

This is my beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased; hear ye Him.

...spoke the voice of the pre-eternal God the Father about the pre-eternal God the Son, when the Son, at the behest of the Father, through the action of the Spirit, became incarnate of the Virgin and wrought salvation of perishing mankind. Brothers! Let us be obedient to the Son of God, as God desires of us, that Divine good will might abide with us.

Perhaps someone might say, "I would like to obey the Son of God; but how can this be done?" It is very easy to be continually with Christ, to ceaselessly hear His sweet voice, and to be nourished with His life-giving teaching; for the Lord Jesus Christ still abides with us. He abides with us in His Holy Gospels, through the Holy Mysteries of the Church. That the Lord abides with us is plainly proved by souls freed from the captivity of sin, the bestowal of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and by many signs and wonders.

Those who wish to approach the Lord and unite with Him in blessed union forever should begin this sacred work by studying the Gospels. The words of the Gospels *are spirit, and they are life* (Jn. 6:63). They turn a fleshly man into a spiritual man, and revitalize a soul deadened by sin and the cares of life. They *are spirit, and they are life*— beware of trying to explain the great word of the Spirit with your reason, which crawls upon the earth. A word spoken by the Holy Spirit can only be explained through the Holy Spirit.

Those who wish to approach the Lord in order to be enlivened and saved by Him—come and stand before the Lord with utmost reverence and holy fear, as do the bright Angels, His

Cherubim and Seraphim. Your humility will turn the earth upon which you stand into heaven. The Lord will speak to you as to His beloved disciples! May the holy fathers who expound the Holy Gospels through the gift of the Holy Spirit be your guides to an exact and unmistakable understanding of the Holy Gospels.

It is folly to approach the Gospels, to approach the living Lord Jesus Christ without the appropriate reverence, brazenly and self-reliantly. The Lord accepts only the humble, who are filled with an awareness of their sinfulness and nothingness and with repentance, while He turns away from the proud. By turning His face away from a brazen tempter He strikes that tempter with eternal death.

Brothers, let us be reverent and active hearers of the Word of God and the good-will of the Heavenly Father shall abide with us unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Saint Ignaty Brianchaninov

Sunday, January 22

Thirty-second Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday after Theophany

Divine Liturgy 9:30 A.M.

Commemoration of Holy Martyr Polyeuktos of Melitene (†259)

Holy Hierarch Philip Metropolitan of Moscow

and All Russia, the Wonderworker (†1833)

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Wednesday, January 25

Moleben 5:30 P.M.

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Sunday, January 29

Thirty-third Sunday after Pentecost

Zacchaeus Sunday

Divine Liturgy 9:30 A.M.

Synaxis of New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia

THE MIRACLE OF THE MOVING OF THE WATERS AT MIDNIGHT IN POCHAEV LAVRA

Archimandrite Avvakum from Kremenchuk

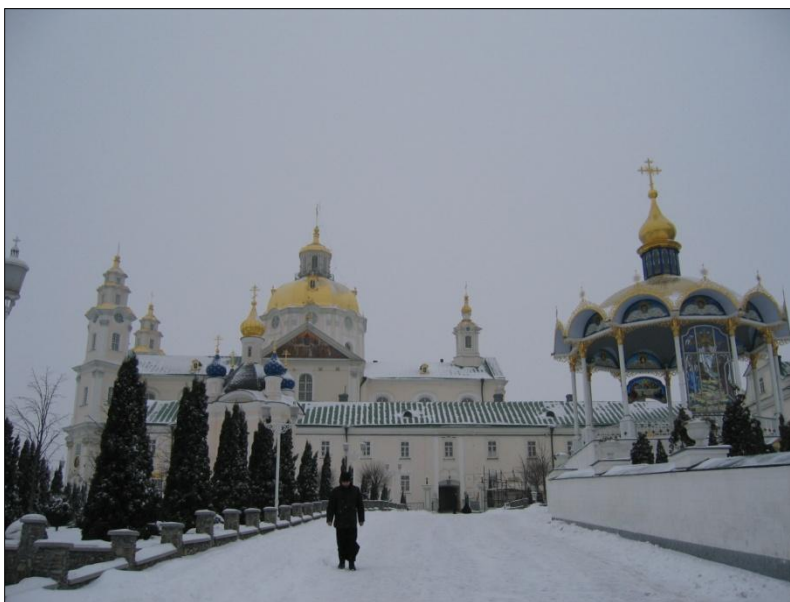
Reprinted from Pravoslavie.ru

There are words in the Holy Scriptures that are a source of inspiration for the many millions of people who read them: *Ye that thirst, go to the water* (Is. 55:1); *Draw ye therefore water with joy out of the wells of salvation!* (Is. 12:3), said Prophet Isaiah. A sunny, light-bearing play of words: desert—well—water—joy—salvation...

