



St. Xenia Parish News

170 North Lowell Street, Methuen, MA 01844

May-June 2005

Acquire the Grace of the Holy Spirit

From the "Conversation" of St. Seraphim of Sarov with Motovilov

“**A**cquire the grace of the Holy Spirit also by practicing all the other virtues for Christ's sake. Trade spiritually with them; trade with those which give you the greatest profit. Accumulate capital from the superabundance of God's grace, deposit it in God's eternal bank which will bring you immaterial interest, not four or six per cent, but one hundred per cent for one spiritual ruble, and even infinitely more than that. For example, if prayer and watching gives you more of God's grace, watch and pray; if fasting gives you much of the spirit of God, fast; if almsgiving gives you more, give alms. Weigh every virtue done for Christ's sake in this manner.

“Now I will tell you about myself, poor Seraphim. I come of a merchant family in Kursk. So when I was not yet in the monastery we used to trade with the goods which brought us the greatest profit. Act like that, my son. And just as in business the main point is not merely to trade, but to get as much profit as possible, so in the business of the Christian life the main point is not merely to pray or to do some other good deed. Though the apostle says: *"Pray without ceasing"* (1 Thess. 5:17), yet, as you remember, he adds: *"I would rather speak five words with my understanding than ten thousand words with a tongue"* (1 Cor. 14:19). And the Lord says: *"Not everyone who says to Me: Lord, Lord, shall be saved, but he who does the will of My Father"* (Mt. 7:21), that is he who does the work of God and, moreover, does it with reverence, for *"cursed is he who does the work of God negligently"* (Jer. 48:10). And the work of God is: believe in God and in Him Whom He has sent, Jesus Christ (John 14:1; 6:29). If we understand the commandments of Christ and of the Apostles aright, our business as Christians consists not in increasing the number of our good deeds which are only the means of furthering the purpose of our Christian life, but in

deriving from them the utmost profit, that is in acquiring the most abundant gifts of the Holy Spirit.

“How I wish, your Godliness, that you yourself may acquire this inexhaustible source of divine grace, and may always ask yourself: Am I in the Spirit of God, or not? - there is nothing to grieve about. You are ready to appear before the awful judgment of Christ immediately. For *"In whatsoever I find you, in that will I judge you."* But if we are not in the Spirit, we must discover why not and what reason our Lord God the Holy Spirit has willed to abandon us. We must seek Him again and must go on searching until our Lord God the Holy Spirit has been found and is with us again, through His goodness. We must attack the enemies that drive us away from Him until even their dust is no more, as the Prophet David has said, *"I will pursue my enemies and overtake them; and I will not turn back till they are destroyed. I will crush them and they will be unable to stand; they will fall under my feet"* (Ps. 17[18]:38-39).”

“That's it, my son. That is how you must spiritually trade in virtue. Distribute the Holy Spirit's gifts of grace to those in need of them, just as a lighted candle burning with earthly fire shines itself and lights other candles for the illumining of all in other places, without diminishing its own light. If it is so, with regard to the earthly fire, what shall we say about the fire of the grace of the All-Holy Spirit of God? For earthly riches decrease with distribution, but the more the heavenly riches of God's grace are distributed, the more they increase in the one who distributes them. Thus the Lord Himself was pleased to say to the Samaritan woman: *All who drink this water will be thirsty again. "But whoever drinks the water that I shall give him will never be thirsty any more; but the water that I shall give him will be in him a spring of water leaping up to eternal life"* (John 4:13-14).”

St. Xenia of Petersburg Orthodox Church is a parish of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad, under the omophorion of Metropolitan LAURUS OF EASTERN AMERICA & NEW YORK, First Hierarch, and Bishop GABRIEL of Manhattan. The parish newsletter is published bimonthly under the direction of the Rev. Michael Crowley. In order to ensure timely delivery to our far-flung parish, please submit all notices by the 15th of the month prior to publication to Margaret Lark at (603) 332-9613, e-mail:

skovranok@verizon.net, or to Father Michael at tcrowley@maine.rr.com. Thank you.

