

Holy Apostles Orthodox Church

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AUGUST 2007 Parish Bulletin

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The Lord makes our time holy through the Church's liturgical year. The glorious month of August closes the year with an encapsulation of the story of our salvation.

On the Feast of the Procession of the Precious Cross, we remember also the witness in suffering of our precursors of old Israel in the Maccabee family. This reminds us that Christ came to bring to fruition all the faithful labors of those devoted to God throughout the ages. Our icon of the Resurrection shows that the first action of his resurrection power was to loose the bonds of the righteous dead of ages past. This commemoration places both His saving action and those who were long awaiting it before our eyes.

The Feast of the Transfiguration holds up for us, as it did for the Holy Apostles Peter, James and John, the glory that belongs to Him eternally. His incarnate Being completes and fulfills the spiritual inheritance of His people Israel: the law, represented by Moses, and the prophets, represented by Elijah. He shows His glory that He had with the Father "before the world was" (John 17:5). His pre-eternal glory is shown through His earthly body, showing us that He is the one to restore our nature to its original state. The glorious-as-God and glorified-as-man Son of God provides that "better thing" (Hebrews 11:40) which those in ages past and we, all falling under the same sin-induced condemnation, desperately need and await.

The Feast of the Dormition of the Mother of God, her repose in the arms of her Son and our God, is another harbinger of what is possible in the new, resurrected life. She dies, as will we all, and, though she has led a life of perfect obedience to God's will, she yet needs to ask her Son, as do we all, for protection at the time of death. And just as she has shown us and led us on the way of perfect humility, so she shows us here that she, and we, may trust Him completely to finish that work that He has begun. As she looked to Him at all times, she looked to Him at the time of her death. The immediate lesson for us is, if we do not yet practice as did she to perfect our following of Him, we should start now. We cannot wait until the time of our death to begin to trust Him and show Him that we do by following His commandments.

God is so merciful. He continually through the year tells us what we need to know and do. It is always, therefore, time to follow. Remember what our dear like-the-Apostles Father Seraphim said. "It is later than you think."

Father George

Service Schedule for August & the Beginning of September 2007

8/1 – Wednesday 7:00 PM Moleben & Akathist to the Mother of God, Healer of Cancer for those afflicted with cancer & other serious illness

8/4 – Saturday 5:00 PM All-Night Vigil

8/5 – Sunday 9:40 AM Hours & Divine Liturgy, the Tenth Sunday after Pentecost, Icon of the Mother of God of Pochaev

8/8 – Wednesday 7:00 PM Moleben & Akathist to the Mother of God, Healer of Cancer for those afflicted with cancer & other serious illness

8/11 – Saturday 5:00 PM All-Night Vigil

8/12 – Sunday 9:40 AM Hours & Divine Liturgy, the Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost, Holy Apostles Silas and Silvanus of the Seventy and others with them

8/13 – Monday 6:30 PM Matins

8/14 – Tuesday 8:40 AM Hours & Divine Liturgy, Procession of the Precious Cross, the Holy Seven Maccabees – *The 1st of 3 “Feasts of the Savior” in August – On this day begins the Dormition Fast which continues through Monday, the 27th, the eve of the Dormition of the Mother of God*

8/15 – Wednesday 7:00 PM Moleben & Akathist to the Mother of God, Healer of Cancer for those afflicted with cancer & other serious illness

8/18 – Saturday 5:00 PM All-Night Vigil

8/19 – Sunday 9:40 AM Hours & Divine Liturgy, the Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost, the Holy Transfiguration of our Lord, God and Savior, Jesus Christ – *The 2nd of 3 “Feasts of the Savior” in August – Please bring your fruits to be blessed*

8/22 – Wednesday 7:00 PM Moleben & Akathist to the Mother of God, Healer of Cancer for those afflicted with cancer & other serious illness

8/25 – Saturday 5:00 PM All-Night Vigil

8/26 – Sunday 9:40 AM Hours & Divine Liturgy, the Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost, the Apodosis of Transfiguration

8/27 – Monday 6:30 PM All-Night Vigil

8/28 – Tuesday 9:40 AM Hours & Divine Liturgy, The Dormition of our Most Holy Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary

Service Schedule for August & the Beginning of September 2007 (continued)

8/29 – Wednesday 7:00 PM Moleben & Akathist to the Mother of God, Healer of Cancer for those afflicted with cancer & other serious illness – *On this day also occurs the 3rd of 3 “Feasts of the Savior” in August, the Feast of the Icon of the Savior “Not Made with Hands” also known as the “Holy Napkin”*

9/1 – Saturday 5:00 PM All-Night Vigil

9/2 – Sunday 9:40 AM Hours and Divine Liturgy, the Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Afterfeast of Dormition, Holy Prophet Samuel – *Directly after the Liturgy, a memorial service (pannikhida) commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the Repose of Father Seraphim Rose, author, translator, lecturer and teacher in service to the mission to the people of this modern world*

9/5 – Wednesday 7:00 PM Moleben & Akathist to the Mother of God, Healer of Cancer for those afflicted with cancer & other serious illness

Events for August & the Beginning of September 2007

8/1 – Wednesday after the Moleben until 9 PM Continuation of our Study of the First General Epistle of the Holy Apostle Peter led by Father George

8/2 – Thursday 7-9 PM Choir Rehearsal

8/6 – Monday 7:00 PM – Study of the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians led by Father Daniel Byantoro of Indonesia. Fr. Daniel was the first person of Indonesian nationality to become an Orthodox Christian, having converted from Islam. Since then he has baptized about 2000 people and started 10 churches in Indonesia. Come hear this fisherman of souls and contribute to his missionary work in Indonesia. His work is our work too, as we are all one family in Christ.