Pochaev. The well of Veverable Job—forty-three meters deep.

When Count Frilei, the unworthy heir of Anna Goiskaya (who bequeathed land to Pochaev Monastery) reclaimed land from the monastery, St. Job and the brothers began digging a well right on the top of the cliff. There were some “doubting Thomases” amongst the brethren, who told the saint that nothing would come of his scheme. But Abbot Job (*Zhelezo*) was true to his name—*zhelezo* means iron—he even now had an iron will, and was unbending. He gave the order over and over again to continue the work. Thus, at a depth of forty-three meters, water began to seep through the rocks.

Four hundred years have passed, and today the thousands of pilgrims to the Lavra are still drawing water from that well for the healing of their ailments.



I can picture it now: the Lavra, 1978, late evening after the meal.

In the scullery the light is burning bright, you can hear the clatter of dishes being washed, the washtub is full of hot water, and we are at work washing dishes. Winter is all around, it's cold outside, but the bright light and hot water make it warm where we are. Misha Bal from Poltava, Alexander (the future Hierodeacon Savva) and I are washing dishes like experts. Fr. Ignaty, who was in charge of the refectory, is yelling and scolding us for breaking too many dishes when we wash. “What are you doing with those dishes? Washing them or breaking them?! Here, I'll show you how to do it!” He ran up to the washtub, took a plate, and—crunch!—broke one himself. Put to shame, he ran off grimacing comically.

Then novice Igor Brus walked up and told me conspiratorially, “Don’t sleep tonight, or you’ll sleep through the whole Kingdom of Heaven! Come at midnight to the well. We’ll look at the bottom and see if the Lord will give us a sign—if it will “boil” as it is blessed. Tomorrow is the “Jordan”, don’t you know?”

I was incredibly tired, but just as curious. Overcoming my sleepiness, I came. I thought that it would just be Igor and I, but I was mistaken. Archimandrite Alypy, Abbot Apelly, Monk Nestor the choirmaster, head hierodeacons Cassian and Roman also came, as well as novice Vasily the phosphora baker. They surrounded the well so tightly that I could hardly elbow my way through. Fr. Apelly had a red, powerful floodlight with six batteries. That was a powerful and rare thing in those days. The other priests also had flashlights, but they weren’t as strong. Fr. Apelly illuminated the entire area around the well.

We were talking and waiting for twelve o’clock to come. The conversation flowed at its own unhurried pace. They say that one year they saw it, but last year and the year before, nothing happened...

**I don’t know whether it was midnight or not, but as if in a wondrous dream,
we began to notice something out of the ordinary.**

Tiny sparks began to fly around within the well shaft. “What is that?” I asked. “Keep watching, you’ll see!” said Fr. Apelly. The sparks were like little stars of frost, absolutely white. At first there were only a few, appearing rarely, and there were more and more. A veritable storm arose inside the well. Flying one by one to the surface and then down to the very bottom of the well and touching it, the water there suddenly came alive and boiled with a noise. We could hear the noise, but not of bubbling—it was a light, quiet fizzing, even a buzzing, like a swarm of insects. All of us there were excited, we were talking and interrupting each other, the young interrupting the old, and it was alright. Everyone was in an extraordinarily good mood at the sight of this mystery; any weariness or sleep just disappeared. We sang over and over again, “When thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan...” (*the troparion of the feast of Theophany*).

Like everyone else, I was filled to overflowing with my reward for a nearly sleepless night. “The voice of the Lord upon the waters cries aloud saying: ‘Come ye all, and receive the Spirit...’” (*from the Great Blessing of the Waters*). Many years have gone by, but I remember that blessed night! And I will probably remember it to the end of my days...

