

CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

10315 Carey Road; Berlin, MD 21811
 302-537-6055 (church) / orthodoxdelmarva.org /
 frjohn@orthodoxdelmarva.org

BULLETIN OF FEBRUARY 24, 2013

A Warm Welcome!

We warmly welcome all of our visitors. We are very pleased to have you with us today! Please consider staying after the service for fellowship at our coffee hour in the hall.

Catechumen Meetings

are being held twice a month following the coffee hour. This month's meetings are Sunday, March 10th and 17th.

The Parish Council Installation

will be blessed to assume their duties at the end of Divine Liturgy today. Following coffee hour, the council will meet to elect officers. We ask the Lord's blessing upon them as they begin this important ministry in the Church!



Fast-free Week

Unless you are looking to broaden your phylacteries (Matt. 23:5), during the week of the Publican and Pharisee, February 24 to March 3rd, we do not fast, even on Wednesday and Friday.



Baptism of Matthew Nicholas

Sunday, March 3rd, there will be a Baptismal Liturgy for Matthew Nicholas McFarland. The pre-baptismal prayers will begin at 8:40am, with "Blessed is the Kingdom" at 9:00am. Be sure to be present for this joyous occasion!

Appreciation is Expressed!

to all those who helped with the landscaping work this past week; 18 tons of fill dirt + 14 tons of landscape stone + 18 tons of driveway stone = 1 great labor of love. Your efforts and donations are very much appreciated!



Altar Servers Meeting – Sunday, March 3rd

A meeting of altar servers will take place on Sunday, March 3rd, following the coffee hour. All those who already serve in the altar or have interest in doing so are asked to be present for this important meeting. We need volunteers for this important ministry / privilege. Questions, please see Fr. John.



Have Something on Your Mind?

Feel free to talk to your priest. Fr. John can be reached any time: 302-537-6055 or frjohn@orthodoxdelmarva.org.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH

Publican and Pharisee Sunday

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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH

St. Raphael of Brooklyn

9:00a.m. Akathist

SATURDAY, MARCH 2ND

5:00p.m. Bible Study
 6:00p.m. Great Vespers

SUNDAY, MARCH 3RD

Prodigal Son Sunday

8:40a.m. Pre-baptismal Prayers
 9:00a.m. Baptismal Div. Liturgy
 Coffee Hour



O LORD JESUS CHRIST SON OF GOD
 HAVE MERCY ON ME A SINNER

READER SCHEDULE

Sunday, Mar. 3rd
 Bruce Eckerd
 Sunday, Mar. 10th
 Jodi McElwee



Living: Fr. Alexander Atty, Fr. Christian, Mat. Dunia, Hayley, Tyler Pelesh, Wallace & Michelle, John Trax, Maleah Morsey, Victoria Kokkinos, Karen Nichols, Denise Royal, Jane Koshutko, Nina Gordon, Mirela & Chris, Bruce Eckerd, Stella, Ari, Nedelina, Liliana, Irene Clenney, Katie Hawley. **Departed:** Fr. Michael Mihalick, Kathryn, Avramia.

CASH FLOWS THROUGH 1/31/13					CASH FLOWS IN FEBRUARY 2013					FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT		
OPERATING		OTHER		ALL	OPERATING		OTHER		ALL	ASSETS & LIABILITIES – 2/24		
Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Net	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Net	Checking	Overdue	Due 2/2014
3,945	3,751	645	0	+839	3,326	4,138	1,950	2,915	-1,777	+2,136	0	-28,925

DO NOT DESPAIR BUT TRUST IN GOD'S MERCY

By Saint Tikhon of Zadonsk

Do not despair of whatever sins you may have committed since Baptism and find yourself in true repentance, but await God's mercy. However, many and however great and burdensome your sins may be, with God there is greater mercy. Just as His majesty is, so likewise is His mercy. Only guard yourself from sinning henceforth, and walk according to the ways of God.

If you have transgressed in this as a man, and have sinned do not despair. But at that very moment, confess your sin and fall down with humility before the compassionate eyes of God and ask mercy with the voice of the publican, *God be merciful to me a sinner!* (Luke 18:13), and your sins will be forgiven you.

