

July 19, 2009 – 6th Sunday after Pentecost. Tone 5. Holy Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils. Ven. Macrina, sister of St. Basil the Great (380). Ven. Dius, Abbot, of Antioch (ca. 430). Uncovering of the Relics of St. Seraphim of Sarov (1903). Rt. Blv. Roman, Prince of Riazan (1270). Ven. Paisii of the Kiev Caves (14th c.). Bl. Stephen (1427), King of Serbia, and his mother, St. Militsa (1405). **Epistle:** Rom. 12:6-14. **Gospel:** Matt. 9:1-8.

Next Sunday, July 26, 2009 – 7th Sun. after Pentecost – Tone 6. **Epistle:** Rom. 15:1-7. **Gospel:** Matt. 9:27-35.

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S (July 19, 2009)

TODAY

11:15 AM Fellowship in the Church Hall

Tuesday Vespers and Wednesday Liturgy will NOT be served this week due to Fr. Jonathan's absence on vacation.

SATURDAY

6:00 PM Great Vespers

SUNDAY (July 26)

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy: 7th Sunday after Pentecost

11:15 AM Fellowship & Coffee Hour (in Hall)

Please remember in your prayers: the child **Taylor; Vera Campbell & Bette Frenchko** (at Mahoning Valley Hospital; on the 9th floor of Trumbull Memorial); **Gary Thompson** (father of Deacon Gregory [Gary] Thompson; home from Trumbull Memorial); **Gregory Saxon** (friend of the Yenchochik/Howell family; home from St. Joseph Hospital); **Paul Kappanadze** (friend of Simerick [Christine DiGiacobbe] family).

Offerings: 07-12-09: \$2,872.00; Attendance: 07-12-09: 100; Candle Commemorations: 07-19-09: Theotokos: blessed memory of Louisa Cuckovich. Altar: blessed memory of Joseph Koplín. Christ: blessed memory of Archbishop Kyrill (of Western Pennsylvania).

*“Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil.. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another, with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord.”
(Rom. 12:9-12)*

COMING EVENTS SCHEDULE

Aug. 1-14 Dormition Fast (fourth fasting season of the Church year)

Aug. 6 Feast of the Transfiguration of Christ

Aug. 15 Feast of the Dormition (Falling-asleep) of the Mother of God

Aug. 29 Beheading of St. John the Baptist



SPIRITUAL FORMATION:

- 1) SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS AFTER LITURGY:** adults are studying the history, meaning, and practice of the Divine Liturgy.
- 2) PATH TO SALVATION CLASS ON TUESDAYS:** class resumes with a new study after Labor Day..

Charitable Giving – July 2009: envelope or baskets after Liturgy
This month's charity: Seminarian Brantley & Family (at St. Vlad's)

Our Food Pantry needs restocking! Canned goods, dry goods, and non-perishable food items are greatly needed. Thank you for all your donations!!! Particularly needed at this time are dry mixes (e.g., Bisquick) and canned fruit.



Classic Literature Reading Group – Wed., 11:00 AM,
at Borders Café (on Hwy. 46 by the Eastwood Mall complex)

Everyone is welcome to join in at any time!

We are currently reading *1984*, by George Orwell.

TWO SPIRITUAL ACTIVITIES COMING IN SEPTEMBER:

- 1) (Bi)Weekly Teen Group** – either Sunday or Wednesday evenings;
- 2) Men's Bible Breakfast** – one Saturday morning each month, probably the second Saturday of the month.

Please speak with Fr. Jonathan if you are interested in helping with either.

Fr. Jonathan and family will be out-of-town on vacation until Friday, July 31. We thank Fr. Peter (Pawlack) for serving Vespers and Liturgy in Fr. Jonathan's absence. If a pastoral emergency should arise during these two weeks, please contact Fr. Stylianos Menis of St. Demetrios Church for spiritual care; he can be reached at 330-770-9330 (Cell), or 330-394-9021 (Church).



Going on vacation this summer? Ask Fr. Jonathan to locate a Church near your destination, or find one at www.oca.org.

Holy Trinity Orthodox Christian Academy and Preschool:

- 1. Enrolling for the 2009-2010 school year.** The school will offer programs for Preschool (ages 3-4) and classes Kindergarten through Grade 4. Call Holy Trinity for more information at 330-399-7642.

2. **Annual 300 Club-Dinner Raffle – Aug. 22, at St. Nicholas Orthodox Church** (on North Rd.). Tickets are \$25.00; Grand Prize - \$1,000; see Marge Petty or Betty Ann Perschka for tickets or more information.

