

We would like to welcome all parish visitors and invite you to join us after the Liturgy for Coffee hour.

Orthodox Church of the Mother of God OCA – Diocese of New York-New Jersey

V. Rev. Dr. Matthew Searfoorce, Rector

Sub-Deacon Edward Dawson Sub-Deacon Vlashi

Parish Council President: Andrew Romanofsky Parish Council Vice President: Holly Dawson



Sunday, February 12, 2017

Gospel: Luke 15:11-32

Tone 1

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

St. Meletius, Archbishop of Antioch (381). St. Aleksey (Alexius), Metropolitan of Moscow and Wonderworker of All Russia (1378). St. Meletius, Archbishop of Kharkov (1840). Ven. Mary (who was called Marinus), and her father, Ven. Eugene, at Alexandria (6th c.). St. Anthony, Patriarch of Constantinople (895). St. Kristo the Gardener (Albania—1752). The “IVERON” (IBERIAN) Icon of the Most-holy Theotokos.

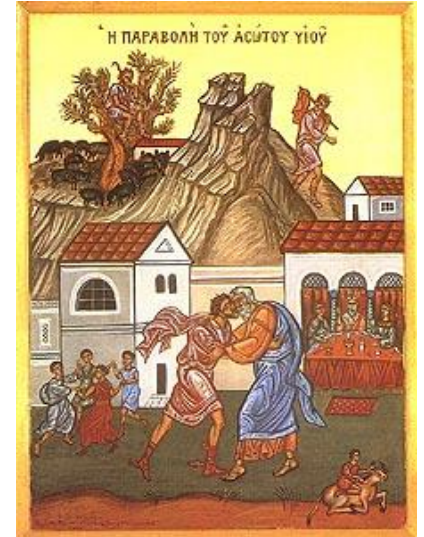
Troparion – Tone 1

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: “Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ!

Glory to Thy Kingdom! // Glory to Thy dispensation, O thou who lovest of mankind!”

Kontakion – Tone 3

I have recklessly forgotten Your glory, O Father; / and among sinners I have scattered the riches which You had given me. / Therefore, I cry to You like the Prodigal: / “I have sinned before You, O compassionate Father; / receive me a penitent and make me as one of Your hired servants.”



Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Prayer Requests

For Health of:

Emily Elizabeth & David Searfoorce, on their birthdays, offered by the Searfoorce family.

Savanna & Hayden, on their birthdays, offered by mom, dad and the Golden family.

Marina, mother of Matushka Katia Vansuch, who underwent surgery Wednesday, February 8, offered by Archbishop Michael and the Diocese of NY/NJ.

Archpriest Nicholas Molodyko-Harris, who underwent knee replacement surgery Friday, Feb. 10, offered by Archbishop Michael and the Diocese of NY/NJ.

In Memory of:

Anthony Jankowski, son of Paul & Linda Jankowski.

Andrew Koss, offered by his family.

Liturgical Schedule

Sunday, February 12th

9:30 am: Sunday School
9:40 am: Hours
10:00 am: Divine Liturgy

Saturday, February 18th

6:30 pm: Vespers

Sunday, February 19th

9:30 am: Sunday School
9:40 am: Hours
10:00 am: Divine Liturgy

Saturday, February 25th

6:30 pm: Vespers

Sunday, February 26th

9:30 am: Sunday School
9:40 am: Hours
10:00 am: Divine Liturgy

Saturday, March 4th

6:30 pm: Vespers

Sunday, March 5th

9:30 am: No Sunday School
9:40 am: Hours
9:45 am: General
Confession
10:00 am: Divine Liturgy

Bulletin Sponsors

***Searfoorce Family, Mom,
Dad & Golden Family,
Jankowski Family, Family
of Andrew Koss***

Readings:

The Prokeimenon in the 1st Tone:

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us / as we have set our hope on Thee!
(Psalm 32:22)
vs. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous! Praise befits the just!
(Psalm 32:1)

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Brethren, "all things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be enslaved by anything. "Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food" -- and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who joins himself to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two shall become one flesh." But he who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun immorality. Every other sin which a man commits is outside the body; but the immoral man sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body and in your spirit which belong to God.

