
ST. INNOCENT ORTHODOX CHURCH

MAY 2019 NEWSLETTER AND CALENDAR



Lighting One Another's Candles

By Donna Farley
Seasons of Grace:
Reflections on the
Orthodox Church Year

FEW THINGS EXEMPLIFY the Christian community like the Paschal procession, three times round the church at midnight. On a busy road, we draw stares from weekend partygoers passing in their cars. The wind puffs out some of our candles; but no-one is lost, for we have gathered together in the darkness and shared our illumination, relighting each other's candles amid joyous laughter.

The cross is at the head of our column, and praise is in our mouths.

How easy it is, on Pascha night, with our spirits keyed up from weeks of Lenten labor, anticipating the Feast of Feasts—the transfigured nave of the church decked in a blaze of white flowers; the glorious greetings of



“Christ is Risen!” at the Paschal communion; the community meal lavish with ham, cheese, paschal breads, chocolate.

“Better to light one candle, than to curse the dark,” goes the proverb. Better yet, let many candles be lit, and relit if they falter, from the flames of their fellows.

Easy, on Pascha night. But even throughout the year, we need to keep our light shining, and share it with our fellow-Christians. Throughout the year, the darkness and wind take many forms.

A business collapses. A man betrays his wife. An infant dies. How to relight the candles of the brothers and sisters assaulted by these violent gusts of wind? We do well to remember, first, that the light we bear is not our own. We are only sharers of something we have received. We are beggars telling other hungry folk where we have found food. Thrust your candle in their faces too suddenly, and you may blind and startle them into retreat.

However, difficult as it may be to accept, even with the offer held out gently, you cannot relight someone else’s candle without their cooperation. You can stand before them with your light held steady, but they can still hide their own candle behind their back, refusing to take their place once more in the shining procession.

On Pascha night that would seem silly—people laugh at the wind, then, and march on around the church, scarcely willing to pause long enough to brace their hands to recapture the flames offered by their neighbors. But somehow the storms of daily life in ordinary time seem to sweep some of us off the path. It happens most often when we feel ourselves alone, without fellow-marchers to relight our candles.

This is one reason why it is not merely a duty, but essential to our Christian life not only to attend services, but to actively participate in the ongoing life of our local parish—to keep circling the church, so to speak. A coal on the hearth keeps on burning, but if it gets dislodged and rolls away from the other coals on the fire, it soon fizzles.

And the loss of even one coal makes the hearth-fire burn less brightly. It’s a kind of false humility to assume one has nothing to offer or won’t be missed at the local parish.

Conversely, we must never think that just because we go to a church service, enjoy the music, pray our prayers, receive communion, that we are therefore leading a pious life. There are even some otherwise devout folks who make a practice of “church-hopping.” I’m not referring here to those who may find themselves in an irregular parish situation because of changes in health, difficult family

situations, irregular job hours, or seasonal residence changes due to work or school. The people I am concerned about are those who leave parish after parish when they have a falling-out with the clergy or other members; or, perhaps even worse, those who simply make a habit of perennially “visiting” all the parishes in the area, so that they never seem to be real members of any one parish.

People in such situations think they have their own little candle burning; but if they are suddenly taken ill, which congregation will realize they are missing from the procession of parish life? And how will they ever know if they themselves might have been just the person needed to relight the candle of those other members they never got to know?

Perhaps you remember that camp song, “This little light of mine,” which refers to the Gospel lesson about not hiding one’s light under a bushel. There is only one Light, Christ (John 8:12), from whom all our little candles are lit. But He chooses to use our fellow Christians to pass that light along to us; and each of us in turn must live solely to share that light with others, first with the fellowship of light, the Church, and then with the world beyond.

There are many candles in our life, just as there are many in the church temple, in the altar and before the various icons. We can share our light in many ways—visiting the sick, driving others to church, teaching in church school, offering a listening ear to the troubled.