Rector:

Rev. Michael Crowley
 16 Channel Road
 South Portland, ME 04106
 (978) 204-0428 (cell phone with voice mail)

Confessions on Saturday during Vigil, on Sunday during the Hours, and by appointment

Parish Council

- President: Rev. Michael Crowley (207) 767-1889
- Starosta: Rdr. Constantine Desrosiers (603) 775-0320
- Secretary: Natalie Pishenin (978) 658-5564
- Treasurer: Tony Sarantakis (978) 263-2016
- Sisterhood: Matushka Nancy Crowley (207) 767-1889
- Cemetery: Lily Dombrowski (978) 851-2972
- Michael Lang (603) 465-9754
- Peter Danas (978) 459-9541
- Roberto Gonzalez (978) 692-1229
- Michael Johnson (978) 691-0045
- Anna Johnson (978) 691-0045
- John Kekis (978) 456-9865
- John Rush (603) 898-4315
- Choir Director: Michael Lang (603) 465-9754

Trapeza Schedule

If you cannot be at church on your assigned Sunday, please call and switch with someone. If you have any questions, contact Karen Schidlovsky at (603) 868-6410. Trapeza can be whatever you would like to prepare on your day. Some parishioners prefer to make a big lunch, but this isn't necessary. As long as there is enough food for about 40 people, anything is appreciated. Doughnuts, fruit and pastries are as acceptable as soup and sandwiches. Thank you in advance for your contribution.

May

- 1 Pascha
- 8 Helena Doohovskoy and Marianne DiMatteo
- 15 Amy McClellan and Yekaterina Fredette
- 22 Anna Johnson and Kasarda's
- 29 Mariana Haven, Josephine Kniaziuk, Irene LaPage

June

- 5 Masha Harris and Kot and Judy Engalichev
- 12 Tanya Sciaudone and Mireille Lang
- 19 Carolyn Sarantakis and Pamela Reed
- 26 Pot Luck

During July and August, all our Trapeza meals are potluck. Please begin thinking about which dates you would like to contribute, and contact Karen Schidlovsky with your choice. Thank you.

Sisterhood News:

The sisterhood of Saint Xenia is launching a bednets campaign to benefit people in Africa, through our charity, "The Children of Saint Nicholas." As you know, malaria is a very serious and deadly problem in Africa and its victims are mainly young children, pregnant women and people suffering from Aids. Our goal with the "From My Child to your Child" Bednets for Africa Campaign is to help roll back malaria by making bednets available to the many people who cannot afford them. This is a non-exclusive, faith-based outreach fundraising effort. With your help, we are hoping that it will be a far-reaching and successful one. Our request to you is to introduce this campaign to your parishes, newsletters, friends, and family members to reach as many people as possible. This is a very worthwhile and needed campaign and we trust you will join us to help roll back malaria in Africa. Further information elsewhere in the newsletter.

We will also hold a yard sale on June 11 (second Saturday in June), with a rain date of the following Saturday. As you are doing your spring cleaning, please keep St. Xenia's in mind.

Sisterhood dues are \$5 per year, and membership is open to all women of the parish. Our next meetings will take place on May 22 and June 26.

Thank You...

To all who made our cleanup day before Pascha so successful
To Eugene Servillo for the beautiful Palms and Lilies

Please remember in your prayers... Bishop Alexander, Fr. Roman, Nicholas, Nina, David, Basil, Vassilisa, Lily, Judith, and Abbot George Schaeffer of Holy Trinity Monastery.

Please remember to inform the Myrrh-bearers Sisterhood if someone is in the hospital or shut in at home.

Financial Update: As of April 30, 2005 the balance on the church mortgage stands at \$70,092.64. If you have any questions, please see Reader Constantine Desrosiers.

Sunday School News: The Sunday School is hosting an Easter-egg hunt right after church on Sunday, May 8. All are welcome!

Bible Study: Our regular Bible Study will be on May 18th and June 16th at 7:30 P.M. in the Church Hall.

Upcoming Events

Summer School of Liturgical Music: Held as always at Holy Trinity Monastery, Jordanville, NY, this year's dates are July 3-16, 2005. The cost remains at \$800 for the entire two weeks, which includes room, board, and tuition (study books for the first year are extra), and our parish has budgeted for one attendee. If you are interested, please see Fr. Michael.

ANNOUNCING

Choral Techniques Workshop

July 18 - July 22, 2005

This workshop, held at Holy Trinity Monastery, is designed for the experienced Russian Church singer in order to provide an annual opportunity to further their rehearsing skill and to expand their knowledge of the sacred choral literature through a "hands-on" approach. Alternating rehearsals of large and small ensembles will provide a unique opportunity for participants to work through the musical challenges that occur in this genre. Attention will be given to the development of such musical skills as choral blending, sonorities, intonation, phrasing, diction, voice building, etc. The cost of \$300 includes room, board, and tuition. For more information on either of these programs, contact Father Andrei Papkov at musicschool@hts.edu.