8/8 – Wednesday after the Moleben until 9 PM Conclusion of our Study of the First General Epistle of the Holy Apostle Peter led by Father George

8/9 – Thursday 7-9 PM Choir Rehearsal

8/10 – Friday 7:00 PM – Meeting of the Holy Patriarch Joseph the All-Comely Young Adults group at the Rectory

8/12 – Sunday after trapeza – Parish Council meeting

8/15 – Wednesday after the Moleben until 9 PM Beginning of our Study of the Second General Epistle of the Holy Apostle Peter led by Father George.

8/16 – Thursday 7-9 PM Choir Rehearsal

8/20 – Monday 7:00 PM – Study of the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians continued under the leadership of Father Daniel Byantoro of Indonesia.

8/22 – Wednesday after the Moleben until 9 PM Continuation of our Study of the Second General Epistle of the Holy Apostle Peter led by Father George

8/23 – Thursday 7-9 PM Choir Rehearsal

8/24 – Friday 7:00 PM – Meeting of the Holy Patriarch Joseph the All-Comely Young Adults group at the Rectory – *Those attending should bring \$5 to cover the cost of snacks and refreshments*

Events for August & the Beginning of September 2007 (continued)

8/29 – Wednesday after the Moleben until 9 PM Conclusion of our Study of the Second General Epistle of the Holy Apostle Peter led by Father George

9/2 – Sunday after the Liturgy – A memorial service (Pannikhida) in remembrance of the 25th anniversary of the Repose of Father Seraphim Rose – We will be joined for this occasion by Mary Mansur, co-founder and publisher of “Orthodox America.” Having known Father Seraphim during his life, she will share her reminiscences and reflections.

Announcements for August & the Beginning of September 2007

Prayers for the Sick

Our sister, Elisabeth Chisholm, continues her recovery. She was recently able to stand and put weight on her right leg. We remember that for a time, until she received the Mystery of Holy Unction, she was in danger of losing the leg. Please keep her in your prayers. She and Don live at Riderwood Village. Betty is currently staying in the Renaissance Gardens nursing home of Riderwood. She would like to have visitors. You can call her at 301-572-6797.

Continue to remember in prayer Andrew, father of Elizabeth and father-in-law of Edmund Sweet. His recovery from his heart operation is positively progressing.

Also, continue to remember in prayer Dyonisia Ryan who has been battling cancer. We received a note from her that her latest reports have been very good. Father George heard her confession, administered Holy Unction and gave her Holy Communion before she started chemotherapy.

A Missionary Visitor – Archbishop Hilarion of Australia and New Zealand recently accepted under his mantle Indonesian converts to Orthodoxy. Archimandrite Father Daniel Byantoro, who can be viewed as an apostle to Indonesia, continues to be with us to lead us in a study of St. Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians and inspire us in our own mission work at Holy Apostles. We look forward to continuing to help him as we can. When we gather for his talks, let us respond to his great missionary work with generosity. If anyone knows of a church that would like to host Fr. Daniel to speak, please let him or Fr. George know.

Parish Groups and Activities – Holy Apostles welcomes participants in a number of groups and activities. Please see the leader or coordinator listed for more information.

Choir – Christopher Johnson, Director

Sunday School and other catechesis – Father George

Wednesday evening class – Father George

St. Joseph the All-Comely Young Adults – Christopher Johnson – *see below*

Fasting – Wednesdays and Fridays are to be observed as fast days by Orthodox Christians in commemoration of our Lord's suffering and death. A wall calendar with fasting indications can be gotten at the back of the church for \$3. Here is a brief indication of the meaning of the colors and symbols in the calendar.

Days shaded in pink with no other symbol indicate a vegan diet (no animal products permitted except shell fish) and no use of wine (any alcohol) as a beverage or in cooking, and no use of olive oil in cooking or as dressing.

Days shaded in pink with a grape cluster are the same as above regarding animal products, but the use of wine and olive oil is permitted.

Days shaded in pink with a fish are as above, except consumption of vertebrate fish is permitted, along with wine and olive oil.

This month, one of the four extended fasting periods is kept, that is, the two weeks prior to the feast of the Dormition of the Mother of God, starting on 8/14 with the commemoration of the Precious Cross and the Holy Maccabees.

