



# CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

## BULLETIN OF MAY 13, 2018

### SUNDAY, MAY 13<sup>TH</sup>

#### Sunday of the Blind Man

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

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 16<sup>TH</sup>

#### Leave-taking of Pascha

7:00p.m. Great Vespers w/ Litiya

### THURSDAY, MAY 17<sup>TH</sup>

#### Ascension of the Lord

##### One of the Twelve Great Feasts

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

### SATURDAY, MAY 19<sup>TH</sup>

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

### SUNDAY, MAY 20<sup>TH</sup>

#### Holy Fathers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Council

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



### READER SCHEDULE

#### Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>

Megan Borodulia

#### Sunday, May 27<sup>th</sup>

Rdr. George Kaloroumakis



### A Warm Welcome!

We warmly welcome all our visitors. It's good to have you with us!

### Feast of the Ascension – Thursday, May 17<sup>th</sup>

This week we celebrate the Lord's Ascension into Heaven, which occurred 40 days after His Resurrection from the dead. This is one of the 12 Great Feasts of the Church's liturgical year. Come have a joyous feast and holy day!



### 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?

### Mother's Day Congratulations!

to all those who are celebrating the civil holiday of "Mother's Day": mothers, grandmothers, mothers-in-law, godmothers. May God grant you many years!



### Did You Know? Average Sunday Attendance

This year is 73 souls (& bodies). Previously: 64, 64, 60, 72, 60, 50, 46, 38.



### Supporting A Local Pregnancy Center

A charitable drive, "Bottles of Blessing!", will run from Mother's Day, May 13<sup>th</sup> to Father's Day, June 17<sup>th</sup>. You can pick up a Baby Bottle to take home and collect your loose change (cash / checks accepted!). This is to benefit The Shirley Grace Pregnancy Center in Berlin where women are cared for materially & spiritually.

### Annual Memorial Day Pilgrimage

The Memorial Day Pilgrimage to Saint Tikhon's Monastery in South Canaan, PA is Monday, May 28<sup>th</sup>. For more info, please see: [memorialdaypilgrimage.com](http://memorialdaypilgrimage.com).



### Two Suggestions

1) Invite someone new to church; 2) Talk to someone new today.



### Have An Idea?

Do you have any idea that you would like to share about our Mission? Please let Fr. John or one of the Council know as we always look for ways to improve the Mission!

### Feast of Pentecost – Sunday, May 27<sup>th</sup>

On Sunday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, we celebrate the Descent of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, 50 days after Pascha. On this day we have Vespers with Kneeling Prayers immediately following the Liturgy. This is a High Holy Day, no one should miss. There will be Liturgy the next day, dedicated to the Holy Spirit.



CASH FLOWS THROUGH 3/31/18					CASH FLOWS IN APRIL 2018					FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT		
OPERATING		OTHER		ALL	OPERATING		OTHER		ALL	AS OF: 5/13		
Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Net	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Net	Available	Restricted	Savings
34,976	36,932	5,130	3,000	+174	1,909	9,233	0	0	-7,324	6,899	5,264	12,000



## THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD INTO HEAVEN

When the day of the Jewish Pentecost drew near, the disciples of Christ returned from Galilee to Jerusalem. On the fortieth day after the resurrection of Jesus Christ they were all together in one house. Jesus Christ appeared to them and spoke with them saying, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to all creation. He who believes and is baptized will be saved, but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs shall accompany those who believe: in My name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover."

Then the Savior said to the disciples that soon the Holy Spirit would come upon them, and until that time He charged them not to depart from Jerusalem. He said, "I send the promise of My Father upon you; but stay in the city, until you are clothed with power from on high; for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

Conversing with the disciples, the Savior led them out of the city as far as Bethany, to the Mount of Olives. The disciples, overjoyed with the words of the Savior, surrounded Him and started to ask, "Lord will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" The Savior said to them, "It is not for you to know the times or seasons which the Father has fixed by His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth."

