



Holy Trinity Orthodox Church Newsletter

A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America, Diocese of the Midwest

www.holy-trinity-church.org
913-681-6948

May, 2010

Brothers And Sisters In Christ!

Christ is risen!

I pray that everyone had a blessed Pascha and that you are continuing to bask in the joy of the Risen Lord! At the conclusion of Vespers on Saturday evenings, I have been reading short homilies from the Fathers of the Church, and I would like to include one here for you to read. (These homilies are included in the book, **The Synaxarion of the Lenten Triodion and Pentecostarion**, published by HDM Press in Rives Junction, MI.) This is a homily by St. Athanasius, Archbishop of Alexandria who fell asleep in the Lord in the year 373. I include this sermon, because on May 23rd we will be celebrating the Great Feast of Pentecost.

“It will not be out of place to consider the ancient Tradition, teaching and faith of the catholic Church, which was revealed by the Lord, proclaimed by the Apostles and guarded by the Fathers. For upon this faith the Church is built, and if anyone were to lapse from it, he would no longer be a Christian either in fact or in name.

We acknowledge the Trinity, holy and perfect, to consist of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. In this Trinity there is no intrusion of any alien element or of anything from outside, nor is the Trinity a blend of creative and created being. It is a wholly creative and energizing reality, self-consistent and undivided in Its active power, for the Father makes all things through the Word and in the Holy Spirit, and in this way the unity of the Holy Trinity is preserved. Accordingly, in the Church, one God is preached, one God who is ‘above all things and through all things and in all things’ God is ‘above all things’ as Father, for He is principle and source; He is ‘through all things’ through the Word; and He is ‘in all things’ in the Holy Spirit.

Writing to the Corinthians about spiritual matters, the holy Apostle Paul traces all reality back to one God, the Father, saying, ‘Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit, and varieties of service, but the same Lord—and there are varieties of working, but it is the same God who inspires them all in everyone.’

Even the gifts that the Spirit dispenses to individuals are given by the Father through the Word. For all that belongs to the Father belongs to the Son, and so the graces given by the Son in the Spirit are true gifts of the Father. Similarly, when the Spirit dwells in us, the Word who bestows the Spirit is in us too, and the Father is present in the Word. This is the

- 2— *Catechumen & Inquirer Class, 7pm*
- 3— *Bible Study, 10am*
- 4— *KC Clergy Brotherhood Meeting, 12 pm*
- 5— *Vespers @ St. George Serbian Church 6pm*
- 6— *Liturgy @ St. George Serbian Church 10am*
- 7— *St. Mary of Egypt Food Kitchen, 5pm*
- 9— *Chris Cakes fundraiser for EOYC after Liturgy*
- 10— *Bible Study, 10am*
- 12— *Paschal Divine Liturgy @ St. Michael's Serbian Church, 10am Vespers, 6:30pm*
- 13— *Feast of the Ascension Divine Liturgy, 9:30am Parish Council Meeting, 6:30pm*
- 17— *Bible Study, 10am*
- 20— *Vespers, 6:30pm*
- 21— *Sts. Constantine & Helen Divine Liturgy, 9:30am*
- 23— *Pentecost Parish Picnic & Honor graduates*
- 24— *Feast of the Holy Spirit Divine Liturgy, 9:30am*
- 31— *Blessing graves Highland Park Cemetery, 10am*



From the Pastor, continued

meaning of the text, 'My Father and I will come to him and make Our home with him.' For where the light is, there also is the radiance; and where the radiance is, there too are its power and its resplendent grace.

This is also St. Paul's teaching in his second letter to the Corinthians, 'The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.' For grace and the gift of the Trinity are given by the Father through the Son in the Holy Spirit. Just as grace is given from the Father through the Son, so there could be no communication of the gift to us except in the Holy Spirit. But when we share in the Spirit, we possess the love of the Father, the grace of the Son, and the fellowship of the Spirit Himself.

To the Holy Trinity—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit—be glory, honor, and worship now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.”

I hope to see everyone in Church for Pentecost!

With love in Christ,

Fr. Timothy Sawchak

It's Time for EOYC (Eastern Orthodox Youth Camp)

Before you know it school will be out and summer vacation will be here. Consider attending EOYC this summer as part of your summer plans. It will be a week of fun and with your Orthodox friends from church, the Greater Kansas City area and beyond. While having fun you'll learn about your faith and grow closer to God and each other. Our religious studies will focus on the life of the Virgin Mary.

