

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: Dean Inferrera



Sunday, October 15, 2017

Gospel: Luke 8:5-15
Fathers: John 17:1-13

Tone 2

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 11:31-12:9
Fathers: Hebrews 13:7-16

19th Sunday after Pentecost (4th of Luke): Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council

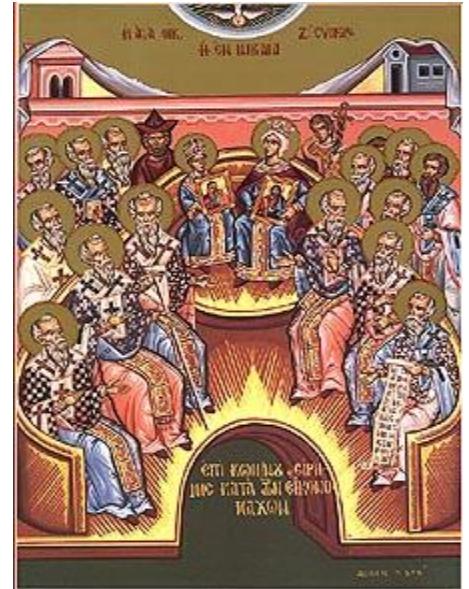
Ven. Euthymius the New, of Thessalonica, Monk of Mt. Athos (889). Martyr Lucian, Presbyter of Antioch (312). St. John, Bishop of Suzdal' (14th c.). Hieromartyr Lucian, Presbyter of the Kiev Caves (Far Caves—1243). Martyrs Sarbelius and Bebaia (Barbea) of Edessa (2nd c.). St. Sabinus, Bishop of Catania (760).

Troparion – Tone 8

Most glorious are You, O Christ our God! / You have established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth! / Through them you have guided us to the true faith! / O greatly Compassionate One, glory to You!

Troparion – Tone 6

The Son who shone forth from the Father / Was ineffably born, two-fold in nature, of a woman. / Having beheld Him, we do not deny the image of His form, / But depict it piously and revere it faithfully. / Thus, keeping the True Faith, / The Church venerates the icon of Christ Incarnate.



Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council

Prayer Requests

For Health of:

Nicholas Boylan, on his birthday, offered by his family, with love.

Natalie Stefy, on her birthday, offered by her mother Lore Stefy.

Nadia & Leo Freed, on their birthday, offered by their great-aunt Lore Stefy.

Adam Romanofsky, on his birthday, offered by the Romanofsky family.

Alyson Lee Seaman (niece), on her birthday, offered by the Jankowski family.

Herman Edward Brady, born early Saturday morning, October 7, the birth of their first child, Father Joel and Matushka Margaret Brady, in Holy Apostles Mission of Lansing, New York, offered by Archbishop Michael and the Diocese of NY/NJ.

The Philokalia: Daily Readings

He who knows his own weakness as a result of the many temptations and trials that he undergoes through the passions of soul and body, understands the measureless power of God and how He redeems the humble who cry out to Him through persistent prayer from the depths of the heart.

- St Peter of Damascus, A Treasury of Divine Knowledge

Liturgical Schedule

Sunday, October 15th

9:30 am: Sunday School
9:40 am: Hours
10:00 am: Divine Liturgy
After Communion: Sunday
School pre-K - Grade 3

Saturday, October 21st

6:30 pm: Vespers

Sunday, October 22nd

9:30 am: Sunday School
9:40 am: Hours
10:00 am: Divine Liturgy
After Communion: Sunday
School pre-K - Grade 3

Saturday, October 28th

6:30 pm: Vespers

Sunday, October 29th

9:30 am: Sunday School
9:40 am: Hours
10:00 am: Divine Liturgy
After Communion: Sunday
School pre-K - Grade 3

Saturday, November 4th

6:30 pm: Vespers

Bulletin Sponsors

*Linda & Richard
Dantine; Lore Stefy;
Romanofsky Family;
Jankowski Family*

Readings:

The Prokeimenon in the 2nd Tone:

The Lord is my strength and my song. / He is become my salvation.

