



REMEMBERING THE FALLEN

This Memorial Day Weekend let us:

1. Remember: and Pray for our Soldiers who have offered their lives in defense of our nation and ideals. Visit a cemetery where the veterans lay at rest.

2. Remember and Pray for those who have served and live in our midst - especially those wounded in body and spirit by the debilitating effects of war, especially PTSD.

3. Remember and Pray for God to bring peace and an end to war globally, and the safe return of our soldiers.



4. Remember the families of those serving - and support them in prayer and practical ways.

5. Display the flag of the United States - with thanksgiving to God, and civic dignity.

Next Lampada Deadline - August 15 Themes: Back to School, Fall Activities



St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

P.O. Box 6981

Charlottesville Virginia 22906

Address Correction Requested



Lampada

Summer, 2017

O Lord, You are a Lamp to my feet and a light to my path.



VISIT OF THE HOLY FIRE

For the first time this year, our parish received a lamp that had received its flame from the Holy Fire, originating at the Church of the Holy Resurrection, miraculously lit at the Vigil of Holy Pascha. The following explains some of the background on its origins.

The Holy Fire is a miracle that occurs every year at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem on Holy Saturday, the day preceding Pascha. It is considered by many to be the longest-attested annual miracle in the Christian world, though the event has only been documented consecutively since 1106. In many Orthodox countries around the world the event is televised live.

The ceremony begins at noon when the Patriarch of Jerusalem or another Orthodox Archbishop recites a specific prayer. The faithful gathered will then chant "Lord, have mercy" (Kyrie Eleison in Greek) until the Holy Fire descends on a lamp of olive oil held by the patriarch while he is alone in the tomb chamber of Jesus Christ. The patriarch will then emerge from the tomb chamber, recite some prayers, and light either 33 or



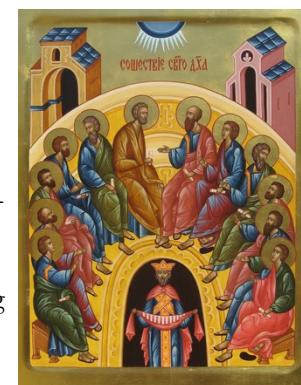
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The Gift of the Holy Spirit:

On Holy Chrismation

By St. Cyril of Jerusalem (Ref. 1 John 2:20-28)

But you have an unction from the Holy One, ... that, when He shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before Him at His coming. Having been baptized into Christ, and put on Christ, you have been made conformable to the Son of God; for God having foreordained us unto adoption as sons, made us to be conformed to the body of Christ's glory. Having therefore become partakers of Christ, you are properly called Christs, and of you God said, "Touch not My Christs", or anointed. Now you have been made Christs, by receiving the antitype



of the Holy Ghost; and all things have been wrought in you by imitation, because you are images of Christ. He washed in the river Jordan, and having imparted of the fragrance of His Godhead to the waters, He came up from them; and the Holy Ghost in the fullness of His being lighted on Him, like resting upon like. And to you in like manner, after you had come up from the pool of the sacred streams, there was given an Unction, the anti-type of that wherewith Christ was anointed; and this is the Holy Ghost; of whom also the blessed Esaias, in his prophecy respecting Him, said in the person of the Lord, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me: He has sent Me to preach glad tidings to the poor." Is.1.

For Christ was not anointed by men with oil or material ointment, but the Father having before appointed Him to be the Savior of the whole world, anointed Him with the Holy Ghost, as Peter says, "Jesus of Nazareth, whom God anointed with the Holy Ghost." Acts David also the Prophet cried, saying,

Continued, p.5

Inside this Issue

On Holy Chrismation	p.1
Service Schedule/Activities	p.2
Syrian Relief Notice	p.3
Parish Champions Report	p.6
Note From the Pastor	p.7
Financial Summary	p.7
Charitable Works	p.9
Hospitality Notes	p.10
Memorial Day	p.12

A Parish of the Eastern Eparchy of the
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA

His Eminence Metropolitan +Antony
Presiding Hierarch



Parish Leaders

V. Rev. Robert Holet, *Pastor*
Leadership Board

Chair: Jacob Ritter

Vice Chair: Bryan Alexander

Treasurer: Karen Gavrilovic

Secretary: Sden James Guba

At Large: Susan Murphy

Service Group Leaders

Hospitality: Randy Brogan, Chris Harrison

Liturgy: Troy Hamilton

Charitable Works: Cynthia Patzig

Evangelization: Karen Gavrilovic

Buildings/ Grounds: Mager Koromhas

Library-Bookstore: Stanley Bright

Religious Formation: Basil Finnegan

Parish Ministry Coordinators

Greeters: Karen Gavrilovic

Liturgical Music: Pani Christine Holet

Web Committee: Karen Bowman

Community Care: Elaine Brogan

Contact Information

Parish Office - 434-973-2500

Phone at Church: (540)-456-6981

Address: 7581 Rockfish Gap
Tpk (US 250), Greenwood, VA

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 6981,
Charlottesville, Va. 22906

Email: info@stnicholasorthodoxchurch.com

Pastor: fr.r.holet@uocusa.net

Web: www.33-AD.org

To reach Fr. Robert:

First call the rectory phone: 434-973-2500 and leave a message. If you are unable to reach him at that number, then try the cell phone: 434-987-8170. The cell phone is used only during travel .

