

ARCHPRIEST MARTIN SWANSON, PASTOR
PRIEST SERGII ALEKSEEV, ASSOCIATE PASTOR
ARCHPRIEST RADOMIR CHKAUTOVICH, ATTACHED

A PARISH OF THE DIOCESE OF CHICAGO AND MID-AMERICA
RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OUTSIDE OF RUSSIA

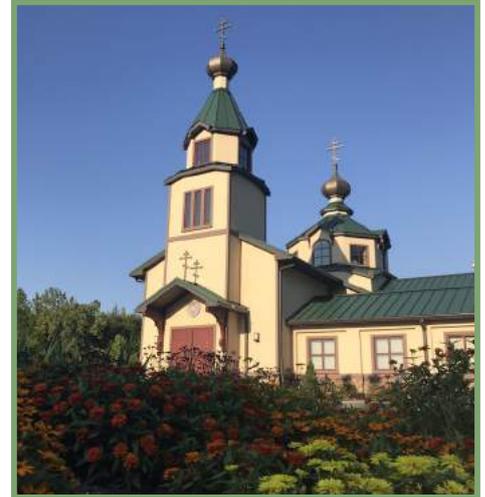
September 2019

Holy Cross Day

Excerpts from The Prologue from Ochrid and A History of Byzantium

[This feast day] commemorates two events connected with the Precious Cross of Christ: the first, the finding of the Cross on Golgotha and the second the returning of the Cross to Jerusalem from Persia. (Prologue)

[Byzantine Emperor] Herakleios came to the throne in a moment of crisis in 610. The war with Persia was going very badly, since the death of Phokas (a previous Emperor) did not diminish Chosroes' (King of Persia) desire for victory over Byzantium. Shortly after Herakleios' accession, the Persians defeated the Byzantine army near Antioch, and they moved both into Asia Minor and southward, taking Damascus and, in 614, Jerusalem. They sacked the Holy City, destroyed the church of the Holy Sepulchre, built by Constantine, and carried off the Holy Cross to the Persian capital of Ctesiphon. Herakleios trained his army in new tactics, especially the use of light-armed mounted archers, and he supervised this personally, against the advice of his ministers, who thought he should avoid taking the field himself. By 622 Herakleios felt he was ready for the counterattack against the Persians. He launched this by striking north into Armenia, forcing the Persians to abandon their fortifications in Asia Minor, and the emperor was victorious in a critical battle on Armenian soil. Over the next few years Herakleios remained on the offensive and he was able to take a number of cities, including the important Persian religious city of Ganzak, where he destroyed the fire-temple of Zoroaster in revenge for the destruction of Jerusalem. The Persians, however, counterattacked, and the most serious threat came in 626, when the Persians and Avars combined to attack Constantinople itself. The emperor was on campaign in the Caucasus and the defense of the city was in the hands of the Patriarch Sergios. The Persians, under their general Shahrbaraz, encamped at Chalcedon, but they had no ships to transport them across the Bosphorus. These were provided by the Slavs, who knew the technology of basic ship-building, although their vessels were hardly a match for the



Special Services & Events

- Sun. Sept. 8 11:30 a.m. Moleben for the New School Year
- Tues. Sept. 10 6:00 p.m. Vigil for the Feast of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist
- Wed. Sept 11 8:00 a.m. D. Liturgy for the Beheading of St. John the Baptist
- Sat. Sept. 14 CHURCH NEW YEAR
- Sun. Sept. 15 Following D. Liturgy Annual Parish Meeting
- Fri. Sept. 20 6:00 p.m. Vigil for the Nativity of the Theotokos
- Sat. Sept. 21 9:00 a.m. D. Liturgy for the Nativity of the Theotokos
- Thur. Sept. 26 6:00 p.m. Vigil for The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
- Fri. Sept. 27 8:00 D. Liturgy for The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
- Sun. Sept. 29 12-4:00 p.m. Parish Russian Festival

Weekly Services:

Saturday - Vigil 5:00 p.m.

