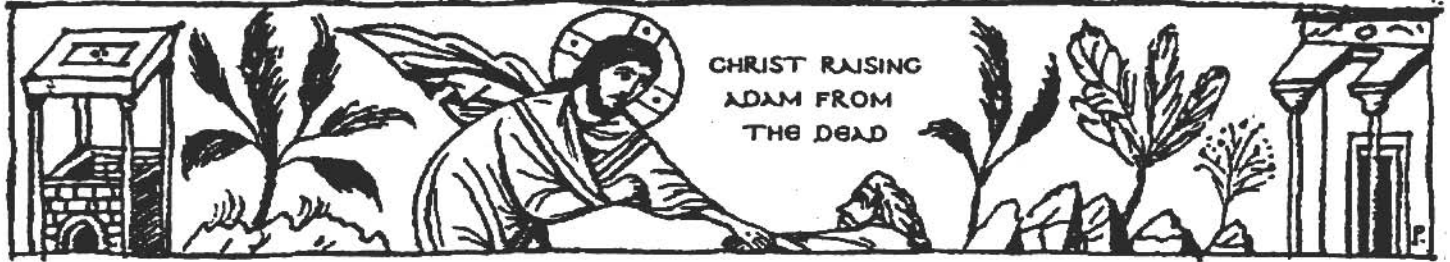


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Bulletin of May 18, 2008

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!



SUNDAY/MAY 18th

4th Sunday of Pascha: The Paralytic

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour; Church School

TUESDAY/MAY 20th

Eve of Mid-Pentecost

Ss. Constantine & Helen

7:00p.m. Vespers
7:45p.m. Lesser Blessing of Waters

WEDNESDAY/MAY 21st

(Schedule differs from May Monthly)

7:00p.m. Compline & Akathist
7:45p.m. Lemonade Night & Informal Discussion

SATURDAY/MAY 24th

9:30a.m. Akathist; Confession
5:30p.m. Vigil; Confession

SUNDAY/MAY 25th

5th Sunday of Pascha: The Samaritan 3rd Finding of the Head of the Baptist

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour;
Question & Answer Period

Fasting Days

Wednesday, May 21st (fish, wine & oil allowed)
Friday, May 23rd (wine & oil allowed)

THE MID-FEAST OF PENTECOST

Is the celebration of the mid-point of the 50 days of Pentecost – 25 days from Pascha and 25 days to Pentecost. The light from both of these feasts illumines these middle days with grace-filled joy.

The feast of Mid-Pentecost is for eight days, during which time the tropar and kontakion are sung or said at the times of daily prayers.

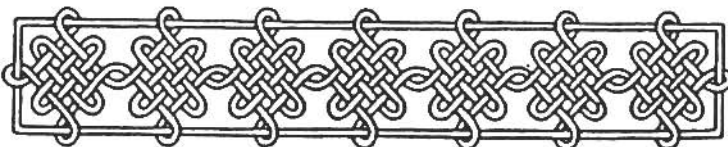
Tropar Tone 8

In the middle of the feast, O Saviour /
Fill my thirsting soul with the waters of
Godliness/
As Thou didst cry to all: /
If anyone thirst, let him come to me and drink! /
O Christ God Fountain of our life, Glory to Thee!

Kontakion Tone 4

Christ God, the Creator and Master of all, /
Cried to all in the midst of the law: /
Come and draw the water of immortality! /
We fall before Thee and faithfully cry: /
Grant us Thy bounties, for Thou art the Fountain
of our life.

**And unto us He has given
Eternal life,
Let us worship His
Resurrection on the third day!**



Open Door Ministry Begins in May

On Sundays after the Coffee Hour when the weather is nice, we wish to keep the doors of our church "Open," so those passing by may see and come in. This opens out our beautiful church and Orthodox Faith. Greeters are sought to stay in the church and greet any visitors that may drop in. Please speak with Reader Symeon Combs.

Namesday Greetings

St. Helen/May 21st: Helen Macinko, Helen Perry, Helen Lapchuk; Many Blessed years!

The Offering for St. Mary Magdalen Church in Jerusalem

Was sent in the amount of \$2,190. May the Lord bless your offering!

The OCMC Offering Boxes for Great Lent

For the benefit of Orthodox Mission work totaled only 21 boxes in the amount of \$504. In 2007, the total was \$760 and some 35 boxes. This particular "offering" was not for any large donation but only the "change" you had about in Great Lent. The coins were: Quarters-\$74.75, Dimes-\$86.70, Nickels-\$20.15 and Pennies \$12.24. Hopefully in the future more people will take a box home. Everyone has some change.