True repentance demands that a man turn away from sins and from the vanity of this world and turn toward God with all his heart, that he be changed within, and that he become different from what he was before, and so *work out his salvation with fear and trembling* (cf. Phil. 2:12), and so endeavor to do nothing else but only to

please God and so be saved. For if you wish to be in true repentance and so be saved, change yourself and be renewed, and become different from what you were before, and take care for nothing else but only to please God and be saved, and so shall you be a new creature in Christ. For every Christian that wishes to be a true Christian, and not false, out to be a new a renewed man or a new creature. Do not, then, indulge your flesh, and do not do everything it may desire. It must be *crucified with its affections and lusts* (Gal. 5:24) when you wish to be a Christian, that is, Christ's. Much effort and labor is needed, for a man to be changed and to be the good tree that brings forth good fruit. Strive, then, for nothing else but to change, renew, and correct yourself.

And pray for this, and sigh often and with all zeal to Christ the Lord, that He Himself might renew you and make you good, for without Him our renewal and correction cannot take place. And when you are renewed inwardly and good, then your outward life and works shall also be good.



THE BANDIT'S REPENTANCE

Can a sinner, in the space of ten days, make full repentance of his sins? By the immeasurable grace of God, he can. In the time of Emperor Maurice, there was a well-known bandit in the region around Constantinople. Both in the countryside and in the capital itself, he inspired fear and trembling. Then the Emperor himself sent him a cross, as a pledge that he would not punish him if he gave himself up.

The bandit took the cross, and did indeed give himself up. Arriving in Constantinople, he fell at the Emperor's feet and begged his forgiveness. The emperor kept his word, had mercy on him and let him go free.

Immediately after that, the bandit fell gravely ill and sensed that death was near. He began to repent bitterly of all his sins, and implored God with tears to forgive him as the Emperor had. He shed many tears in his prayer, so that the handkerchief with which he wiped them became soaked, and he died after ten days of prayerful weeping.

The night of his death, the doctor who had been attending to him had a strange vision in a dream: When the bandit on the bed breathed his last, a number of little black men gathered around him, flourishing bits of paper on which his sins were written, and two glorious angels also appeared. A pair of scales were placed in the middle, and the little black men gleefully put all the bits of paper on it, so their side of the scales was loaded, while the other was empty.

"What can we put in?" the angels asked each other. "Let's look for something good in his life." Then there appeared in the hand of one of the angels the handkerchief soaked with tears of repentance. The angels quickly placed it on their side of the scales, and it at once outweighed the other with all the papers. Then the little black men fled, howling in anguish, but the angels took the man's soul and carried it to Paradise, glorifying God's love for mankind.



THE LIFE ST. RAPHAEL OF BROOKLYN

Commemorated February 27th

Raphael Hawaweeny was born on November 8, 1860, in Beirut, Lebanon. His parents, Michael and Miriam, had fled there from Damascus, Syria, before the Druze massacres which claimed the lives of 2,500 Christians.

Raphael attended the Greek Orthodox Theological School in Halki, Turkey; then traveled to Russia to further his studies at the Kiev Theological Academy. He was ordained a priest in 1889 and assigned to pastor the Antiochian Patriarchal Embassy in Moscow. He came know to the Arab communities in America as they sought his leadership. Bishop Nicholas of the North American diocese also went to Russia to recruit him and other missionaries. They arrived in America on November 14, 1895.

Immediately, Fr. Raphael set to work and organized the parish that would eventually become St. Nicholas Cathedral in Brooklyn. Then after just five months in America, he set out on the first of several missionary journeys by rail across and up and down the United States, Canada, and Mexico, seeking out Arabic-speaking Orthodox Christians and establishing parishes.

Twice in 1901, Archimandrite Raphael was elected a bishop in his homeland. Twice he declined, stating that his work in America was not finished. St. Tikhon, by then Bishop of North America, also had great confidence in Fr. Raphael and asked the Holy Synod of Russia to elect him as Bishop of Brooklyn. The consecration took place on March 12, 1904, in New York; and Raphael became the first Orthodox bishop consecrated on American soil. With the help of St. Alexander (Hotovitsky), a colleague from Russia and fellow missionary, Bishop Raphael immediately began publication of *The Word*, an Arabic-language journal.