Sunday - Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Parish News

Choir Voices Needed

All parishioners are welcome to join the choir, all voices are needed. Choir practice is held every Wednesday evening in the church at 6:30. All members of the choir should attend as many practices as possible in order to prepare for the services of the coming week. The choir is an important ministry of the church and if you can sing, you serve God by joining the choir. WE NEED YOU!

Sunday School

Sunday school classes start Sept. 8th. Please see Matushka Svetlana to register your children for classes.

Weekly Tours of St. Basil's

Tours of St. Basil's church are conducted by one of the parish clergy every Wednesday between 2:00 and 3:00 p.m., and are designed to acquaint the community with the church, its architecture, traditional design, iconography, and history. No appointments are necessary and the tours will accommodate both individuals and groups. Advance notice would be appreciated for groups over 5. For additional information or to schedule a group tour contact Fr. Martin at 314-835-1569.

Parish Prayer List

Nadya Danett - Health
Archimandrite Seraphim - Recovery
Reader Symeon Campbell - Recovery
Anastasia & Douglas Pribble - Health
Yelena Belyaev - Health
Gloria Pappas - Recovery

Keep our parishioners, and those who ask us to pray for them in your prayers this month. Contact Fr. Martin to have yourself or your loved ones added to the parish prayer list. Let one of the Fathers know if you, a member of your family, or a friend is ill or hospitalized so that appropriate prayers and visits can be arranged. Please note: Hospitals do not notify clergy of patients, even if you list yourself as a parish member.

"Ask Your Priest" Column

This new column will answer questions submitted by you [the parishioners] concerning Orthodoxy. Questions will be submitted to priests

anonymously. Submit your questions to StBasilSTLNewsletter@gmail.com

Gardening Help

Parishioner, John Malcom, welcomes any who are willing to help gardening on the church grounds. John Malcom will be working at the parish Wednesdays and Saturdays from 9am to noon weather permitting. Tools, gloves, and water will be provided for all who come to help.

Use eSCRIP and Amazon Smile Rebates

It costs \$0 and benefits the parish. Get cards at the candle counter. Sign up for the Amazon rebate program to have a portion of your Amazon purchase donated by Amazon to the parish. Please find sign up instructions next to the stair case in the hall.

SERVERS WANTED!

Boys may begin to serve in the altar at St. Basil's from the time they begin to go to Confession (usually about 9 years old). We encourage all of our boys to serve in the altar! For more information please contact Michael Orlando.

St. Basil's Parish Facebook Page:

Check out <https://www.facebook.com/SaintBasiltheGreatSTLMO/> for daily edification and interesting updates. Like our Facebook Fanpage! "Like" us to have us appear in your Facebook Newsfeed.

August Ecumenical Council Answers

- F First Ecumenical Council
- E Second Ecumenical Council
- C Third Ecumenical Council
- D Fourth Ecumenical Council
- G Fifth Ecumenical Council
- A Sixth Ecumenical Council
- B Seventh Ecumenical Council

ships of the Byzantine navy. The Land Walls of Constantiople were enough to frustrate two Avar direct attacks, and when the Slavs set out to transport the Persians over to the European side, the Byzantine navy sailed out of the Golden Horn and devastated the "armada". Another Avar attack also failed and the siege was called off; Constantinople had been saved, and Herakleios was able to press his advantage into the Persian heartland. He spent most of 627 in a successful attempt to subdue the Caucasus and then surprised the Persians by marching into Mesopotamia in December. The next year (628) there was a revolt in Persia and Chosroes was overthrown and executed. Herakleios had won a complete victory. The new ruler, Shahrbaraz, was willing to make remarkable concessions, including acceptance of Christianity and the recognition of Herakleios as his son's protector. The Holy Cross was restored to Jerusalem and in 630 Herakleios entered the city to celebrate the triumph, one that he had won in large part by his own personal courage, determination, and military skill. (History of Byzantium)