(Psalm 117:14)

vs. The Lord hath chastened me sorely, but He hath not given me over unto death.

(Psalm 117:18)

Another, Tone 4 (Song of the Fathers):

Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever! *(Song of the Three, vs. 3)*

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 11:31-12:9

A brother, the God and Father of the Lord Jesus, he who is blessed forever, knows that I do not lie. At Damascus, the governor under King Ar'etas guarded the city of Damascus in order to seize me, but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped his hands.

I must boast; there is nothing to be gained by it, but I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven--whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. And I know that this man was caught up into Paradise--whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows-- and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. Though if I wish to boast, I shall not be a fool, for I shall be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. And to keep me from being too elated by the abundance of revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan, to harass me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I besought the Lord about this, that it should leave me; but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." I will all the more gladly boast of my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Fathers: Hebrews 13:7-16

Brethren, remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines. For it is good that the heart be established by grace, not with foods which have not profited those who have been occupied with them. We have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat. For the bodies of those animals, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned outside the camp. Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate. Therefore let us go forth to Him, outside the camp, bearing His reproach. For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come. Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

Alleluia in the 2nd Tone:

May the Lord hear thee in the day of trouble! May the Name of the God of Jacob protect thee!
(Psalm 19:2)
vs. Save the King, O Lord, and hear us on the day we call to Thee!
(Psalm 19:10)

Another, Tone 4 (Fathers):

The Lord, the God of gods, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.
(Psalm 49:1)

Gospel: Luke 8:5-15

The Lord said this parable: "A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell along the path, and was trodden under foot, and the birds of the air devoured it. And some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns grew with it and choked it. And some fell into good soil and grew, and yielded a hundredfold." As he said this, he called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear." And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, he said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; but for others they are in parables, so that seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand. Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, that they may not believe and be saved. And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy; but these have no root, they believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. And as for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience.

Fathers: John 17:1-13

Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me. I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.

Orthodox Quote of the Day

This humility of a heart that is contrite and belittles itself, this humility that is true and not for show, not out of vainglory, is precisely the sacrifice of praise which is offered to God.

**St. Symeon the New Theologian
The First-Created Man 72**



Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council

Today the Church remembers the 350 holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council under the holy Patriarch Tarasius (February 25).

The Synod of 787, the second to meet at Nicea, refuted the Iconoclast heresy during the reign of Empress Irene and her son Constantine VI.

The Council decreed that the veneration of icons was not idolatry (Exodus 20:4-5), because the honor shown to them is not directed to the wood or paint, but passes to the prototype (the person depicted). It also upheld the possibility of depicting Christ, Who became man and took flesh at His Incarnation. The Father, on the other hand, cannot be represented in His eternal nature, because “no man has seen God at any time” (John 1:18).

In Greek practice, the holy God-bearing Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council are commemorated on October 11 (if it is a Sunday), or on the Sunday which follows October 11. According to the Slavic MENAION, however, if the eleventh falls on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday, the service is moved to the preceding Sunday.



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 sub-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

Council Meeting: October 29th immediately after coffee hour.

Bulletin News: Starting in January 2018 there will be two different sign-up sheets. One will be for [Prayer Request](#) and the other for [Bulletin Sponsors](#). More information will be forth coming on prices for Bulletin Sponsor.

Wisdom of the Church Fathers

"The soul is sanctified and purified through the study of the Fathers, through the memorization of the psalms and of portions of Scripture, through the signing of hymns and through the repetition of the Jesus Prayer. Devote your efforts, therefore, to these spiritual things and ignore all the other things".

