



THE WAY

Monthly Bulletin of St.Sava
Orthodox Church

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ORTHODOX SPIRITUALITY

1. DEFINING ORTHODOX SPIRITUALITY (an excerpt)

Metropolitan Hierotheos of Nafpaktos

The word "Orthodoxy" manifests the true knowledge about God and creation. The term Orthodoxy consists of two words: "orthos" (true, right) and "doxa". "Doxa" means, on the one hand, belief, faith, teaching and on the other, praise or doxology. These two meanings are closely connected. The true teaching about God incorporates the true praise of God. God has revealed the true faith, the true teaching. Thus we say that the teaching about God and all



matters associated with a person's salvation are the Revelation of God and not man's discovery.

God has revealed this truth to people who were prepared to receive it. The Holy Apostles were "healed" first, and then received the Revelation. And they transmitted this Revelation to their spiritual children not only by teaching them but primarily by mystically effecting their spiritual rebirth. In order for this faith to be preserved the Holy Fathers formulated the dogmas and doctrines. For faith is, on the one hand, Revelation to those purified and healed and, on the other it is the right path to reach theosis, for

those who choose to follow the "way".

The spirituality of the Orthodox Church, however, does not lead to abstract religious life; nor is it the fruits of man's inner strength. Spirituality is not an abstract religious life because the Church is the Body of Christ. It is not simply a religion which believes in a God, theoretically. The Second Person of the Holy Trinity -the Logos of God- assumed human nature for us. He united it with his hypostasis and became the Head of the Church.

Thus the Church is the Body of the God-man Christ. Moreover, spirituality is not a manifestation of the energies of the soul as reason is, or the feelings are and such. This is important to state because many people tend to label a person spiritual who cultivates his reasoning abilities: a scientist, an artist, an actor, a poet and others. This interpretation is not accepted by the Orthodox Church. Certainly we are not against scientists, poets etc. but we cannot call them spiritual people in the strict orthodox sense of the word.

In the teaching of the Apostle Paul the spiritual man is clearly distinguished from the man of the soul. Spiritual is the man who has the energy of the Holy Spirit within. The man of the flesh is he who does not have the Holy Spirit within his heart but retains all the other psychosomatic functions of a human being. Therefore it is evident that the term "man of the flesh" does not refer to the body, but signifies the man of the soul who lacks the Most Holy Spirit, and who operates out of his so called "psychobiological" self.

Spiritual is the man who by grace has become son of God...and who is witness to the Holy Spirit within his heart and is thus well aware of the indwelling of the Holy Triune God. The man who is the Temple of the Holy Spirit is not disturbed by temptations and constant cares; he seeks God and has communion with Him.

The man of the flesh is like the blind person who cannot see the light from the sun's rays. In fact he is considered both blind and lifeless. In contrast, the spiritual man, who partakes in the energies of the Holy Spirit, is alive in God...and is the Saint. Certainly, this is said from the point of view that a Saint is he who partakes, in varying degrees, in the uncreated grace of God, and especially in the deifying energy of God... A saint is the person who submits to and acts upon the guidance of the Most Holy Spirit within.

The primary work of the Church is to lead man to theosis, to communion and union with God. Given this, in a sense we can say that the work of the Church is to "produce relics".

Thus, Orthodox spirituality is the experience of life in Christ, the atmosphere of the new man, regenerated by the grace of God. It is not an abstract, emotional and psychological state of being. It is man's union with God.

Within this framework we can detect some characteristic traits of Orthodox spirituality. It is firstly Christ-centered, since Christ is the one and only

"remedy" for people, by virtue of the hypostatic unity of the divine and human nature in His person. Secondly, Orthodox spirituality is Holy Trinity-centered, since Christ is always united with the Father and the Holy Spirit. All the sacraments are performed in the name of the Triune God. Being the Head of the Church, Christ cannot be thought of as being outside of it. Consequently Orthodox spirituality is also Ecclesiastic-centered, since only within the Church can we come into communion with Christ. Finally, Orthodox spirituality is mystical and ascetical.

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BLESSINGS/PRAYERS

Baptism: Scarlett Mitrovic.

Birth prayers: Danijela & Zachery McElwee.

Funeral: Robert (Danilo – Božo Kovach) Kovach

Home blessing: Jared McElwee Family, Dusan Mitrovic family.

Healing prayers: Svetlana Yaguchi.

Prison visits: 2

Parastos: Dusan Miladinovic.

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NEWS

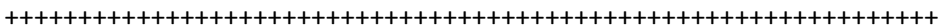
DRINA FOLKLORE

Although there will be no folklore rehearsals for the middle and younger groups during the summer, rehearsals will resume in September. Please contact Alexandra Radojevic at 206 – 462 0049 to let her know that your child will participate.

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VIDOVDAN TOURNAMENT

Our soccer team added another accolade at the traditional Vidovdan tournament , which is organized by our fellow brothers from Portland. Our team got second place, which included a trophy and a money prize of \$200. The members of the team (Vedran and Goran Jankovic, Darko Slugic, Mladen Blagojevic, Drago Bundalo, Uros Zecevic, Dalibor Omazic, and Milan Radic) decided to donate the winnings to the church.



SOCCER FIELD

In June, it was decided to flatten out the field on the new property. Until now, the following players helped the project with \$100 donations: Sinisa Sekara, Sasa Sekara, Goran Stankovic, Milan Stefanovic, Budimir Nikolic, Jelenko Lukic, Ognjen Pandzic, Nenad Vujic, Uros Zecevic, Milan Radic, Mile Stevanovic.

THANK YOU

Lunches: Aleksandar & Zorica Trbic Family; Radomir & Janja Jasika Family; Miladinovic, Yaguchi and Luksetich Families; Protinica Carole and Mary Jane Vujovic; Vesna Tasic and Novka Marjanovic.

Book donation: Vladimir Vulovic

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CALENDAR

July 12	9 a.m. - Divine Liturgy - Feast of Sts. Peter & Paul
July 24 & 25	St. Sava Serbian Days



СРПСКА ПРАВОСЛАВНА ЦРКВА "СВЕТИ САВА" ПРЕДСТАВЉА

"SAINT SAVA" SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH PRESENTS

СРПСКИ ДАНИ SERBIAN DAYS



SEATTLE JULY 24-25, 2010

СУБОТА, 24. ЈУЛ:

Фудбалски турнир
Музика уживо

**GREAT FOOD,
LIVE MUSIC,
AND MUCH
MORE!**

SATURDAY, JULY 24th:

Soccer Tournament
Live Music

НЕДЕЉА, 25. ЈУЛ:

Наступ фолклорних група
Музика уживо
Активности за децу

SUNDAY, JULY 25th:

Folklore Groups
Live Music
Activities for Kids

Saint Sava Serbian Orthodox Church
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www.stsavachurch-nw.org

*THE MORE WE COME TO
CHURCH,*



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