Entering the City, Herakleios was carrying the Cross on his back, but suddenly the aged emperor was unable to take another step. Patriarch Zacharias saw an angel directing the emperor to take off his imperial robes and walk beneath the Cross along the way that Christ had walked, barefoot and humiliated as He had been. He passed this vision on to the emperor, who stripped himself of his raiment and, in poor clothing and barefoot, took up the Cross, carried it to Golgotha and placed it in the Church of the Resurrection, to the joy and consolation of the whole Christian world. (Prologue)

The Clergy and Their Sacred Vestments: Priests
Excerpt from The Law of God

The vestments of a priest include the *podriznik*, the *epitrachelion* (*stole*), the *belt*, the *cuffs*, and the *phelonion*. The *podriznik* or under-vestment is just a simpler form of *sticharion*, differing from the *sticharion* in that the sleeves

are narrow with laces at the wrist, and it is usually made of a fine, white material. The white color reminds the priest that he must always be of pure soul and lead a blameless life. It also recalls the tunic which the Lord Jesus Christ wore on earth and in which He accomplished our salvation.



The *stole* or *epitrachelion* is worn around the neck and comes down in front so that the two inner edges are fastened together for convenience. It signifies the double portion of grace bestowed on a priest, in comparison to that of a deacon, for the celebration of the Mysteries. The priest may not conduct any service without his *epitrachelion*, just as a deacon must have his *orarion*.



The *belt* is worn over the *epitrachelion* and *podriznik* and signifies readiness to serve the Lord. It also symbolizes the divine power that strengthens the priest during the course of his serving. The *belt* also recalls the towel which the Savior was given for the washing of the disciples' feet at the Mystical Supper.



The *cuffs* or *manicles* are worn around the wrists and laced with cords. They remind those conducting the services that they celebrate the Mysteries not by their own powers, but by the power and Grace of God. They also remind us of the bonds that tied the hands of the Savior during His passion.

The *phelonion* is worn over the other garments.

It is a long and wide cape without sleeves with an opening for the head at the top and cut away in front to give the hands freedom of movement. In its



form it resembles the purple mantle which the Lord was given during His passion. The ribbons

sewn on it recall the streams of blood which flowed over His garments. In addition to this the phelonion reminds the priests of the garment of righteousness with which they must be vested as servants of Christ. A priest wears a pectoral cross around his neck, over the phelonion.

For long and dedicated service a priest is given and award called a nabedrennik or thigh shield, which is a stiffened, rectangular cloth hung on the right hip from the shoulder by a strap fastened at two upper corners, and which signifies a spiritual sword. Other awards are the skoufia and kamilavka (head coverings). The skoufia is worn at all times until a priest is awarded a kamilavka to



take its place as a head covering. Another diamond-shaped cloth, similar to the nabedrennik, worn on the right hip, called a palitsa (in which case the former is worn on the left) is also an award given for service. It also represents the spiritual sword, the Word of God with which the celebrant must battle disbelief and irreverence.



FOCUS Supper Success

Address from Laura Kasak

On Sunday, August 11, our parish presented a meal to individuals living in want who frequent FOCUS for its Sunday Suppers. This was the first time that St. Basil's has participated in the Sunday Suppers in about five years, although members of the parish do contribute non-perishable food items throughout the year. The actual execution of the meal took place over two days, with a team of five people meeting at St. Michael the Archangel OCA Church on Saturday, August 10th at 10:00 a.m. This group included Matushka Svetlana - who had just returned from Estonia - Nadia, Valeria, and Bill. With a little ingenuity, the group was able to start up most of the burners on the ancient stove to cook the meat. Then, they prepared the beans so that they could be heated up easily the following day. On the day of the dinner, volunteers from the parish, as

