

Holy Apostles Newsletter

DIOCESE OF THE WEST

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA



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From the Holy Fathers

ON PRAYER ...

It is only when we pray fervently, that we feel calm, warm, at ease, and bright in soul, because then we are with God and in God; but as soon as we cease thus praying, then temptations and various troubles begin. Oh, most blessed time of prayer!
St. John of Kronstadt

If you do not feel like praying, you have to force yourself. The Holy Fathers say that prayer with force is higher than prayer unforced. You do not want to, but force yourself. The Kingdom of Heaven is taken by force (Matt. 11:12). REF: St. Ambrose of Optina (+1891)

Abba Nilus said, "Prayer is the seed of gentleness and the absence of anger."
Abba Nilus, in "The Sayings of the Desert Fathers." ❖

TITHES AND FIRST FRUITS

Honor the Lord with your substance, and with the first fruits of all your produce." (Proverbs 3:9) In ancient Israel, the Church of the Old Testament, the Law of Moses instituted the "tithe," also called the offering of the "first-fruits." "Tithe" is merely the Old English word for "tenth." Israel's tithe was an assessment of one-tenth of all produce. Usually this portion was rendered from the first harvested of the crop, hence the tithe of "first fruits." The proceeds were devoted to the maintenance of the Temple, and support of the priesthood, and the sustenance of the poor (Num. 18:24, Deut. 12:11, and 26:12). These activities are still necessary parts of Church life. Parishes need suitable places for worship, education, and fellowship; we are still responsible for our priest's livelihood; and the Lord continually reminds us of our obligation to the needy. Therefore, the practice of good stewardship, represented by the tithe, retains its importance. The motive behind the Old Testament tithe, however, was not purely pragmatic. For the ancient Hebrews tithing was never merely an efficient way to raise money. Rather, they understood that their relationship with God required them to dedicate a substantial portion of the fruit of their labor to His purposes.

Our basic understanding as Orthodox Christians, derived from the Old Testament, is that everything comes from God. All that we have or hope to possess, beginning with life itself, is His gift. We acknowledge this fact in our spiritual life through prayer and fasting and through our struggle to follow His commandments.

With regard to our material blessings, we confess that He is their true

source by returning a portion to Him, to be used for His purposes in this world. These works include the maintenance of worship, the support of those called to His special service, and aid for the poor. By thus giving a portion of our wealth for His purposes, we sanctify the remainder. Through offering a part, we bring the whole of our lives into harmony with God's will. The Old Testament Law embodied this admission of God's sovereignty in the tithe. Nothing in this is changed by the coming of Christ. Tithing is not a purely Old Testament observance revived by Protestants and, therefore, a thing we Orthodox Christians need not worry about. It is true that many Old Testament practices are now understood in a spiritual way fulfilled, transformed, or displaced by Christ's coming, death, and Resurrection. It is also true that, in recent times, some Protestants have stressed tithing as the norm of giving. But in reality, neither of these objections applies to the tithe or denies its "validity." Our Lord criticized the way in which His opponents tithed, but in so doing, He confirmed the tithe itself: "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe your mint, dill and cumin, but have omitted the weightier matters of the law judgment, mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without omitting the others." (Matthew 23:23) . (Continued in the insert).

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Community Forum

TRANSITIONS PROJECT

The Transitions Project is scheduled for this Monday, October 1. Each sandwich maker should make 25 sandwiches. The bread will be in the fellowship hall by Saturday afternoon. If anyone is interested in joining the sandwich making team, let Matushka Mary know.

OKTOBERFEST!

Its that time of year again and we've been thinking and planning and hoping that you all will join us once again for our annual Oktoberfest celebration at the Kojenov home!

When: Sunday, Oct. 7th
Time: 4 pm
German attire encouraged

IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND (And we really hope you do!), IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU RSVP TO MAT. MARY ASAP SO SHE CAN COORDINATE WHAT FOOD YOU CAN BRING.

Each family will either bring a main dish, side dish, or a dessert - all German of course - and don't sweat it over this! Remember this is meant to be fun, not stressful, so if you need ideas or recipes, contact Mat. Mary. You can either buy something or make something easy. Ideas for the main dish include grilled sausages (e.g., bratwurst) or pork chops, side dishes include sauerkraut, grilled potatoes, potato salad, red cabbage, and desserts include ideas such as Bavarian creme pie, apple strudel, or chocolate German cake.

Be looking for an email on the dish you've been assigned soon - Haben Sie vielen Dank! (HAH-ben zee FEEL-en DAHNK) (Many thanks!)