Save the Date!

for

Lilac Nights

Organized by the parishes of St. Xenia and Holy Epiphany Orthodox Churches

Join us for Boston's second annual evening of dinner and dancing for the entire family.

Friday evening, June 24th, 2005

Details to follow,

Hope to see you there.

Here are a few words to tell you how the “From My Child to Your Child” campaign came to be ...

Back in June 2004 I was listening to “Talk of the Nation,” a program on NPR that was discussing the Roll Back Malaria and Polio programs in Africa. I am a native of Congo-Brazzaville in Africa, and as an expatriate have increasingly felt the ache of powerlessness in regards to the numerous pleas of Africa. I felt guilty and in need of doing something to help and prayed to God to show me how.

As I listened to the show, the guests (Dr. Durry, Horn of Africa polio coordinator for the World Health Organization, and David Heyman Former Executive Director, Communicable Diseases at the World Health Organization) mentioned that in addition to a shortage of anti-malarial drugs, there were also other things critical in the fight against malaria that were desperately needed. Among these, they talked of the need for bednets.

A light went on in my head and the idea of the bednet campaign started to shape up. My original idea was to launch a non-exclusive faith-based bednet campaign that would allow people to feel a connection with the people to whom they donated bednets. Hence the “From My Child to Your Child” overall theme, and name of the campaign. A campaign based on an act of charity, of compassion from caring parents to enable needy parents in a country foreign to them, to better protect their children against the serious, often deadly -- though preventable -- disease of malaria. “From My Child to Your Child” also appeals to our children as the guardians of tomorrow. We can make this earth a better place for them all by creating a connection, by teaching them by our actions that we are all one, and all children of God. Every single one of us.

After researching the web and emailing here and there trying to bring this to fruition, it occurred to me one day that the persons I had to talk to were my sister Marcelle and her husband Gael Claquin, respectively pharmacist and physician working against AIDS in Africa. They loved the idea of the project and said they would investigate, and get back to me.

It took a while, and I was ready to despair and even stopped praying to St. Nicholas, when my sister called me shortly before Christmas to tell me that HAI, the NGO that they happen to work for now in Mozambique had a Roll Back Malaria program and were very interested in my project. As the saying goes, “the rest is history.”

Yours In Christ,
Mireille Lang

From The Pastor's Desk

Christ is Risen! Truly, He is Risen!

With Great & Holy Week and Pascha now past we have many things to attend to in the parish. It seems like a long time since we had a parish council meeting.

The Services of Pascha did show us that we need to begin getting serious about the expansion of our temple and hall. While it is usual for us to be crowded for the Feast, it has also become apparent to some of us that new people and families are coming all the time now and we need to be able to accommodate. We have some plans in hand for finishing our basement, but this will really only deal with what we already have going.

You may have noticed that we are in the midst of completing the expansion work in the cemetery, bringing the front section now to completion. We are very thankful to Lilly Dombrowski and Natalie Pishenin for all of the effort they put forth in coordinating this work. And, their effort has certainly been well placed since we have a beautiful and serviceable cemetery that will accommodate both future generations and us.

We now have collected \$4,500 towards the total \$7,000 needed for adding the fresco above the iconostasis. With such dedicated and generous donors, I fully expect to reach the goal shortly. I spoke to Fr. Yakov, the iconographer, last week and he is eager to begin. As soon as we receive the sketch of his plan and give him the go ahead he will begin. We are hoping to get lots of other use from the staging he will need. There are high-up projects that have been on hold pending the ability to get to them.

















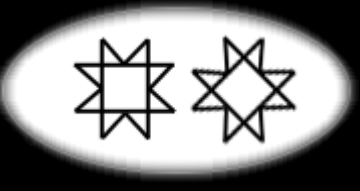
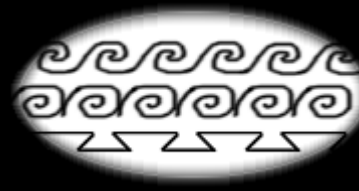
The group of young people, escorted by Bob DiMatteo, John Kekis, Andrew McLellan and Olga McKnight, that went for the school vacation week in April to the Project Mexico Orthodox Orphanage had a wonderful time. It was very inspiring to all of them to “get their hands dirty” helping these needy children. I commend all of them for their spirit and commitment to Christian charity.

