



St. Xenia Parish News

170 North Lowell Street, Methuen, MA 01844

July/August 2009

Gratitude to God for Little and Much

by Elder Paisios of the Holy Mountain+ (1924-1998)

—"I believe, that God will help me," – some say, but then they try to save money so that they would not suffer any want. Such people mock God, because they are entrusting themselves not to Him, but to money. If they do not stop loving money, and put all their hope in it, then they cannot put their trust in God. I am not saying that people should not have some kind of savings in case of need, no. But they should not put their trust in money, they should not give their heart to money, because in doing so, people forget God. A person who, not trusting God, makes his own plans, and then says that God wants this, demonically "blesses" his deed and constantly suffers. We have not realized how powerful and kind God is. We do not let Him be the master, do not let Him direct us, and therefore we suffer.

On Sinai, in the cell of St. Epistimia where I lived, there was just a bit of water. In one cave, about 20 meters from the cell, water seeped drop by drop from a crack in the cliff. I made a small water collector and collected 3 liters of water a day. When I came for water, I put a tin can under the drip, and while it was filling, read the akathist to the Most Holy Theotokos. I wet my head a little, only my forehead, this helped me, one doctor had suggested this, I collected a little water to drink, in a separate can I collected a little water for the mice and birds living near my cell. For laundry and other needs, I used this very water from the cave. What joy, what thanks I felt for this little amount of water that I had! I praised God that I had water.

Then, when I came to the Holy Mountain and lived in the Iberian Skete for a short time, there, inasmuch as that side was sunny, there was no shortage of water. There was a cistern, out of which the water poured over the sides. Ooh! I washed my head, and feet... but the past was forgotten. On Sinai my eyes teared from thanks for the little amount I had, but here, in the skete, I fell into forgetfulness from the abundance of water. Therefore, I left this cell and set up residence father away, about 80 meters distant, where

there was a small cistern. How lost a person becomes, forgetful, from abundance!

We must completely, unconditionally entrust ourselves to Divine Providence, to God's will, and God will take care of us. A monk once went to the top of a mountain in order to serve vespers there. He found a white mushroom along the way and thanked God for this rare find. On the way back, he wanted to cut off this mushroom and prepare it for dinner. "If secular people will begin to ask me, if I eat meat, — the monk reasoned in his thoughts, — then I can say, that I eat it every autumn!" On the way back to the kaliva, the monk saw that, while he was reading vespers, an animal had stepped on the mushroom, and only half remained intact. "Apparently, — said the monk, — this is how much I should eat." He took what remained, and thanked God for His Providence, for the half of the mushroom. A little farther on he found another mushroom half, bent down to pick it and supplement the deficiency in his dinner, but saw that the mushroom was rotten (possibly, it was poisonous). The monk left it and thanked God again for protecting him from being poisoned. Returning to the kaliva, the monk supped with the half of the mushroom. The following day, when he left his home, a marvelous sight revealed itself. Beautiful mushrooms had grown all around the kaliva, and seeing them, the monk once again thanked God. See, he thanked God for both the whole mushroom and for the half, for the good and the bad, for one and for many. He was thankful for all.

Kind God gives us generous blessings, and His actions are directed towards our benefit. All the good that we have – are God's gifts. He placed everything in service to His creation – man, He made it so that everything: animals, and birds, and small, and large, even plants – sacrifice themselves for him. And God Himself sacrificed Himself in order to deliver man. Let us not be indifferent to all this, let us not wound Him with our great ungratefulness and insensibility, but let us begin to thank and praise Him.

St. Xenia of Petersburg Orthodox Church is a parish of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia, under the omophorion of Met. HILARION of Eastern America & New York. The parish newsletter is published bi-monthly 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: woolfolk3@gmail.com, 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: Sdn. Constantine Desrosiers (603) 775-0320
Secretary: Natalie Pishenin (978) 658-5564
Treasurer: Anthony Sarantakis (978) 263-2016
Sisterhood: Matushka Nancy Crowley (207) 767-1889
Cemetery: Rev. Michael Crowley, Natalie Pishenin, Peter Kasarda, Daniel McLellan, Maryann DiMatteo
Peter Danas (978) 459-9541
John Danas (978) 454-0315
Laryssa Doohovskoy (978) 841-5960
Roberto Gonzalez (978) 692-1229
Michael Johnson (603) 893-4593
John Kekis (978) 456-9865
Choir Director: Michael Lang (603) 465-975

