

Christ The Saviour Orthodox Church
American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese
Ecumenical Patriarchate

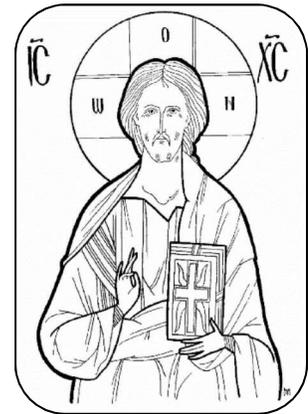
10000 State Road
North Royalton, OH 44133

Parish Website: www.christsaviour.weebly.com

Diocesan Website: www.acrod.org

Church Phone: (440) 237-9196

Church Email: christsaviour@live.com



Schedule of Services:

Sunday August 19th: Obednitsa Service at 10 am

Sunday August 26th: Obednitsa Service at 10 am – Council Meeting

Sunday September 2nd: Obednitsa Service at 10 am – Parish Meeting

Sunday September 9th: Obednitsa Service at 10 am

For more dates of services check out the parish website's calendar.

If you wish to have someone added or removed from the Prayer list, please contact a member of the Royko family or send an email to:

- christsaviour@live.com

Prayer List:

Living		
Theodore (Bunevich)	Theresa (Popovich)	Frank (Popovich)
Penney (Royko)	Sally (Hubiak)	Ethel (Rusyniak)
Eileen (Bunevich)	Virginia (Shymske)	Rosalie (Strachan)
Kathryn (Royko)	Thomas (Royko)	James (Strachan)
Tiana (Hosta)	Logan (Gatchell)	Doris (Gatchell)
Marsha (Will)	Emerson (Sirilla)	Fr. Andrew (Harmon)
Dolores (Royko)	Pani Donna (Smoley)	Jane
Gerard (Mosback)		

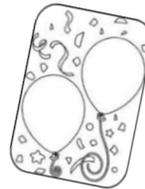
Departed		
Matushka Catherine (Jula)	Very Reverend Father Doctor Stephen (Jula)	Pani Magdaline (Blaschak)
Joey (Jarvis)	Vicky (Zabala)	

“In the hearts of the meek the Lord finds rest, but a turbulent soul is a seat for the devil.” +St. John Climacus

Birthdays & Anniversaries:

Thomas Royko- August 19th

Logan Gatchell- August 22nd

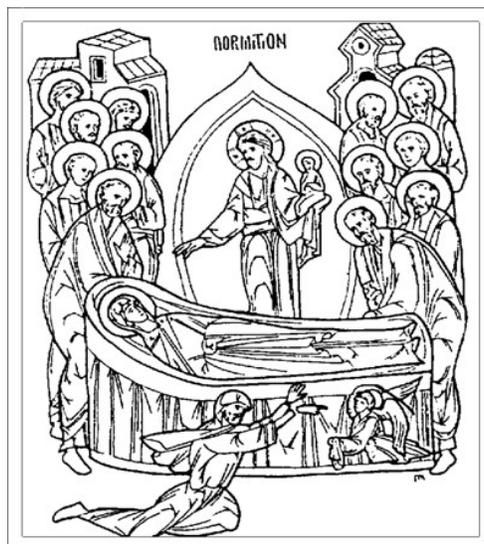


Life Line Screening:

As a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, is pleased to offer a preventive health event at Christ the Saviour Orthodox Church on Wednesday September 12, 2018. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to:

- blocked arteries which is a leading cause of stroke
- abdominal aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta
- hardening of the arteries in the legs which is a strong predictor of heart disease
- atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat which is closely tied to stroke risk
- bone density, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis.

Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. There are three ways to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call toll-free 1-888-653-6441 or text the word circle to 797979 or visit <http://lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle>.



Epistle Reading: St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 15:1-11

Brethren, I would remind you in what terms I preached to you the gospel, which you received, in which you stand, by which you are saved, if you hold it fast -- unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God which is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 19:16-26

At that time, a young man came up to Jesus, kneeling and saying, "Good Teacher, what good deed must I do, to have eternal life?" And he said to him, "Why do you call me good? One there is who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments." He said to him, "Which?" And Jesus said, "You shall not kill, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother, and You shall love your neighbor as yourself." The young man said to him, "All these I have observed; what do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful; for he had great possessions.

And Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly, I say to you, it will be hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." When the disciples heard this they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

Saints and Feasts

12th Sunday of Matthew; Andrew the General & Martyr & his 2,593 soldiers; Holy Martyrs Timothy, Agapius and Thecla; Theophanes the New Wonderworker of Macedonia; Afterfeast of the Dormition of our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary; Eutychianos and Strategios the Martyrs

Sermon for the 12th Sunday of Matthew

Today's Gospel brothers and sisters in Christ is one of the most misunderstood in the Bible. Today, we meet the rich man who was addressing a serious question to Christ. Namely, what is required to be done to gain eternal life. On being asked the question Christ tells him to keep the commandments.