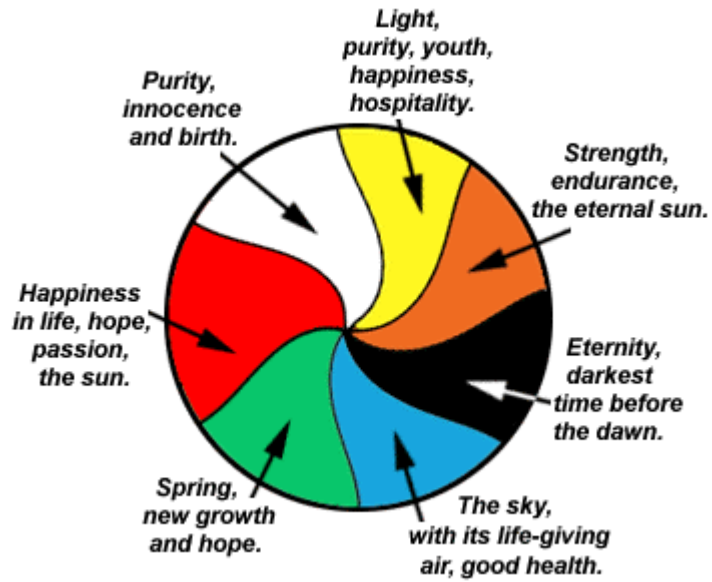
Summer is not too far off. It is a time when many of us take vacations or are otherwise involved in outside activities. Please remember your Church commitments during this time as well. If you are traveling to a particular vacation spot or wherever, inquire about a local church so that you can attend services at least on Sunday morning. It has always been my experience that God blesses our activities abundantly when we remember Him in the midst of our active lives.

—Fr. Michael

The Russian Corner

We all love the beautiful Ukrainian Easter eggs known as *pysanky*. Here, an explanation of the symbols and colors used in creating them, from the website, www.learnpysanky.com:

			
Diamonds symbolize knowledge.	Ladders symbolize prosperity, or prayer.	Pine Needles symbolize health and stamina.	Crosses symbolize Christ.
			
Wheat symbolizes wishes for good health and a good harvest.	Dots represent the tears of Mary during the crucifixion.	Nets symbolize Christ's reference to becoming "fishers of men".	Deer, Horses, and/or Rams symbolize wealth and prosperity.
			
Fish symbolize Christianity	Curls symbolize defense or protection.	Spiders symbolize patience.	Roses symbolize love, caring.
			
Triangles symbolize several forms of the Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; heaven, earth, and hell.	The Saw symbolizes fire, life-giving heat (also known as Wolves' teeth, symbolizing loyalty and wisdom).	Birds symbolize fulfillment of wishes, and fertility. The bird is always shown at rest, never flying.	Poppies are the beloved flower of Ukraine, symbolizing joy and beauty.
			
The Sun and Stars symbolize life, fortune, growth.		Ribbons symbolize everlasting life, and water.	



May 2005

St. Xenia Orthodox Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>12:00 AM Procession, Matins & Divine Liturgy 1:00 PM Agape Vespers PASCHA</p>	<p>2</p> <p>(19 Apr) St John of the Ancient Caves</p>	<p>3</p> <p>(20 Apr) St Theodore Trichinas</p>	<p>4</p> <p>(21 Apr) HM Januarius; HM Theodore</p>	<p>5</p> <p>(22 Apr) St Theodore</p>	<p>6</p> <p>(23 Apr) GM George</p>	<p>7</p> <p>4:00 PM Class - Principles of Orthodoxy 6:30 PM Sunday Vigil (24 Apr) M Sabbas</p>
Fast-Free Week						
<p>8</p> <p>9:30 AM Hours 10:00 AM Thomas Sunday Divine Liturgy Tone 1</p>	<p>9</p> <p>(26 Apr) HM Basil of Amasea</p>	<p>10</p> <p>(27 Apr) HM Symeon</p>	<p>11</p> <p>(28 Apr) Ap Jason & comp Wine & oil allowed</p>	<p>12</p> <p>(29 Apr) 9 MM of Cyzicus; St Memnon</p>	<p>13</p> <p>(30 Apr) Ap James Wine & oil allowed</p>	<p>14</p> <p>4:00 PM Class - Principles of Orthodoxy 6:30 PM Sunday Vigil (1 May) Pr Jeremiah</p>
<p>15</p> <p>9:30 AM Hours 10:00 AM Sunday of the Myrrhbearers Divine Liturgy Tone 2 1:00 PM Blessing of Graves in Cemetery</p>	<p>16</p> <p>(3 May) MM Timothy & Maura</p>	<p>17</p> <p>(4 May) VM Pelagia of Tarsus</p>	<p>18</p> <p>7:30 PM Bible Study (5 May) GM Irene Wine & oil allowed</p>	<p>19</p> <p>(6 May) Pr Job</p>	<p>20</p> <p>(7 May) Appearance of Cross in A.D. 351 Wine & oil allowed</p>	<p>21</p> <p>4:00 PM Class - Principles of Orthodoxy 6:30 PM Sunday Vigil (8 May) Ap John the Theologian</p>
<p>22</p> <p>9:30 AM Hours 10:00 AM Sunday of the Paralytic Divine Liturgy Tone 3 12:00 PM Sisterhood Meeting</p>	<p>23</p> <p>(10 May) Ap Simon the Zealot</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7:30 PM Vespers of Mid-Pentecost (11 May) SS Cyril & Methodius</p>	<p>25</p> <p>(12 May) St Epiphanius Fish, wine & oil allowed Mid-Pentecost</p>	<p>26</p> <p>(13 May) VM Glyceria</p>	<p>27</p> <p>(14 May) M Isidore of Chios Wine & oil allowed</p>	<p>28</p> <p>4:00 PM Class - Principles of Orthodoxy 6:30 PM Sunday Vigil (15 May) St Pachomius</p>
<p>29</p> <p>9:30 AM Hours 10:00 AM Sunday of the Samaritan Woman Divine Liturgy Tone 4</p>	<p>30</p> <p>(17 May) Ap Andronicus</p>	<p>31</p> <p>(18 May) M Theodolus of Ancyrus</p>				