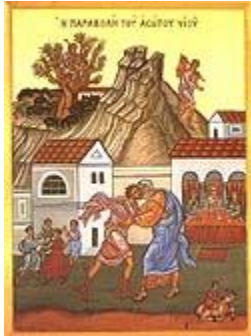
Alleluia in the 1st Tone:

God gives vengeance unto me, and subdues people under me.
(Psalm 17:48)
vs. He magnifies the salvation of the King and deals mercifully with David, His
anointed, and his seed forever.
(Psalm 17:51)

Gospel: Luke 15:11-32

The Lord said this parable, "There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that falls to me.' And he divided his living between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have fed on the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants.' And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring

on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to make merry. Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and, your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'



Sunday of the Prodigal Son

The Sunday after the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee is the Sunday of the Prodigal Son. This parable of God's forgiveness calls us to come to ourselves" as did the prodigal son, to see ourselves as being "in a far country" far from the Father's house, and to make the journey of return to God. We are given every assurance by the Master that our heavenly Father will receive us with joy and gladness. We must only "arise and go," confessing our self-inflicted and sinful separation from that "home" where we truly belong (Luke 15:11-24).

After the Polyeleion at Matins, we first hear the Lenten hymn "By the Waters of Babylon." It will be sung for the next two Sundays before Lent begins, and it serves to reinforce the theme of exile in today's Gospel.



Bulletin Sponsor: Use the sign-up sheet at the candle stand for the health of, eternal memory of or a Pannikhida for a loved one or friend, for a donation of \$10. Sponsors will be remembered during Divine Liturgy for the day/week that you signed up for.

Memorial Candles: Candles be purchased at the candle stand, suggested donation of \$10 for a large one.

Private Confessions: Can be heard a half hour before any service. See Father Matthew for other times.

General Confession: Will be at 9:45 am on the first Sunday of the month.

Pannikhida Service: The third Sunday of each month there will be a Pannikhida after Divine Liturgy. If you would like your loved ones to be remembered please give a list of names to Father Matthew before that Sunday for those to be remembered in the month.

Special Announcements for the bulletin can be submitted by E-Mail:

OrthodoxChurchMotherOfGod@outlook.com ; reader.charles@hotmail.com or rsub-deacon.vlashi@outlook.com

The Living Clean Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets every Friday from 8-9:15 pm downstairs in the community room.

The Grey Book Step Meeting Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets every Tuesday from 7-8:00 pm downstairs in the community room.



Orthodox Church of the Mother of God: Parish News

Annual Parish meeting: today February 12, 2017 after Divine Liturgy

Church Directory: Did you get yours? Find them at the candle desk. Now you'll have your own listing of church members' contact info.

Candle Desk Supplies Needed:

- Sandwich Bags for Holy Bread
- Stamps – 1st Class
- Memorial Candles: 8" tall glass pillar candle

The Protection of The Mother of God Sisterhood News:

The Sisterhood members are planning two upcoming pre-Lenten luncheons. On Sunday, February 19th we will hold our annual Meatfare luncheon. The luncheon will offer a variety of delicious meaty entrees. Please look for a sign-up sheet posted in the community room to include your own specialty. Our annual Cheesefare luncheon will be held on Sunday, February 26th. Included on this menu will be traditional non-meat items such as blini and pierogies. Again, there will be a sign-up sheet posted in the community room, so please add something you would like to contribute! The cost for each of these luncheons will be \$5.00 per adult.

A Paschal basket raffle is also being planned. A large basket filled with traditional Paschal foods will be raffled off on Palm Sunday, April 9th. Tickets for the raffle are \$1.00 each, and we are requesting that each church member sell ten tickets. Tickets will be available soon.