**Saint Porphyrios the Kapsokalivite
(1906-1991)**



NY/NJ Diocese News



Archbishop Michael recently made an appeal for parishes to support IOCC for Hurricane Relief (financially or by assembling relief boxes). If your parish has contributed to IOCC in support of this appeal, rectors should complete the response form at: <https://form.jotform.com/72864035068157>



DISTINGUISHED DIOCESAN BENEFACTORS

As leaves turn color and fall from the trees, the days of 2017 are rapidly passing. Thanks to the generosity of our diocesan DDBs, it has been a blessed year thus far as vital ministries are being financially supported throughout New York and New Jersey: **Mission Parishes, Seminarians, and Struggling Parishes are recipients of much-needed assistance.** We are thankful to God for the blessings He has bestowed upon these faithful servants who, in turn, offer their blessings to the work of the Church.

Very Reverend, Reverend and Dear Fathers and Beloved in the Lord:

The annual Girls' Retreat is fast approaching and there have been very few who have registered for the event. In the past this event has been one of the most widely praised events that our diocese offers and is one of the best opportunities we have to minister specifically to the young girls in our church. Because St. Basil's Retreat Center has to plan for food and staffing it is necessary that we have an accurate head count by the deadline of Monday, October 30th. I am asking you to promote this event from the ambo this Sunday and the coming Sundays throughout October. Please speak with the young girls of your parish and their parents and encourage them to attend.

There is a link below that will provide the registration information and other details of the retreat. Thank you for your help in making this event a success and investing in the future of the women of our church.

With love,
+ Archbishop Michael

<http://nynjoca.wixsite.com/nynjocayouth/upcoming-events>



Orthodox Church in America (OCA) News

Department Highlights: October is Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month

In 1988, US President Ronald Reagan designated October as “Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month.” On September 28, 2006, the US House of Representatives designated October 15 as “Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Day.”

In this updated article by Matushka Dennise Kraus, a wealth of information and ideas for observing Awareness Month and Day are offered. [The updated article also appears in the Parish Ministries Resources on the OCA web site.]

October: Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month by Matushka Dennise Kraus

“Thy departure from this earthly life is a cause of grief and sorrow for your parents and all who love you, O little child; but in truth you have been saved by the Lord from sufferings and snares of many kinds. O Savior and Master of our life: comfort the faithful parents of this departed child with the knowledge that to innocent children, who have done no deeds worthy of tears, are granted the righteousness, peace and joy of Thy kingdom” [Canon Ode 9, The Service of Burial of an Infant].

Each year, approximately one million pregnancies in the United States end in miscarriage, stillbirth or the death of a newborn child. But this is not just a statistic. This is a life and a death issue.

It is my belief that both the Gospel and the Orthodox Church hold that life begins at conception — that is, the fertilization of the ovum by the sperm. God knows the name and age of each person from his or her mother’s womb, as we pray during the Liturgy of Saint Basil. We must therefore recognize that pregnancy loss — miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy or stillbirth — all result in the death of a human being, a baby, a “Child of God.” Parents who were anticipating life are now confronted with death. These deaths result in millions of parents and families grieving.



Grieving Alone

Archpriest John Breck, writing about the mother who has miscarried, states that “her pain needs to be acknowledged, accepted, and palliated through words and gestures of understanding, sympathy and love, offered by her family and the parish community.” In reality, most parents who experience the loss of a child during pregnancy, suffer alone. This is especially true in the instance of early pregnancy loss (i.e. miscarriages and ectopic pregnancies) where there is no “body” to be seen and often the mother shows no outward signs of pregnancy. Many people are unaware of the grief that pregnancy loss causes. Sometimes the grieving parents, themselves, reinforce the idea that they are not grieving, by pretending they do not experience hurt, as they try to “get on with their lives” and to “try again.”

It is important to note that not only is a parent’s grief over a pregnancy loss real and normal, it is also Christian. Too many times it is assumed that grief is not Christian—that the bereaved should accept the reality of the loss as being “God’s Will.” However, we know that when Jesus learned of the death of his friend Lazarus, “Jesus wept” [John 11:35]. Especially in early losses (most miscarriages occur before the twelfth week of pregnancy) people often use the clichés, “It’s God’s will,” “God wanted the baby in heaven for Himself,” “God knows best; the baby would have probably been deformed.” The only thing these sayings do is indicate to the parents that they should not mourn, that if they “are Christian” they will accept God’s Will and not “complain.”