well as some frequent FOCUS volunteers, assembled to serve the meal and provide hospitality and a listening ear to guests. FOCUS Director Fr. Patrick Dare presided over the blessing of the group's efforts, and provided an orientation to explain the purpose and goals of the meal. Many organizations participate in providing food aid, but what sets FOCUS apart is the emphasis on honoring the image of God in each person served at the meal. Table hosts serve guests directly, and sit at the table to engage in light conversation, or just to be a caring presence if conversation is not desired. Although there had previously been some concerns that there would not be enough food, we were able to serve seconds and in some cases third helpings to guests. With the last of the rations, we made up about 15 boxed meals for Fr. Patrick to distribute at the food pantry, which opens on Wednesday mornings. I would like to thank each and every person who participated, and to thank everyone for their kind words, thoughts, and prayers for a successful meal.

Parish Festival Reminder

Our parish Russian festival is planned and set for Sunday, September 29th. We encourage everyone to invite friends and family to the festival where we can all enjoy an afternoon of food and entertainment. Many of our parishioners have already dedicated hours of work to the event and there are a lot of preparations well underway for the festival. As previously mentioned, the event will have homemade food, games and crafts for children, as well as live entertainment. Anyone wishing to become involved in some capacity, please contact Matushka Svetlana.

Albert Salsich to Head Parish Library

Since parishioner Brigid Hammer, our former parish librarian, retired and moved to Springfield, MO the parish library which she developed has been without a director. We are fortunate that parishioner Albert Salsich has agreed to accept the position as parish librarian. Albert has been a long time patron and supporter of the parish library. He assumes his new position on September 1st and will

spend some time re-organizing the library's substantial holdings. He urges everyone who has library books checked out and overdue to return them as no fines on overdue books will be assessed during the month of September.

He also urges parishioners to become familiar with the holding of the parish library and to use it often. The library has a large variety of books ranging from Bibles, Church History, Theology/Dogmatics as well as Orthodox fiction and has something for everyone. The library accepts donations of books, recordings and DVD's but all donations must be made through the librarian and books may no longer be left for the library without prior approval.

Orthodox Young Adult Discussions

by Catechumen David Peck

Over the past month Father Sergii has been in discussions over Christian morality in the modern world. Father touched on various topics of spiritual interest, but two key themes emerged: the purity of one's body and the fight against pride. The series began with a conversation about the importance of chastity (of both body and mind), and virginity. Clearly virginity is important to the Christian life. The number one example thereof is the Theotokos herself! The apostle Paul even says he wishes that all could be as he, celibate. It is easier to fill one's mind and soul with Godly things if one remains celibate (1 Corinthians 7:8-9).

However, St. Paul continues, it is not for everyone. Family is also God's intention for the Christian. Each family is a small church: the father at the head, the mother as a deacon and helper, the children as small "parishioners". Family reflects the Church. Church as the bride, Christ as the Bridegroom.

Beyond chastity, general purity and modesty is also important for the life of an Orthodox Christian. While it is important to dress modestly in everyday life, it is even more so while attending the divine services. Dressing nicely is to be done out of reverence and respect for God. The focus of the services is to be on God, not unto oneself by means of fancy clothing or makeup.

Beyond the subject of modesty in everyday life and during the divine services, Father also emphasized the need to respect one's body in general, as the temple of God. Tattoos and piercings (aside from, say, earrings for the women) are not for the Christian. Of pagan origin, tattoos are merely an attention-grabbing aesthetic. Excessive piercings fall into this category as well. Even consumption is to be considered: drinking too much changes an individual. Father mentioned that excessive drinking to the point at which one becomes an alcoholic is grounds for canonical divorce. When given over to alcohol a person changes. It is completely legitimate to seek divorce because of an alcoholic spouse. Enslaved to passionate drinking, an alcoholic is not the person one married.