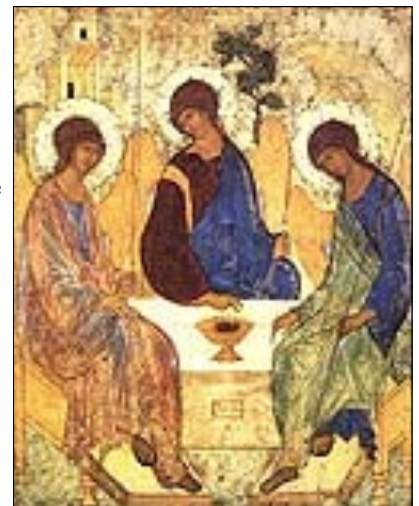
Camp will be held at YouthFront South from August 1st- August 7th. The cost of camp is \$300.00. Camp forms and a \$50.00 deposit per camper is due on May 2nd. The balance will be due on June 27th. Camp forms can be obtained from Elizabeth Mikaloff or Father Tim. Please turn camp forms in to Elizabeth Mikaloff. If you have any questions give her a call at 913-585-1194 or send her an email at jermik@kc.rr.com.

Please consider helping a child from Holy Trinity to attend camp. Donations can be made to the Father John Platko Scholarship Fund. The ROCK is hosting a pancake breakfast on Mother's Day to raise money for the scholarship fund. Please join us for a fun breakfast and support this cause.

EOYC would like to thank all those who attended the fundraising dinner dance on Bright Friday and to those who played golf in the golf tournament. Both were fun events. The monies raised from these fundraisers help EOYC keep the cost of camp reasonable.

Camp is for children ages 7-17. Counselors are needed to help with camp for the week. Come and experience the excitement and share in the joy of Orthodox children from Kansas City and beyond getting together, building their faith and simply having fun. Counselor forms will be available soon.

If you have any questions please see one of our camp board members: Denise Rueschhoff, Anya Arnold, Nicholas Platko or Elizabeth Mikaloff.



Mission to Madagascar

Our very own Tracy Gustilo will be participating in an OCMC short-term mission trip to Madagascar this August. Madagascar is the fourth largest island in the world and lies off the east coast of Africa. Orthodoxy there is spreading in isolated villages despite many obstacles. The 2010 OCMC Madagascar Mission Team has been invited by His Grace Bishop IGNATIOS to conduct seminars for catechists, clergy, seminarians, and lay people.

Tracy would greatly appreciate your prayers for the emerging Orthodox Church in Madagascar and for her team's travel and teaching efforts. Financial assistance would also be much appreciated as all team participants are expected to raise their own funds. Tracy will be presenting a photo slide show and giving a report on the state of the Orthodox Church in Madagascar at the conclusion of her trip. For more information about OCMC and the Madagascar mission, or to make a donation, please visit the OCMC web site: http://ocmc.org/programs/teams_search.aspx?SearchBy=Year Also feel free to contact Tracy personally: tracygustilo@mac.com.

Annual Parish Picnic

The Annual Parish Picnic is Sunday, May 22. Hot dogs, hamburgers and beverages will be supplied. If your last name is A-M, bring a side dish. If your last name is N-Z, bring a dessert. And don't forget your lawn chair and outdoor sports equipment.

CHRIS CAKES Flips for Camp Scholarship Fund

Sunday, May 9, Chris Cakes will be here for an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast. Tickets are available at the door (adult \$6, children under 10 \$4). All proceeds go to the Fr John Platko Memorial EOYC Scholarship fund for needs-based scholarships to help our kids to go to camp.

Financial Update...

March Income:	19,984
March Expense:	18,176
March Net	+1,807
2010 YTD Income:	54,908
2010 YTD Expense:	61,672
2010 YTD Net:	-6,764

OCMC Mission Coin Boxes...

\$279

was collected to help support the missionaries!. Thank you to all who contributed to the coin boxes this year.

“Cheerfulness consists in not regarding things as our own, but as entrusted to us by God for the benefit of our fellow servants. It consists in scattering them abroad generously with joy and magnanimity, not reluctantly or under compulsion. “- St. Symeon the New Theologian

Pan Orthodox Military Ministry Formed

The Saint George Orthodox Military Association is a Pan-Orthodox Association established to find new ways to assist and support our Eastern Orthodox brothers and sisters serving our country in the various branches of the U.S. Armed Forces around the World.

