, gardens, etc.). Holy Water is grace-filled and offers health, protection, and sanctification. Often a bottle of Holy Water is kept in the refrigerator for frequent use throughout the year.

Andrei and Lena's New Contact Info

8675 Marigold circle apt#217, Eden Prairie, MN 55344

Many Thanks to Ss. Peter & Paul in Manville, NJ!

Last week we received a very generous donation of \$4,100 toward our renovations from Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church in Manville, NJ! May the Lord bless them all for their exceptional kindness!

The Saturday Evening Class

is being postponed until the church moves to the new property. The Vespers will be held as usual at 6:00pm. Thank you for your understanding.

Can You Offer a Ride to Church?

Please see Fr. John. Why not fill your empty seat with a fellow traveler to the Kingdom of God?



SUNDAY, MAY 6TH

4th Sunday of Pascha

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

TUESDAY, MAY 8TH

7:00p.m. Blessing of Water

WEDNESDAY, MAY 9TH

Mid-Pentecost

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

SATURDAY, MAY 12TH

5:00p.m. *No Class*
 6:00p.m. Great Vespers

SUNDAY, MAY 13TH

5th Sunday of Pascha

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

READER SCHEDULE

Sunday, May. 13th

Bruce Eckerd

Sunday, May. 20th

Kathy Parrish



Prayer List: Fr. Michael Mihalick, Fr. Alexander Atty, Fr. Christian, Mat. Dunia, Ana Lucia, Bill Parrish, Hayley, Tyler Pelesh, Wallace & Michelle, Ryan & Kayla, Maleah Morsey, Victoria Kokkinos, Karen Nichols, Denise Royal, Jane Koshutko, Nina Gordon, Mirela & Chris, Bruce Eckerd, Stella, Ari, Nedelina.

| OPERATING THRU 4/30/12 | | | APRIL OPERATING | | | RENOVATION TO PARISH CENTER | | |
|------------------------|---------|--------|-----------------|---------|------------|-----------------------------|--------|---------|
| Income | Expense | Net | Income | Expense | Difference | Income + Loan | Goal | Expense |
| 23,394 | 21,059 | +2,335 | 9,793 | 4,032 | +5,761 | 48,021 + 30K | 80,000 | 75,421 |

MIDFEAST OF PENTECOST

The time of Pentecost is 50 days. Indeed, the word Pentecost, means "fifty." In the middle of the feast, that is on the 25th day, always a Wednesday, we celebrate the feast known as Mid-Pentecost. The feast unites and connects Pascha (the beginning) with Pentecost (the ending).

The symbol of water provides the theme for the feast of Mid-Pentecost. "Whoever is thirsty should come to Me and drink." As the Scriptures says, "Whoever believes in Me, streams of life-giving water will pour out from his heart." Christ said this about the Spirit which those who believe in Him were going to receive (John 7:37-38). This passage is also part of the Gospel reading for the Sunday of Pentecost.

Anticipating the gift of the Holy Spirit by Christ, the Troparion and Kontakion of Mid-Pentecost express the yearning of the believer with these words:

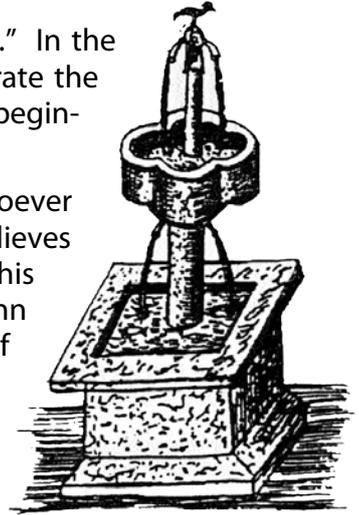
Troparion

In the middle of the Feast, O Savior, fill my thirsting soul with the waters of godliness, as Thou didst cry to all: If anyone thirsts let him come to Me and drink! O Christ God, Fountain of our life, glory to Thee!

Kontakion

Christ God, the Creator and Master of all, cried to all in the midst of the feast of the law: Come and draw the water of immortality! We fall before Thee and faithfully cry: Grant us Thy bounties, for Thou art the Fountain of our life.

A Blessing of Water takes place on this feast. We may bring vessels to church the next time we come for services so as to bring the newly-blessed waters to our homes.