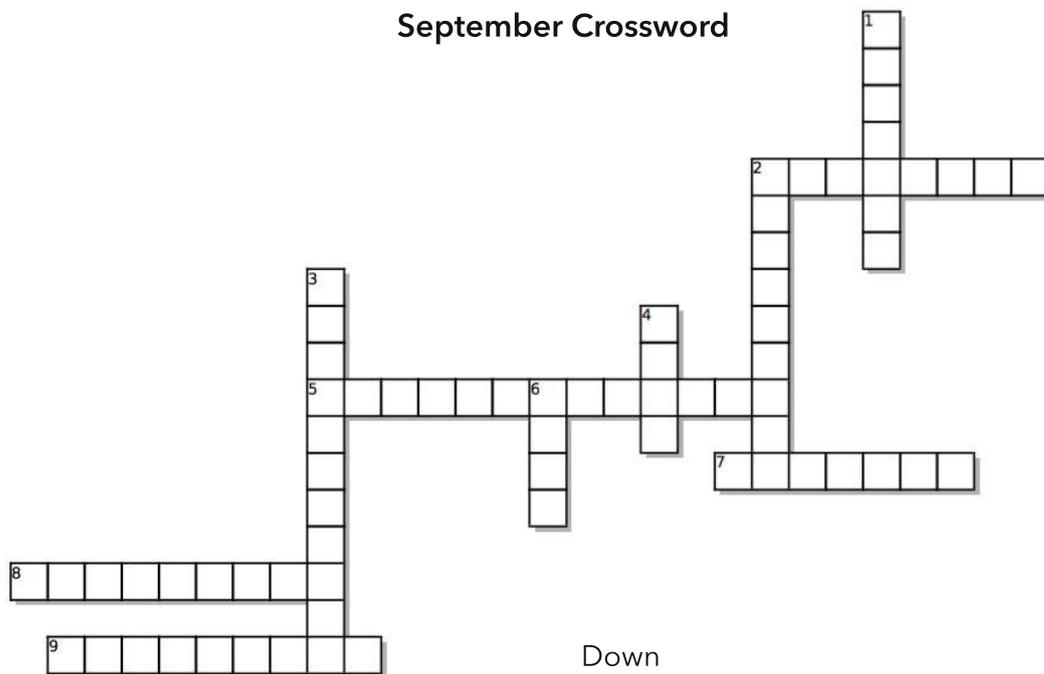
The most recent topic which Father brought up is how a Christian is to be "in, but not of" the world. Not to be shaped by the ever-changing morality and ideals of the world, a Christian is to be grounded in the eternal ideals of Godly life. Father brought to our attention the fact that the morals, mores, and ideals of the world are changeable and subject to the opinions of the times. For example, publicly seeking an

abortion would be unheard of twenty or thirty years ago. Today, it is commonplace. Abortion, of course, has always been against God's ways. Father told us if one is always adjusting his or her beliefs to those of the times, it is fair to say that one has never had any deeply rooted convictions to begin with. Christian morals are timeless. They apply yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

Father also mentioned it is also unwise for the Christian to keep up with the consumer culture. Spending time and effort to acquire the latest in fashion and gadgets is a waste of time. The Christian should have no fear of not "fitting in". This is not to say that unreasonable frugality is necessary. One is to use common sense. Buying a well-made pair of shoes that can be repaired over years is a wise decision. What is unwise is updating one's wardrobe to match the latest trends each season out of fear of popular disapproval.

In summary, treating one's body as a temple of the Holy Spirit, and grounding oneself in the unchanging Word of God is imperative.

September Crossword



Across

Down

- 2 Type of cross worn around priests neck
- 5 Stole worn around priests neck that comes down in front
- 7 Earlier awarded head covering
- 8 Long wide cape worn over garments
- 9 Later awarded head covering

- 1 Award that represents spiritual sword
- 2 Fine white material worn under garments
- 3 Award that represents a thigh shield
- 4 Tied around waist of priest
- 6 Worn around wrists and laced with cords