

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 May 20th: Obednitsa Service at 10 am

Sunday May 27th: Obednitsa Service at 10 am

Sunday June 3rd: Obednitsa Service at 10 am

Sunday June 10th: Obednitsa Service at 10 am

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

The Prayer list was restarted. If you wish to have someone on the 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)
Pani Magdaline (Blaschak)	Emerson (Sirilla)	Fr. Andrew (Harmon)
Dolores (Royko)	Pani Donna (Smoley)	Marsha (Will)
Jane		

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

"Let us attend to what is good, pleasing, and accepting in the sight of Him who formed us." +St. Clement of Rome

Birthdays & Anniversaries:

Logan & Doris- May 22nd

James & Rosalie- May 25th



Camp Nazareth is hosting Family Camp this year from June 1st - June 3rd. registration closes Friday May 25th. Space is limited to the first 0 families so register quickly!

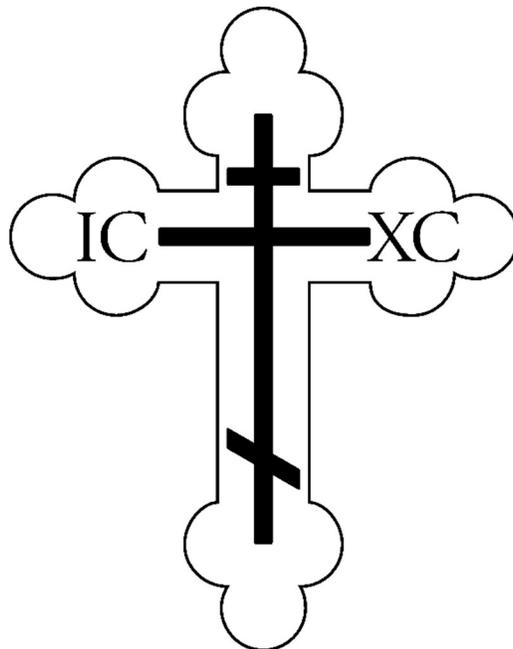
Family Day is Sunday June 3rd beginning with Divine Liturgy at 10 am then followed by lunch and activities. The cost is \$10 for adults and \$6 for children 13 and under. No registration necessary. More info on the board.

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 Tuesday May 22, 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: Acts of the Apostles 20:16-18, 28-36

IN THOSE DAYS, Paul had decided to sail past Ephesos, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hastening to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost. And from Miletos he sent to Ephesos and called to him the elders of the church. And when they came to him, he said to them: "Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God which he obtained with the blood of his own Son. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities, and to those who were with me. In all things I have shown you that by so toiling one must help the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, 'it is more blessed to give than to receive.' " And when he had spoken thus, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

Gospel Reading: John 17:1-13

At that time, Jesus lifted up his eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him power over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work which you gave me to do; and now, Father, you glorify me in your own presence with the glory which I had with you before the world was made.

"I have manifested your name to the men whom you gave me out of the world; yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you; for I have given them the words which you gave me, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you did send me. I am praying for them; I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are mine; all mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me; I have guarded them, and none of them is lost but the son of perdition, that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you; and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves."

Saints and Feasts

Fathers of the 1st Council; The Holy Martyr Thalleleus; Mark the Hermit; Father Alexis, Metropolitan of Moscow; Lydia of Philippi, Equal to the Apostles; John, Joseph, and Nikitas the Monks of Chios

Sermon for the Sunday of the Fathers of the 1st Council

The High Priestly Prayer of Jesus is a dangerous passage. It directs us to consider lofty and mysterious things. It gets us to the heart of the spiritual life which is uncomfortable for us. In this prayer the Lord speaks of intimacy, oneness, communion and identification with God – not just his, but ours.

We are not used to this because most of what we hear in church these days is about three things: morals, dogma, and belief...these days mostly morals. As if behaving correctly is what the Christian life is primarily about. Tell that to the thief on the Cross, the Samaritan Woman, and the Woman Taken in Adultery. They didn't behave at all well and look what happened to them!

