



Today, we come to the last service in a cycle of services. That cycle began over 120 days ago in February with the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee. That Sunday preceded the weeks of fasting of Great Lent which led up to the central event of the whole Church Year - the Resurrection of Christ. And since then we have followed the services of Bright Week and the Sundays after it to the Ascension, Pentecost and now today, the Feast of All Saints. This whole cycle of 120 days, one third of the year is like a Church Year inside the Church Year. Today's Feast is the result of all that has gone before it. The purpose of all the events in Christ's life, from His Conception to the Resurrection and the Ascension and Pentecost is to make Saints. That is the purpose of the Church, to make people holy. Today's Feast is the Feast of the identity of the Church, of Her sacred personality. For a Church that does not make Saints is not a Church, it is merely an institution which abuses the word 'Church'.

At every Liturgy and at morning prayers we sing and read the Creed, in which we confess that we believe in the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. These words which define the Church, One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic, are also words that define the Saints.

The Saints are One because they are all together. We speak of the communion of the saints. The Saints are also obviously holy. The word Saint means holy. The Saints are also Catholic. This word does not mean Roman Catholic. We mean 'Catholic' in the original sense of the word. 'Catholic' means the same in all places and at all times. Thus today, on this Feast of All Saints, we commemorate all the Saints of all countries and of all centuries and of all backgrounds. We recall Saints of all ages, of all nationalities, men, women and children, the poor and the rich, the old and the young, the healthy and the sick. They all confessed the same Orthodox Faith. The Saints are universal in time and space; they are 'Catholic'. Finally, the Saints are Apostolic, for they share in the same Faith and Tradition as the Apostles.

Archpriest Andrew Phillips

Sunday, June 19

First Sunday after Pentecost

All Saints Sunday

Day before the Apostles Fast

Divine Liturgy 9:30 A.M.

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Wednesday, June 22

Moleben with Akathist to St John the Baptist 5:30 PM

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Friday, June 24

Nativity of Saint John the Baptist

Divine Liturgy 9:00 A.M.

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Sunday, June 26

Second Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday of the Saints of Our Land

Divine Liturgy 9:30 A.M.

ON CHASTITY AND PREMARITAL COHABITATION

By Priest Paul Gumerov

Part II



The majority of men (with rare exceptions) want to marry a virgin and be the first man in the life of his beloved. No one wants to be the second, sixth, or fifteenth. Anyone would prefer the new, the untouched, the “unused.”

One time I heard a talk given by an Orthodox psychologist, a woman, and she said that she had heard within the teenage world the term, “a used girl.” This is quite accurately stated: the boys used her and found themselves another girl.

Sexual energy is an enormous force, and a person is obligated to learn how to keep it under control. Otherwise, he or she risks becoming a sexually preoccupied, physically and psychologically sick individual. Besides its main and great goals of perpetuating the race and strengthening the love between husband and wife, sexual energy has one more quality. If a person has not yet established a family, but does not waste his sexual energy on fornication and lustful thoughts, this energy can be put to constructive use: creative or any other kind of work, or physical activity. And there can be no harm whatsoever in abstinence. Just look at Orthodox monasteries. The majority of their residents are strong, healthy, young people, many of whom received monasticism at a young age. Monks and nuns feel quite well both spiritually and physically. Why? Because they have the proper attitude toward abstinence and chastity. They war with lustful thoughts, and do not incite them in themselves. People who are inclined towards married life will also only be happy in marriage when they learn how to control their animal instincts, and submit their flesh to the spirit. By the way, about animals. Female monkeys allow the males to come near them only about two times a year, exclusively for the purpose of propagating the species. Unlike humans, animals use their instincts according to their need, and would never harm themselves.

Any nation that cares about its people’s health would care about their morality, and encourage abstinence, as was done in America after the painful results of the sexual revolution. In 1996, a program was instituted for teenagers called, “Abstinence Education.” Hundreds of millions of dollars have been spent on this program. Unfortunately, I have not found any recent data, but in 2007 the program was still active. I think that it still is. Anyone interested in knowing what the fruits of the program were can easily find the information on the internet. The results shown there are impressive.