The Association's goals are to assist these military members in practicing their faith wherever they are. One of the Association's main goals is to work in increasing the size of the Eastern Orthodox Chaplaincy within the US Military. Currently there are fewer than eight (8) Army Orthodox Chaplains, and approximately eleven (11) Navy Orthodox Chaplains (covering the Navy, Marines and Coast Guard) serving our troops both at home and overseas. Another goal is ensuring that our Orthodox Military Members have access to much needed information (Orthodox Bibles) as well as other various prayers and information.



A Chapter of SGOMA has been established here in the Kansas City Region. Richard Keeney is the contact. Joseph and Dena Laxson are representing SGOMA at Whiteman AFB.

SGOMA will also be working with OCF and especially those Orthodox young people enrolled in ROTC.

You do not have to be Military or a Veteran to be involved in this Orthodox Ministry, just have a heart and concern for those Orthodox Christians in the military and their families who are serving, have served or are moving into the area.

Website: www.orthodoxmilitary.org

SAINTS ALIVE! Great Games Online For KIDS

The Department of Internet Ministries is pleased to announce an exciting new web site at <http://games.goarch.org> where kids and adults of all ages can explore, create, play, learn, discover, and grow in the Orthodox Faith. The site features online games and puzzles in a colorful, engaging environment, all with an Orthodox theme. The games are suitable for kids from ages 5 on up and currently features a coloring book, jigsaw puzzles, a memory game, a word finder, crossword puzzles, and more.

Is Someone in Your House Graduating this Spring?

We'll honor high school graduates during the Divine Liturgy on Pentecost (May 23) and feature their accomplishments in the June Newsletter. Please send a photo and a brief bio of your graduate to Karen Weinberg by May 20.

Retreat Planned for Late June

Here's some advance information on our planned retreat for this summer. Please review the following and let Paul Rueschhoff know if you are interested in participating in either retreat option. We have two retreats scheduled for the same week in June. We will cancel the retreat that receives the lesser amount of stated interest from the parish.

Option 1 Dormition of the Mother of God Monastery (OCA), Rives Junction, Michigan

Arrive Tuesday, June 22 - Depart Saturday, June 26

Wonderful Orthodox Monastery on beautiful grounds in south central Michigan

Option 2 Assumption Abbey (Roman Catholic - Cistercian), Ava, Missouri

Arrive Monday, June 21 - Depart Thursday, June 24

Close to KC (4-5 hour drive), Not an Orthodox monastery. Less expensive in travel costs.

North American Episcopal Assembly

The following press release is from the OCA website (www.oca.org) concerning the first North American Episcopal Assembly in May:

SYOSSET, NY [OCA] -- In anticipation of the first North American Episcopal Assembly, slated to convene in New York City May 21-23, 2010, His Beatitude, Metropolitan Jonah has asked that special petitions be included in the Litany of Fervent Supplication.

Under the chairmanship of His Eminence, Archbishop Demetrios of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, the Assembly will bring together all canonical Orthodox hierarchs across the continent.

Comprehensive and informative background information on events and deliberations leading to the convocation of the Assembly may be found on the web site of the Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas at www.scoba.us/resources/chambesy_documents.html.

Metropolitan Jonah and all diocesan and auxiliary bishops of the Orthodox Church in America will participate fully in the Assembly proceedings.

Petitions to be included in the Litany of Fervent Supplication

V: That the Lord may grant our Hierarchs gathering in Episcopal Assembly to grow in wisdom and strength, through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and to increase in love for each other, deepening Christian fellowship so that conciliar decisions may build up a canonically united Orthodox Christian Church of the Americas, let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord have mercy! Lord have mercy! Lord have mercy!

V: That their work may be guided by the grace of the Holy Spirit, and that the Spirit of unity and love, of compassion and mutual respect, inspiring each to contribute what will build up the Body of Christ, may move us all to rejoice in the full unity of the Church, let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord have mercy! Lord have mercy! Lord have mercy!

V: Furthermore, we ask that God bless the work of all His People, uniting them for the building up of His Holy Orthodox Church of the Americas, let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord have mercy! Lord have mercy! Lord have mercy!