



CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN OF JULY 1, 2012

Welcome Visitors

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

Opening Weekend – July 7th and 8th

On Saturday, July 7th and Sunday, July 8th, Metropolitan Jonah, our diocesan bishop, will make his first archpastoral visit to our new property to bless the facilities. The schedule of services and events may be found on the left of this page. This is an important weekend as we offer thanksgiving to God and to all those who worked with Him to bless us in such an extraordinary way. Your help is urgently requested to make this weekend what it should be. Please see Fr. John to offer your assistance.



SUNDAY, JULY 1ST

Ss. Cosmas & Damian

8:40a.m. Hours
 9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy
 Coffee Hr. / Open Pool
 7:00p.m. Vespers

MONDAY, JULY 2ND

St. John of San Francisco

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

THURSDAY, JULY 5TH

St. Elisabeth the New Martyr

9:00a.m. Akathist

SATURDAY, JULY 7TH

"Opening Weekend"

1:00p.m. Blessing of Facilities
 2:00p.m. Barbeque / Pool Party
 4:00p.m. Vigil

SUNDAY, JULY 8TH

"Opening Weekend"

8:40a.m. Hours
 9:00a.m. Hierarchical Liturgy
 11:00a.m. Festal Meal / Pool Party
 2:00p.m. Thanksgiving Service

READER SCHEDULE



Sunday, July 8th

Bruce Eckerd

Sunday, July 15th

Jodi McElwee



A Sign-up Sheet

for the meals on Saturday and Sunday is in the back of the church. Be sure to put your name.

Questions? Please see Kathy Parrish or Alice Peters.

Landscaping Work – Today, Sunday, July 1st

Following the coffee hour, landscaping work will be done to prepare the grounds for "Opening Weekend". Your help is needed as there is much work and very few hands during the week. Please help!



The Pool is Open

Following the Divine Liturgy and until 2pm, the pool will be open for swimming. A certified lifeguard will be on duty, but parents should still watch their children. Be safe and enjoy! Questions? Please see Fr. John.



Congratulations

to Darrell and Deborah Wilson, who became first-time grandparents on June 27th when their grandson, Noah Alexander was born to Ryan and Kayla! May the Lord grant them all many blessed years!

Earmarked Donations (collected / needed):

- Trees: \$0 / \$1600
- Wood Molding: \$0 / \$600
- Benches: \$150 / \$1000
- Landscaping: \$0 / \$1000
- Signs: \$50 / \$100
- Priming/Painting: \$0 / \$800

If you would like to donate a(n) item(s), please earmark your donation for one of the above items. May God bless your generosity!

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

| OPERATING THRU 5/31/12 | | | JUNE OPERATING | | | RENOVATION TO PARISH CENTER | | |
|------------------------|---------|--------|----------------|-------|------------|-----------------------------|--------|---------|
| Income | Expense | Net | Income | Goal | Difference | Income + Loan | Goal | Expense |
| 25,797 | 24,789 | +1,008 | 6,469 | 4,858 | +1,611 | 48,568 + 30K | 80,000 | 87,308 |

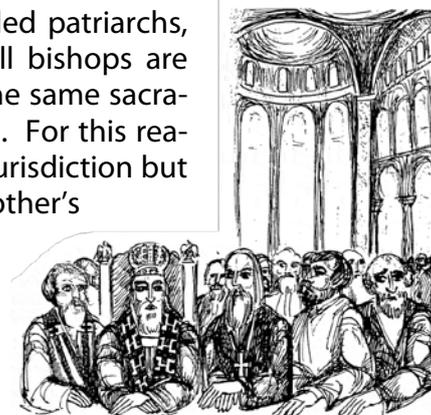
ASK FATHER: 2 QUESTIONS / 2 ANSWERS

Q. What exactly is a Bishop?

A. The bishop is the first and highest degree of the clergy in the Orthodox Church (the Biblical term is overseer). He is the successor to the Apostles in the service and government of the Church. A ruling bishop is responsible for and is the head of all the parishes located in his diocese.

