

August Notes: ... on Sunday the 5th there will be **Great Vespers & Litya** for the Transfiguration after fellowship ... Monday the 6th at 7:00 AM there will be Divine Liturgy; it is also **Theodore Bell's** birthday ... Sunday the 12th is **Parish Council** ... Tuesday the 14th is **Marie Bell's** birthday; and at 6:30 PM there will be **Great Vespers & Litya** for the **Dormition of the Most-Holy Theotokos** ... at 7:00 AM on the 15th will be **Divine Liturgy**; it is also the name day of **Mara Bell, Marie Bell, Miray Elkedwani, and Marie Shipper** ... Friday the 17th is **Jon Douglas's** birthday ... the **annual parish picnic** will be at Sandbothe Manor starting at noon on Saturday the 18th, with **Great Vespers** at 5:30 PM; **Father Alexander & Matushka Maria** also celebrate their wedding anniversary that day ... Wednesday the 22nd is **Don Kemper's** birthday, **Greg Teter's** birthday, and **Magdy Elkedwani & Nevine Sharobim's** wedding anniversary ... and **Magdy** celebrates his name day (St Macarius the Great) on the 25th ... Tuesday the 28th is **Jennifer Harrison's** birthday and **Christopher Kemper's** name day (Venerable Moses the Black) ... and the 29th is **Don Kemper's** name day (St John, Baptist & Forerunner)!

Let us honor in hymns the Sovereign Lady of the world, higher than the heavens and more pure than the brightness of the sun, who has delivered us from the curse. The multitude of my sins makes weak my body and my soul also. I hasten to thee, O full of grace, the hope of the hopeless. Do thou help me. O Sovereign Lady and the Mother of the Deliverer, accept the supplication of thine unworthy servants, that thou mightiest mediate before Him that was born of thee. O Sovereign Lady of the world, be thou our Mediatress.



AUGUST 2018

Angels Unawares

While sitting in Murchie's Tea and Coffee sidewalk cafe in Victoria, B.C., with my friend Archpriest Basil Rhodes, having a cup of coffee and a lemon scone, a homeless man stopped behind me. The man was staring at our food, so Father Basil asked him if he was hungry. He answered with an enthusiastic "yes", and when Father asked what he'd like to eat, he said "sausages and eggs". Father Basil told him they didn't have such a breakfast here, but passed a Canadian five dollar bill for me to give the man, telling him to find just what he wanted, elsewhere.

Another man, around thirty years of age, was standing nearby, listening to every word. As the homeless man walked away, the younger man walked up and confronted us with the question, "how could you give money to a junky? You are not doing him any good by giving him money. Aren't you men of God?"

I responded by saying that it was not our place to judge anyone, to which he replied, in a confrontational manner, "he's just going to buy drugs with that money. You don't seem to be very intuitive". I told him I'd worked with the homeless before, and that the man was hungry and deserving of our charity. The man said "cheers" and dismissively walked away.

A woman seated at a nearby table called over with the words, "good response". She then came over to our table, knelt down beside me, and with tears in her eyes, identified herself as a social worker, and told us she'd been going through a particularly difficult time, and that the interaction she'd just witnessed had helped her immensely.

I then told this woman the story of the time I was walking with an elderly bishop of the Russian Church, and how I had spotted a filthy homeless man walking towards us. This man's hair was disheveled, filthy with years of dirt, and was wearing torn clothing. He had no soles on his shoes, so with each step we could see the bottom of his feet. Instinctively, I took the elbow of the bishop, and attempted to get him to cross in the middle of the street. The bishop asked why, and I said, "Look at the crazy man coming towards us". The bishop told me we were not crossing, but would continue.

When directly in front of the man, the bishop stopped, reached out, taking the man's filthy right hand into his own, and placed a twenty dollar bill into the man's hand, covering the bill with the man's left hand. At that moment the man looked up into our eyes, saying nothing. But looking back were the bluest, clearest eyes I had ever seen. They were not the eyes of a homeless man, nor the eyes of a deranged man, but eyes filled with wisdom and holiness.

As we walked away, I remarked about the man's eyes, to which the bishop responded by saying, "We just encountered an angel unaware, and we were being tested," recalling the words of Scripture, "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares" (Hebrews 13:2).

After the social worker left, a man seated at a nearby table remarked, "that was a remarkable story, and you made my wife cry". This other couple had witnessed the whole of these encounters.

A moment later, the young man who'd judged us so harshly after the original encounter, returned. He came to our table, asked forgiveness for having judged us, and said he'd followed the homeless man, witnessing him "buying yogurt and fruit" with the money we'd given him. I stood up, told the young man that we'd forgiven him the moment we'd heard the words come out of his mouth, and I gave him a hug. Only then did Father Basil and I finally taste our, by now, cold cappuccinos and lemon scones.

~ Abbot Tryphon of All-Merciful Savior Monastery, Vashon Island, Washington

Charity of the Month

The 19th triennial All-American Council of the Orthodox Church in America, held in St. Louis July 23-27, 2018, once again included a wonderful youth program in which well over 100 children and teens participated. This program not only provided the children of delegates and observers with something to preoccupy them during the week, but itself became a focal point for the entire council. During the last plenary session on Friday morning, two teens representing all the youth spoke to the level of impact the program had on them, asking the Holy Synod and delegates to maintain the program in future councils and potentially enhance the OCA youth ministry as a whole. This moved Fr. John Jillions, chancellor, to pledge \$1000 towards a permanent youth director position in the church, in turn prompting around 60 delegates, including our own Father Alexander on behalf of the Mission, to pledge a total of \$87,000 to that effect. Additional information about the council and youth program, including videos, can be accessed in the "Headline News" section of <http://www.oca.org>.



useful links



An introductory video series, "Orthodox 101 Boot Camp"!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QwxmQtnub50>

Not Scripture, but Tradition – the place of the Protoevangelium of James and what it tells us about the Most-Holy Theotokos:

<http://www.stgeorgegreenville.org/our-faith/feasts-of-theotokos/nativity/sources-of-knowledge>

And, read it for yourself:

<http://www.ccel.org/ccel/schaff/anfo8.vii.iv.html>



FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

(unaudited)

	June Actual	June Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Income	2,888.71	4,245.00	32,289.20	26,070.00
Expenses	4,084.50	4,231.35	28,059.35	25,792.46
Cash Flow	(1,195.79)	13.65	4,229.85	277.54
Building Fund (Net of Rent Reserves):	20,697.51			