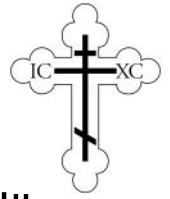




ALL-MERCIFUL SAVIOR ORTHODOX MISSION

4315 S. 1st St., Suite F, Austin, TX 78745-1119 ph.:731-5920

www.allmercifulsavior.com



NEWSLETTER, SUNDAY, MAY 22, 2005—CHRIST IS RISEN!

civil date / church date



WEEKLY CALENDAR

May 22 / May 9	SUN. OF THE PARALYTIC.	4th Sun. of Pascha. Tone 3. St. Nicholas.	Hours/Typika 10 am
May 23 / May 10	Monday	Icon of the Theotokos "Kiev-Bratskaya."	
May 24 / May 11	Tuesday	Sts. Cyril & Methodius, equals-of-the-Apostles.	
May 25 / May 12	Wednesday	<i>Fast, OW*</i> Mid-Pentecost. Sts. Epiphanius & Herman, patriarchs.	
May 26 / May 13	Thursday	St. Euthymius the New, founder of Iviron on Athos.	
May 27 / May 14	Friday	<i>Fast, OW*</i> Theotokos' Icons called 'Cypriot,' 'Yaroslavl Caves,' & 'Terebinth.'	
May 28 / May 15	Saturday	St. Pachomius the Great.	Vespers 6:30 pm

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

GENERAL MEETING OF BISHOPS

A general sobor or council-meeting of Bishops of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia is scheduled to begin Monday, May 23, 2005, in Europe (apparently, in Munich, Germany). The hierarchs will be discussing the future of their relations with the Patriarchate of the Russian Orthodox Church. (The decisive joint conference on the issue of rapprochement is slated to take place in 2006).

Also at this meeting the case of Hieromonk Aidan (Keller) is to be discussed. Your prayers for Fr. Aidan are requested most sincerely.

SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC

Today is the Sunday of the Paralytic (paralyzed man) and the placement of this theme within the context of the Paschal season of resurrection is very significant. Last Sunday, in commemorating the Myrrh-Bearing Women, we watched in mind and spirit as a band of righteous drew near to the empty Tomb of Christ. This Sunday we draw near to the Empty Tomb again, but seeing ourselves as the paralytic who approached the Lord for healing in John 5:1-15, we approach the Risen Savior as debtors, sinners, crippled and paralyzed in soul if not in body. We ponder the nature of illness and death to gain a sharper perspective on Christ's total victory over illness and death, both of body and of soul.

Today's magnificent Gospel contains the answers to three profound questions:

- where does illness come from?
- what is the solution for illness and death?
- why does Christ not intervene to heal all illnesses in the world, if He loves mankind?

Fr. Aidan's sermon today shows how the Gospel passage answers all three questions and points us toward the kingdom of heaven and our healing from spiritual and moral paralysis.

WORKS OF MERCY (REPEATED FROM LAST SUNDAY)

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.

ST. NICHOLAS OF MYRA

Today we remember and celebrate St. Nicholas of Myra, whom the Russian people call “St. Nicholas the Merciful.” St. Nicholas has two major feasts in the church year, the pre-eminent occurring on December 6 (Dec. 19 on the civil calendar). The December feast celebrates St. Nicholas’ holy repose in the Lord. Today’s in May celebrates the translation of his sacred Relics to Bari, Italy, which occurred about 1086. When the sacred Relics were in danger from Muslim Hagarenes, God inspired their removal from the coast of Asia Minor to the city of Bari in southern Italy, where many Greek Orthodox people were living (the southern part of Italy used to be under the canonical jurisdiction not of the Roman Pope but the Patriarch of Constantinople or New Rome). According to Archimandrite Alexis of St. Edward Brotherhood in England, the one-time first-hierarch of the Russian Church Abroad, Metropolitan Philaret, would betimes travel from New York City to Bari, Italy, in order to consult with St. Nicholas about matters by praying tearfully before the Relics of the Saint. An otherwise formidable Italian Catholic nun would always permit the Russian Bishop to enter the enclosure where the Relics were, and there he would spend several hours in tears and prayers, speaking to St. Nicholas as a friend and confidante. Vladika was always admitted, but sometimes the Italian nun would refuse to admit other visiting dignitaries, even if they were from the Catholic church or had more clout and prestige than the humble old monk who headed the Russian émigré church. Once it was complained to her that she was showing favoritism to the Russian Bishop, whereupon her reply went something like this: “Others, yes, they come on big planes, they stay in fancy hotels, they eat the fancy meal, they come to holy Nicholas only to have the picture taken. But Metropolitan Philaret... he pray! He pray!!!” Such have been the Hierarchs of the Russian Church Abroad, first hierarchs and others like St. John Maximovitch (who declined the office of First Hierarch): pillars of prayer and friends of the Saints of God.

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
- 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
- dry wall work to separate the bathroom area
- shelves for our little bookstore

SCRIPTURES FOR THIS WEEK

Sun. Acts 9:32-42; John 5:1-15

Wed. Acts 14:6-18; John 7:14-30

Fri. Acts 10:44-11:10; John 8:21-30

Mon. Acts 10:1-16; John 6:56-59

Thu. Acts 10:34-43; John 8:12-20

Sat. Acts 12:1-11; John 8:31-42

Tue. Acts 10:21-33; John 7:1-13

ICONOSTASIS PLANS

Please take a look at the iconostasis plans which were given to All-Merciful Savior by James Mercier of our sister community in Austin, Holy Protection Russian Orthodox Church. These plans are of interest to us although our design need not be identical.

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)