Also being planned for this Lenten season is a pysanki (Ukrainian egg decorating) class. This class will be held on Sunday March 5th after coffee hour, from 12 to 2 PM. The class is free for church members. Non-parishioners are invited as well, but are asked to pay \$5.00 for supplies. See Holly Dawson for more information. .

Missionary News:

Dear Friends and Family in Christ,

It is with great excitement to announce that I will be going on a mission trip to Albania in June 2017. I'll be helping to administer a youth program at the Children's Home of Hope in Shen Vlash, Albania. Ever since my trips in June of 2014, 2015 and 2016, my heart keeps pulling for me to go back. I'm so excited that my time has come again! Please keep my team and myself in your prayers. If you are able to support with a donation, please see attached form.

*Thank you,
Sub-Deacon Vlashi (Charles Gallagher)*

NY/NJ Diocese News



ANNUAL MARCH FOR LIFE: Washington DC, 27 January 2017

As in years past, Orthodox Christian hierarchs, seminarians, clergy, and faithful from around the country participated in the annual **"March For Life."** While in the nation's capital, Metropolitan Tikhon attended the Vigil at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Other hierarchs of the Orthodox Church in America participating in the march included our own **Archbishop Michael**, along with Archbishop Nathaniel and Archbishop Melchisedek. Other Orthodox hierarch in attendance were: Bishop Maxim of the Serbian Orthodox Church, Bishop John of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America, and Bishop Dimitrios of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago. *"Gathering together in a peaceful way to give voice and raise awareness to the sorrowful effects of abortion and its legalization is very important,"* said Priest Andrew Bartek (Rector, Saint Panteleimon Church, Summit IL).

Orthodox Church in America (OCA) News

OCN launches first annual "30 Under 30" initiative



The Orthodox Christian Network [OCN] is excited to announce its first annual "30 under 30" initiative whereby individuals may nominate emerging Orthodox Christian leaders from within their own communities in North America. The campaign will recognize 30 emerging leaders under the age of 30 who demonstrate, personally and/or professionally, their exceptional leadership.

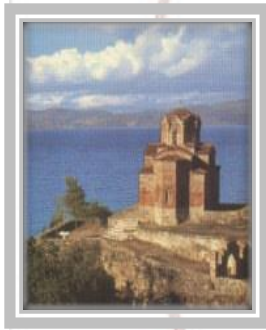
The initiative—spearheaded by OCN Managing Director Eleni Alexiou, under the direction of OCN's Board of Directors—aligns the mission of OCN in an effort to develop, demonstrate and

encourage Orthodox Christian young adults throughout North America and the international community to build on their existing efforts.

“‘30 under 30’ is an opportunity to show support for and invest in this next generation of trailblazers,” says Eleni. “We want to hear from young entrepreneurs and leaders that exemplify Christian values in their lives and the lives that they touch. This group of adults are changing the way of our Orthodox Christian future.”

The initiative draws on Orthodox Christian leadership in the fields of medicine, nutrition, science, public policy, social science, humanities, arts and law, among other. The initiative aims to identify best practices and share widely young adults in the nation and the world while using the power of community to help individuals and communities’ access Orthodox media in a modern world, develop resources for youth, and increase young adult engagement in Orthodoxy and programming.

The Orthodox Christian Network is an official agency of the Assembly of Canonical Bishops of the United States of America, originally commissioned by SCOBA, to create a national, sustainable, and effective media witness for Orthodox Christianity throughout North America.



Prayers by the Laker, St. Velimirovich, XCIV:

In the valley of tears You brought dead bones to life, O Divine Son.

Let the prophet rejoice, for You fulfilled his prophecy.

All the strength, all the beauty, and all the wisdom, for which the whole of mankind has been yearning from the beginning, is found in You, the Ultimate Man.

All the food of life and all the drink of life, by means of which the living have been living from one end of time to the other, are found in You, the Ultimate Man.

Through You the Triradiate Ray dared to project itself into the darkness of death and the shadow of nonexistence. Beneficence was in that Ray and, like every benefaction, it was abused. Therefore the Ray withdrew, and the darkness of death and the shadow of

nonexistence reigned.