When He had said this, Jesus Christ lifted up His hands and blessed His disciples. While He blessed them, He parted from them and He was lifted up to Heaven, and soon a cloud took Him out of their sight. Thus our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ ascended in His physical body to Heaven and sat down at the right Hand of God the Father. His human soul and body took on the indivisible

glory with His divinity. In His divinity, He always is and will be in Heaven and everywhere.

The disciples worshipped the ascended Lord and for a long time continued to stand and gaze into Heaven after Him. Then two angels in white robes appeared before them and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into Heaven? This Jesus, Who was taken up from you into Heaven, will come to earth in the same way (that is, in the flesh), as you saw Him go into heaven." After this the disciples of Christ returned to Jerusalem with great joy and stayed there together, awaiting the descent of the Holy Spirit. All of them, together in soul, spent the time in prayer and were continually in the Temple of God, praising and thanking God. With them were several women and Mary, the Most-holy Mother of the Lord Jesus Christ, with their relatives. In those days the apostles, prayerfully, by casting lots, chose from among the disciples of Christ the twelfth apostle, Matthias, to take the place of Judas the betrayer, who perished.

Ascended into Heaven, Jesus Christ, according to His own promise, invisibly always comes to earth among those who believe in Him and will come again to earth in visible form to judge the living and the dead, who will then rise from the dead. After this will begin the life of the next age, another, eternal life which for true believers and pious people will be completely blessed, but for disbelievers and sinners will be a time of great torment.

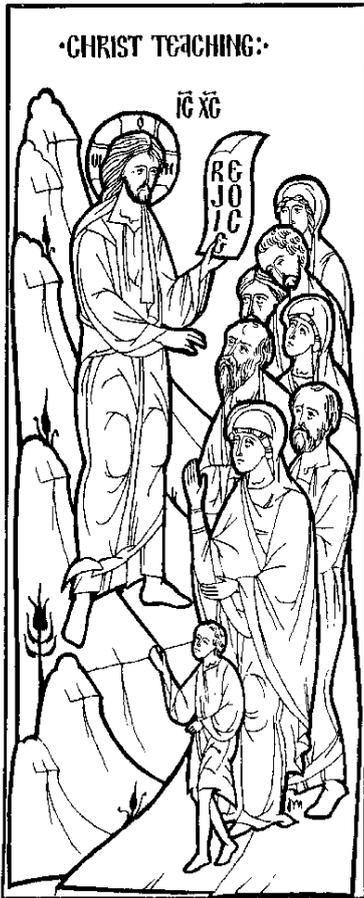
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### Troparion

*Thou hast ascended in glory, O Christ our God, granting joy to Thy disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit. Through the blessing they were assured that Thou art the Son of God, the Redeemer of the world!*

### Kontakion

*When Thou didst fulfill the dispensation for our sake and unite earth to heaven, Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God, not being parted from those who love Thee, but remaining with them and crying, "I am with you and no one will be against you!"*



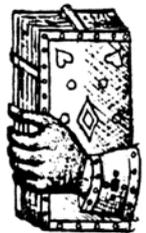
## TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

- 1) We are Christ's disciples if we:
  - A. Keep His commandments.
  - B. Love one another.
  - C. Take up our crosses and follow Him.
  - D. All of the above.
- 2) The first bird Noah sent forth from the ark.
  - A. dove
  - B. raven
  - C. nuthatch
  - D. eagle
- 3) Moses received the Ten Commandments 50 days after Passover.
  - A. True
  - B. False
- 4) What happened 50 days after Christ rose from the dead?
  - A. Christ ascended into Heaven.
  - B. The Christians received the Holy Spirit.
  - C. St. Matthias replaced the Judas among the Twelve.
  - D. St. Stephen, the first martyr, was stoned to death.
- 5) To "speak in tongues" means to use words no one can understand.
  - A. True
  - B. False

*For answers to these questions, please consult your Bible or the answers below.*