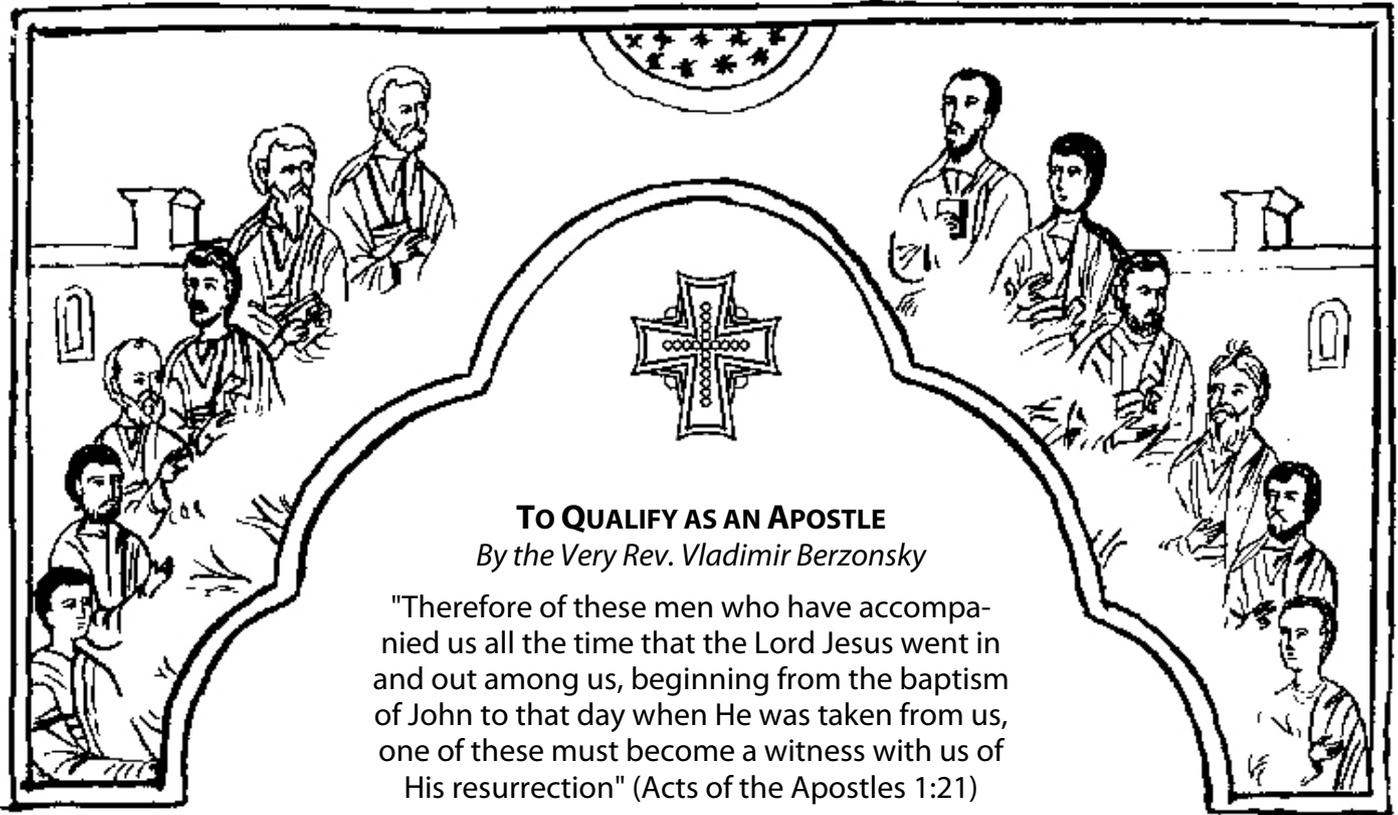
He could and did serve the entire Divine Liturgy in perfect Arabic, Greek, Russian, or English; but, when Bishop Raphael saw the young people of the Church drifting away because they did not understand Arabic, he insisted that Sunday School instruction, the Divine Liturgy, and other services be in English. He worked with Isabel Hapgood to prepare the famous English language Service Book that was published under the direction of Bishop Tikhon in 1906. The Holy Synod of Antioch made more attempts to lure him back to the Middle East, offering him lucrative dioceses; but he steadfastly declined, declaring that his work in America was not yet complete. By 1909, when his health failed and he became bed-ridden due to his tireless labors, he had established more than thirty parishes. Bishop Raphael fell asleep in the Lord on February 27, 1915, at the age of 54. His flock mourned for him bitterly. He was canonized a saint by the Orthodox Church in America on May 29, 2000, at St. Tikhon's Seminary, New Canaan, Pennsylvania. He was glorified as the "Good Shepherd of the Lost Sheep in America." His feast day is February 27.