Email is checked daily.

Liturgical Services Schedule

Subject to Change - See the Online Calendar for Updates

Sunday, May 28	Sunday of the Fathers of the First Nicene Council - <i>Second Paschal Sunday, Postfestive of Ascension</i>
	8:45am Sunday Matins
	9:30am Divine Liturgy
Tuesday, May 30	6:00pm Moleben (<i>Intercession Service</i>)
Saturday, June 3	Saturday of the Faithful Departed
	10:00am Hierarchical Divine Liturgy - Allentown, Pa <i>10th Anniversary of the Ordination of Fr. Anthony Perkins</i>
	7:00pm Great Vespers
Sunday, June 4	Holy Pentecost - (Trinity Sunday) - Great Feast of our Lord - Eighth Paschal Sunday
	9:00am Holy Baptism - Wolfgang Ritter (<i>No Matins this week</i>)
	9:30am Divine Liturgy
	- No Fasting this Week -
Monday, June 5	Pentecost Monday - <i>Schedule to be Announced</i>
Tuesday, June 6	6:00pm Moleben (<i>Intercession Service</i>)
Saturday, June 10	8:00am Divine Liturgy
	7:00pm Great Vespers
Sunday, June 11	First Sunday After Pentecost - Sunday of All Saints
	8:45am Sunday Matins
	9:30am Divine Liturgy
	- Apostles Fast Begins this Week -
Tuesday, June 13	6:00pm Moleben (<i>Intercession Service</i>)
Saturday, June 17	7:00pm Great Vespers
Sunday, June 18	Second Sunday After Pentecost - Sunday of Saints of North America, and of Kiev-Ukraine
	8:45am Sunday Matins
	9:30am Divine Liturgy
Tuesday, June 20	6:00pm Moleben (<i>Intercession Service</i>)
Saturday, June 24	7:00pm Great Vespers
Sunday, June 25	Third Sunday After Pentecost - Virgin Martyr Febronia
	8:45am Sunday Matins
	9:30am Divine Liturgy
Tuesday, June 27	<i>No Moleben this week</i>



Community Care Update

May is a time of mixed emotions at St. Nicholas. We are usually basking in the warmth of the Paschal season and all the beauty that brings to the church and its worship cycle. There's also a little bit of sadness as we send the college and high school graduates among us out into the real world. They have been in our midst for several years and it is with deep admiration that we honor their achievements.

Catherine Hill is graduating from Western Albemarle High School this June. In keeping with what seems to be a standing tradition in the family, she will join her brother Russ, a rising sophomore, and attend their dad's alma mater, The Citadel, in Charleston, SC. Cat is going to pursue a nursing degree—like mom! With her warm personality and friendly ways, along with grit and determination, she will do well as she pursues her degree at The Citadell!

Andreea Sandu, received her bachelor's degree from the University of Virginia and will pursue doctoral studies at George Mason University in northern Virginia. While at St. Nicholas, Andreea was the president of the University's chapter of the Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF). She handled that position in her graceful and quiet way and it was a pleasure to have her among us.

Mager Koromhas received his bachelor's degree from the University and will be staying on in Charlottesville for another year as part of his five-year accounting program. During his time at St. Nicholas, Mager was received into the Holy Orthodox Church, assisted with the activities of the OCF, as well as furnished rides to services for those students without transportation. During the upcoming year, Mager will serve as the group leader for Building and Grounds. We are blessed to watch him come into the faith and continue to grow in it.

Greg Stronko received his Master's degree in mechanical engineering. While worshipping with us at St. Nicholas, Greg became interested in our Charitable Works group's efforts with Syrian refugees. He will be part of the group of parishioners working on this year's east-west event which will focus on the plight of the refugees from Syria.

Hunter Johnson was a December 2016 graduate from James Madison University, where he received his bachelor's degree. Hunter has had quite the year- being baptized and chrismated into the Holy Orthodox Church, getting his degree, and welcoming daughter Helen into the family in February. We are thrilled to have Hunter, Stephanie and Helen staying in the area now that Hunter has accepted a local job offer.

Finally, we cannot forget the graduates that were unable to join us in the parish celebration over May 20-21. **Will Ryerson** received his bachelor's degree from the Virginia Military Institute and will be going to basic training following graduation. It has been a pleasure to get to know Will and know that our country's security will be in the hands of fine young people like him. While attending VMI, Will was brought into the church in a double chrismation ceremony at Holy Pascha two years ago.. Nathaniel Sweigart, son of John and Mary, received his degree from William and Mary and Larisa Kerrigan, daughter of Daria Kiselica, earned her nursing degree. Larisa has plans to go on to become a nurse practitioner, but for now is working at a Lynchburg area hospital.

On behalf of the parish, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to our 2017 graduates. May their futures be ever so bright and may they always continue to walk in the path that God has set before them. Many blessed years to our scholars and their long suffering parents!!!

PS - A warm 'Thank You' to everyone who prepared meals for Jake, Kelly and little Wolfgang James Ritter. It was wonderful to meet the little guy when he and his mom were churched on May 21st.