Then You came with a new Ray and a new beneficence. And those who accepted You began to shine like newly kindled suns.

But those who did not accept You, remained dead bones in the valley to an even greater degree.

You opened up a bakery for the hungry and a tavern for the thirsty, and You invite all those who hunger and thirst to eat and drink and to be living beings.

Whoever desires life, must nourish himself with life. Whoever surrenders himself to death, nourishes himself with death, and is not found among the living.

You brought God to us in the vale of torments; You brought God to us, not to show Him to us as an image (the dancing of images devours our soul), but as bread for us to eat and thereby come back to life. We nourished ourselves with images and died. Truly, all those things which mortals eat and drink are images, that do not nourish or quench thirst or give life, unless God enters into them.

Let my soul eat God, and she will be crowned with everlasting life.

Let my mind eat God, and it will be crowned with everlasting wisdom.

Let my heart eat God, and it will be crowned with everlasting joy.

Let my body eat God, and it will be resurrected from the dead.

Let all people eat God, and they will return home, they will return to the Ultimate Man.

You have no grave among us. Earth contains only earth. Sepulchers are buried in graves, and remain in them.

O Prince of the Holy Triad and King of all creatures, who at Your word began to breathe and see, nourish me with Your bread, and quench my thirst with Your drink.

Lest my body disintegrate, and my soul box her way through Hades as a fleshless shadow, filled with absurd perceptions, filled with fleshly desires, filled with fright and frightful images.

Lest I lose, O Lord, both bodies: my earthly body, which is closer to perishing than the autumn grass, and my heavenly body, which the spirit is waiting to weave and make ready for eternity.

Lest I lose, O Lord, both spirits: my earthly spirit, which has betrothed itself to death by being wedded to earth, and my heavenly spirit, which I have not received within me to bring its eternity into me.

Lest I lose, O Lord, both lives: my earthly life, which resembles life, and my heavenly life, which is life.

Come closer to me, and closer still, O Heavenly Bread, and do not resist my mouth.

Come closer to me, and closer still, O Heavenly Drink, and do not avoid my lips.

O All-Holy Trinity, bring Your lantern into my night and scare away the stranger, who is blocking me from You

Sayings of the Ascetics of the Orthodox Church, XCIV:

**III. Us and Our Neighbors
How to Relate to the Sins of Others**

Love sinners, but hate their deeds, and do not disdain sinners for their failings, so that you yourself do not fall into the temptation in which they abide... Do not be angry at anyone and do not hate anyone, neither for their faith, nor for their shameful deeds... Do not foster hatred for the sinner, for we are all guilty... Hate his sins, and pray for him, so that you may be made like unto Christ, who had no dislike for sinners, but prayed for them.

St. Isaac the Syrian, Homily 57,90



The Morning Offering – Daily Inspiration by Abbott Tryphon

The Seen and the Unseen

The limits of human reason and the knowledge of God

There is the seen, and there is the unseen, the material and the immaterial. That which is material can be scientifically examined and experienced, the immaterial can only be seen and experienced spiritually. These are two worlds that are only seemingly at odds with one another. If you attempt to examine that which is of a spiritual nature using a science that is by its very nature meant to explore the material realm, you will fail.

The things that are of God are far beyond the capabilities of our finite mind to comprehend. The divine can only be known through the nous, that place in the heart that is our true center. It, unlike the brain, is capable of knowledge that is beyond human comprehension, coming as it does from noetic knowledge.

When we try to apply words to the noetic form, we fail. We can no more explain God than we can explain quantum physics, since both are unseen. God is outside the realm of human intellectual understanding. The Eastern Church approaches things of God as holy mysteries, since God can only be known in His divine energies, not in His essence. If a scientist can believe in quantum physics, the unseen, why can he not believe in God Whom he has not seen? If we can believe in the concept of infinity, something that goes on and on without end, why can we not believe in God?

