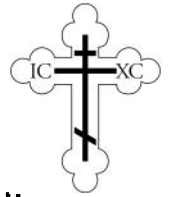




ALL-MERCIFUL SAVIOR ORTHODOX MISSION

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NEWSLETTER, SUNDAY, JUNE 5, 2005—CHRIST IS RISEN!

civil date / church date



WEEKLY CALENDAR

June 5 / May 23	SUN OF THE BLIND MAN.	6th Sun. of Pascha. Tone 5.	Hours/Typika 10 am
June 6 / May 24	Monday	St. Symeon Stylites ("of the Pillar")	
June 7 / May 25	Tuesday	Finding of the Head of St. John Baptist	
June 8 / May 26	Wednesday	<i>Fast, FOW*</i> Apodosis (last day) of Pascha.	Vespers 6:30 p.m.
June 9 / May 27	ASCENSION THURSDAY	St. John the Russian, new-martyr of the Muslim Yoke.	
June 10 / May 28	Friday	<i>Fast, OW*</i> St. Germanus (Herman) of Paris, bishop.	
June 11 / May 29	Saturday	Theotokos Icon "Confidence of Sinners."	Vespers 6:30 pm

** Fast, OW means that oil and wine are allowed that day.*

NEWS FROM THE RUSSIAN SYNOD

A general sobor or council-meeting of Bishops of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia took place from Monday, May 23, 2005, to Thursday, May 26, in Europe. The hierarchs discussed the preparations for the All-Diaspora Russian Orthodox Council to take place in summer 2006. Also at this meeting the case of Hieromonk Aidan (Keller) was to be discussed. In order to be informed of all the results of the sobor, including the case of our Austin mission, Bishop Peter is personally meeting this week with Metropolitan Laurus.

WORKS OF MERCY (REPEATED FROM LAST THREE SUNDAYS)

Corporal:

- Feed the hungry,
- give drink to the thirsty,
- give clothing to the naked,
- shelter the homeless,
- visit the sick,
- visit the imprisoned, and
- bury the dead.

Spiritual:

- Turn back sinners,
- teach the ignorant,
- counsel the wavering,
- comfort the grieving,
- bear wrongs patiently,
- forgive injuries, and
- pray for the living and the dead.

WISH LIST

Our new mission church has a need for:

- a permanent location for a temple and rectory
- four 2-foot by 2-foot tables, 3.5 feet high, on which to place candle boxes (until we can get proper Russian style candlestands)
- a guest book for visitors to sign
- three icon stands (3.25 feet high in front, 4 to 4.5 feet high in back)
- a matching set of icons for placing on the walls
- additional monthly-rent pledges
- shelves for our little bookstore

SCRIPTURES FOR THIS WEEK

Sun. Acts 16:16-34; John 9:1-38

Wed. Acts 18:22-28; John 12:36-47

Fri. Acts 19:1-8; John 14:1-11

Mon. Acts 17:1-15; John 11:47-57

Thu. Acts 1:1-12; Luke 24:36-53

Sat. Acts 20:7-12; John 14:10-21

Tue. Acts 17:19-28; John 12:19-36

HOLY TABLE & ICONOSTASIS MAY ARRIVE

I have been informed this week that a donor from another city has offered All-Merciful Savior Mission a currently-unused Holy Table and Iconostasis. I will keep you all informed of the progress of this possibility, as well as on any news regarding my (and your) petition to the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad.

MOLEBEN TO ST. NINA

This past Wednesday at All-Merciful Savior a moleben was offered to St. Nina on the feast day, kept in the Georgian Orthodox Church, of her entry into the Georgian land. Holy Nina, pray to God for us!

THE BODY & TEMPLE

"Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit Who is in you, Whom you have from God and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price" (1 Corinthians 6: 19-20).

For what, brethren, did our bodies become the temple of the Holy Spirit? Because, we are purchased at a price. The Lord Jesus purchased us with His cares, labors, sufferings and death. Because of this price we were made worthy to become the temple of the Holy Spirit.

But, someone will say that price was paid a long time ago and we live twenty centuries later! It is all the same: the price was not paid for one time and for one generation but rather for all times and for all generations from Adam to the Dreadful Judgment. And if there would be billions and billions of human beings born on earth, the price is paid for all of them. The price is so great and rich that if all the sand in the sea were changed into men, the price would be sufficient.

Brethren, from what moment do our bodies become the temple of the Holy Spirit? From the moment of our baptism. Although the price is paid for all men only those who are baptized become the temple of the Holy Spirit.

Brethren, what is the consequence that the Holy Spirit lives in us? The consequence is this, that we are not our own anymore. When the Holy Spirit takes up His abode in our bodies, then He becomes the Master over us and not us over ourselves. Then, brethren, we are the possession of God the Holy Spirit.

Brethren, what does it mean at the Mystical Supper [Last Supper] when the Lord washed even the feet of Judas and when Judas received a piece of bread from the Lord, it says: "Satan entered him" (*St. John 13:27*). O what dreadful words! O what a horrible punishment upon the traitor of God! Brethren, does that not mean that when we reject God, Who washes and feeds us, the Spirit of God departs from us and, in His place, Satan settles in? O what a stern meaning! O what a terrible reminder to all of us who are baptized! The Holy Spirit settled in us during our baptism and made us a temple for Himself. But, the Holy Spirit does not dwell in us by force but rather according to our good will. If we transgress against Him, He departs from us and in place of Him, Satan enters and our physical temple is transformed into a pigsty.

O All-good Holy Spirit do not leave us. Have mercy on us and forgive us!

- from the Prologue From Ochrid by St. Nikolai Velimirovich

ON THE WEB & ON THE STREET

Russian Orthodox Church Abroad: www.rocor.org

Diocese of Chicago & Detroit: www.chicagodiocese.org

Holy Protection Orthodox Church, 5309 Burnet Rd., Austin, TX 78756 (this church has no priest at the moment)

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, 3617 Abrams Rd., Dallas, TX: www.orthodox.net (priest is Fr. Seraphim Holland)

Theotokos of the Life-Giving Spring Orthodox Mission, Bryan/College Station, Texas (priest is Fr. Cassian Sibley)

St. Jonah Church, 2530 Old Louetta Loop, Ste 113, Spring, TX (Houston): www.saintjonah.org (priest is Fr. John Whiteford)

St. Vladimir Orthodox Church, 24 Tidwell Rd., Houston, TX: pictures at www.saintjonah.org. (priest is Fr. Ljubomir Kupec)