National Observance of Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness

When in 1988 President Ronald Reagan proclaimed October as Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month throughout the United States, he noted that the day “offers us the opportunity to increase our understanding of the great tragedy involved in the deaths of unborn and newborn babies. It also enables us to consider how, as individuals and communities, we can meet the needs of bereaved parents and family members to work to prevent causes of these problems.” Subsequently, the resolution to declare October 15 Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day passed the United States House of Representatives on September 28, 2006. In honor of Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day, it is suggested by many bereavement groups that grieving parents

light a candle at 7:00 p.m. in their respective time zones to create a wave of light around the world in memory of babies lost to pregnancy and infant loss.

At Holy Trinity Church, East Meadow, NY, we have been holding a Service of Prayer [Molieben] each year on October 15 beginning at 7:00 pm. A copy of the service can be found on the parish’s prayer ministry web site. Following the service, it is good to have fellowship and refreshments of some sort. It would also be a good idea to have pamphlets on grieving available. Pamphlets and resources can be found on the internet, but especially from the National Share Office.

Guidelines for Helping a Friend or Family Member to Grieve

Not everyone grieves in the same way. It is important to create a loving and understanding atmosphere to help those affected. Always work in cooperation with your pastor. In 2002, I wrote an article for our Diocesan Journal, Jacob’s Well, titled “Comforting Those Who Have Lost a Baby During Pregnancy or Shortly Thereafter.” I am including the guidelines from that article for people who may not know what to say or how to help a friend or family member who is grieving.

- The first—and likely the most important—thing you can do is realize that a baby has died and this death is just as “real” as the death of an older child. The parents’ grief and healing process will be painful and take time—lots of time. They may not be recovered or done “thinking about their baby” after a month or even a year. Realize that the parents are sad because they miss their baby, and that he or she can never be replaced by anyone else, including future children or children they may already have.
- Let the parents know that they, their family and the baby are in your prayers. Call or send a sympathy card. You don’t have to write a lot inside; a simple “You and your baby are in my thoughts and prayers” is enough.
- What the parents need most now is a good listener and a shoulder, not a lecture or advice. Listen when they talk about the death of their baby. Don’t be afraid, and try not to be uncomfortable when talking about the loss. Talk about the baby by name, if they have named the child. Ask what the baby looked like, if the parents saw the baby. Most parents need and want to talk about their baby, their hopes and dreams for their lost child.
- It is okay to admit that you don’t know how they feel. A good thing to say is, “I can’t imagine how you feel. I just wanted you to know that I am here for you and that I am very sorry.”
- Give a hug. This is a sign of love and concern. Even if this is all you do, it’s a nonverbal way of saying “I’m sorry” or that “I’m praying for you.”
- Offer to baby-sit their other children. Often there are follow-up doctor’s visits and the parents need a chance to be together as a couple as well.
- Offer to bring meals; often mothers have no energy to do even basic things.
- Offer to go food shopping, help clean the house, do laundry—anything that lightens the burden of daily chores that need to be done. This is especially helpful if the mother is still waiting to miscarry the baby. That process may take days and is physically and emotionally draining.
- Be careful not to forget the father of the baby. Men’s feelings are very often overlooked because they seem to cope more easily. The truth is that they are quite often just as devastated as their partner.
- Try to remember the anniversary of the death and due date with a card, call, or visit. Anniversaries can trigger grief reactions as strong as when the loss first happened. Months down the road a simple “How have you been doing since you lost your baby?” can give much comfort.
- Give special attention to the baby’s brothers and sisters. They too are hurt and confused and in need of attention which their parents may not be able to give at this time.
- If the children want to talk about the death, don’t be afraid to engage them in conversation. Children have a natural relationship to death and they are open and direct with adults with whom they feel comfortable. When children are allowed to share their dreams and thoughts openly, they are not usually impacted by death in a negative way.
- If you are pregnant, it may be hard for the bereaved parents (especially the mother) to see or even talk to you. You will need to be very understanding and extra patient with them. They still love you and are happy for you, but it is just such a huge reminder of what they have lost. Your bereaved friends may

even feel a little jealous of you (especially after your baby comes), and then get angry with themselves for feeling that way.