Confession – It is right and good that we should want to receive Holy Communion and prepare for it through repentance and confession. The best time for this is on Saturday evening, not only because there is plenty of time, but because attendance at Saturday evening Vigil is a traditional part of preparation. If, however, because of distance or other considerations (pre-arranged with Father George), it is necessary to confess on Sunday morning before the Liturgy, we should arrive at church for this purpose *no later than 9:15*. Also, it is necessary if one is unable to attend vigil, that Saturday evening be spent quietly and prayerfully, preparing for confession and reading the pre-Communion prayers. We should do our best to preserve the traditions of our Church and to be considerate of others by not causing a delay in the beginning of Divine Liturgy.

Purchase of Candles, Prospora and Other Items – Please remember when buying anything from the church to record the item, quantity, and \$ amount on the columned paper at the candle stand. Also indicate on the check memo line, or on a slip of paper with your name attached to cash, what a donation is for. By so doing, you will be helping our Treasurer immensely in his accounting.

Volunteer needed to run the Candlestand. *See above....* Please speak to Fr. George if you would like to help out with the candlestand.

Cleaning the church – We are trying a new method of asking folks to help clean every Sunday after the Liturgy. Please volunteer to help out with cleaning the church.

Flower volunteer needed – would you like to help with beautifying the church with flowers? Please let Fr. George know if you are interested.

St. Joseph the All-Comely Young Adults Group – Please contact Christopher Johnson if you would like to find out more about this group which was founded for young adult Orthodox Christians, approximately ages 18-35. The group meets during the agape meal on the last Sunday of each month, and plans other scheduled activities periodically. Recently they sponsored Fr. Daniel Byantoro's talk, **The Great Mandate of Evangelism, and the Holy Trinity**.

Good Stewards, Good Neighbors – Membership at Holy Apostles – A standard element of the Orthodox Christian life is membership in an Orthodox parish. Parish membership is the way to demonstrate the seriousness of our commitment to maintain not only our individual or household Orthodox life, but to maintain our mutual Orthodox life as a parish community, or, as the Holy Apostle puts it, to “bear... one another’s burdens.” By committing to keeping the parish supplied and in place, we are instruments of God’s providence. At the same time that we give of our substance, we provide the proper circumstances to supply each other’s spiritual needs.

If you regularly attend services, please consider also that being one of the living stones that St. Peter speaks of entails material contribution. We read in the Acts of the Holy Apostles, that time when the spiritual temperature of the new-born Church was at its height, that the members gave very generously of their substance, in fact, they gave everything. While we do not live in their circumstances and are not now called upon to pool everything for the sake of physical survival, we do live in a time of great spiritual incoherence and hostility.

We each need, therefore, to do all we can to secure, maintain and grow our parish so that it may continue to serve as a harbor for those who seek spiritual peace and refuge from the stormy sea of this life.

As has been repeatedly pointed out, a good foundation for giving is 10% of income. Some of us are doing this already. Those who so give can testify that God takes care of such benefactors. First of all, they are remembered in prayer at every Divine Service. Let all who read this be stimulated to become one among the choir of benefactors. To become a member of the parish, please see our Treasurer, Damian Dantine.

Our Building Fund – we have a building fund. We hope and pray, that one day with God’s help, we will build a beautiful church dedicated to our patron saints, the Holy Apostles, to the glory of God. To this end, we ask that our parishioners and friends keep this prayer in their daily prayers. According to His will, may God grant us to see the day of the dedication of a new church.

Father Seraphim Rose – Twenty-five years ago on the 2nd of September, Priest and Monastic Seraphim Rose reposed in the Lord. From the time of his conversion in the 1960’s until his death in 1982, he moved through the course of this life with seemingly total focus on the kingdom of God. He proved himself a tree in that kingdom by putting out much fruit in the form of personal counsel, letters, lectures, spiritual and dogmatic writings and lives of saints, both original and translation. We, the Johnson family, were converted through his literary efforts, as I am sure were many. His witness, like that of the Apostles, has “gone out into all the world” even to the Russian homeland where his writings are quite popular in translation! As announced above, on Sunday, September 2nd after the Liturgy, we will remember him with a pannikhida and will hear reminiscences from our friend of long standing who knew him, Mary Mansur.

Fruits of the Reconciliation of the Church – Since the reconciliation of the two parts of the Russian Church in May, there is a sense of refreshment within the parish. There is now no question among us and among Orthodox Churches about our place within the Body of Christ. This is seen through the new and frequent visitors from parishes near to us. We welcome them and rejoice with them. The fear is gone. There is no threat to our tradition. We simply keep it, proclaim it, and welcome all to witness it and, as God allows, to partake of it. This fruit of the reconciliation opens a window for us to broaden the scope of our efforts to convert those around us.

There has been a cost, however. Since the reconciliation of the two parts of the Russian Church in May, half of our number has left us. In most cases, I know what the rationale is. But whatever the rationale may be, it is difficult to see how separating oneself from the Body of Christ can be rational. As always, “the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.” (1st Peter 5:8) Let us each and all pray fervently that those who have left may yet be wrested from Satan’s clutches and return to the Church.

Therefore, we trust that God has allowed this to happen so that we might look ever more and more toward Him, since our earthly sufficiency has been reduced, and that we may see and know, through the straits that we are in, that it is He who is our Savior.

Praise God for His many blessings!