Sadly, you will also find plenty of sites advocating sex education and denigrating the positive results of abstinence education. Data shows that the abstinence education programs must be administered continually in order to really take root and have a long-term effect on teenagers. Needless to say, sex education programs quickly lend approval to early sexual activity in teenagers.

Besides the fact that this sin destroys one’s spiritual and physical nature, it is also a violation of spiritual laws, which exist objectively, independently from our will, just like the laws of physics. You can refuse to believe that gravity exists, but if you decide to walk out of a fifth story window, you will kill yourself, or at least be crippled. By violating spiritual laws, we harm the structure of our soul, wound it, and later pay for it. If people do not preserve their purity before marriage, if future spouses cohabitated unlawfully before their wedding, if they betrayed their wives or husbands, their violation will not fail to leave a mark. In marriage—and generally in life—they will pay for this with sorrows, domestic squabbles and problems. I know no few examples of couples who began their sexual life before marriage, and very soon afterward, had extra-marital affairs and domestic conflicts.

To be continued

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

London, UK: Al-Qaeda and Taliban leaders, such as Mullah Omar, claim their dreams to be revelations from Allah giving authorization for jihad. In Islam, dreams have always had a central inspirational role on followers, including Taliban leaders and their soldiers, according to Dr Edgar, the author of *The Dream in Islam*. He explains: "Islam probably has the largest night dream culture in the world today. People all across the Islamic world often rely on their dreams to give them guidance on major life choices such as finance and investment, whether to marry someone or accept a job. In the case of extremists, their dreams can be seen as giving inspiration and justification for fighting the perceived oppressors of Islam. Dreams can not only legitimize jihadist actions for the dreamers themselves but also for their followers. In the case of Omar, his followers trust him partly because of his reputation for holy dreaming and specifically for his reported strategic guidance received through dreams." *The Dream in Islam* is the first overview of historical and contemporary aspects of dream tradition in Islam, an area which is unknown in the west. Dr Edgar said: "In Islam, the world of dreams and reality are closely linked and some dreams are considered to be more real than normal daytime experiences".

Budapest, Hungary: The revised Hungarian constitution declares that human life will be protected from the moment of conception. "Human dignity is inviolable," the constitution states. "Everyone has the right to life and human dignity; the life of a fetus will be protected from conception." "Eugenic practices aimed at selection of persons, making the human body and its parts a source of profit and the reproductive cloning of human beings are prohibited," the document adds. The new constitution also states that "Hungary protects the institution of marriage between man and woman, a matrimonial relationship voluntarily established, as well as the family as the basis for the survival of the nation. Hungary supports child-bearing." These provisions have earned the condemnation of Amnesty International: "Amnesty International is deeply concerned that the new Constitution of the Republic of Hungary, adopted by the Hungarian National Assembly on 18 April 2011, violates international and European human rights standards".

Geneva, Switzerland: Defence Minister Ueli Maurer says there has been an increase in the recruitment of Muslims for militant training camps. In an interview with the *SonntagsZeitung* newspaper, Maurer said the government was aware of Swiss who went to these training camps: a militant Islamic network was set up last year in Switzerland in order to find recruits who are sent to countries like Somalia and Yemen.

Islamabad, Pakistan: A 24-year-old Christian woman who was kidnapped, forced to convert to Islam and forced to marry a Muslim may soon be sold abroad. Farah Hatim, 24, "was forced to sign a declaration stating that she had converted and married according to her will," said a Pakistani nun. "The text was brought to the police and in court, so legally the case is considered closed. It will be possible to reopen it only with a written statement, in which Farah testifies that these communications were drawn out by threats and torture." The nun called for prayer and international pressure to help secure Hatim's releases. There are over 700 cases of forced conversion to Islam in Pakistan each year.

Copenhagen, Denmark: Lars Hedegaard, Islamic expert and president of the International Free Press Society, was found guilty of racism by Denmark's High Court. He was fined about \$1,000. The charges stemmed from Hedegaard's statements made about the higher-than-average incidence of family rape in the Muslim world. Under Denmark's racism law, it doesn't matter if what you said was true. It only matters that a group was insulted. Lars Hedegaard had this response to the verdict: "The real losers today are freedom of speech and Muslim women. How can we speak up for them if we risk getting a state sanctioned label of racism?" This is one of a handful of free speech cases involving unflattering statements about Islam that are underway in Europe and the Middle East.