The ministry and authority of the lower orders of clergy (priests, deacons, subdeacons, readers) is derived from the bishop, who alone performs the mystery of ordination. Likewise, lay stewardship in the Orthodox Church (educative, administrative, or otherwise) is conducted with the blessing of the bishop.

While Orthodox hierarchs may differ in rank and title (as some are called patriarchs, popes, metropolitans, archbishops, or simply bishops), nevertheless all bishops are equal as they all share in the same apostolic succession, they all have the same sacramental powers, and they all are divinely appointed teachers of the faith. For this reason, not only has no bishop in the Orthodox Church ever had universal jurisdiction but no bishop has ever even had the right to interfere in the affairs of another's diocese. Yet, in matters of faith and practice the bishop is not entirely on his own but instead remains subject to the decisions of local and general councils of bishops. In the same manner all councils of bishops remain subject to the general consciousness of the Church which as the Body of Christ includes both clergy and laity alike and is governed by the Holy Spirit.



Q. How do I greet an Orthodox bishop in person?

A. When we approach an Orthodox Bishop, we seek his blessing: By bowing from the waist such that our right hand touches the floor, then as we raise up we place our right hand over the left hand with palms upward, and we say, "Your blessing please!" The Bishop then answers, "May the Lord bless you," and blesses us with the Sign of the Cross by forming his fingers into a Christogram (see image on the left and the question below), and places his right hand in our hands. Then we kiss his hand. It should be noted that unlike a priest, the Bishop can bless with both the right and left hands; however he will as in the case stated above use his right hand.

The reason that a lay person kisses the hand of a Bishop is to show respect to his Apostolic office. More importantly, since he blesses in the Name of Christ, and he holds the Holy Mysteries in his hands during the Divine Liturgy, when we kiss his hand, we show respect to Christ and the Holy Eucharist. We should receive a blessing from a priest in the same manner and for the same reasons.



ST. JOHN (MAXIMOVITCH), ARCHBISHOP OF SHANGHAI AND SAN FRANCISCO

Commemorated on July 2nd / From GOARCH.org

The Holy Hierarch John Maximovitch was born in the Kharkov region in 1896, and reposed in San Francisco in 1966. In 1921, during the Russian Civil War, his family fled to Belgrade, joining the ranks of Russian exiles in Serbia, where he later became a monk and was ordained priest. In 1934 he was made Bishop of Shanghai, where he served until the Communists came to power. Thereafter he ministered in Europe, serving as Bishop first in Paris then in Brussels, until he became Archbishop of San Francisco in 1962. Throughout his life he was revered as a strict ascetic, a devoted man of prayer, and a truly wondrous unmercenary healer of all manner of afflictions and woes. He served the Divine Liturgy daily, slept little more than an hour a day, and kept a strict fast until the evening. It is doubtful that any one man gave so much protection and comfort as he to the Russian Orthodox people in exile after the Revolution of 1917; he was an unwearying and watchful shepherd of his sheep in China, the Philippines, Europe, and America. Through his missionary labors he also brought into the Church many who had not been "of this fold." Since his repose in 1966, he has been especially glorified by God through signs and miracles, and his body has remained incorrupt.





OUTREACH

By Fr. William DuBovik



What do we do now? It's a question many may ask when assessing their parish and its direction as they seek to witness for Christ in their parish and in their local community.

Desiring to respond to the call of Christ, to Baptize all nations, and with a love for all of our sisters and brothers in Christ to bring them to the fullness of God's call, we have begun to implement parts of a program that helps us visibly witness for Christ, sharing His message with others. We share these ideas, not as new, earth-shattering revelations, but as an outline that might be of use in helping to further enliven our parishes.

Outreach, with the goal of bringing more people into the true faith as expressed in the historic church of Orthodox Christianity, is accomplished in many ways. We do this, or seek to do this, so that others may be transformed and may come to know God in the fullest way possible-the only true and fruitful motivation for such efforts. Of course, each one of us must grow ourselves as Christians so that we can reflect Christ in our lives to others. This is a true missionary effort. Still, it is good to make efforts to give our Church greater visibility and to let people know what the Orthodox faith can offer.