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

1. D, all of the above.
2. B, raven. Genesis 8:7 The raven is an unclean bird, Leviticus 11:15 and Deuteronomy 14:14 The second bird Noah sent forth from the ark was a dove which is a clean bird, Deuteronomy 14:11-20. This prefigured the gift of the Holy Spirit (in the form of a dove) which would come when the old man, subject to sin, was drowned in the waters of Holy Baptism.
3. A, true. This prefigured the Christians receiving the Law of God written on the fleshy tablets of the heart, rather than cold and hard stony tablets.
4. B, the Christians received the Holy Spirit on Pentecost.
5. B, false. The gift of speaking in tongues meant precisely the opposite. The Book of Acts records how the Apostles were able to proclaim the wonderful works of God to every person in Jerusalem, not in gibberish but to each in their own language.



## SAINT PETER OF DAMASCUS ON GOD'S LIGHT

We all receive God's blessings equally. But some of us, receiving God's fire, that is, His word, become soft like beeswax, while the others like clay become hard as stone. And if we do not want Him, He does not force any of us, but like the sun He sends His rays and illuminates the whole world, and he who wants to see Him, sees Him, whereas the one who does not want to see Him, is not forced by Him. And no one is responsible for this privation of light except the one who does not want to have it.



## ON DEVELOPING THE HEART

By Saint Theophan the Recluse



Developing the heart means developing within it a taste for things holy, divine, and spiritual, so that when it finds itself amidst such things it would feel as though it were in its element. Finding them sweet and blessed, it would be indifferent to all else, with no taste for anything else; and even more -- it would find anything else revolting. All of man's spiritual activity centers in the heart. The truths are impressed in it, and good dispositions are rooted into it. But its main work is developing a taste for the spiritual, as we have shown. When the mind sees the whole spiritual world and its different components, various good beginnings ripen in the will. The heart, under their influence, should taste sweetness in all of this and radiate warmth. This delight in the spiritual is the first sign of the regeneration of a soul deadened by sin. Therefore the heart's development is a very important point even in the early stages. The work directed at it is all of our Church services in all forms -- common and personal, at home and in church -- and it is mainly achieved through the spirit of prayer moving within it. Church services, that is, all the daily services, together with the entire arrange-



ment of the church's icons, candles, censuring, singing, chanting, movements of the clergy, as well as the services for various needs; then services in the home, also using ecclesiastical objects such as sanctified icons, holy oil, candles, holy water, the Cross, and incense -- all of these holy things together acting upon all the senses -- sight, hearing, smell, touch, and taste -- are the "cloths that wipe clean" the senses of a deadened soul. They are the strongest and the only reliable way to do it. The soul becomes deadened by the spirit of the world, and possessed by sin that lives in the world. The entire structure of our Church services, with their tone, meaning, power of faith, and especially the grace concealed within them, have an invincible power to drive away the spirit of the world. In freeing the soul from the world's onerous influence, it allows the soul to breathe freely and to taste the sweetness of spiritual freedom. Walking into church we walk into a completely different world, are influenced by it, and change according to it. The same thing happens when we surround ourselves with holy objects. Frequent impressions of the spiritual world more effectively penetrate within and more quickly bring about a transformation of the heart.

### INVISIBLE PRIEST

*A comment reported on the Portland, Maine, TV station, Channel 6:*

"We could take a cue from Orthodoxy, whose priests stand with their backs to their congregation, leading a liturgy that is neither clever nor impassioned, but simply beautiful, like stone smoothed by centuries of rhythmic tides. It's an austere ritual, in the sense of - there's nothing new here; it's sublime, in the sense of - creating a clearer view into Heaven. The priest can be any priest. Who he is, what he looks like, how he speaks, and what he thinks matter little. He hasn't written the service that he officiates. It isn't about him or his prowess. He's an interchangeable functionary draped in brocaded robes, obscured by incense, and, as such, never points to himself, a flawed human, pointing ever and only to the Perfection of the Mysterious Divine. That is the role of every priest or preacher - invisibility, while making God seen."