In Christ,

Elaine Brogan, Leader
with Deena Jakos, Pani Christine Holet,
David Murphy and Eileen Opincar



Graduate Celebration - May 2017

LOVE INC Spring Banquet



Cynthia Patzig, Tim Stratos, Greg Stronko, and Randy and Elaine Brogan joined Fr. Robert and Pani Christine attending the LOVE Inc, fundraiser in May. LOVE Inc has a new Transformational Ministry model for helping people in need in our community. Our Charitable Works group will explore options for our participation in this new service initiative and other activities of LOVE, INC.



Hospitality Notes



There have been a lot of fun times around the St. Nicholas social hall, but who would expect anything different after Pascha? A big thank you to everyone who assisted in the set-up for the Agape meal following the Paschal Liturgy, those who stayed around to cleanup and those who brought dishes and opened their baskets up to share. As usual, it was a great celebration and not a bad party for 4AM!

Our 3rd annual Beer and Brats night on Bright Friday evening was another huge success. What looked like the beginnings of a bad weather night turned around and we could take our tables, chairs, and fellowship outside on the lawn. There were several brewmeisters with their beverages, some samplings of local brewery beers, and a fun egg hunt for the children. Everyone had a great time and we look forward to doing it again next year!

Our Mother's Day brunch was a wonderful time and the men of the parish were able to spoil our moms, grandmoms, and spiritual moms a little bit. The men cooked up some breakfast casseroles, sausage gravy and biscuits, baked French toast, as well as assorted cream cheeses for the bagels, fruit and cookies. Wine and mimosas completed the day, where the moms received prayers at Liturgy and roses following the veneration of the cross. Yeah---the guys set a high bar for Father's Day!!!

Graduation weekend at the University of Virginia provided an opportunity for the parish to honor our high school and college graduates. Those in attendance at the Saturday vespers enjoyed an hors d'oeuvres reception and lighted drink fountain as we extended congratulations to the graduates and their families. Thanks to Pani Christine and those who assisted her in this beautiful annual tradition.

With the upcoming summer months, many of us will be traveling and away from our home parish. Don't forget to look at the coffee hour sheet on the bulletin board in the social hall and sign up for a weekend. One thing we can count on is that if we are traveling away from St. Nicholas, there will always be people traveling to us and visiting the area, so it's important to have coffee hours covered. Thank you in advance to everyone that steps up!

Reminder - keep a look out for something special at the end of July - **Movie Night** - which promises to be a fun family event. We are going to have an outdoor movie, complete with popcorn and movie snacks.

We are looking for suggestions for movies that might be of interest, so speak with Randy Brogan or Chris Harrison, the Hospitality co-chairs, if you have any ideas! We would also welcome any fun ideas for a coffee hour that you might have!

Randy Brogan, Chris Harrison, co-Leaders

Note - as with all of our service groups, additional members are both welcome and needed!!



Our 'Official' Parish Picture - UOC of USA 100th Anniversary for 2018



Liturgical Services (cont.)

Wednesday, June 28	7:00pm	Great Vespers - <i>Feast of Ss Peter and Paul</i>
Thursday, June 29	8:00am	Feast of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul Divine Liturgy
Saturday, July 1	7:00pm	Great Vespers
Sunday, July 2		Fourth Sunday After Pentecost - Placing of the Hon. Robe of the Most Holy Theotokos 8:45am Sunday Matins 9:30am Divine Liturgy <i>Moleben this week to be announced</i>
Saturday, July 8	7:00pm	Great Vespers
Sunday, July 9		Fifth Sunday After Pentecost - Hieromartyr Pancratius, 8:45am Sunday Matins 9:30am Divine Liturgy
Friday, July 14	6:00pm	East-West Encounter - Syrian Refugee Event Prayer Service, Fellowship, Presentation (<i>see below</i>)

Ongoing and Special Events Calendar

Evangelization/Outreach Service Group	6:30pm	Tuesday, June 6
Charitable Works Service Group	2:30pm	Saturday, June 4
Parish Board Meeting	6:30pm	Tuesday, June 13
Buildings and Grounds Service Group	6:30pm	Thursday, June 15
Parish Right to Life Vigil (<i>at Planned Parenthood</i>)	12n	Tuesday, June 27
Religious Formation Service Group	TBA	
Church School Ministry	TBA	
Evangelization/Outreach Service Group - <i>July Meeting</i>	TBA	
Mission Trip to Southwest Virginia		July 9 - July 14
East - West Encounter / Syrian Relief Event	6 - 8:45pm	Friday, July 14

East West Encounter

THE SYRIAN REFUGEE CRISIS

A CHRISTIAN RESPONSE

Friday, July 14th at St. Nicholas Church

6:00 pm - Prayer Service for refugees from Syria and Middle East
6:45 pm - Refreshments and fellowship
7:30 pm - Presentation / discussion by Dr. Vasilea Digidiki (Harvard University)
8:45 pm - Concluding prayer

Dr. Digidiki will speak to her experience in the service of those in the refugee community, especially children, on her native island of Lesvos, Greece, where Patriarch Bartholomew and Pope Francis met in 2016 to assess and assist the refugees in crisis on that critical gateway island for those seeking refuge from war in Syria and the Middle East.