There are two contradictory traditions in Christianity, actually in all religion that vies for our devotion. The first is the priestly tradition, also called the Constantinian tradition. It is Church as worldly power, a legalistic, moralistic institution of rules and regulations and tyranny. It is the religion of moralism, narrow-minded adherence to canon, and doctrine, of bruised knuckles, inquisitions, and politics. It gives lip service to spirituality, but preaches, in reality a kind of materialism.

To this traditions the Lord's words, "My kingdom is not of this world," are naïve. It regards the narrow path as romantic and impractical, a pious, but impossible way of life for all but the most fanatic and, frankly, unbalanced.

The other is the prophetic tradition. The prophetic tradition is mystical, experiential, and controversial. Those who embrace it are mystics and saints who became radiant with divine light, fearlessly spoke truth to power, took up the cause of social justice, taught the way of transformation through prayer and meditation, and whose lives inspired many to leave behind the world and take up their cross. Worldly power, wealth, and reputation meant nothing to them. They took the Lord's words, "My kingdom is not of this world," seriously and compelled by love to follow them they became thorns in the flesh of the church and respectable society – like Jesus himself, come to think of it.

Dissatisfied with external things and knowing them to be ultimately shallow they were driven to seek tirelessly for union with God who dwells within. "I have looked for you," wrote a Jewish mystic, "from sunup to sundown, I have reached for You in every direction and now I must plead for Your grace like a beggar."

These mystics often angered religious institutions and were persecuted and even put to death. Consider the great Francis of Assisi who met with the fiercest opposition because his example inspired the youth of Italy to run after him and leave everything behind for lives of poverty, chastity, and obedience. There was no greater threat to the Church, corrupt with wealth and power, than inspired youth who cared for neither. I think of the great Sufi mystic Mansur Al-Hallaj who was crucified for heresy and the Old Testament prophets many of whom met death at the hands of angry kings.

In our church there are many examples, Antony the Great, Seraphim of Sarov, Elizabeth the Grand Duchess, Symeon the New Theologian, Maria of Paris. All of them took paths of devotion over power. There are many outside our tradition as well that followed and still follow this path of self-sacrifice, humility and love, serving in diverse ways the in-dwelling God. They are yeast in the dough, salt, water, and warmth. They hold the cosmos together by the strength of their devotion. They become little christs, little gods by Grace within the One God by nature. They show us the way and invite us to come along.

The prophetic tradition is the religion of Christ. The priestly tradition is the religion of men. The prophetic tradition is the mystical path of intimacy with God, to transformation and inner healing. The priestly tradition is the call to power and is nothing but a distraction, a ruse, a delusion, a lie. The prophetic call us to a religion of Love, to a higher way of life. The priestly tradition to a worldly kingdom that leads nowhere but to the grave like the empires that coddled it.

The mystic Thaddeus the Elder who died in the year 2003 wrote: "God is perfect, He is faultless. And so, when Divine love becomes manifest in us in the fullness of Grace, we radiate this love --- not only on the earth, but

throughout the entire universe as well. So God is in us, and He is present everywhere. It is God's all-encompassing love that manifests itself in us. When this happens, we see no difference between people: everyone is good, everyone is our brother."

The mystical experience is of unity with God and all of creation and is accompanied by the surprising intuition that all things are as they should be and are heading toward a final glorious conclusion. As Julian of Norwich wrote, "All shall be well, all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well," echoing the words of Jesus, "To the pure all things are pure."

St. Symeon the New Theologian embodies what is for us the epitome of mystical experience. Of him it was said that he knew God so intimately that he walked with Him and saw Him face to face. When he tried to describe it he resorted to high poetry and for speaking of it and writing about it he was rejected in his life by nearly everyone in authority. His experiences threatened theologians and bishops, monks and priests, but today he is honored among the saints with the rare title given only to two others: theologian.

We may not all reach such high states of illumination in this life. Remember it is a gift. But if we take up the Cross and follow Christ we will experience God to the degree to which each of us is capable in this life and increasingly more and more in the next. If this is not so, and the sterile, ostentatious and corrupt priestly tradition is right, then we are of most people to be pitied. Thankfully, the mystics are there to show us, and the Holy Spirit there to guide us to things much more worthy of our devotion.

+Father Antony Hughes