Belgrade, Serbia: “The desecration of the church is a message to Serbs about ethnic Albanian community and Kosovo government’s attitude”, Minister for Kosovo Goran Bogdanović says. Bogdanović said that the local police could not and often did not even want to protect Serb cultural monuments, monasteries and churches. Bogdanović said that the desecration of the church in the village of Samodreža was a clear indicator of how the ethnic Albanian community and the Kosovo government really felt about supporting the actual return of displaced and expelled Serbs. The Orthodox church, devoted to the Feast of Beheading of St. John the Baptist and located in the village of Samodreža, near the town of Vučitrn in north-eastern Kosovo, that is the very church where the Serbian army, led by Prince Lazar, received the Holy Communion before the Battle of Kosovo in 1389, has been vandalized again, with the door being broken and the building turned into a rubbish dump and a public toilet.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. June bulletin covers’ sponsor is Jenny Yacko — health of family and friends.
2. Tomorrow, Monday, June 20th, the Apostles Fast begins and it will last till June 29th, when we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Pre-Eminent Apostles Peter and Paul. For the parishes like ours, this fast is artificially made very short. Therefore, there is no excuse for to abstain at least from meat products (while those who are serious about their salvation should also abstain from dairy and eggs) during these 10 days. This year, June 29, the end of the Fast, falls on Wednesday, hence this day is also a day of fasting.
3. We would like to thank Michael Petyo for decorating the temple last Sunday so beautifully with greenery and flowers. It made the Feast of Pentecost more triumphant and befitting its ranking among the greatest and most beloved feasts of the Church. However, observing the poor attendance of our church services, one is left to wonder whether a large portion of our parishioners shares in the Holy Apostolic Faith with the rest of the Church... Our church services are few and relatively short. Perhaps, the reason for our lukewarmness and general indifference to our salvation stems from our lack of prayer life?... Some say, justifying their lack of the discipline of prayer: “I pray when I am driving or when I am going for a walk. God is always with me”. This can be likened to a person who can chat with his parents on the cell phone when he has nothing else to do, or when he is resting, or driving, but he will very rarely make a special trip simply to visit them, so sit by their side, or do their house work, or run errands for them (not because he is asked to do so, but because he loves them). Prayer rule — praying at certain times and at certain places (places sanctified by prayer, by our reception of the Grace of God, or even by our receiving Him Personally in the Holy Mysteries) — is our separation from the world and turning to God, and Him alone, for the sole purpose of being closer to Him (just as Holy Apostle John the Theologian leaned on His chest at the Mystical Supper). At such moments we bring all our being to the Lord, we bring to Him both ourselves and everyone who is dear to us, for they are, too, a part of us.
Hence, I call upon all our faithful to reconsider their stance regarding the Church and their participation in Her life. Time is finite. Turn around your life and seek to fill it with the acting Grace of God.
4. As it was in the past, our parish is going to participate in the annual Lake Front Fest from August 18th through 21st. The first step in our preparations for the event is purchasing water and soft drinks which will be sold at our booth at the Fest. One would hope there is already a list in the narthex for us to mark what we are donating. Any brand of water is welcome. However, please

purchase only those brands of the soft drinks which are mentioned in the list. Also, as you know, cash donations are much appreciated, for we are going to need them to purchase brats, BBQ pork, buns, gas, ice, condiments and whatever else we are going to need. As we get closer to the beginning of the Fest, more information will be posted.

5. Please remember that our in-church Bake Sale is next Sunday, June 26. Plan to bake and cook for that day.

6. In the narthex, we have a few copies of the book *The Soul After Death*, by Fr. Seraphim (Rose). The book is one of the Orthodox Christian best-sellers in the US and we suggest it as a summer reading for all our faithful.

7. Next Sunday, besides the Bake Sale, we collect the non-perishable food items for Hobart Food Pantry.