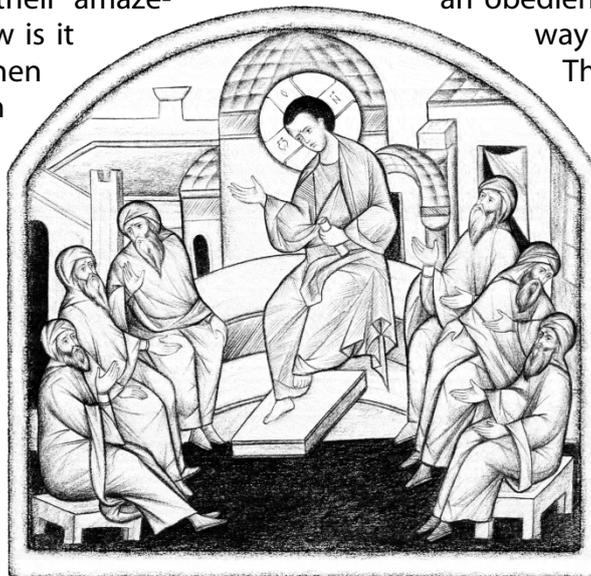
THE ICON OF MID-PENTECOST

From the Incarnate God – Volume 2



The iconography adopted by the Church to illustrate Mid-Pentecost shows us Jesus Christ teaching in the Temple, just as in the Gospel. Christ is sitting at the center of a circle of Jewish scholars and wise men. These express their amazement at His knowledge: "How is it that this Man has learning, when He has never studied?" (John 7:15). In answer to this question, Jesus speaks of His connection to the Father, of His divine origin.

Most often, the icons of Mid-Pentecost represent Christ's first encounter in the Temple with the doctors of the Law – this is the episode described by St. Luke, when Jesus was twelve years old (Luke 2:41-50). "Did you not know that I must be in My Father's house?," He says to His worried parents, thus openly declaring that He is the Son of God and that He must carry out His mis-



sion. On that day, Christ declares His independence from Joseph and Mary, escaping their tutelage. He tells them about His unique link with God the Father. He accepts filial obedience to the end, an obedience which will lead Him all the way to the Cross. "Not My will, but Thy will be done!" (Luke 22:42).

Divine Wisdom is revealed to the doctors of the Law who admire the wisdom of the Child, revealing Jesus as the Child-Emmanuel announced by the Prophets (Isaiah 7:14). The authority of His teaching is already confirmed during His infancy, for "He is before all things," He precedes creation (Colossians 1:17 and Proverbs 8:22-30), "He is begotten, not made, of one essence with the Father" (the Creed). He is "the Wisdom, the Word, and the Power of God" (From Matins of Pascha).

WALKING IN OUR FOREFATHERS' FOOTSTEPS: MEMORIAL DAY PILGRIMAGE INCLUDES PROCESSION "FROM MAYFIELD TO THE MONASTERY"

From OCA.org

It was in 1905 that faithful Orthodox Christians processed from Saint John the Baptist Church, Mayfield, PA, to South Canaan for the formal opening of Saint Tikhon's Monastery.

This year, faithful are invited to "walk in our forefathers' footsteps" on Sunday, May 27 in a procession that follows the same route "from Mayfield to the Monastery."

The procession to the monastery will begin with the celebration of the Sunday morning Divine Liturgy at Saint John the Baptist Church [Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia], Mayfield, at 9:30 a.m. Archpriest John Sorochka and the parish faithful will host a luncheon after the Liturgy. Following the celebration of a Service of Prayer, faithful will set out for the 3.5 hour, 11-mile procession to the Monastery.

"Similar processions to the monastery in recent years made their way from the main — and only! — intersection in South Canaan," said Protodeacon Joseph Matusiak, who is helping to organize the procession. "This year will mark the first time in recent memory that the route will take that followed over 100 years ago."

Young adults, college students, OCF members and chapters, and youth are especially encouraged to participate. Parishes are encouraged to bring their banners to carry. Pilgrims are invited to camp out on the monastery grounds on Saturday night, May 26. Group transportation to Saint John's in Mayfield will be provided on Sunday morning. Camping will also be available on Sunday night, the eve of the monastery pilgrimage proper.

Pilgrims are asked to confirm their participation in the procession from Mayfield with Protodeacon Joseph at jmatusiak@oca.org or 914.318.7505. Please direct requests for further information to Protodeacon Joseph as well. A detailed schedule of all pilgrimage services and activities was posted on the OCA web site on April 25.