Trapeza Schedule

Trapeza is potluck during the summer months. We suggest light fare, especially during the Peter and Paul Fast (June 15-July 11), and during the Dormition Fast (August 14-28). If you have any questions contact Karen Schidlovsky at (603) 868-6410. Trapeza can be whatever you would like to prepare. Some parishioners prefer to make a big lunch, but this isn't necessary, especially during the summer. As long as there is enough food for about 75 people, anything is appreciated. Donuts, fruit and pastries are as acceptable as soup and sandwiches. Thank you in advance for your contribution.

Sisterhood News: Our Lilac Nights Dinner Dance was another huge success! All had a great time. The food and the music were both great. We actually made a small amount of profit that will be put aside to help keep the price of tickets down next time.

Thank You...

... to all who worked so hard to make our Lilac Nights event so successful. We had a wonderful evening of dining, dancing, and fellowship!

Please remember in your prayers...Nicholas, Lilly, Nina, Josephine, David, Vassilisa, Lilly Anne, Margaret, John (Gil).

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

Financial Update: As of June 30, 2009, the balance on the church mortgage stands at \$29,335. If you have any questions, please see Subdeacon Constantine Desrosiers.

Church School News: Church school *will* continue during the summer months. Please encourage your children to attend.

Choir News: For the Feast of Pascha, the choir learned a new Cherubic Hymn by Trubachov, very beautiful, and they treated us to it again at the Feast of Pentecost. Although there are a couple of things on the horizon, more than anything we are trying to be ready for Vladyka Hilarion's visit (date to be determined).

In September, Laryssa Doohovskoy will begin a new round of vocal training classes, and she has agreed to start after the summer vacation, in September. These classes are open to all, and choir director Michael Lang highly recommends them for both existing and aspiring members of the choir.

For Sale in the Bookstore: Several 14K gold St. Olga crosses, with chains and gift boxes, are available for purchase. You may see Fr. Michael, if you'd like to purchase any.

Fifteenth Anniversary of the Glorification of St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco: This year marks the fifteenth anniversary of the glorification of St. John. This year the feast will be marked on Saturday, July 4 (closest Saturday to 19 June/2 July). The Cathedral in San Francisco where St. John is interred will mark the feast with services beginning at 7:30 pm on 2 July (Akathist to St. John), including an All-Night Vigil beginning at 6:00 pm, and Divine Liturgy beginning at 9:00 am, after which a Molieben of Intercession will take place. Festivities will conclude with a festal Trapeza. If you should find yourself in the area on any of these dates, we hope you will stop in and venerate the relics of St. John, who is such a protector of the Diaspora.

St. Seraphim Russian Orthodox Youth Camp: St. Seraphim Youth Camp is a private, non-profit, fully insured organization serving the needs of the Russian Orthodox community. The camp was founded in 1994 with the blessing of His Eminence, Metropolitan Laurus of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad. It uses the facilities of the Boy Scouts of America in the beautiful Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania.

The camp is held each year at the feast of St. Seraphim of Sarov. Children between grades 3 and 12 who are members of the Russian Orthodox Church are accepted. This year's camp will take place between July 26 and August 2. Each day begins and ends with prayer and includes daily religious instruction. The fasts of the Russian Orthodox Church are strictly observed. A camp choir sings the services, and each child goes to Confession and Holy Communion.

Camp activities include all the wonderful experiences we associate with camping, including arts and crafts, swimming, sports, archery, hiking, tube rafting, flag games and, of course, bonfires.

For more information, please see Fr. Michael. Applications are available online at:
<http://www.stseraphimcamp.com>

From the Pastor's Desk

We found ourselves very much in tune this year with Metropolitan HILARION's decree that the Feast of All Saints is to be dedicated to youth.

We began with our Lilac Nights Dinner Dance on Friday evening. From its very inception, the theme of the evening was to be "like a wedding, but with no bride and groom." And thus it was a very special family affair that provided the young, the old and all in between with an enjoyable social event.