Studies show that of those who join a Church, from 70 to 90 percent come because of family or a friend. We need to keep this in mind in any efforts we make to share our faith with others. Even with this statistic, we are left with some 20 percent who come for other reasons-moving into an area, attracted by programs, seeking a new faith, looking for truth, church school, etc., and we need to find ways to appeal to them.

Outreach For The Right Reasons

Ideas and the voluntary efforts to carry out Outreach programs are welcome as long as they are consistent with our Faith. Traditionally, through parish bazaars, special programs and activities that are publicized, people in the community learn of our presence. We need to do more, however, and a parish needs to decide, prayerfully with the Fa-

ther's guidance, the Son's love and the Holy Spirit's inspiration, in what direction we want to go. Let us be careful as we embark that our goal is to share Christ's truths and not just to share our budgetary expenses with others, seeking persons to fill seats and to pay their fair share or dues. Why would God guide us in growth if our motivations are not out of love, but are selfish?

The following are proposals for Outreach, some of which our parish has attempted, others to which we are aspiring:

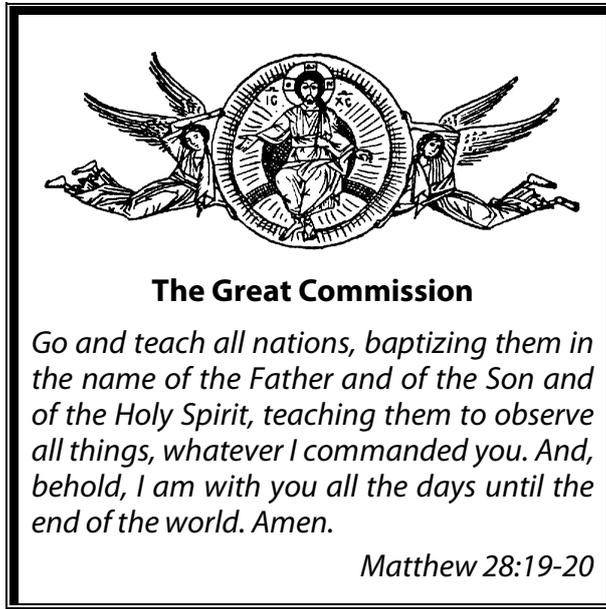
Outreach-Car-Pooling: There are people who cannot come to church because they do not drive, or no longer drive. Forms can be distributed to find those who need and would like a ride, and to identify others who would be willing to drive someone from their area to church.

Outreach-Advertising: A society that a couple of years ago got excited over a stuffed red animal that produces an electronic laugh when you press on its stomach-otherwise known as "Tickle Me Elmo"-is a society that attests to the effectiveness of advertising. Our parish has allocated funds and earmarked contributions to increase advertising in the local newspapers-not just that we are here, but with messages of who we are and

what we believe. We have seen some fruits from this effort, at least as far as having persons visit us for services, even if they have not yet joined the parish.

Outreach-Community Relations: How can we relate to the neighborhoods in which we find ourselves? Will we become just commuter churches? Some say the latter is impossible to sustain over a long period, and that a church needs to reach out to its neighborhoods. Don't we have an obligation as Christians to do just that-taking Christ's message to all people?

Outreach-Liturgical Life: Our liturgical life is the reason for our being, and if we enthusiastically come to as many services as possible, we are in a position to invite others and encourage others to come. Lukewarm adherents will not attract others.



Only those with a passion to worship will. Imagine creating a traffic jam, not for a tag sale or bazaar but for Liturgy! For major feast days and special church observances, we should make a statement by taking the day off from work and by keeping our children home from school to attend the Liturgy... Overall, liturgical life must be renewed, and this does not involve a committee or a meeting, but each person making a commitment to Christ. This is of utmost importance for our lives as well as our witnessing for the Lord. Will some lead the way and encourage others to follow their example?

