



St. Archangel Michael Orthodox Mission

Newsletter

July 2009

**Christ is in our midst!
He is and ever shall be!**

Divine Liturgy 10:00 A.M.

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.

- I Peter 5 : 6 - 8

Important Upcoming Church Dates:

July 5th – Akathist Service, 10:00 a.m.

July 12th – **Holy Apostles Peter and Paul**

Great Vespers – Saturday evening, 6:00 pm

Divine Liturgy – Sunday, 10:00 am

July 19th - Venerable Sisoës the Great of Egypt

July 26th - Holy Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils.

August 2nd – Holy Prophet Elijah.

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News Items? Please send church news items to the Newsletter editor Rick Kaiser at rkmk2001@bellsouth.net.

Church Cleaning:

July – Bergantz **Aug** – Branham

This is your Church – help keep it clean!!!

Coffee Hour:

July 5th – Demora (*fasting*)

July 12th – Ellis

July 19th – Gall

July 26th – Gulas

Aug 2nd – Harouff

Aug 9th – Jokich

Aug 16th – Pamfilis

Aug 23rd – Pastrick

Aug 30th – Patterson

July Birthdays:

God Grant Them Many Years!

2nd – Debbie Gulas

4th – Vivienne Pastrick

7th – Oksana Buksa

8th – Preston John Patterson

24th – Nikita Platt

25th – Karen Pamfilis

28th – Roger Ellis

July Anniversaries:

19th – Rick & Michele Kaiser

Prayer Requests: Please remember in your prayers: Child Jovana (2 years old – leukemia); Antonia with child; Katarzyna Bazylewicz; Tatiana Kukhtareva; Mariam & Tom Calache; Mary Kochoff; Glenn Dengler (friend of Jokich family) and daughters Haley (7) and Nicole (3); Sandy & Roger Ellis; Daniel Ellis (brother of Roger); Ted Gulas; Edythe Hales; Markela Hatzakis; Brian Jokich; Elena Meagher; Daniel & Anne Kobasa (parents of H. Bergantz); Rhonda Lovette; Tim & Ron Waskerwitz; Evangeline Pamfilis; Pat Darzy; Mary Zarzaur; and Natalie (niece of Rick Kaiser).

Live as the Body of Christ

*But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed,
came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion.*

- Luke 10:33

If we want to save ourselves and be happy, we should follow the example of our ancestors, the first Christians, who lived as one family. Christianity is a body, the Body of Christ, which should be one, and we should be one in faith and baptism, and have but one Lord. To illustrate this I will tell you the vision of an abbot as described in the Patericon. This elder prayed to God that he would be with his disciples in eternity as they were on earth. Always praying for this, he related that his prayer was heard in the following way:

In a neighboring monastery the feast of the church arrived, and the above-mentioned elder and his disciples were invited to the feast. He didn't want to go, and so he sent his disciples. During the night, in a dream, he heard a voice telling him to go after his disciples, and so he got up and followed them.

When the disciples were halfway to the neighboring monastery, they saw a young man lying near the road weeping. They asked him what was the cause of his weeping, and he answered, "I was riding and my horse threw me and ran off. My body is injured, and there is no one to help me!" The disciples said, "What can we do? We are on foot and are hurrying to get to the feast." They left the man weeping and continued down the road.

Some time later, the abbot arrived and, seeing the fallen man, asked, "Haven't some monks passed by here, and haven't they seen you?" And the man answered, "Some monks passed by here, indeed, but they were in a hurry to get to the feast and they had no time for my pain and misery." The abbot said, "Can you walk a little?" When the young man replied that he couldn't, the abbot said that he would take him on his back. The man asked, "How can you carry me such a long distance? It would be better for you to go and pray for me!" The abbot wouldn't abandon him; he lifted him on his back and started on his way. At the outset he felt the burden of the man, but then the holy elder marvelled because the burden became lighter and lighter. Suddenly the man vanished, because he was an angel of God, and the abbot heard a voice saying, "Behold, you pray for your disciples to be with you in the Kingdom of Heaven, but God has revealed that you should teach them to do as you do, to toil as you toil, for them to be with you in eternal life!"

Do you hear what the angel advises the abbot to teach his disciples? This advice must enter our hearts, dear Christian brothers, and the love of God should be kindled

within them. And so we should try to be true merciful Samaritans, who are always ready to extend our hands to all in suffering and need in this world. We should act as we desire others to act toward us. Let us show mercy, love and patience to everyone in need, as one day perhaps it will be our turn to lie helplessly in pain, and we would want to be received by a merciful, good and loving Samaritan. Every day we come closer to the last day of our life; that is why we should do everything that is needed for our soul.

- from a sermon by Hierodeacon (monk-deacon) Visarion Iugulescu of Romania

THE HOLY PROPHET ELIJAH

Commemorated August 2

Saint Elijah, one who saw God, a miracle-worker and a zealot for faith in God, was born of the tribe of Aaron from the town Tishba for which he was called the Tishbite. When St. Elijah was born, his father Savah saw an angel of God hovering around the child, wrapping the child in fire and giving him a flame to eat. That was a foreshadowing of Elijah's fiery character and his God-given fiery power. He spent his entire youth in godly thoughts and prayers withdrawing frequently into the wilderness to contemplate and to pray in solitude.

At that time the Jewish kingdom was divided into two unequal parts: the kingdom of Judah consisting of only two tribes, the tribes of Judah and Benjamin with their capital in Jerusalem and the kingdom of Israel consisting of the remaining ten tribes with their capital in Samaria. The first kingdom was



governed by the descendants of Solomon and the second kingdom was governed by the descendants of Jeroboam, the servants of Solomon. The greatest confrontation that the prophet Elijah had was with the Israelite King Ahab and his evil wife Jezebel. For they, Ahab and Jezebel, worshipped idols and were turning the people away from serving the One and Living God. Before this, however, Jezebel, a Syrian, persuaded her husband to erect a temple to the Syrian god Baal and ordered many priests to the service of this false god.

Through great miracles Elijah displayed the power and authority of God: he closed up the heavens, so that there was not any rain for three years and six months; he lowered a fire from heaven and burned the sacrifice to his God which the pagan priests of Baal were unable to do; he brought down rain from heaven by his prayer; miraculously multiplied flour and

oil in the home of the widow in Zerepath, and resurrected her son; he prophesied to Ahab that the dogs will lick up his blood and to Jezebel that the dogs will consume her flesh, all of which happened as well as many other miracles which he performed and prophesied.

On Mount Horeb, he spoke with God and heard the voice of God in the calm of a gentle breeze. Before his death he took Elisha and designated him as his successor in the prophetic calling; by his

mantle he divided the waters of the Jordan river; finally he was taken up into the heavens in a fiery chariot by flaming horses. He appeared on Mount Tabor to our Lord Jesus Christ together with Moses.

Before the end of the world St. Elijah will appear again to put an end to the power of the anti-Christ (Revelation, Chapter 11).

- From the Prologue of St. Nicholai of Zhicha