June 2005

St. Xenia Orthodox Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 (19 May) HM Patrick of Prussa Wine & oil allowed	2 (20 May) M Thalalaeus	3 (21 May) SS Cons- tantine & Helena Wine & oil allowed	4 4:00 PM Class - Principles of Orthodoxy 6:30 PM Sunday Vigil (22 May) M Basiliscus
5 10:00 AM Sunday of the Blind Man Divine Liturgy Tone 5 1:00 PM Parish Council Meeting	6 (24 May) St Symeon of the Wondrous Mtn	7 (25 May) 3rd Find- ing of Head of the Forerunner	8 6:30 PM Vigil of the Ascension Apodosis of Pascha Fish, wine & oil allowed	9 8:30 AM Hours 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy Ascension of the Lord	10 (28 May) St Nicetas of Chalcedon Wine & oil allowed	11 4:00 PM Class - Principles of Orthodoxy 6:30 PM Sunday Vigil (29 May) V Theodosia
12 10:00 AM Fathers of the First Coun- cil Divine Litur- gy Tone 6	13 (31 May) M Hermias	14 (1 June) M Justin & comp	15 7:30 PM Bible Study (2 June) St Nicephorus Wine & oil allowed	16 (3 June) MM Lucil- lian & comp	17 (4 June) St Metro- phanes of Constantinople Wine & oil allowed	18 4:00 PM Class - Principles of Orthodoxy 6:30 PM Sunday Vigil (5 June) HM Dorotheus
19 10:00 AM Pente- cost Sunday Divine Liturgy 12:00 PM Kneel- ing Vespers	20 Day of the Holy Spirit	21 (8 June) GM Theo- dore the General	22 (9 June) St Cyril of Alexandria	23 (10 June) HM Timothy of Prussa	24 (11 June) App Bartholomew & Barnabas	25 4:00 PM Class - Principles of Orthodoxy 6:30 PM Sunday Vigil (12 June) St Onup- hrius; St Peter the Anchorite
Fast-Free Week						
26 10:00 AM Sunday of All Saints Divine Liturgy Tone 8	27 (14 June) Pr Elisha	28 (15 June) Pr Amos Wine & oil allowed	29 (16 June) HM Tychon	30 (17 June) MM Manuel & comp Wine & oil allowed		
Apostles' Fast						

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Methuen, MA 01844

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DIRECTIONS TO ST. XENIA CHURCH:

From I-93 North or South take Exit 46, Routes 110 and 113 Dracut and Lawrence. If you were travelling North on I-93, take the exit and go around the rotary and under the highway. Follow the signs and bear right off the rotary for Route 110/113 Dracut. If you were travelling South on I-93, bear right at the bottom of the exit ramp towards Route 110/113 Dracut.

Where Routes 110 and 113 split, bear right onto Route 113 towards Dracut. You will pass several cemeteries on your left, including the Polish National Catholic Cemetery. The very next gate on the left is the entrance to St. Xenia's. Please note that the church is on the left just before the Hickory Hill Golf course, so if you pass the golf course, you will have missed the church. Parking is available on church grounds.