Offerings for the Week of May 18th

Olive Oil – in memory of Emilia; in memory of Joan; in memory of Michael; for the health of Vaschen; for the health of Michael (birthday).
Wine – for the health of Justina; for the health of Andrea (birthday); in thanksgiving and for the health of Peter (graduation medical school).

May Month – Annual Parish Cemetery Care Envelope

Attached to the bulletin today is the cemetery care envelope. Our parish is blessed to have a cemetery and one that is beautiful and in good order. The cemetery may "be out of sight" from us but it is that "part of our parish" whose members have gone before us on the path of life and remain united with us in the One Body of the Church, Jesus Christ being our Head. Prayer for the departed and tending to their place of repose are expressions of our unity, faith and love.

Parish Synodicon – Memory Eternal!

William Basil Davidovich (40th Day/ May 23rd)
Archbishop Gregory Afonsky (40th Day/May 24th)
Genevieve Tindall (40th Day/June 7th)
May 18, 1975 William Kosticz
May 19, 1939 Gregory Halkovich
May 21, 1985 Julia Grigorieff
May 22, 1939 Ephraim Deminov
May 22, 1951 Joseph Fenuck
May 23, 1925 John Korolovich
May 23, 1954 Wasyl Mlinetz
May 23, 1962 Thomas Cimpko
May 24, 1941 Semeon Kozak



The 50 Day Celebration: Pascha to Pentecost (April 27th – June 15th)

During this festal period we are forbidden to kneel or make prostrations either in church or in our homes, as we joyfully celebrate the Resurrection of Christ.

Wednesday Lemonade Evenings in May

On Wednesday evenings a 45 minute or so of informal conversations with a beverage will take place in the rectory. This is an opportunity to share thoughts, ideas, experiences and discuss about things of a spiritual and practical nature. All are invited! See the weekly bulletin for time.

A Lesser Blessing of Water – Tuesday, May 20th

After Vespers, water will be sanctified for the purpose of drink (health and well-being); for sprinkling (driving away of demons and temptations) and for blessing (home, car, garden, travel, etc.). Holy Water is grace-filled and renders for our benefit health, protection, and sanctification. We do very well to keep a bottle of Holy Water in our refrigerator and make pious frequent use of it.

Parish Phone 908-685-1452

Was inoperable for a number of days this past week. Sorry. When the phone is not working you may leave just your name (no message) with Mary Holovach (908-725-8978) and Fr. James will check in with her and call you back.

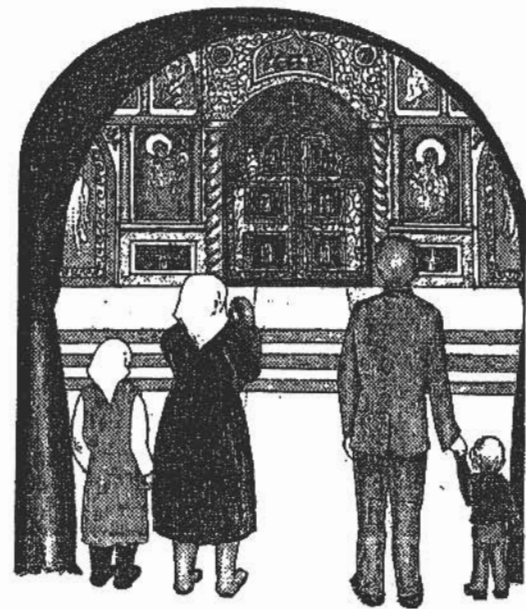
Remember in Prayer

Michael Warin (Overlook Hospital).

How Should We Spend Sundays?

Sundays should be spent differently from other days of the week. Because all of us constantly benefit from God's many and various blessings, and constantly feel the need for new blessings, all of us are obliged by the word of God and the demand of our own consciences to raise our minds and hearts to the Lord God in the deepest reverence toward Him, in complete devotion to Him, and in the most profound gratitude and prayer. The holy King David said: *mine eyes are ever toward the Lord* (Ps. 24:15); *his praise shall continually be in my mouth* (Ps. 33:2); and *the meditation of my heart shall be before Thee for ever* (LXX) (Ps. 18:15). And the holy Apostle Paul commands us: *Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks. . . .* (I Thess. 5:17-18), and *always abounding in the work of the Lord* (I Cor. 15:58).

