



CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2007

The Finance Committee – September 10th
will meet this Monday at 7:00pm at the church.

Exaltation of the Holy Cross – September 14th

This feast commemorates the finding of the True Cross of Christ by St. Helen, the mother of St. Constantine the Great. In celebration of the feast we will have Vespers on Thursday night at 7:00pm and an Akathist on Friday morning at 9:00am. As on this day, Fr. Daniel Hubiak was ordained to the Holy Priesthood, we wish him and Matushka Dunia, many blessed years!



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH

15TH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

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

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH

7:00p.m. Vespers

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH

EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

One of the Twelve Great Feasts

9:00a.m. Akathist

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH

6:00p.m. Vespers

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH

16TH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

8:40a.m. Hours
9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour
7:00p.m. Bible Study



A Bible Study – September 16th

Next Sunday there will be a Bible Study on the Crucifixion of the Lord. The study will be held at 7:00pm at the church. All are invited to attend as we look at the significance of this great event that is so central to our lives.

The Parish Council

will meet on Sunday, October 7th, following the coffee hour.

Third Annual Diocesan Assembly

is to be held with His Beatitude Metropolitan Herman on Monday, November 5, 2007, at Ss. Peter & Paul Church in South River, New Jersey. A lay delegate is needed to accompany the priest. If you are interested, please see Fr. John.

Volunteers Sought

If you have interest and/or experience with any of the following ministries, please speak with Father John: choir directing, singing in the choir, reading in the church; greeting visitors, sending out or writing press releases, assisting in church mailings, cleaning the church building, providing transportation to those in need, serving in the altar or as an usher, or any other vocation which would be of benefit to the Church.

Are You Interested?

in learning more about the Orthodox Faith? If so, please let Fr. John know. He is planning a class on Orthodox Christianity to supplement our Bible Studies, and he would like to know who is interested and their availabilities. This class would be for inquirers as well as those who are already Orthodox Christians.



Find out how much God has given you, and from it take what you need; the remainder which you do not require is needed by others. The excesses of the rich are the necessities of the poor.

Saint Augustine

READER SCHEDULE

Sunday, Sept. 16th

Hours: TBD
Epistle: TBD

Sunday, Sept. 23rd

Hours: Jen Alexion



Have a Question About Orthodoxy or Parish Life?

Get an answer by speaking with your priest. You may reach Fr. John at any time by phone or email. Or if you would like to speak with him in person, this can be done at any time by appointment or by talking to him at the church. Fr. John may be reached at: 302-988-1138 (home), 908-872-6589 (cell), or frjohn@orthodoxdelmarva.org.



PRAYER BEFORE READING THE SCRIPTURES

Illumine our hears, O Master who lovest mankind, with the pure light of Thy divine knowledge. Open the eyes of our mind to the understanding of Thy gospel teachings. Implant also in us the fear of Thy blessed commandments, that trampling down all carnal desires, we may enter upon a spiritual manner of living, both thinking and doing such things as are well-pleasing unto Thee. For Thou art the illumination of our souls and bodies, O Christ our God, and unto Thee we ascribe glory, together with Thy Father, who is from everlasting, and Thine all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever unto ages of ages. Amen.

PRAYER BEFORE STARTING ANY WORK

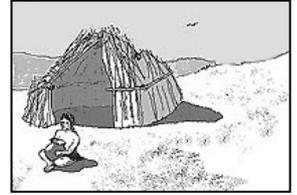
O Lord Jesus Christ, Only-Begotten Son of Thy Eternal Father, Thou hast said with Thy most holy lips: "Without Me, you can do nothing." My Lord and my God, in faith I embrace Thy words with my heart and soul, and bow down before Thy goodness, help me, a sinner, to do in union with Thee this work which I am about to begin, in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMPLETING ANY WORK

Thou, O my Christ, art the sum and fullness of all that is good; fill my soul with joy and gladness, and save me, for Thou alone art all-merciful. Amen.

WHEN YOUR HUT'S ON FIRE

The only survivor of a shipwreck was washed up on a small, uninhabited island. He prayed feverishly for God to rescue him. Everyday he scanned the horizon for help, but none seemed forthcoming. Exhausted, he eventually managed to build a little hut out of driftwood to protect him from the elements, and to store his few possessions.



One day, after scavenging for food, he arrived home to find his little hut in flames, with smoke rolling up to the sky. He felt the worst had happened, and everything was lost. He was stunned with disbelief, grief, and anger He cried out, "God! How could you do this to me?"