- Remember that any subsequent pregnancies can be a roller-coaster ride of joy, fear and bittersweet memories.
- Remember also that mourning puts a tremendous strain on relationships between family and friends.

Your help, comfort, and sensitive support can be very influential in how the parents cope with the death of their baby and how they recover. You are important; they need you now more than ever.

After giving birth to two beautiful children, my husband and I experienced the deaths of two babies during pregnancy. Our second baby died while we were attending Saint Vladimir’s Seminary. The prayers and support that we received from the community aided in our healing. The Molieben that my husband serves on October 15 holds special meaning for us. We hope that such prayers will help others to heal as well.

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, Who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God” [2 Corinthians 1:3-4].

Definitions

Grief—The thought and feeling experienced within oneself upon the death of someone loved. It is the internal meaning given to the experience of bereavement.

Mourning—The taking of the internal experience of grief and expressing it outside oneself.

Miscarriage—Death of an infant during the first 20 weeks of gestation. Usually a miscarriage occurs in the first 12 weeks. In most states the hospital is responsible for the remains of the baby. However, some states are introducing legislation that would allow parents to request the body for burial.

Ectopic Pregnancy—When the baby (fertilized egg) implants itself outside of the uterus. Medication or surgery is necessary to remove the conceptus (baby), prevent rupture of the fallopian tube, and to safeguard the mother’s life. A ruptured ectopic pregnancy is a potentially life-threatening event for the mother.

Stillbirth—The death of an infant in the last 20 weeks of gestation, but prior to birth. In most states it is the responsibility of the parents to bury the baby.

Neonatal Death—The death of an infant during the first 28 days after birth.

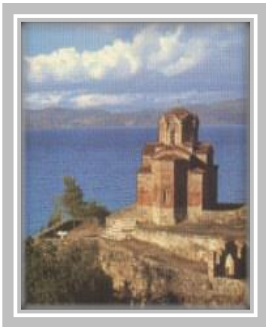
Perinatal Loss—The death of an infant during pregnancy, childbirth, or during the first 28 days after birth.

Helpful Websites

- Articles and prayer services for pregnancy loss.
- Helping those who have experienced the death of a baby due to early pregnancy loss, still birth, or during the first few months of life.
- A national self-help organization providing friendship, support and resources for parents and siblings grieving the loss of a child.

Helpful Resource

- Naming the Child: Hope-Filled Reflections on Miscarriage, Stillbirth, and Infant Death.



Prayers by the Laker, St. Velimirovich, XXVIII:

I feel mute and inarticulate, my Luxurious Lord, when I want to express Your stability and all Your fullness. Therefore, I beseech the entire universe to kneel down with me and speak in my stead, since I am incapable and inarticulate.

I build stone altars for You, O stone Foundation of my hope. And the arrogant sons of the world, who pretend to be nearer neighbors to You than Your saints, ridicule me: "Look at the pagan, who would rather worship stone than the Lord!"

Truly, I am not worshipping stone, but rather I, together with stone, am worshipping the Living Lord. For stone is also distant from the Lord and is in need of salvation. Sin has made me more impure than stone before the face of Heaven. May the stone be saved

together with me, and may it, as a symbol of stability help my feeble words to express the stability of God's justice. Therefore, I embrace stone as a companion in the Fall and as a companion in prayer and salvation.

I light oil and wax on the stone altar, O Inextinguishable Light. And the arrogant puff themselves up and exclaim:

"Look at the superstitious man, who does not know that God is spirit!"

Your servant, O Lord, knows that You are spirit, but he also knows of Your mercy towards all flesh. And so when I see the radiant oil and fragrant wax, I say to myself: "How are you better than oil or wax? Oil and wax at midnight, like the sun at noon, represent the glory of the Lord more clearly than your tongue. Let them be your help in prayer. Let them be your companions in prayer and salvation."