Please Contact Cynthia Patzig for more information, online registration, and ways you can assist in setting up and promoting this important event.



Many Blessed Years!

Birthdays

Saints Days

You Are Invited!



10th Anniversary of the Ordination of Fr. Anthony Perkins

*St. Mary Ukr. Orthodox Church
Allentown, Pa. - Sat. June 3rd*

*10am - Hierarchical Divine Liturgy
followed by Fellowship Barbecue*

Contact Fr. Robert for More Details!



Iconography Update

We have engaged Mr. Michael Kapeluck as the iconographer who will paint the Pantocrator icon in the dome, accompanied by the eight lower panels upon which will be painted icons of the sixteen Old and New Testament prophets. Target date to begin the prophet panels is November 1st. Following the completion of these, he will begin the onsite painting of the dome Pantocrator icon.



To provide some guidance for Mr. Kapeluck regarding our preferences on style and coloration, we will form an iconography committee, to meet periodically in the coming months. First proposed date for the iconography meeting will be **Tuesday, May 30th** after the Moleben (6:45pm). We will review photos online of Mr. Kapeluck's commissions to determine a coloration style that will work well for us - either the blue (common among some Mediterranean churches), and the ochre earth - colors (reddish).

If you would like to review the icons he has painted, please see: www.archangelicons.com. or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Archangel-Icons-274475679286152/>

Easter - Pascha Memories

An Essay by Melany Sandu

From my earliest memory, the sweet-smelling warmth of an Appalachian spring on my mountains and the leaking blood of a decapitated lamb on my kitchen counter heralds the arrival of Easter. Food, always food. One would be surprised by just how much he or she can learn from a mutton head - or, perhaps, from a Romanian kitchen as the whole family counts down in mouth-watering anticipation to the end of Lent with nothing more than grumbling bellies (that have been all too vegan for the past forty days) as the small Orthodox calendar sits propped up in the plastic napkin holder with pens pilfered from hotels. Soon, my childhood returns to me in the smell of roasting lamb and the glow of Paschal candles.



Heavy doors creak open to embrace me as I enter. I watch the walls of the church dance with vivid colors depicting the Creation, and I feel the urge to create. My fingers itch for a paintbrush. My heart beats in time to match the pace of my mind as it races through a gallery of unborn ideas. I begin to fill with a sense of eager responsibility, as if somehow entrusted with the future of beauty through my artwork, each panel holding a thousand undiscovered paintings as I regard it with a furrowed brow. Delicate strokes breathe life into swirls of oil paint. Pungent turpentine dissolves the world around me. Out of nothing, by considering color and composition, I capture something raw from within me that no words can fully express. I can't hold back my smile. For the joy of creation, I paint. I create a physical representation of the abstract, of my fear of the unknown, of my joy at the possibility of tomorrow, of my awe at the world's beauty. A new detail of my self-portrait is revealed even as the process changes the final piece. The service stretches on. Creeping self-doubt in my abilities renders my ideas no more substantial than the glass of the arching windows. I am afraid of touching them, of attempting to realize them; they will surely shatter in my hands. And yet, as the gold embroidery of the priest's robes shimmers in the near darkness of the midnight liturgy, I see beauty worth any pain to immortalize.

Silence. Only echoes of the rumbling hymns remain, tendrils of heaven-bound myrrh leaving the air thick in their wake. My warm breath catches on my lips as I see it: my cold wax candle heavy with history and tradition. At once fragile as a newborn and strong as eternity, the first fire blooms on the priest's candle at the altar, waiting to be passed down to each parishioner in turn in a wave of gold and smoke. Soon, the congregation is bathed in warm candlelight brighter than any sunrise. I accept my light in a joyous hymn, watching as the old wick flickers before bursting to life, just as it has for countless Paschas past, to reflect in its glow my very soul with a promise of rebirth. No king could bear something with more pride than I do my candle, knowing that by holding this light, I contribute something beautiful to the world and to the community I so cherish. I see in the candles how the old gives birth to the new, years on end, without fail. My heritage is the wax that shapes who I am; my art the wick that I use to glow; my family the hands that hold me up so that I may add to the world my flame.

Melanie is Andreea Sandu's sister. An aspiring artist, the essay was written for her college entrance to William and Mary

The Apostles' Fast

Because Pascha was fairly early this year, we have several weeks of the Apostles' Fast this year. This fast begins on the Monday after the Sunday of All Saints, and continues until the Feast of Sts Peter and Paul (June 29 on the new calendar)

While it is far less developed than any of the other fasts, it is nonetheless of ancient origin. It is specially valuable as a spiritual discipline following the Paschal season - where we may be tempted to become lax in fasting and asceticism.

However, when transferred to American culture today it is a bit more problematic, in that this is a celebratory season for many families with the release of children from school and summer vacation.

The fast is not to be ignored, but we can make helpful adaptations to its rigor. So we can refrain from eating meat during this short period, and observe the fast from dairy on Wednesdays and Fridays, but perhaps lessen the fasting on other days. We should receive the Mystery of Holy Penance during this period, as a spiritual renewal of our souls and dedication to the life in the Spirit, given to us at Pentecost.