Saturday afternoon at St. Xenia's parish grounds was the scene of a Family Fun Day. Families with young children gathered again for some community-building time. It was highlighted by a visit from the Methuen Fire Department. The firemen came and spoke to the children about fire safety, passed out red fire hats, and allowed the children to try on their fire gear, board their truck and take turns aiming the fire hose. The event concluded with a picnic barbeque before the beginning of Vigil.

While the families were enjoying themselves, the local coordinating committee for the upcoming St. Herman's Youth Conference was having its initial meeting.

The Divine Liturgy on the Feast of All Saints was almost a second Pascha. Not only did we have the Diocesan Youth Choir singing, but we also had a visiting priest, Fr. Onouphrey Keith from N.C., and two visiting deacons, Fr. Dimitri Temidis and Fr. Michael Soloviev.

We hope this "unexpected joy" can be repeated next year.

Holy Passion-Bearers Boris and Gleb First Glorified Russian Saints

July 24 / August 6

The holy Passion-bearers Boris and Gleb were the first Russian saints glorified by the Russian and Byzantine Churches. They were the sons of the great Prince Vladimir, the baptizer of the Russian people. They became known as Passion-bearers, since they did not resist evil with violence. They received the crown of martyrdom in 1015.

Boris (in baptism Romanus) and Gleb (in baptism David) were brothers by the same mother. Their father Vladimir, before his baptism, had numerous wives and many children by them. Hence, Vladimir divided up the state among all of his sons before his death, and after his death the eldest son, Sviatopolk, became Prince of Kiev (the main city of the state, Kievan Rus'). Sviatopolk (known to history as "the Accursed" and who scorned the laws of the newly adopted Christian religion) was jealous and wanted yet more power, and he planned to kill his brothers in order to gain their territories.

Some of Vladimir's advisers told Boris that he should take the army and establish himself as ruler of Kiev. St Boris, however, said that he could never lift his hand against his own brother.

Sviatopolk sent assassins to the Alta to kill Boris, who already knew that his brother wanted him dead. When they arrived they heard him chanting psalms and praying before an icon of Christ. He asked the Lord to strengthen him for the suffering he was about to endure. He also prayed for Sviatopolk, asking God not to count this against him as sin. Then he lay down upon his couch, and the assassins stabbed him with their lances.

After Sviatopolk had killed Boris, he sent Gleb a message saying that their father was ill and wished to see him. As he was on his way, he received word that their father had died and that Sviatopolk had murdered Boris.

St Gleb wept for his father and brother, and was lamenting them when the assassins arrived. They seized his boat and drew their weapons, but it was Gleb's cook who stabbed him with a knife. The martyr's body was thrown onto the shore between two trees. Later, he was buried beside St Boris in the church of St Basil. He is also commemorated on September 5.

Translation of the Image of Our Lord

August 16 / 29

According to Tradition, during the time of the earthly ministry of the Savior, Abgar V ruled in the Syrian city of Edessa. He was afflicted with leprosy over his whole body. At this time report of the great miracles performed by the Lord extended throughout Syria (Matt. 4:24) and as far as Arabia. Although not having seen the Lord, Abgar believed in Him as the Son of God and wrote a letter requesting Him to come and heal him. With this letter he sent to Palestine his court-painter Ananias, entrusting him to paint an image of the Divine Teacher.

Ananias went to Jerusalem and saw the Lord surrounded by people. He was not able to go to Him because of the great throng of people listening to His preaching; so he stood on a huge rock and attempted to produce a painting of the image of the Lord Jesus Christ, unable, however, to succeed. The Savior Himself called him by name and gave for Abgar a beautiful letter in which, having glorified the faith of the ruler, He promised to send His disciple in order to heal him from the leprosy and instruct him in salvation.

After this, the Lord called for water and a towel. He wiped His face, rubbing with the towel, and on it was impressed His Divine Image. The towel and the letter the Savior sent with Ananias to Edessa. With thanksgiving Abgar received the sacred object and received healing, but a small portion, only a trace, remained of the terrible disease on his face until the arrival of the promised Disciple of the Lord.

The Apostle of the 70, Thaddeus, came to him and preached the Gospel, baptizing the believing Abgar and all living in Edessa. Having written on the Image Not-Made-By-Hands the words, 'Christ-God, everyone trusting in Thee will not be put to shame', Abgar adorned it and placed it in a niche over the city gates.