Charity of the Month – July 2009

This month, our Parish Charity envelope and basket collections will go to the Brantley family, a seminarian family at St. Vladimir's Seminary in New York. Last Christmas, we sent gifts and cards to this family; may we continue to help and encourage them for their ongoing service in Christ's Church.

*By God's grace, our sisters in Christ, **Vera Campbell and Bette Frenchko**, have both been upgraded from intensive/critical care to rehabilitation (and they're in the same room on the top floor at Trumbull Memorial). The road ahead for both them and their families still appears to be long and difficult, but progress is being made! Please continue to pray for them, maybe send them a card, and encourage their families that God's will be done for their recovery and patient thanksgiving for God's goodness.*

FLOWERBULBS FOR ST. VLADIMIR'S CAMP:

You can help St. Vladimir's Camp (in Greene) and enjoy beautiful flowers at the same time by ordering Bulbs from *vanBourgondien*. See the colorful brochure and order form on the bulletin board. Ordering deadline is August 15.

How Others See Us – the following is an excerpt from a blog posting printed in the Church bulletin from an Orthodox Parish in Steubenville, OH. It was written by a Baptist Pastor in Texas visiting the Orthodox Liturgy for the first time. He attended with his wife and two daughters. These are his first impressions of the Orthodox Church.

Saint Anthony the Great (the OCA parish in San Antonio, TX) isn't just old school. It's "styli and wax tablets" old school. We arrived ten minutes early for worship and the room was already filled with people lighting candles and praying. There was one greater. I said, "We don't know what to do." A woman handed me a liturgy book and waved us inside.

Pews? We don't need no stinking pews! Providing seats for worshipers is SO 14th century. Gorgeous Byzantine art, commissioned from a famous artist in Bulgaria. Fully robed priests with censors (those swinging incense thingies). Long, complex readings and chants that went on and on and on. And every one of them packed full of complex, theological ideas. It was like they were ripping raw chunks of theology out of ancient creeds and throwing them by the handfuls into the congregation. And just to make sure it wasn't too easy for us, everything was read in a monotone voice and at the speed of an auctioneer.

I heard words and phrases I had not heard since seminary. Theotokos, begotten not made, Cherubim and Seraphim borne on their pinions, supplications and oblations. It was an ADD kids nightmare. Robes, scary art, smoking incense, secret doors in the Iconostas popping open and little robed boys coming out with golden candlesticks, chants and singing from a small choir that rolled across the curved ceiling and emerged from the other side of the room where no one was

singing...There was so much going on I couldn't keep up with all the things I couldn't pay attention to.

Lillian (a daughter) was the first to go down. After half an hour of standing, she was done. Jeanene (his wife) took her over to a pew on the side wall. She slumped against Jeanene's shoulder and stared at me with this stunned, rather betrayed look on her face. "How could you have brought us to this insane place?"

...I got lost no less than 10 times. After 50 minutes Shelby (a daughter) leaned over and asked how much longer the service would be. I was trying to keep from locking my knees because my thighs had gotten numb. I showed her the book. We were on page 15. I flipped through the remaining 25 pages to show her how much more there was. Her mouth fell open. "Are you serious?" "Yeah. And I think there's supposed to be a sermon in here somewhere..."

After it was over another woman came to speak with us. She said, "I noticed the girls were really struggling with having to stand." "Yeah," I said. "This worship is not for lightweights." She laughed and said, "Yes," not the least bit ashamed or apologetic.

So what did I think about my experience at Saint Anthony the Great Orthodox Church? I LOVED IT. Loved it loved it loved it loved it.

In a day when user-friendly is the by word of everything from churches to software, here was worship that asked something of me. No, DEMANDED something of me.

You don't know what Theotokos means? Get a book and read about it. You have a hard time standing for 2 hours? Do some sit ups and get yourself into worship shape. It is the Lord our God we worship here, mortal. What made you think you could worship the Eternal One without pain?

See, I get that. That makes sense to me. I had a hard time following the words of the chants and liturgy, but even my lack of understanding had something to teach me. "There is so much for you to learn. There is more here than a person could master in a lifetime. THIS IS BIGGER THAN YOU ARE. Your understanding is not central here. There are ancient rites of the church. Stand with us, brother, and you will learn in time. Or go and find your way to an easier place if you must. God bless you on that journey. We understand, but this is the way we do church."

I'm going back again on Sunday. I started to write, "I'm looking forward to it." But that's not right. I'm feeling right about it. And feeling right is what I'm looking for.

May we all LOVE what we have in the Church – God and life eternal!!!