Confessions are available on Saturday evenings or any time by appointment. Ω



Charitable Works - Serving in the Love of Christ

For most of us here in the United States, Memorial Day kicks off summer vacations, relaxed schedules, a sort of happy, laid back indolence. I love summer days - more time outdoors, picnics, gardening, more time to ride my horse, and sunlight until late evening. We are so blessed to live in this country! On the other side of the world, however, happiness is often measured by whether there is enough to eat, whether there is protection from the sun, rain or cold, or whether you made it safely in a small overcrowded raft to a place of safety. Or maybe happiness is that you still are with your family or at least most of it and that your friends and parents have survived multiple bombings and terror attacks - at least so far. Although our media seems to have forgotten the refugees still fleeing Syria, Eritrea, Iraq and so many other countries, the tragedy of their lives has not changed. They remain crowded into large refugee camps often beset by violence. Orphans and unattended children of all ages scramble to survive. Human traffickers prey upon the vulnerable, ruining young their lives.

SAVE THE DATE!!!

Aware of and in response to this terrible human tragedy, our parish is sponsoring a second East/West event: an evening of prayer, fellowship, education, and discussion on Friday, July 14th from 6:00 p.m. until 8:45 p.m. The evening is titled: "The Syrian Refugee Crisis-a Christian Response" and will feature Dr. Vasilea Digidiki as our main speaker. Dr. Digidiki has a doctorate in child psychology and is a visiting scholar at Harvard University. More importantly with regard to the refugee crisis, she has worked with the refugees on the Greek island of Lesbos. As you can imagine, she calls this a "life changing" experience. She also is known for her work on the growing problem of human trafficking and sexual exploitation of refugee children. This will be an incredible opportunity for us to learn the background of the present refugee situation, what life is truly like for those in refugee camps, and an opportunity to learn how we can help.

St. Thomas Aquinas Roman Catholic church is partnering with us - offering financial assistance as well as their support. Last year we cosponsored the first East/West event with them and had a large turnout from their parish - but a rather small turnout from ours. It was a wonderful evening in which we made new friends and had a chance to discuss a topic of mutual interest to both parishes. I would encourage all of you to plan to support and attend this extraordinary opportunity. It should be a great evening!

July is a very busy month for the Charitable Works service group because we are also preparing for our annual service trip to Grundy in Southwest Virginia.. A parish team will leave after Liturgy on Sunday, July 9th and return either July 13th or 14th. I think this will be our sixth year for this ministry. As in the past, the building crew will repair and remodel homes in the area (but probably stay off roofs) working under the direction of Pastor Shea and a team from Harmon Memorial Church. We anticipate that women from our parish will be involved in more ministries this year in addition to putting on the traditional community dinner and providing meals for the building crew. If you are interested in joining us, please let Fr. Robert or myself know as soon as possible. You can come for the whole time or for a part of the time.

Most importantly I ask that you pray. Pray for the refugees - especially for the children. Pray for those providing care and compassion to them. Pray for our parish event focused on the present refugee crisis, And please pray for our team going to Grundy and for those for whom and with whom we will work.

Thank you so much!

Cynthia Patzig, Coordinator

Pray for Refugees!



Library-Bookstore Service Group



The Library/Bookstore Service Group has been continuing with the project of getting all our books entered into our data base on Library Thing. We are now more than half done. We have added new bookshelves to better house and make available our collection. Patricia Hardesty continues to be our diligent hard working leader on this project; making all the labels and helping to research some of the more difficult items.

Now that summer is approaching we invite everyone to visit the parish library and borrow some books for your summer reading.

Stanley Bright, Coordinator



Visit of the Holy Fire cont. from p.1

12 candles to distribute to the faithful.

The Fire is also said to spontaneously light other lamps and candles around the church. Pilgrims say the Holy Fire will not burn hair, faces, etc., in the first 33 minutes after it is ignited. Before entering the Lord's Tomb, the patriarch or presiding archbishop is inspected by Israeli authorities to prove that he does not carry the technical means to light the fire. This investigation used to be carried out by Turkish soldiers. The Holy Fire is first mentioned in the documents dating from the 4th century. A detailed description of the miracle is contained in the travelogue of the Russian Igumen Daniel, who was present at the ceremony in 1106. Daniel mentions a blue incandescence descending from the dome to the *edicula* where the patriarch awaits the Holy Fire. Some claim to have witnessed this incandescence in modern times.

During the many centuries of the miracle's history, the Holy Fire is said to have descended on certain other occasions, usually when heterodox clergymen attempted to obtain it. According to the tradition, in 1099, for example, the failure of Crusaders to obtain the Fire led to street riots in Jerusalem. It is also claimed that in 1579, the Armenian patriarch prayed day and night in order to obtain the Holy Fire, but the Fire miraculously struck a column near the entrance and lit a candle held by the Orthodox patriarch standing nearby. Upon entering the temple, many Orthodox Christians venerate this column, which bears marks and a large crack attributed to the bolt of lightning from the Holy Fire.