..... News From All The Ends Of The Earth

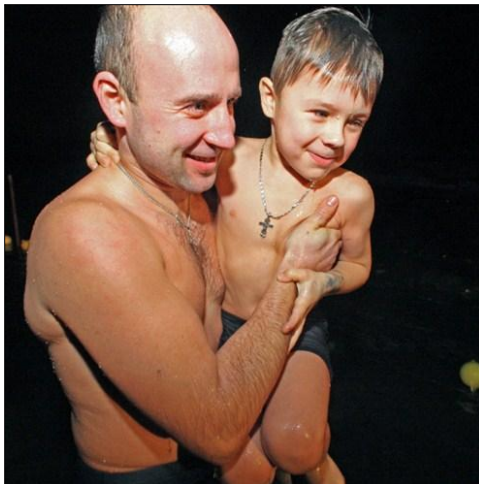
Indianapolis, IN: While Indianapolis businesses prepare to cash in on the influx of thousands of enthusiastic sports fans with extra money to spend, local activists are working to make sure the craze surrounding Super Bowl XLVI doesn't include incidents of human trafficking. As part of the effort, the Christian activists worked with the Indianapolis Department of Health and Human Services to print brochures containing facts about human trafficking, as well as hotlines and shelters workers can contact to report suspicious activity. An estimated 10,000 prostitutes flocked to Miami for the 2010 Super Bowl. In 2011, Dallas police made 133 prostitution arrests. Similarly, ahead of the 2010 World Cup, officials estimated 40,000 prostitutes would flock to South Africa to satisfy the lust of nearly half a million sports fans. Gov. Mitch Daniels has asked officials to "toughen" laws, while activists such as Theresa Flores, a woman who was a slave-prostitute at age 15, have begun to speak out about the situation. "The more I speak out, the more survivors reach out to me," Flores told *WLWT News 5*. "Middle-class women and even middle-aged women say it happened to them -- that they were being forced." Of course, human trafficking isn't just a problem on Super Bowl Sunday.

According to the *Grand Rapids Press*, an estimated 18,000 people are thought to be brought into the country as part of human trafficking operations each year. And about 100,000 to 150,000 of the prostitutes in the United States are minors who likely start working in the trade as early as 12 or 14-years-old. Ahead of last year's Super Bowl, religious nonprofits in Texas stepped up efforts to educate the public about sex trafficking, *TIME* reports. Although most link human trafficking with third world countries, 83 percent of reported cases this year were U.S. citizens.

Athens, Greece: Abbot Ephraim's detention is an example of unacceptable behavior on the part of the Constantinople Patriarchate, Metropolitan Ambrosios of Kalavrita and Aigialia believes. "We've recently mentioned it, but I'll say it again. The Ecumenical Patriarchate sometimes behaves as a mother-in-law! Thus, in our modest opinion, he has behaved in this case," the *Romfea* Greek agency cites the Metropolitan. The fact that the rector of a great ancient monastery of Holy Mt. Athos was detained on the eve of the Nativity of Christ induced many religious and secular figures to speak for Father Ephraim. According to the hierarch, expenses of the Constantinople Patriarch in Greece have been paid directly by the Vatopedi Monastery, which means by Father Ephraim; then Constantinople didn't reject the monastery and quietly used its help and resources.



Metropolitan Ambrosios



Moscow, Russia: On the night of January 18–19, the feast of the Theophany, the yearly mass immersion in the blessed waters of Moscow went by without incident. Solemn services including the Great Blessing of the waters took place in all Orthodox churches and monasteries and water was distributed to the faithful. According to agencies participating in security, there were 30,000 more bathers than last year. 2011 saw around 88,000 people immerse themselves in the frigid waters of Moscow's rivers and lakes after they were blessed for the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. "There were sixty places designated in Moscow for bathing, and around 92,000 people went in", they reported. Over 17,700 police officers guarded the participants' security, along with municipal and regional life guard and medical workers.

Athens, Greece: According to a *BBC World Service* report, more Greek parents are giving up their kids because they can no longer afford to feed themselves, much less their children – a vivid show of failure of the European Union. One of the *BBC* reports recounts the story of a four-year-old kindergartner who was left with her teacher, with the following note: "I will not be coming to pick up Anna today because I cannot afford to look after her. Please take good care of her. Sorry. Her mother." In an

interview with the *BBC*, a young Orthodox priest who runs a youth centre in Athens said that he, too, has seen an increase in the number of children dropped off at the shelter. “Over the last year we have hundreds of cases of parents who want to leave their children with us – they know us and trust us,” Father Antonios said. “They say they do not have any money or shelter or food for their kids, so they hope we might be able to provide them with what they need.” However, this trend seems to be concentrated mainly in Athens, where traditional family and neighborhood ties are diluted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. January bulletin cover sponsor is Madge Petri — health of family and January birthdays.
2. This Sunday, January 22, the Eternal Light is offered by Nicholas Yacko in memory of his father Nicholas, in observance of his birthday.
3. This Sunday, January 22, the two candles by the Holy Altar Table are offered by John and Anne Springman and Helen Urban for health of Madge Petri and Starlene Eaton on the occasion of their birthdays this week.
4. Please, continue to look, when grocery shopping, for the ingredients needed for our major fund-raising products. We need margarine, flour, nuts, sugar, sour cream and sour kraut. Thank you for your continuous support!
5. Our Soup Sale yesterday was a bit less successful than the previous ones due to the inclement weather. There was no initial rush, to which we are rather accustomed to, but the people were coming steadily during the two hours we were open. We are grateful to all our laborers and all those who supported our baking and cooking projects financially.
6. Next Sunday, please remember to bring non-perishable food items which we collect for Hobart Food Pantry.