Outreach-Flyers: Distributing flyers about the church is another possibility. Parishioners can go door-to-door, post them on store bulletin boards, give them out on corners and at stores.

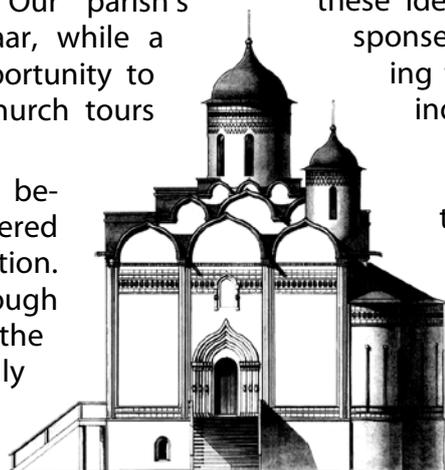
Outreach-Libraries: Are there books on Orthodoxy at all libraries in the region? Let's check and see what libraries will accept in donations of books on Orthodoxy as well as Orthodox newspapers and periodicals. Can we sponsor the appearance of an author who has written about Orthodoxy at a library or bookstore?

Outreach-Telephone: Many people enjoy talking on the telephone. How about calling someone who has not been seen in church lately, or someone who comes sporadically whom we may feel is in danger of falling away? How about calling a non-Orthodox friend or acquaintance, inviting them to come and see?

Outreach-Welcoming: Our parish does have greeters who do a good job of welcoming guests. They provide mini-forms for the guests to fill out so they can then receive follow-up contact. Greeters wear nametags and move out to welcome guests. They do not wait for guests to approach them. One consideration is to have a "Nametag Sunday" periodically, on which each person wears a nametag. There are people at church, new and not so new, who may not know everyone's name, or who perhaps have forgotten it.

Outreach-Special Activities: Our parish's "Russian Tea Room" and Bazaar, while a fund-raiser, is a wonderful opportunity to meet new people. We hold church tours throughout the event.

Outreach-Education: We are beginning a library, and have offered opportunities for adult education. Most importantly, we learn through our worship as we listen to the hymns and prayers, especially from the verses for the appointed feast days. Our icons



also tell us about the meaning of what we commemorate. In our worship, God speaks to us in many ways and feeds us – body and soul.

Outreach-Computer Age: We need good access to the internet. We need to study how we can best utilize our own website to reach out in this advanced age of technology.

Outreach-Other Publicity: Our parish sends a schedule of our services each year to the colleges, universities and hotels in the area, welcoming all. If one sees a calendar without Orthodox holy days, one can write to the company. School systems can be notified about holy days, but at least a year in advance. Significant church information can be sent to television and radio stations as well as newspapers. Making a "pest" of oneself can be fruitful. We also can correct erroneous statements. We can write letters to the editor.

Outreach-Ministries: Perhaps there is a special ministry in which a parish would like to be involved, such as a ministry to recovering alcoholics, to widows and widowers, to the abused. This is an excellent form of Christian compassion that can result in outreach. Our parish has begun to develop a relationship with an organization that assists pregnant women and newborns.

My sisters and brothers in Christ, these are a few ideas that come to mind when we think of Outreach. You may want to add more, or eliminate some. What is important is that we do not just talk about ideas but that we act to bring them to fruition. How bold and determined will we be? What small mustard seeds of ideas are awaiting our nurturing so they will sprout and grow into huge trees?

We need with openness and most importantly with faith in the power of God to look at our parish-where it is and where it is going. Whether any or all of these projects results in even one new member will be according to God's will. Just as importantly, with the Grace of God, trying some of these ideas can reinvigorate us, and be a response to any lurking stagnation or backsliding that threatens. We know, too, that an individual or family that focuses only on itself is one in danger. So, too, is a parish. Projects such as these will turn us outward. And, finally, we do need to try to respond to our Lord's command to "Go and Teach All Nations, Baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."