SAINT ALEXIS OF WILKES-BARRE

Commemorated on May 7th

Saint Alexis (Toth) was born in Austro-Hungary on March 18, 1854, to a poor Carpatho-Russian family. He was married and they had a child. He was ordained to the priesthood in the Uniate (Eastern Rite Catholic) Church on April 18, 1878. His wife and child died shortly after that, while he was serving as a parish priest. In October 1889, Alexis was appointed as priest of a Uniate parish in Minneapolis, Minnesota. When he presented his credentials to the American Catholic archbishop, he was treated with open hostility. He knew his rights under canon law, so he convened a meeting of eight of the ten Unia priests in America at Wilkes-Barre who petitioned the bishops of Eastern Europe to aid them, but they would not. He feared deportation and told his congregation that he should just return to Europe. They said "No". They had been under foreign domination long enough. They told Father Alexis to go to the Russian Orthodox bishop for help. Bishop Vladimir came to Minneapolis and on March 25, 1891, received Father Toth and 361 parishioners into the Orthodox Church of their ancestors. The parishioners regarded this event as a new Triumph of Orthodoxy, crying out with joy: "Glory to God for His great mercy!" That is St. Mary's OCA. The Saint went on to form or lead back to Orthodoxy 16 additional communities. He traveled to southern New Jersey to try to regain his health in late 1908. Then he returned to Wilkes-Barre where he was confined to bed for his last months. He reposed on Friday, May 7, 1909. His relics were laid to rest at St. Tikhon's Monastery in South Canaan, Pennsylvania. His tablet reads: "This is your Faith. Hold to it."

A PUZZLING SCRIPTURAL VERSE

'He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver.'

(Malachi 3:3)

This verse puzzled some women in a Bible study and they wondered what this statement meant about the character and nature of God. One of the women offered to find out the process of refining silver and get back to the group at their next Bible Study.

That week, the woman called a silversmith and made an appointment to watch him at work. She didn't mention anything about the reason for her interest beyond her curiosity about the process of refining Silver.

As she watched the silversmith, he held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up. He explained that in refining silver, one needed to hold the silver in the middle of the fire where the flames were hottest as to burn away all the impurities. The woman thought about God holding us in such a hot spot; then she thought again about the verse that says: 'He sits as a refiner and purifier of silver.' She asked the silver-smith if it was true that he had to sit there in front of the fire the whole time. The man answered that yes, he not only had to sit there holding the silver, but he had to keep his eyes on the silver the entire time it was in the fire. If the silver was left a moment too long in the flames, it would be destroyed. The woman was silent for a moment. Then she asked the silversmith, 'How do you know when the silver is fully refined?' He smiled at her and answered, 'Oh, that's easy -- when I see my image in it.'

If today you are feeling the heat of the fire, remember that God has his eye on you and will keep watching you until He sees His image in you.

MAY CONGRATULATIONS!

Birthdays:

- 5/1 Logan Morsey
- 5/9 Gabriel Morsey
- 5/12 Caleb Joseph McFarland
- 5/21 Kelly Hageman
- 5/26 Dominic Morsey
Elisabeth Parsells
- 5/29 Irene Clenney
- 5/30 J. Michael McFarland

Namesdays:

- 5/2 *Martyr Cyriacus*
Dominic Morsey
- 5/5 *St. Irene the Great Martyr*
Irene Clenney
- 5/6 *Fourth Sunday of Pascha*
Fr. Christian (Lesinsky)
- 5/7 *St. Alexis of Wilkes-Barre*
Christopher Morsey
- 5/8 *St. Emilia*
Mat. Emily Parsells
Jodi McElwee
- 5/21 *Ss. Constantine & Helen*
Constantine Cook
Constantine Mitsopolous
Ellen Gunderson
Lena Labai
- 5/23 *St. Alexander Nevsky*
Alexander Royal

FOR CONSIDERATION

By St. Nikolai Velimirovich

Abba John the Dwarf asked his monks: "Who or what sold Joseph into slavery?" One of them answered: "His brethren." To this the staretz said: "Not his brothers, but his humility." Joseph could have revealed that he was their brother, and thus opposed the sale. But he kept silent. By humility, then, was he sold, and this same humility later made him ruler of Egypt. We guard ourselves too carefully from the outward difficulties encountered in giving ourselves over to the will of God, and so we lose the good fruits that are reaped in difficult circumstances endured with humility.



During a period of unrest in Constantinople in the time of Emperor Constantine, some embittered men knocked the nose and ears off the statue of the Emperor of the city. Some hurried to the Emperor and, as though with great disgust, informed him of how rebels had done this thing, asking the Emperor to punish the miscreants with the harshest punishments. But this great Emperor touched his nose and ears, and then said to the petitioners: "I can feel my nose and ears whole and untouched." The petitioners were shamed and removed themselves. With such kingly greatness of soul must we endure insults from others.