Concerning the subsequent fate of the Image Not-Made-By-Hands, there exist several traditions. According to one, it was carried away by Crusaders during the time of their dominion over Constantinople (1204-61), but the ship on which the Holy Objects had been taken, sank in the Sea of Marmora. According to another, the Image Not-Made-By-Hands was taken about 1362 to Genoa, where it was presented to and preserved in a monastery dedicated to the Apostle Bartholomew.

The story is recorded in the Ecclesiastical History of Eusebius of Caesarea.

One Beautiful Weekend in June



Olivia and Anysia at Lilac Nights



He might look scary, but this is your friend...



Plenty of Dancing



Guest clergy for the Feast of All Saints



Visit from the Methuen Fire Dept. at the Family Fun Day



The Diocesan Youth Choir visited as well



ST. XENIA ORTHODOX CHURCH
 PO Box 147 - Methuen, MA 01844
 (phone) Fr. Michael Crowley cell (978) 204-0428 -- Church (978)
 688-1211



JULY 2009						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jun 28 (Jun 15) 3rd Sunday after Pentecost. Tone 2 9:30 Hours and Divine Liturgy Fast: wine & oil	Jun 29 (Jun 16) St. Tychon, bp. of Amathus Ven. Moses founder of Optina Skete Fast	Jun 30 (Jun 17) MM Manuel, Sabel, and Ismael of Persia Fast: wine & oil	1 (Jun 18) M Leontius, and with him MM Hypatius and Theodulus Fast	2 (Jun 19) Holy Apostle Jude, the Brother of the Lord Fast: wine & oil	3 (Jun 20) Hieromartyr Methodius, bishop of Patara Fast	4 (Jun 21) St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco the Wonderworker 6:30 All-Night Vigil Fast: fish, wine & oil
5 (Jun 22) 4th Sunday after Pentecost. Tone 3 9:30 Hours and Divine Liturgy Fast: fish, wine & oil	6 (Jun 23) The Meeting of the Vladimir Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos Fast	7 (Jun 24) Nativity of the Baptist Fast: fish, wine, & oil	8 (Jun 25) Virgin-martyr Febronia of Nisibis Fast	9 (Jun 26) Venerable David of Thessalonica Fast: wine & oil	10 (Jun 27) St. Joanna the Myrrh-bearer Fast	11 (Jun 28) Venerables Sergius and Herman, abbots of Valaam 6:30 All-Night Vigil Fast: fish, wine & oil
12 (Jun 29) Ss. Peter & Paul 9:30 Hours and Divine Liturgy Procession through Cemetery	13 (Jun 30) Synaxis of the Holy, Glorious and All-praised Twelve Apostles	14 (Jul 1) Holy and Wonderworking Unmercenaries Cosmas and Damian	15 (Jul 2) The Placing of the Honorable Robe of the Most Holy Theotokos at Blachernae Fast: wine & oil	16 (Jul 3) Martyr Hyacinth of Caesarea in Cappadocia	17 (Jul 4) Holy Royal Martyrs of Russia Fast: wine & oil	18 (Jul 5) Martyrdom of St. Elizabeth Romanov and Nun Barbara 6:30 All-Night Vigil
19 (Jul 6) 6th Sunday after Pentecost. Tone 5 9:30 Hours and Divine Liturgy	20 (Jul 7) Venerable Thomas of Mt. Maleon	21 (Jul 8) Holy Great-martyr Procopius of Caesarea in Palestine	22 (Jul 9) Hieromartyr Pancratius, bishop of Taormina in Sicily Fast	23 (Jul 10) Holy 45 Martyrs at Nicopolis in Armenia	24 (Jul 11) Blessed Equal-to-the-Apostles Olga, princess of Russia Fast	25 (Jul 12) Martyrs Proclus and Hilary of Ancyra 6:30 All-Night Vigil
26 (Jul 13) 7th Sunday after Pentecost. Tone 6 Holy Fathers of the First Six Councils 9:30 Hours and Divine Liturgy	27 (Jul 14) Apostle Aquila of the Seventy, and St. Priscilla	28 (Jul 15) Holy Equal-to-the-Apostles Great Prince Vladimir	29 (Jul 16) Hieromartyr Athenogenes, bishop and his ten disciples Fast	30 (Jul 17) Great-martyr Marina of Antioch	31 (Jul 18) Martyr Emilian of Silistra Fast	Aug 1 (Jul 19) Venerable Macrina, sister of St. Basil the Great 6:30 All-Night Vigil