According to the site of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia, the Holy Fire was flown to JFK Airport. From there it was be delivered to the Church at Brighton Beach for Agape Vespers, where it was distributed to the faithful. From New York, the Fire was taken via Greek Orthodox clerics to churches down (I-95) and when it came to Richmond, Deacon Nicholas Zachary bore the flame where it was transferred for the final leg to St. Nicholas parish.

You can watch a brief video of the Receiving of the Holy Fire on Great Saturday at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fjJMpaEhvzU>.

Story courtesy of [OrthodoxWiki.com](#) and [Pravoslavie.ru](#) and Fr. Nicholas Ferencz

Please Remember in Your Prayers

Andrew (<i>rehabilitation</i>) Romanayah (<i>wedding</i>) Bruce (<i>healing</i>) John (<i>special need</i>) Vera (<i>healing</i>) Special Intention (<i>death of a child</i>) Timothy (<i>stroke</i>)	Vera (<i>recuperating</i>) Fr. Bazyl (<i>healing - surgery</i>) Fr. Benjamin Jessica (<i>health</i>) Angela (<i>special need</i>) Ellen (<i>health decline</i>) Nina (<i>cancer</i>)	<div><i>For the Departed</i></div> <div>Our departed soldiers and those who have given their lives in service of our country</div> <div>+Philip (newly departed)</div> <div>+Departed Coptic Christians martyred on Palm Sunday</div>	<div>For the victims of war in Ukraine and the Middle East</div> <div>For those who have died as refugees</div>
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General Intentions

- In Remembrance this Memorial Day weekend, of all who have offered the sacrifice of love to the shedding of blood, in the service of our country, and for all our military personnel and their families who so offer and serve.
- For Vera Gavrilovic, hospitalized with a serious medical condition, and for her husband John.
- For those in prison and all who minister to them - especially the Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry
- For the 23 Coptic Christians killed by terrorists as they journeyed to a monastery in Egypt.
- For all refugees and immigrants - for safe passage to a place of peace and for encouragement and healing in their suffering. For all who have died in the conflicts in the Middle East.
- For Reader Joseph, for the Patriarchal Seminary in Nairobi, and for John and Mary, and all who serve as missionaries and those they serve. For a reopening of the Seminary. For Fr. George and his school in Uganda.
- God's continued blessing and fruitfulness in the holy work being offered to Christ by Frannie, Joe, Debbie, Lois, Charlotte, Gertrude, Junior, Jerry, Randy, Rayburn, Shea and all who serve those in need in SW Virginia.
- For Dorian, Natalia, and for all who are imprisoned and for those in Orthodox prison ministry.



On Holy Chrismation - St. Cyril of Jerusalem, cont. from p.1

"Your throne, O God, is for ever and ever; a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom; You have loved righteousness and hated iniquity; therefore God even Your God has anointed You with the oil of gladness above Your fellows." And as Christ was in reality crucified, and buried, and raised, and you are in Baptism accounted worthy of being crucified, buried, and raised together with Him in a likeness, so is it with the unction also. As He was anointed with an ideal oil of gladness, that is, with the Holy Spirit, called *oil of gladness*, because He is the author of spiritual gladness, so you were anointed with ointment, having been made partakers and fellows of Christ.

But beware of supposing this to be plain ointment. For as the Bread of the Eucharist, after the invocation of the Holy Ghost, is mere bread no longer, but the Body of Christ, so also this holy ointment is no more simple ointment, nor (so to say) common, after invocation, but it is Christ's gift of grace, and, by the advent of the Holy Ghost, is made fit to impart His Divine Nature, which ointment is symbolically applied to your forehead and your other senses; and while your body is anointed with the visible ointment, your soul is sanctified by the Holy and life-giving Spirit.

And you were first anointed on the **forehead**, that you might be delivered from the shame, which the first man who transgressed bore about with him everywhere; and that with unveiled face ye might reflect as a mirror the glory of the Lord. Then on your **ears**; that you might receive the ears which are quick to hear the Divine Mysteries, of which Esaias said, The Lord gave me also an ear to hear; and the Lord Jesus in the Gospel, He that has ears to hear let him hear. Then on the **nostrils**; that receiving the sacred ointment ye may say, We are to God a sweet savor of Christ, in them that are saved. Afterwards on your **breast**; that having put on the breast-plate of righteousness, you may stand against the wiles of the devil. For as Christ after His Baptism, and the visitation of the Holy Ghost, went forth and vanquished the adversary, so likewise ye, after Holy Baptism and the Mystical Chrism, having put on the whole armor of the Holy Ghost, are to stand against the power of the adversary, and vanquish it, saying, *"I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me."*

Having been counted worthy of this Holy Chrism, you are called Christians, verifying the name also by your new birth. For before you were deemed worthy of this grace, you had properly no right to this title, but were advancing on your way towards being Christians.

Moreover, you should know that in the old Scripture there lies the symbol of this Chrism. For what time Moses imparted to his brother the command of God, and made him High-priest, after bathing in water, he anointed him; and Aaron was called Christ or Anointed, evidently from the typical Chrism. So also the High-priest, in advancing Solomon to the kingdom, anointed him after he had bathed in Gihon. To them however these things happened in a figure, but to you not in a figure, but in truth; because you were truly anointed by the Holy Ghost. Christ is the beginning of your salvation; for He is truly the First-fruit, and you the mass; but if the First-fruit be holy, it is manifest that Its holiness will pass to the mass also.