I adorn Your altar with wooden icons, golden crosses, silver seraphim, silk brocades, and books of salvation bound in leather. And I prostrate myself before Your embellished altars. But the arrogant laugh at me and say: "Look at the idol-worshiper, who does not worship the Lord but mute objects!"

Nevertheless, You know, my only Idol, that I am worshiping You alone. But so that arrogance may not engulf my heart and delay my salvation, I call upon tree and plant, resins and animals, to cry out together with me to You, each in its own language. Indeed, all creatures and all creation are in need of salvation, therefore, all also need to join in prayer with man, who led creation into sin and leads it to salvation.

I consecrate bread and wine on Your altar, and I nourish my soul with them. Let the arrogant ridicule me to the end of time, and I shall not be ashamed of my desire to have You for my food and drink, O my Life-giving Nourishment.

I worship before an altar of stone, so that I may learn to consider the entire universe the altar of the Most High.

I nourish myself with consecrated bread and wine at Your altar, so that I may learn to consider everything I eat to be Your holy body, and everything I drink to be Your holy blood.

I pray with all creation and for all creation, so that I may learn humility before You, and so that I may express all the mystery of my love for You, O all-embracing Love.

300 Sayings of the Ascetics of the Orthodox Church, CXXVIII:

IV. Concerning that which Brings us Close to God

Prayer

Consistently pray in all things, so that you might not do anything without the help of God ... Whoever does or busies himself with anything without prayer does not succeed in the end. Concerning this, the Lord said: "Without Me you can't do anything".

(John 15:5)

The Morning Offering – Daily Inspiration by Abbott Tryphon



Notice

October 6, 2017 · Abbot Tryphon

Abbot Tryphon has not been posting on his blog because he has been asked by his Archbishop to cease his internet ministry for a while. We hope to resume soon. Father is physically fine. Please keep him in your prayers.

Hieromonk Paul



Daily Reflection

Good Advice vs. Bad Advice

*“Blessed is the man that has not walked in the counsel
(ἐν βουλή) of the ungodly...” (Ps 1: 1)*

It's tricky to discern what is “the counsel of the ungodly,” particularly when it is offered to us by friends. This often happens at times when we are especially vulnerable and disoriented by our own shortcomings, like a long-standing resentment against a problematic colleague, boss, or relative, or like a long-standing obsession or frustration with some person or thing. Our friends



might step in, at such times, to “support” us with advice that is, actually, “ungodly.” I’ve observed that this happens not primarily because they, our friends, are “ungodly,” but because we, in certain states of delusion/disorientation, and in our presentation of the “facts” to our friends, tend to cajole them into the type of “counsel” we want to hear.

I don’t know if anybody reading this will relate to it. Maybe it’s only me. But I do know this: Today I need to have honesty, that is to say, humility, when I seek out “counsel” or advice in any difficult situation I may be going through. Lord, let me be open to Your voice today, and to Your truth, however and through whichever person it is spoken to me, that I may be “blessed,” by not walking “in the counsel of the ungodly.”