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AUGUST 2009						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jul 26 (Jul 13) 7th Sunday after Pentecost. Tone 6 9:30 Hours and Divine Liturgy	Jul 27 (Jul 14) Apostle Aquila of the Seventy, and St. Priscilla	Jul 28 (Jul 15) Holy Equal-to-the-Apostles Great Prince Vladimir	Jul 29 (Jul 16) HM Athenogenes, bp and his ten disciples Fast	Jul 30 (Jul 17) Great-martyr Marina of Antioch	Jul 31 (Jul 18) Martyr Emilian of Silistra Fast	1 (Jul 19) Venerable Macrina, sister of St. Basil the Great 6:30 All-Night Vigil
2 (Jul 20) 8th Sunday after Pentecost. Tone 7 Prophet Elijah 9:30 Hours and Divine Liturgy	3 (Jul 21) Prophet Ezekiel	4 (Jul 22) Holy Myrrh-bearer and Equal-to-the-Apostles Mary Magdalen	5 (Jul 23) Martyrs Trophimus, Theophilus, and 13 others in Lycia Fast	6 (Jul 24) Martyr Christina of Tyre	7 (Jul 25) The Dormition of the Righteous Anna, mother of the Theotokos Fast: wine & oil	8 (Jul 26) HMM Hermolaus, Hermippus, and Hermocrates at Nicomedia 6:30 All-Night Vigil
9 (Jul 27) 9th Sunday after Pentecost. Tone 8 9:30 Hours and Divine Liturgy	10 (Jul 28) App of the 70: Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, and Parmenas	11 (Jul 29) Martyr Callinicus of Gangra in Asia Minor	12 (Jul 30) App Silas and Silvanus of the Seventy Fast	13 (Jul 31) Righteous Eudocimus of Cappadocia	14 (Aug 1) Procession of the Cross Fast	15 (Aug 2) Blessed Basil of Moscow, fool-for-Christ 6:30 All-Night Vigil Fast: wine & oil
16 (Aug 3) 10th Sunday after Pentecost. Tone 1 9:30 Hours and Divine Liturgy Fast: wine & oil	17 (Aug 4) Holy Seven Youths of Ephesus Fast	18 (Aug 5) Martyr Eusignius of Antioch 6:30 Vigil Fast	19 (Aug 6) TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD 9:30 Hours & Divine Liturgy Fast: fish, wine, & oil	20 (Aug 7) Martyr Dometius of Persia Fast	21 (Aug 8) St. Emilian the Confessor, bishop of Cyzicus Fast	22 (Aug 9) Apostle Matthias 6:30 All-Night Vigil Fast: wine & oil
23 (Aug 10) 11th Sunday after Pentecost. Tone 2 9:30 Hours and Divine Liturgy Fast: wine & oil	24 (Aug 11) Holy Martyr and Archdeacon Euplus of Catania Fast	25 (Aug 12) Martyrs Anicetus and Photius of Nicomedia Fast	26 (Aug 13) Venerable Maximus the Confessor Fast	27 (Aug 14) Prophet Micah 6:30 Vigil Fast	28 (Aug 15) DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS 9:30 Hours & Divine Liturgy Fast: fish, wine, & oil	29 (Aug 16) Translation of the Image Not-Made-By-Hands 6:30 All-Night Vigil
30 (Aug 17) 12th Sunday after Pentecost. Tone 3 9:30 Hours and Divine Liturgy	31 (Aug 18) Martyrs Florus and Laurus of Illyria	Sep 1 (Aug 19)	Sep 2 (Aug 20) Fast	Sep 3 (Aug 21)	Sep 4 (Aug 22) Fast	Sep 5 (Aug 23) 6:30 All-Night Vigil

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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.

St. Xenia Orthodox Church
170 North Lowell Street
P.O. Box 147
Methuen, MA 01844

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