The science of the soul is noetic and can be examined and experienced only through the activation of the nous. The nous in Orthodox Christian theology is the “eye of the heart or soul”, the mind of the heart. God created us with the nous because the human intellect is not capable of knowing Him without it. The intellect alone cannot know God, for human reasoning is limited to the things that are of a material nature. God is unknowable without His divine revelation, and only the nous can perceive this knowledge. God’s essence remains inaccessible without noetic knowledge. Science has its place, but only the heart can know God.

Quantum physics, while mysterious, is still part of the created material realm, and is fairly explainable now. The real difference isn’t between seen and unseen, but at its root, created and uncreated. It was the uncreated energies of God that Moses saw in the burning bush, or that the Apostles experienced in the transfiguration. A scientist will understand the properties of light (photons), but will have no clue about the uncreated light, which heals, deifies and casts no shadow. Fr. George Calciu of blessed memory experienced this light in the midst of the worst Romanian prisons, and the result is another effect that science cannot explain: incorruption of body after death.



**Daily Reflection
On Wedding Rings**

“...So he (the prodigal son) got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’



But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.” (Lk 15: 20-24)

The Parable of the Prodigal Son reminds us of one of the oft-forgotten Christian meanings of the wedding ring: It is a sign, among other things, of the two people approaching the Sacrament of Unity, Marriage, being accepted into the compassion and unity of the Father’s “home” through their own mutual acceptance, compassion and unity. As the priest says in a prayer of the Byzantine Service of Betrothal, “...by a ring our heavenly Father showed compassion upon His son; for He said: Bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us have a feast and celebrate.”

Thus the wedding ring reminds those of us who are married of being “bound” in compassion for each other, despite our shortcomings, just as we are continuously accepted and re-accepted into our Father’s “home” by His great compassion and embrace. So if we’ve been “drifting apart” in a marriage, let us remember to “run” to each other as He does to us, even while we are “still a long way off.” He throws His arms around us and kisses us, no questions asked. Lord, help us do likewise, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Amen!

Holy Orthodox Quotes

"All sins are repulsive before God, but the most repulsive of all is pride of the heart."

+St Anthony the Great

Proverbs 6:16-19

These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

Proverbs 16:5

Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD: though hand join in hand, he shall not be unpunished.

Sirach 3:27-28

An obstinate heart shall be laden with sorrows; and the wicked man shall heap sin upon sin. In the punishment of the proud there is no remedy; for the plant of wickedness hath taken root in him.

Sirach 10:14-15

The Lord hath cast down the thrones of proud princes, and set up the meek in their stead. The Lord hath plucked up the roots of the proud nations, and planted the lowly in their place.

Sirach 13:1

He that toucheth pitch shall be defiled therewith; and he that hath fellowship with a proud man shall be like unto him.

Sirach 23:4

O Lord, Father and God of my life, give me not a proud look, but turn away from thy servants always a haughty mind.

Malachi 4:1-2

For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch. But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.

Luke 1:51-52

He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree.

2 Timothy 3:1-5

This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

1 Peter 5:5-7

Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

The Philokalia: Daily Readings

Where humility is combined with the remembrance of God that is established through watchfulness and attention, and also with recurrent prayer inflexible in its resistance to the enemy, there is the place of God, the heaven of the heart in which become of God's presence no demonic arm dare to make a stand.

- St Philotheos of Sinai, Forty Texts on Watchfulness

Ancient Christian Wisdom

You may find yourself hampered by someone who sows tares of despondency. He tries to prevent you from climbing to such heights of holiness by discouraging you with various thoughts. For instance, he will tell you that it is impossible for you to be saved and to keep every single one of God's commandments while you live in this world. When this happens you should sit down in a solitary place by yourself, collect yourself, concentrate your thoughts and give good counsel to your soul, saying: "Why, my soul, are you dejected, and why do you trouble me? Put your hope in God, for I will give thanks to Him; for my salvation lies not in my actions but in God (cf. Ps. 42:5). Who will be vindicated by actions done according to the law (cf. Gal 2:16)? No living person will be vindicated before God (cf. Ps. 143:2). Yet by virtue of my faith in God I hope that in His ineffable mercy He will give me salvation. Get behind me, Satan (cf. Matt. 16:23). I worship the Lord my God (cf. Matt. 4:10) and serve Him from my youth; for He is able to save me simply through His mercy. Go away from me. The God who created me in His image and likeness will reduce you to impotence.