Ancient Christian Wisdom

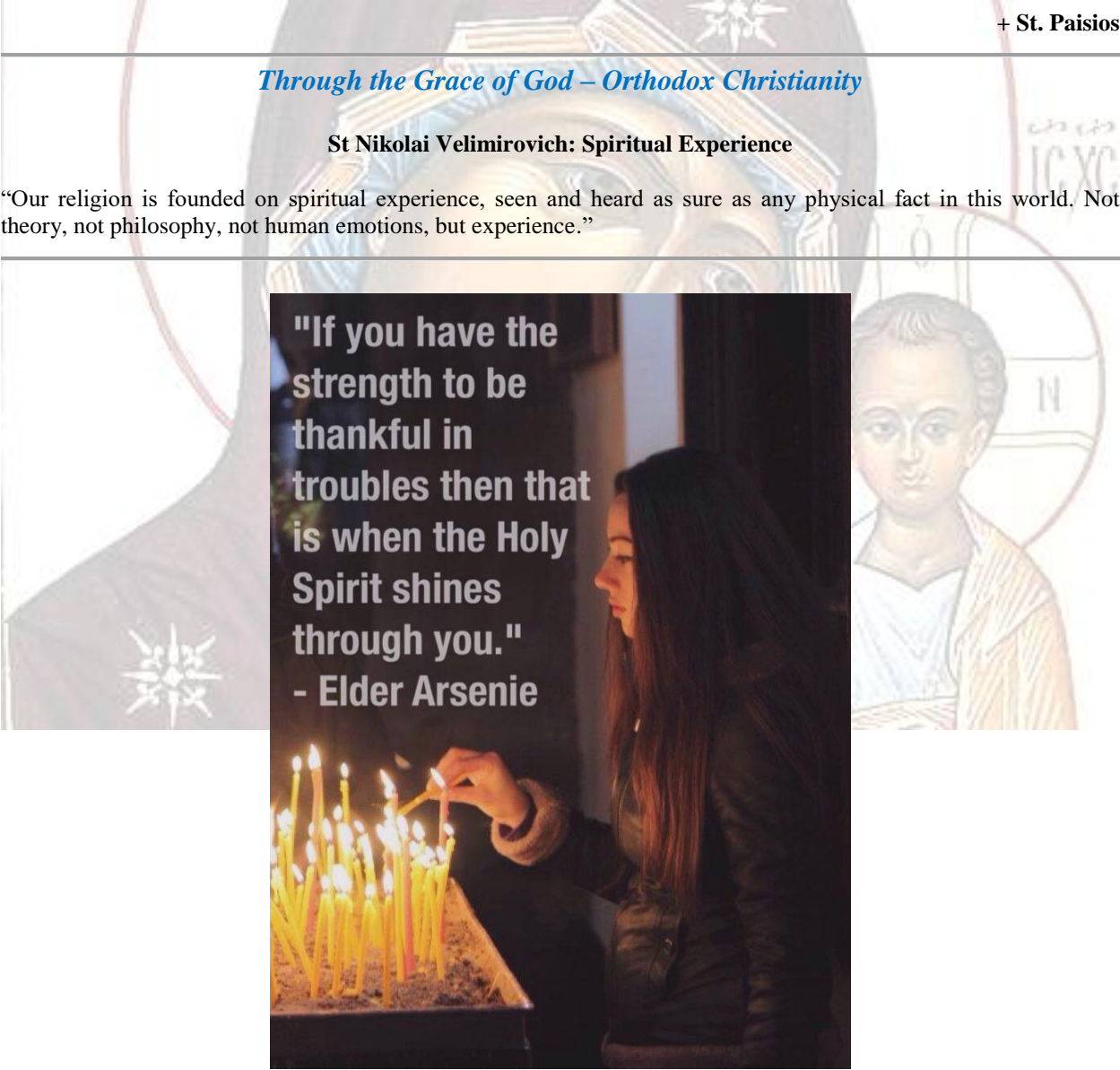
If you want to help the Church, it is better to try to correct yourself, rather than be looking to correct others. If you manage to correct yourself, one small part of the Church is immediately corrected. Naturally, if everyone did the same, the body of the Church would be in good health. But, today, people concern themselves with anything but themselves. You see, judging others is easy, whereas working on yourself takes effort.

+ St. Paisios

Through the Grace of God – Orthodox Christianity

St Nikolai Velimirovich: Spiritual Experience

“Our religion is founded on spiritual experience, seen and heard as sure as any physical fact in this world. Not theory, not philosophy, not human emotions, but experience.”

A photograph of a woman with long dark hair, wearing a dark jacket, lighting a candle. She is standing in front of a large, ornate icon of a saint. The scene is dimly lit, with the primary light source being the numerous lit candles in a holder in the foreground. The background features a large, detailed icon of a saint with a halo, set within an architectural frame. The overall atmosphere is solemn and reverent.

**"If you have the strength to be thankful in troubles then that is when the Holy Spirit shines through you."
- Elder Arsenie**