

The Lighthouse August, 2017

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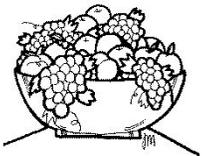
The Feasts of August at Christ the Savior:

The Dormition Fast, August 1 – 15. Orthodox Christians should observe the Church's fasting guidelines during this "Summer Lent." Also, each of us should strive to pray more, give more, and to live more deeply in a spirit of repentance. Father Vladimir is available for confessions by appointment or at times scheduled. In Orthodox Tradition, we will have the Service, Paraclesis to the Theotokos, at 7:00 pm on Friday August 4 and 11 as well as Wednesdays August 2 and 9.

Sunday, August 6: Celebration of the Great Feast of

Transfiguration: Next to Pascha it is one of the most glorious and

brightest days in the church. On the Eve of Transfiguration, Saturday August 5 at 6:00 we will celebrate the feast with a "abbreviated Vigil which will include the blessing of fruit and produce. From the youngest to the oldest, come with something from the garden,



from the farm stand, from the store or blackberries from the field. Come with a grateful heart giving thanks for the gift of life and being "guests upon His earth". Sunday following the glorious Divine Liturgy, we will bless and distribute grapes.

August 14: Eve of the Dormition of the Theotokos: 6:30 pm
Vespers and Liturgy of the Feast with procession of Epitaphion followed by the blessing of flowers and herbs. Everyone is encouraged to bring some flowers to be blessed. Even daisies are free for the picking.



August 15: The Feast Day of Dormition, 8:30 Festive Matins

August 16: The Feast of Christ the Savior (Icon of Christ not made by human hands) This will be celebrated on the following Sunday, August 20. There will be rededication with procession and family picnic.

These feasts are harvest feasts and point us to the end times - our own end here on earth and the end of this world when all will be transfigured and returned to Christ the giver of Life. I have come to realize that there is nothing I can say or do to make anyone accept these life-giving blessings...Love must always be freely accepted.



The power of weakness



In *Tramp for the Lord*, Corrie ten Boom describes traveling to Russia during the Cold War — when Christians were being persecuted — to thank an old woman who'd been secretly translating Christian books (including ten Boom's). Ravaged by multiple sclerosis, the woman could move only an index finger. Yet with it she typed constantly, translating words while praying for people who'd eventually read them.

Ten Boom's reaction was, "Oh Lord, why don't you heal her?" But the woman's husband said God had a purpose in his wife's suffering. Although the secret police closely watched *other* Christians, they left this woman alone, assuming she couldn't accomplish anything.

Jesus works through our weaknesses, making his power perfect in them (see 2 Corinthians 12:9). He doesn't ask if we're capable — only if we're willing.

Operation School Kits, Two Ways To Participate : Our project is off to a fantastic start. More bags were ordered and have arrived. **Thank you** to all who have so enthusiastically responded so far by filling a bag with the recommended supplies. The *second way to be part of the operation is donate toward the cost of the bags and for the postage to send the kits.* **Can you sponsor a Tote bag and postage? \$4 includes the cost of each bag and the estimated postage.** How can you help? Can you sponsor 1, 2, 4 or more bags??? **Thank You** so very much.

Women's Retreat Saturday: save September 9, on your calendar. Evangeline Zarras will lead us in a discussion of "Settling the Score a Different Way". This is a great opportunity to invite a friend to pray, enjoy wonderful fellowship, have delicious food and experience great discussion.



Gifted Hands: will be Friday, August 11th at 6:00 at Daniela Polonyova's home. Weather permitting, there will be some time by the pool. Contact either Daniela or Pattie for details.

The next Evening Retreat for Men: will be on the evening of the Holy Cross September 14 at 7:00.

New Theme for Educational Opportunities this Fall: Parables and the Beatitudes will offer much for our intellectual digestion. Adult classes as well as "Live Wires and Teens" will all follow the same theme. Youth classes will resume on *September 10*. Parents mark your calendars.



During this month of Blessings, we take this opportunity to stop and reflect on the blessings we have. Life at Christ the Savior during these summer months has not been in a "vacation mode". It is with sincere gratefulness to those who made the Love of our Lord Jesus Christ shine on a daily basis that we say **THANK YOU to:** all who participate in daily Services praying for everyone; those who faithfully accomplish their weekly responsibilities; those who cheerfully and generously serve the community at Coffee Hour; those who have created a program and updated our communication files; those who have offered the summer learning program for our youth with "Kids Club"; those who continue to assist in office organization; those who created an outdoor bistro area on the back porch and much more behind the scenes; The Lord Bless all of you.



Christ the Savior Picnic 2017: On Sunday August 20, we will celebrate the feast of Christ the Savior followed by a picnic on the grounds. Paul and Kathy Williams have volunteered to coordinate it. Please see them with your thoughts and offers to help in any way you can. We would like to reach out to as many neighbors, friends and former members as possible. Put on your thinking cap and write, call or send a pigeon to get the word out to some.

Away: Fr. Vladimir & M. Suzanne will be away from Monday August 28 to Saturday September 2.

Coming to Christ the Savior: It is truly with great joy that we will welcome our new Intern from St. Vladimir's Seminary. Seminarian, and iconographer, Seraphim O'Keefe with family will begin their year of Sundays on Sunday, September 10. There will be a write up on him in the September Bulletin.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS and be sure to tell family and friends about Sunday, November 12. It is the Sunday after the Feast of St. Nectarios and this year Archbishop Nikon will be coming to celebrate "Vespers of St. Nectarios" with us at 4:00 pm. Note this will be in place of the Eve

Please pray for Youth Rally this month. We will have three ralliers and three counselors.

The log in your eye

This humorous illustration of **how not to get along at college (or life)** also demonstrates Jesus' teaching in Matthew 7:3-5.

A young man from Scotland went to study at an English university. A month into the school year, his mother visited and asked how he liked living in the dorm. "It's awful!" he exclaimed. "The fellow in the room next door bangs his head on the wall constantly, and the one on the other side screams all day."

"How do you stand it?" his mother asked in amazement.

"Oh, I ignore them," her son replied. "I just sit here quietly, playing my bagpipes."

We pray and encourage our college students from Christ the Savior parish returning to colleges this month. A neighbor playing bagpipes will be among the least of their challenges to live as Orthodox Christians. Sasha, James, Megan, Thomas and Timothy – The Lord Bless you and give you strength.

“Above all you need to pray” Elder Porphyrios