THE CANONIZATION AND FEASTDAYS OF ST. RAPHAEL

From OrthodoxWiki.org

Bishop Raphael was glorified (numbered among the saints) by the Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church in America in its March 2000 session, and the glorification services by that Holy Synod took place in May of that year at St. Tikhon's Monastery with the participation of bishops representing the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America, the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, and the Church of Poland. He is commemorated by the Orthodox Church in America on February 27, the anniversary of his death, and by the Church of Antioch on the first Saturday of November, which is shortly before Raphael's own patronal feast (the Feast of the Archangels, November 8).



TO QUALIFY AS AN APOSTLE

By the Very Rev. Vladimir Berzonsky

"Therefore of these men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John to that day when He was taken from us, one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection" (Acts of the Apostles 1:21)

Twelve men were selected to match the twelve tribes of Israel, for this was a second and ultimate covenant inaugurated by the Son of God. Somebody would take the place of Judas. The basic qualification was that he had to have witnessed the many miracles the Lord Jesus performed since the inauguration of His ministry and most important of all, to have beheld Him resurrected from death. It was not enough to select someone who could tell about Jesus. He had to be there in person, somebody whose eyes had seen and ears had heard the Word of God, Jesus Christ.

Since God's Son came to live and dwell among us, hundreds of thousands of people have spent their lifetimes studying the records of His life on earth. We profit from all sorts of theories. Conversely, countless millions have known but a portion of who He was and is, even having been misled and led away from Him. Millions have an opinion about Him. The true Christian knows Him.

Apostolic succession is a phrase describing those Christian communions that can claim to be descended from the apostles. For some it's a legal qualification for authenticity as inheritors of grace from the earliest stream. But for us it's more than that - it's the inheritance of sacred tradition that identifies the bearers as grateful heirs of spiritual gifts that flow in the Church through the centuries.

To read the sacred scriptures as Spirit-filled beneficiaries of apostolic grace is to be warmed in the heart by the same emotions they felt when they were there when He performed mighty deeds in humble ways. To say with St. Peter when told at

daybreak to lower his nets into the water once again, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing," (Luke 5:8) only to reluctantly obey, certain it would be for nothing, then to have the net so full of fish that the cords would be broken if they tugged the net too roughly, and to say, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, Lord." God broke the cords of Peter's heart at that instant. We can grasp what he had been thinking before then - he knew all about fishing - but he understood nothing about the Spirit within him.

It's not only the miracle, it's the humility that accompanies the phenomenon. Jesus said nothing. His silence shouts with eloquence. Consider the time He was moved with compassion for the widow burying her only son. He stopped the funeral procession and turned it back to the village. Grief and the funeral are transformed into great joy and songs of praise. Those who had been there not only never forgot it, they recorded it on our behalf. Who could forget the incident of the awesome centurion whose mere presence caused all Jews to hold their breath and feel their blood pressure increase until he passed, plead like a child on behalf of his servant near death, only to have the humble Lord cure the servant with a mere word. It was no accident that none of the apostles were noted for their learning. Simple men they were, guileless for the most part, quite ordinary as the world would judge them, yet capable of wonder and amazement when One who was indeed unique manifested divinity in His person.