But just as the greater part of the human race still stands far below this perfection, the Lord God Himself, in order to raise it up little by little to this perfection, willed to set aside one day out of each week so that all of us would dedicate this day exclusively to the Lord God, putting aside on that day all activities that are more or less necessary to maintain our earthly life. In the Old Testament, this day was Saturday, and in the New, Sunday.



Now, it is in itself obvious how we should spend, or rather dedicate or celebrate, Sunday. St. John Chrysostom says, "It was the Lord's good will to prescribe that we dedicate one day in the weekly cycle to spiritual matters." And in the book of the Acts of the Apostles we see that the original members of Christ's Church gathered on Sundays for the breaking of bread, and listened to Christ's teachings (Acts 20:7).

Thus, the first obligation that Sunday imposes on each of us is to set aside all the business that we need to engage in during the six days of the week to support our earthly lives. Fulfillment of this obligation is made the easier because the Lord God gave us six days out of every week to obtain what is necessary to maintain our earthly, physical lives. Besides, all works of charity, even though they might only effect maintenance of our earthly lives, are not prohibited even on the seventh day, Sunday, and are even ordained as an obligation, as we see from the example and teaching of Our Lord Jesus Christ Himself (Matt. 12:11, 12).

The second obligation, which Sunday imposes even more strictly on all of us, is to turn away from all impious acts that drive from our souls remembrance of the Lord God, reverence towards Him, devotion to Him, gratitude and a prayerful disposition of soul toward Him, to wit: all iniquitous works, and also all unedifying reading, all unedifying conversations, unedifying idleness and various games during which our souls often not only lose remembrance of the Lord God, but forget even themselves, give themselves up to a spirit of impiety and are carried away by delights, of which the undoubted end after death is bitter weeping and wailing (Luke 6:25).

The third obligation that the day of Resurrection places on us is, as is apparent from the example of the first Christians, attendance at the Sunday divine services, especially the Divine Liturgy. For among us there

is not a single person on whom the Lord God has not bestowed His blessings at every moment and who could live even one minute without His blessings. For all our divine services consist in nothing else but remembrance of God's various blessings and in the expression of our reverence before the Lord God, our devotion to the Lord God, our grateful feelings toward Him, and our fervent prayer that His blessings upon us will continue. Only people with the most hardened, spiritually frozen, and dead hearts can not deeply feel and zealously fulfill the obligation for us to attend the divine services, especially the Liturgy, on Sundays. May the Lord God deliver all of us from this vile condition of soul.

The most reliable way to assure that our reverence towards the Lord God, our devotion, our gratitude, and our prayers to Him may become more alive, more sincere, more continuous, and stronger is to examine the cause of the Lord God's establishing the Sabbath in the Old Testament and Sunday in the New Testament. We must examine God's creation, and in it God's almightiness, His wisdom, and His goodness, and even more, God's ineffable love, shown to the human race by the passion and death of Jesus Christ, whereby He freed the human race from sin and death. And this is the fourth obligation that the Day of Resurrection, Sunday, imposes on us.

The first members of Christ's Church, as the book of the Acts of the Apostles shows, spent Sunday listening to the Word of God (Acts 20:7). Hearing or reading the Word of God is necessary for all of us and is the fifth obligation imposed on each of us by the day of Resurrection. For all of us without exception are obliged to live a holy life. *[God] hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him,* says the holy Apostle Paul (Eph. 1:4). But none of us can live a holy life unless we hear or read the Word of God, for only in the Word of God are shown the rules of holy life.

Many, many people who lived in the world senselessly and died without repentance would have tried zealously to live in a holy way and would not have found themselves in the torments of hell if during their lives they had practiced reading or hearing the Word of God.

Upon an attentive and zealous reading or hearing of the Word of God, each of us can quickly receive light from God with which to comprehend more soundly the Word of God and quickly see the image of a holy life in it as in a mirror, and see the vices in ourselves, especially our chief passion, which hinders us *most of all from behaving blamelessly and in a holy way*. By this reading or hearing, anyone may also quickly see clearly the means for extracting his soul from its dangerous state and also receive from the Lord God a firm desire and the strength to firmly adhere to a holy life.

As we must examine ourselves every day in relation to our salvation, so much the more should it be our obligation on Sundays. And this is the sixth obligation that Sunday imposes on each of us. Sunday before all other days should be a day on which we make the most attentive and detailed examination of our spiritual state in relation to salvation, and make a new, firm intention to root out from ourselves everything opposed to God and our salvation.