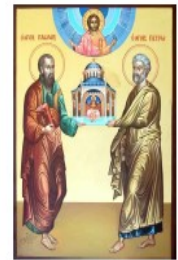
Keep This [Anointing] unspotted: for it shall teach you all things, if it abide in you, as you have just heard declared by the blessed John, discoursing much concerning this Unction. For this holy thing is a spiritual safeguard of the body, and salvation of the soul. Of this the blessed Isaiah prophesying of old time said, *And on this mountain,— (now he calls the Church a mountain elsewhere also, as when he says, In the last days the mountain of the Lord's house shall be manifest on this mountain shall the Lord make unto all nations a feast; they shall drink wine, they shall drink gladness, they shall anoint themselves with ointment.* And that he may make you sure, hear what he says of this ointment as being mystical.

Deliver all these things to the nations, for the counsel of the Lord is unto all nations. Having been anointed, therefore, with this holy ointment, keep it unspotted and unblemished in you, pressing forward by good works, and being made well-pleasing to the Captain of your salvation, Christ Jesus, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Praying Our Way Together

Through the Apostles' Lent 2017

"And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you, so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God the Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints." (1Thes3:12-13)



Take the Challenge

Join your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ as we read the Prologue from Ohrid, by St. Nickolai Velimirovic, including hagiographies, hymns, reflections, and homilies.

What: Reading from a daily calendar about lives of saints
Where: Wherever you may be with your device
When: June 19, 2017 – July 11, 2017 – Monday through Friday, anytime, at your convenience
Why: "The saints are cleansed mirrors in which the beauty and might of the majestic person of Christ is seen." (Bishop Velimirovic)

If you would like to take this challenge, please email your name, address, phone number, parish name, and parish address to Janice Meschisen at Bridesong150@gmail.com and more information will be sent to you.

Please Sign up by May 26, 2017!
Sponsored by the UOL of USA

UOC Strategic Plan Update...

And in this Corner – Your Champions!

As you might remember, the last *Lampada* included information about communication of Strategic Plan initiatives and progress. Mager, Karl and I offered to serve as a team to “get the word out,” and further to take your ideas back to the appropriate Task Forces.

In the ensuing time, a few things have happened. First – newly-graduated Mager has been tagged to assist the leadership of our Buildings and Grounds Service Group. As one of the most important service groups at St. Nicholas Parish, this task should supersede most everything else; so we have become a group of two. Thanks to Mager for his willingness to begin the process with us - and your input into our work in the future is always welcome!

Second - It is apparent that gathering willing people together for some of these groups is easier than others(!) To explain – the original group’s purpose was to develop the plan and get the concepts to the point that others would be able to join the effort and carry the tasks to fruition through specific Task Forces. While that is working for some Task Forces, others have experienced a lot of trouble finding people to answer the call. And some of those who joined have, by necessity or for other reasons, withdrawn from the Task Forces. Hard to complete the challenge with no one to do the work....

So, you ask, what can I do?

Well, we can *all* pray for this effort on a daily basis – in your family prayers, in your private prayers, and in asking others to pray:

- ✚ Pray for our Hierarchs, who have humbled themselves to allow their flock to move forward with this process;
- ✚ Pray for the group leaders, champions all, who must find willing souls among our Church flock and outside the UOC of USA walls to assist in the effort; and
- ✚ Pray for all of those who, by the Grace of God, are thinking about ways in which they can contribute to this effort.

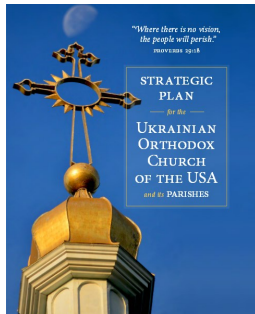
Remember - it is the through the benevolence of God, the efforts of His representatives - our Hierarchs - and the stewardship of those who have come before us that our Parish and others like ours have taken root and have grown in this beloved land. *We need to pay it forward.*

Prayer changes everything. One step forward in faith may change your world!

Review the Plan at <http://uocofusa.org/files/strategy/ABSOLUTE-FINAL-UOC-of-USA-STRATEGIC-PLAN.pdf>.

Convert Instructions

A weekly series of 17 instructions for those interested in studying the Orthodox Faith, will begin in the coming weeks. Ask Fr. Robert for details if you would like to participate. You may be new to Orthodoxy or if already Orthodox, you would like a ‘refresher’ or would like to assist others with the instruction process.





Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry

An Agency of the Assembly of Bishops

OUR MISSION

To bring the love of Christ to those who are in prison by providing encouragement, material support, transition and reintegration services, Christian education, spiritual guidance, and sacramental life.

OUR PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

In-Prison Ministry

- Provide Orthodox publications and resources.
- Link prisoners to Orthodox priests.
- Provide spiritual guidance to families of those incarcerated.

Church Outreach & Training

- Educate, train, and provide ongoing guidance to clergy and laity on prison ministry.