Early the next day, he was awakened by the sound of a ship approaching the island! It had come to rescue him! "How did you know I was here?," asked the weary man of his rescuers. "We saw your smoke signal," they replied.

The Moral of This Story: It's easy to get discouraged when things are going bad, but we shouldn't lose heart, because God is at work in our lives... even in the midst of our pain and suffering. Remember that the next time your little hut seems to be burning to the ground. It just may be a smoke signal that summons the Grace of God.



THE EXALTATION OF THE PRECIOUS CROSS

Celebrated on September 14th

Saint Helen, the mother of Saint Constantine the Great, when she was already advanced in years, undertook, in her great piety, the hardships of a journey to Jerusalem in search of the cross, about the year 325. A temple to Aphrodite had been raised up by the Emperor Hadrian upon Golgotha, to defile and cover with oblivion the place where the saving Passion had been suffered. The venerable Helen had the statue of Aphrodite destroyed, and the earth removed, revealing the Tomb of our Lord, and three crosses. Of these, it was believed that one must be that of our Lord, the other two of the thieves crucified with Him; but Saint Helen was at a loss which one might be the Wood of our salvation. At the inspiration of Saint Macarius, Archbishop of Jerusalem, a lady of Jerusalem, who was already at the point of death from a certain disease, was brought to touch the crosses, and as soon as she came near to the Cross of our Lord, she was made perfectly whole. Consequently, the precious Cross was lifted on high by Archbishop Macarius of Jerusalem; as he stood on the ambo, and when the people beheld it, they cried out, "Lord have mercy." It should be noted that after its discovery, a portion of the venerable Cross was taken to Constantinople as a blessing. The rest was left in Jerusalem in the magnificent church built by Saint Helen, until the year 614. At that time, the Persians plundered Palestine and took the Cross to their own country (see Jan. 22, Saint Anastasius the Persian). Late, in the year 628, Emperor Heraclius set out on a military campaign, retrieved the Cross, and after bringing it to Constantinople, himself escorted it back to Jerusalem, where he restored it to its place.

RETURNING GOOD FOR EVIL

Fr. Richard Demetrius Andrews

Ever been treated poorly? Co-workers don't respect you? Boss criticizes too much? Spouse doesn't appreciate you? People slander you by telling rumors and falsehoods? Discriminated against because of your faith and beliefs?

St. Paul the Apostle endured almost all of these things and worse. He was imprisoned, physically abused and punished for proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This new Faith was directly at odds with the established pagan beliefs and rituals in Roman society. It challenged the man-made idols and silly beliefs in natural phenomena as manifestations of the divine. In today's Epistle Reading from the 10th Sunday of Matthew, 1 Corinthians 4:9-16, St. Paul identifies and names his new-found low-standing in society. He says that as apostles we are last, condemned to death, a spectacle (v.9), fools, weak, dishonored (v.10), reviled, persecuted (v.12), defamed, filth of the world, off-scouring of all things (v.13). Have you been made to feel like a fool, dishonored, defamed, and persecuted? What St. Paul experienced was so severe that it caused physical consequences of hunger, thirst, being poorly clothed, beaten and homeless.

How do we respond to this negative behavior? Somewhat instinctively we often return the same. You say something bad about me, I will say something bad about you. You say something hurtful to me, I'll say something hurtful to you. We may even escalate the affair to make our point. You hit me, I will smash you. Sadly, we know this occurs between children on the playgrounds and in the hallways of our schools. Some kids never grow up and it continues in the boardrooms and cafeterias of companies and corporations. Tragically, it also happens in pews and social halls of churches. Some of what St. Paul wrote in his letter was referring to Christians in Corinth.

How should we respond to this inappropriate, abusive and corrosive behavior? St. Paul gives us simple instructions in verse 12-13. He says "being reviled, we bless; being persecuted we endure; and being defamed, we entreat."

* Reviled means "to be addressed or spoken of abusively". We respond by blessing which literally means "to speak with good words."

* Persecuted means "to be pursued and harassed with oppressive treatment." The Greek has a

connotation of "to be chased off or driven away." We respond with endurance which means "to bear with patience or tolerate."

* Defamed basically means "to be slandered; to have your good name, reputation attacked by uttering or publishing malicious or false accusations." We respond with entreaty which means "to make earnest request, petition or supplication." The Greek connotation means also "to pray."

In these instructions, St. Paul is teaching what Christ Himself taught in Matthew 5:43-44 "You



have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' (Lev.19:18; Dt.23:3-6) But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who persecute you, do good to those who hate you and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you." St. Peter reinforces the teaching by saying, "Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult but with blessing because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing" (1Peter 3:9). St. Paul also says, "Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong,

but always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else" (1Thessalonians 5:15). And quoting Proverbs, "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head" (Pr.25:21-22). Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." (Romans 12:20-21).