MEN'S GROUP

We will continue meeting (see the calendar for dates) and listen to the talks given by Archimandrite Zacharias Zacharou at the 2007 Clergy Brotherhood Retreat titled: "The Hidden Man of the Heart: the Christian Anthropology of Elder Sophrony of Essex, spiritual son of St. Silouan the Athonite." I would like to encourage the men to come to Vespers so we can start our meetings with prayer and start right at 6:00. We will have light fare; donations would be appreciated.

CHINOOK BOOKS

2008 Chinook books are now on sale through Agia Sophia Academy. The school gets 40% of the \$20 book price and you get all the savings at great local restaurants, outdoor stores, theaters, car repair shops and more! I'll bring my Chinook book to church on Sundays so that you can check out the coupons and decide if you'd like one yourself. My favorite coupons? Tri-Met tickets, milkshakes at Burgerville and Bob's Red Mill products. Also includes a "Eugene" section. - Thomaida

CATECHISM CLASSES BEGINS

Fr. Dimitri will begin teaching a catechism/inquirer class every other week on Thursdays at 6:00 sharp!, beginning September 27th. All are welcome to attend.

KNITTING MINISTRY

And the knitting ministry continues ladies (and gents if so inclined), the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month, beginning at 6:30 p.m. up in the fellowship hall.

TIME, TALENT & TREASURE - REMINDER!

Please don't forget to fill out the sheet titled: "Time, Talent & Treasure" and return to Fr. Dimitri as soon as possible. If you have not filled out a T.T.T. because you have questions or concerns please contact Fr. Dimitri. Thank you. ✠

Kitchen Corner

BRAISED RED CABBAGE (6 servings)

4 slices bacon, thinly sliced, 2 medium yellow onions, thinly sliced, 1 cinnamon stick, 2 bay leaves, 4 tsp. salt, 1 large or 2 small heads red cabbage (about 3 lbs., cored and thinly sliced), 1 Granny Smith apple, cored, and cut into bite size pieces, 2-3 cups chicken broth, 1/2 c. red wine vinegar, 2 Tbs. sugar, 1/2 tsp. pepper.

Cook bacon until crisp, over med heat in a large pot w/lid, about 4 min. Add onions, cinnamon stick, bay leaves, 1 tsp. salt. Cover and cook, stirring occasionally, until onion is tender, about 8 min. Increase heat to med-high, add cabbage and cook, stirring, until wilted, about 10 min. Add apple, broth, vinegar, sugar, the remaining salt & pepper, and cook, covered, stirring occasionally, until the cabbage is tender, about 1 hour. Uncover; bring to a boil, and cook, stirring, until the liquid has reduced to a sauce-like consistency, about 5 min. Transfer to dish and serve. ✠

Holy Apostles Schedule

DATE	COFFEE HOUR AGAPE MEAL	COFFEE HOUR CLEAN UP	CHURCH CLEANING TEAM	FLOWERS
OCTOBER 7	Joanna Donnor & team	Story & Watt		Nektaria Harvey
OCTOBER 14 BAPTISM OF NIKITA	Bev Aiello & team	Virosteck & Watt	George & Joanna	Nektaria Harvey
OCTOBER 21	Thomaida Hudanish & team	Aiello & Campbell		Nektaria Harvey
OCTOBER 28	Elena Kojenov & team	Beckel & Dingman	George & Joanna	Nektaria Harvey
NOVEMBER 4	Joanna Donnor & team	Harvey & Harmon		Nektaria Harvey

SPIRITUAL RETREAT

The Greek Orthodox Monastery of St. John The Honorable Forerunner in Goldendale, WA, with the blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan GERASIMOS of San Francisco, would like to announce : A Saturday Retreat for all with Fr. Demetrios Carellas: Saturday, October 6, 2007 Fr. Demetrios will be speaking on: "Come let us go to the Mountain of the Lord..." Part II The Second Part of A Patristic Journey into the Beatitudes.

Schedule: Saturday, October 6, 2007

10:00am Session 1 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness...

11:30am Session 2 Blessed are the merciful...

** 1:00pm Lunch

2:00pm Session 3 Blessed are the pure in heart...

3:15pm Clean up and visit the monastery

*** 6:00pm Great Vespers at the Monastery

Cost: The cost will be \$20 for adults 18 and older; \$35 for a family. You may pay when you arrive. But... please do not allow cost to deter you from coming!

Lunch will be included. Please call (509) 575-0145 so that we may estimate the number to prepare lunch for.

GOD GRANT YOU MANY YEARS!

Happy Feast Day to the following people who celebrate their names day in October:

Sept. 22/Oct. 5 Prophet Jonah

Jonah Campbell

2/15 HM Cyprian & VM Justina of Nicomedia

Justina Goakey

14/27 St. Parasceva of Epibatima, Thrace

Paraskeva Story

If you don't see your name listed, please let Joanna Donnor know, as she updates the names day list. ♠

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