The man then asks which commandments, as if some commandments were greater in priority than others. In his response Christ limits his answer to what the man could understand in the context of his faith under the law. Christ refers to six commandments all of which deal with human relationships. They focus upon personal morality and duty towards your fellow man. Note that there is no reference to this rich man's relationship with God in those six commandments. All that Christ demanded was that he be a loving person to his neighbor and treat his neighbor as he would want himself to be treated. One would have thought that Christ's answer to him to lead a good moral life would have sufficed and he would have left his inquiries there.

However, the man, to justify himself, responded by saying he had done all these things since his youth but still lacked something further. It is at that point that Jesus states to him if you want to be perfect go and sell all you have and give it to the poor and come and follow me.

Let us now pay attention to what Christ was saying to this rich man. Firstly, the man was required to sell all he had. This means that whatever possessions he owned he was to dispose of them all – leaving nothing for a rainy day or in reserve and otherwise totally divesting himself of every material good – and then giving everything away to those who had need. That in itself is a huge ask of any person – rich or poor. Which of us has sufficient faith to say that God will provide? How many of us could, with total abandon, solely rely upon the promises of Christ that we should not worry about what we eat or drink or about our bodily needs or what we put on and instead to seek the kingdom of heaven and trust that the

righteousness of God will provide those things we need, as is promised in Matthew chapter 6.25-33?

Note that although today's gospel reading is about a rich man it has equal application to the poor. Whether you have a little or a lot it is still the same. You are called upon to sell what you have and give to others worse off than you and you will have treasure in heaven. In this sense the poor person that does not sacrifice all is in the same position as the rich person who does not sacrifice all. The only difference is that the rich person has more to forsake. However, as difficult as this is, namely to sell all you have, it is nowhere near as difficult as the second requirement imposed by Christ, namely to follow him.

"Follow me" is the hardest commandment for each of us. The reason for this is that follow me is a command which continues from the time we commit to Christ until our death. In other words we dedicate our lives to Christ and no matter how we may feel or what circumstances we find ourselves in we continue to put Christ first in our lives and follow him. However, having a human nature means that we sin on a daily basis. Sinning is falling away from Christ. We then repent our falling away, once again commit to Christ and then again fall away. We continue this pattern throughout our life whether for small sins or large sins it makes no difference. To follow Christ means to use Christ as the example of your daily living. This means to put into practice Christ's teachings which include Love for your enemy. It also means to put the other first. In short, being a Christian is the most difficult thing to do. It means having to put on Christ and living your life in total imitation of him.

If you sell all and follow Christ, you would then be perfect. Perfection is absolute - it means that there is no further scope to improve on that which is perfect. As human beings, however, our spiritual growth has no point where we can say we no longer can progress. Thus, perfection is both our goal and also our unending progress towards union with Christ. During our lifetime we are all works in progress and can only constantly strive towards perfection. Whether we can be considered to be close to perfect or not can only be answered once we have ended this mortal life. It is only

then that we can say, as Paul states in 2 Timothy “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith”.

So, what Christ is really saying in this gospel is that perfection is something that is beyond human nature. Only one is perfect and that is God. What we can do through our spiritual growth is to grow in the likeness of God by grace by selling all and following him.

It is little wonder that this rich man who had a lot to forego went away sorrowful. The ability to understand the difference between ownership and stewardship is one of the hardest Christian lessons to absorb. We should all understand that each of us is uniquely created. In all of creation, all that has been and all that is to come, there will only be one of you. For all that, on our time on earth, all of our talents, wealth and relationships are on loan from God. As Psalm 21 puts it “the earth is the Lord’s and all its fullness, the world and that those who dwell therein” God is the owner of all and whatever wealth and all good things we possess ultimately will be left behind and all we will take with us are our deeds. If you understand this lesson – really understand it – then material possessions, whether you have a little or a lot, whether you consider yourself rich or poor or affluent or in need, form a barrier between us and Christ. This is because we focus upon our needs in this world and consider that we will live forever without understanding that what we live for in this world is for God and to seek the kingdom of heaven and eternal life in the world to come.

It is for this reason that Christ states that it is harder for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God. When asked by his astonished disciples who then can be saved? Jesus gives us the answer. The task of salvation is beyond our efforts. It cannot be merited. It cannot be attained by good works. No matter how deeply we may wish it is beyond our ability. The only way that we can be saved is through the mercy of God.

+ Father John Athanasiou