In this last passage we understand that St. Paul's instructions on how to respond to revilement, persecution and defamation did not give implicit or tacit approval to this ungodly behavior. Rather, he shows how the cycle of inappropriate and disrespectful words and actions can be ended. If we return slander for slander, then the evil from the other person has overcome and infected us. Let's end the cycle of evil in our lives. Let's end it here in our parish community. Because people are free, because the devil is free to work in this world, we will never completely eliminate revilement, persecution and defamation. However, these horribly hurtful and divisive tools can be stopped at our doorstep, they can be turned away from our home. When you hear bad words about yourself or others, be patient, speak good words and remember to pray for all people.





CONQUERING FEAR

Written by the Very Rev. Vladimir Berzonsky

"Then Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.' And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'" (John 20:21).

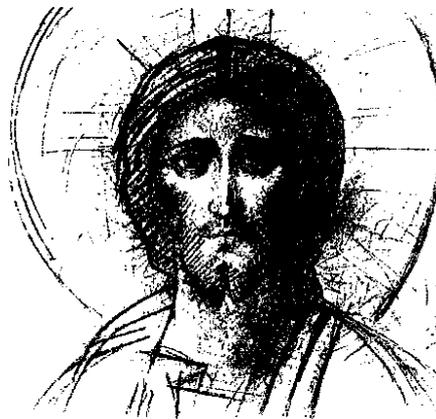
This alone if nothing else one realizes and takes away from the Divine Liturgy—the peace of Christ. This makes it worth every effort to be present among Christ's loved ones. Who is more frightened than those Galileans in Jerusalem on the day when Jesus Christ had been crucified, and they were certain that they were next. Trembling with fear, expecting at any moment for the door to be broken in and to be driven away for execution – suddenly He appears, not through the door but in their midst. He was there all the time, or rather there in their presence incognito. That even ought to inspire all of us, especially when we are afraid.

The great spiritual lay writer Paul Evdokimov wrote: "A lay person is also one who is freed by his faith from 'the great fear' of the bomb, of cancer, of Communism, of death. The faith of such a person is always a way of loving the world, a way of following the Lord even into hell." (Ages of the Spiritual Life, p. 242) Yes, that was the last century. Today we no longer fear Communism, thank the Lord, but we have exchanged fears. Then our presidents thought to protect the USA with a defense shield that would prevent attacks from beyond our borders. Now we have become fearful of attacks within our land. Consider the exercises we go through to take a flight. We arrive at least an hour before scheduled takeoff, are sure to have an official photo image, have tickets in our name, baggage all vetted, then computers, coats, even shoes are sent through the screening apparatus, there is the possibility of a body search, and we are told to be suspicious of our fellow passengers. When out walking or jogging after dark, I cross over to the other side of the street if I notice a woman ahead

of me alone, lest I startle her and cause her anxiety. Add to that road rage, the expression of pent-up hostility that males behind steering wheels vent on other vehicles as if the highways and streets were fields of combat and the drivers were the enemy. This is life in the new millennium.

You may find temporary relief from pills from the drug store's shelves, even stronger with a physician's prescription. However, you will discover the glorious lasting peace offered by our Lord, God and Savior, Jesus Christ, a peace transcending anything the world has to offer, by clearing your mind and heart from the clutter of remembered offenses done to you with the help of the Holy Spirit within your soul, sweeping away all the detritus of hurts no longer in your power to react to, and thank Christ for the overwhelming gift of affection symbolized in the Cross. Then while you are in Church,

forget your watch and what is going on around you. Learn to imbibe the peace of God that surpasses the ability to understand what God is doing for you and with your acceptance. Even if it lasts but a moment, try to cling to it, thank Him for the feeling, and strive to keep it with you as long as you are able, as you return to the challenges of the world outside.



As the choir sings "Lay aside all earthly cares," you may imagine yourself wafting upward where the angels and saints hover above. The Spirit is like the helium in a balloon within you – let it fill you with peace. Your cares are like the heavy sand bags, weighing you down and preventing your ascent. Cut them off. You can see the priest ahead of you taking into the sacred altar the precious gifts of Jesus Christ Himself, offered by Him for the life of the world, and He invites you to proceed with Him. What's holding you back? Are you enslaved to the wrongs, insults and injuries inflicted on you by the world, or do you belong to His Kingdom? If the latter, then don't dally. Go with Him.