+ St. Symeon the New Theologian

Wisdom of the Church Fathers

"Having experienced all the difficulties of earthly life, Mother of God sees every tear, hears every groan and entreaty directed to her..."

**Saint John Maximovitch
(1896-1966)**

"Merciful and full of love, Mother of God manifests Her love towards Her Son and God in love for the human race. She intercedes for it before the Merciful One, and going about the earth, She helps men. Having experienced all the difficulties of earthly life, the Intercessor of the Christian race sees every tear, hears every groan and entreaty directed to Her. Especially near to Her are those who labour in the battle with the passions and are zealous for a God-pleasing life. But even in worldly cares She is an irreplaceable helper..."

Through the Grace of God – Orthodox Christianity

St Nektarios of Aegina: Christians

“Christians, have we understood the great responsibility that we have taken on before God through baptism? Have we come to know that we must conduct ourselves as children of God, that we must align our will with the will of God, that we must remain free from sin, that we must love God with all our hearts and always patiently await union with Him? Have we thought about the fact that our heart should be so filled with love that it should overflow to our

neighbor? Do we have the feeling that we must become holy and perfect, children of God and heirs of the Kingdom of Heaven? We must struggle for this, so that we may not be shown unworthy and rejected. Let none of us lose our boldness, nor neglect our duties, nor be afraid of the difficulties of spiritual struggle. For we have God as a helper, who strengthens us in the difficult path of virtue.”

Orthodox Quote of the Day

He who abandons prayer abandons his salvation; he who is careless about prayer is careless about his salvation; he who quits prayer renounces his salvation.

St. Ignatius Brianchaninov

Dear Family and Friends in Christ;

This summer from June 13 to June 27, the opportunity has once again been given to me to join the Orthodox Christian Mission Centers (OCMC) on a Youth Outreach Mission trip to Shen Vlash, Albania. We will be working with the children at the Children’s Home of Hope, which is located on the grounds of the Shen Vlash Monastery and Resurrection of Christ Theological Academy in Durres. Team members will share life experiences and fellowship, and provide a visible witness of the Holy Orthodox Christian Faith.

I am very excited about this opportunity provided me by God, to go back to Albania and work with the children once again, God willing. This will be my 4th trip to the Children’s Home of Hope, where I and the other team members will be providing a visible witness of the faith to the youth, visit ministries of the Church of Albania and meet other OCMC missionaries.

As with every dream, there is an associated cost, not just financially but spiritually as well. That is where you come in. First and foremost, I covet your prayers for me and all who will be traveling to Albania and for those who await our arrival. Secondly, your financial support is also needed. The cost that is required is \$3,500 and due by June 1, 2017. May I count on your prayer and / or financial support? If so, please use the following link: <http://bit.ly/2k0TzP4> or please fill out the below form and return it to me at 132 Lenape Avenue, Mays Landing, NJ 08330 by May 31, 2017. Your financial donations are tax deductible when made payable to Orthodox Christian Mission Center. Any and all money raised over the necessary \$3,500 will be donated to Children’s Home of Hope.

I sincerely hope you will be a part of this awesome opportunity, for I know that you too will be blessed. Thank you and God bless.

In Christ,
Charles Gallagher (Sub-Deacon Vlashi)

Yes, I will support Charles Gallagher on this mission trip to Albania in the following ways: Please check the appropriate box.

- ☐ I will pray for you as you prepare, travel and minister.
- ☐ Enclosed is my financial, one time, donation support in the amount of \$_____.

Name: _____ Address _____