But all these things can only be done if we first simply keep on processing around the church—just continually being with the people God has appointed our fellow-marchers at our local parish. Don’t hurry off to lunch before the after-church coffee is over; make an effort to invite fellow parishioners to your home, or to attend the women’s group. You will then find there is somebody there to relight your candle when it blows out; and, perhaps even more blessed, you may be there to relight theirs.

News and Announcements

- Thank you to all those who helped make our Holy Week and Pascha beautiful, smooth and full of joy.
- We have ordered the playground equipment and will need setting it up once it arrives. We will let you know when it gets here.
- Family Church School will be on Saturday, May 11th at 4pm. This will be our last gathering, we will pick it up again in the fall.
- The Parish Council is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, May 15th at 7pm.
- On Sunday, May 19th Fr. Theophan will be giving a parish update during coffee hour. Also, we plan on having a town hall style discussion of a few things going on in the parish. Please make it a point to be there, your feedback is valued.
- Please see the calendar below for liturgical schedule.

Cemetery Announcements

- On Sunday, May 5th we will be blessing our Cemetery along with praying for the dead as an early “Day of rejoicing” service.
- The pins making burial plots have been placed so we will be selling plots very soon. Details to be announced.

Many Years!

Birthdays

2 Oliver Hough

2 Quintin Curington

10 Lee Olson

11 Igor Osobov/Tsarkovska

13 Olha Osobov/Tsarkovska

15 Matthew Marble

16 Meg Croft

16 Susan Kehayes

25 Sarah Magnusson

28 Mose Williams

28 Sergei Lickwar

Anniversaries

2 Paul & Kimberly Guest

17 Radu & Daniela Galdau

Malcoci/Galdau

24 Jacqueline & John Stephens

26 Michael & Benita Muth

May 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5 St. Thomas Sunday 8:45am Matins 10am Divine Liturgy 11:45am Cemetery Blessing & Prayers for dead 12:30pm Agape						
6	7	8	9	10	11	4
12 Holy Myrrh-bearers Mother's Day 8:45am Matins 10am Divine Liturgy 11:45am Agape	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 The Paralytic 8:45am Matins 10am Divine Liturgy 11:45am Agape <i>Parish update / townhall Meeting</i>	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 The Samaritan Woman 8:45am Matins 10am Divine Liturgy 11:45am Agape	27	28	29	30	31	
		9am Morning Prayers	1 No Fast 6pm Paschal Vespers	2 9am Morning Prayers	3 No Fast	5pm Confessions 6pm Great Vespers
		9am Morning Prayers	6pm Daily Vespers 7pm Parish Council	9am Morning Prayers 1-4pm Central State Prison Ministry		4pm Family Church School <i>(final FCS until fall)</i> 6pm Great Vespers 7pm Fellowship
		9am Morning Prayers	6pm Daily Vespers	9am Morning Prayers 1-4pm Central State Prison Ministry		5pm Confessions 6pm Great Vespers
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Tentative June 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 5pm Confessions 6pm Great Vespers
2 Blind Man 8:45am Matins 10am Divine Liturgy 11:45am Agape	3	4 9am Morning Prayers	5 6pm Great Vespers or Vigil for Ascension	6 9am Divine Liturgy for Ascension 1-4pm Central State Prison Ministry	7	8 5pm Confessions 6pm Great Vespers
9 Fr's of 1 st Council 8:45am Matins 10am Divine Liturgy 11:45am Agape	10	11 9am Morning Prayers	12 6pm Daily Vespers	13 9am Morning Prayers 1-4pm Central State Prison Ministry	14	15 5pm Confessions 6pm Great Vespers
16 Holy Pentecost 9:30am Christmations 10am Divine Liturgy 11:45am Agape	17 <i>Fr. Theophan</i> <i>Vacation - July 2</i>	18	19 6pm Readers Vespers	20	21	22 6pm Vigil for Pentecost
23 All Saints 9:40am Hours 10am Divine Liturgy 11:45am Agape	24 <i>Apostles Fast</i>	25	26 6pm Readers Vespers	27	28	29 6pm Great Vespers
30 9:40am Hours 10am Divine Liturgy 11:45am Agape						