Religious Recognition

- Help make Orthodox Christianity an officially recognized religion by priests across the country.

Prisoner Correspondence Quarterly Report 2017

Letters received	7,911
Lessons graded	779
Replies sent	15,157
Materials sent out	3,020
Books sent	3,719
Bibles sent	480
Study guides sent	1,902
Pamphlets sent	7,654
Icons sent	31,840
Dynamis newsletter sent	24,835
AfterCare postcards sent	18,939

We Rely on the Generous Charity of the Orthodox Community:

We exist as an outlet for Christians to participate in a ministry that is essentially impossible for individuals to achieve on their own. Even if you lived near a prison and wanted to visit someone there, chances are you would not be granted access. However, when you support those clergy and lay volunteers who can provide the ministry then you truly have visited Him there. Your charity means the fulfillment of Christ's commandment to visit Him there.

See [HTTPS:// theocpm.org](https://theocpm.org) for more information

Note from the Pastor - Retooling Underway

As space is at a premium in this edition, regarding the parish needs, I'll only reiterate the ongoing need to plan for the 20th Anniversary events. Personally, I will be ‘retooling’ some of the things that I do in service of the Church. In the spirit of respecting the need to change according to the season, I believe that we all benefit from change in what we do and how we do it from time to time to be effective. In the past dozen or so years, I've emphasized a common purpose and collaborative approach to maintaining parish life and growing it, as an attempt to grow the parish to a place where our service groups run effectively. A new approach may be necessary, so I'll consider taking a more proactive approach regarding certain matters and will be relying less on the service groups to get certain tasks done, and will take a more personal role, while always inviting interested people to join in the party as they are able and so inclined. Hence, while I invite others to share their gifts and ideas in the service of the Church, I won't be putting things on hold which are necessary or beneficial. It is hoped that this initiative will achieve its desired end in not only getting some things done that have needed to be done for a while, but hopefully inspiring others to lend a hand in those areas where they may have expertise, interest or energy always in the service of the Lord and His Church.

Fr. Robert

Parish Financial Snapshot - May 2-17

Account Balances - As of 4/30/2017	
As of 4/30/2017	
Account	4/30/2017 Balance
Bank Accounts	
Contingency	14,972.27
General	30,198.51
Project	14,380.12
TOTAL Bank Accounts	59,550.90
Liability Accounts	
Mortgage Principal	-241,633.01
TOTAL Liability Accounts	-241,633.01
OVERALL TOTAL	-182,082.11

The accompanying reports provide a quick snapshot of our financial accounts and income/expenses for the year thus far. Thankfully, due to the generosity of our committed parish members and some special gifts, we are in a position to reconstitute the full amount in the **Contingency Fund** soon, which we use for those special occasions (recently like our roof and HVAC installations) that require large amounts of funds in a short time. By slowly building the Contingency fund to a set level (\$30,000 or so) we can meet such expenses without running ourselves ragged with special appeals, fundraisers and the like. It's simply wise stewardship to set some funds aside for the proverbial rainy day - and the contingency fund has served us well. *If you do not have such a fund for your personal accounts you should begin immediately to build one!* If excess

Income/Expense by Category					
1/1/2017 through 4/30/2017					
5/8/2017	Category	1/1/2017-1/31/2017	2/1/2017-2/28/2017	3/1/2017-3/31/2017	4/1/2017-4/30/2017
INCOME					
	Collection	17,546.11	12,123.96	11,674.45	20,927.10
	Interest Inc	2.98	4.67	0.00	0.00
	FROM General	0.00	15,734.00	0.00	0.00
	TOTAL INCOME	17,549.09	27,862.63	11,674.45	20,927.10
EXPENSES					
	Uncategorized	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	B&G Op	546.48	307.09	312.29	483.08
	Charity Operating	2,078.16	1,761.78	1,493.90	1,135.05
	Comm Op	256.95	294.82	354.42	256.03
	E&O Op	308.35	0.00	0.00	272.80
	E&O Proj	0.00	0.00	61.54	0.00
	Hosp. Op	0.00	0.00	226.72	0.00
	LG Op	44.59	451.88	43.25	50.80
	Lib. Op	136.88	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Liturgy Group	0.00	0.00	10.99	0.00
	Mortgage interest	946.01	943.11	848.85	0.00
	PB Op	6,834.94	4,670.00	6,776.00	8,182.73
	TO Contingency	0.00	14,658.00	0.00	0.00
	TO Project	0.00	1,076.00	0.00	0.00
	TO Mortgage Principal	799.85	802.75	897.01	0.00
	TOTAL EXPENSES	11,952.21	24,965.43	11,024.97	10,380.49
OVERALL TOTAL		5,596.88	2,897.20	649.48	10,546.61

funds come to us we can apply them effectively to our mortgage principal, effectively shortening the term of our property loan.

While our income has run well ahead of expenses, this is commonly so during the spring months. However, summer is more problematic for two reasons. First, some people ‘take vacation’ from church (and their donations to the Lord), and secondly, we always lose several key families during the summer months who move away - and this year is no different. So while we're thankful of where we are, but need to be vigilant stewards of all matters in the Church, including finances.

Fr. Robert