

St. Demetrius Orthodox Church

APRIL 2010

Newsletter Sponsor

Pascha 2010

It seems like yesterday when Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow on Groundhogs Day this past February Second, announcing six more weeks of winter. Then, all of a sudden, the Orthodox Groundhog Punxsutawney Philopoulos saw his shadow and announced that Great Lent begins in two weeks! This year Great Lent came in all of a sudden like a lion, rumbled through March, and with joyful stride crossed the finish line at the first weekend of April as the Resurrected Lamb. I don't know if my age has to do with it, but not only did Great Lent fly by so fast for me, it also came with an attitude of "Ready or not, here I come."

On the one hand I wasn't ready, for I was still blessing homes from Epiphany, and now I had to prepare for Presanctified Liturgies, Lenten Vespers, St. Ephram's Prayer, and besides that, I was just being too busy. On the other hand, now I don't want Great Lent to end, I feel it needs to be longer, because of how I feel so in touch with God and refreshed from being away from the garbage that spiritually cluttered my life just fifty days ago. With both hands, it seems that spiritual obstacles are trying to keep me from growing closer to God

At the beginning of Lent there were many obstacles in front of me spiritually telling me I was not ready and to turn around in despair and go home. I knew I wasn't ready, however I didn't panic and proceeded with faith and humility head on into the Lenten Season. Today I can look back on my journey and rejoice in Christ's Victory of His Resurrection because I found in willingly proceeding beyond the obstacles that were before me, God removes them! Just like how Noah built an ark before a raindrop ever appeared, or like Moses who lifted up his staff, not knowing what God would do as he parted the sea, or as the Myrrh Bearing Women proceeding to the Tomb with no hope of moving the stone find that God had moved it for them. In order to experience the Resurrection of Christ in your heart you must proceed forward regardless of the obstacles of feelings, short failings, pains and sufferings .

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This newsletter is sponsored by **Monica Dellas** in thanksgiving for her eighth year anniversary of Christmation into the Orthodox Church and thanks be to God for the parishioners of St. Demetrius Church.

- *Casino Bus Trip*—April 17th see Lisa to reserve your seat on the bus.
- *Spring Cleaning* - Saturday, May 1st 9 am
- The *Tomb decorating* will start at 9 am on Good Friday. The Sisterhood will boil eggs for Pascha at the church that morning instead of everyone bringing them. However, you may bring your own in a basket to be blessed on Pascha.
- *RECORDINGS OF FR. DUSAN'S SERMONS*

Some of you may have noticed Barbara Rocco recording Father Dusan as he gives his sermons to both the children and the adults. These CD's are now available through our Church library. They are dated and the subject is labeled on the envelope to help you in selecting the topic you would like to hear. If you wish to check one out, please see our librarian, Cindy Parker. Also, thank you Barbara, for making these recordings available for our parish.

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St. Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 12:9, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Jesus promises to give us the grace and strength we need to make it through this life into the next life. If we can trust the Lord to be true to His word about overcoming death by His Death and Resurrection, then we can trust Him to be true to His word about everything else! Many people are out of work, many are dealing with an illness, many are struggling through day to day living without realizing there is hope and they think that God is the obstacle in life. People think, “Where is God when I need Him?” The truth is God is right here with all His glory and power. The Resurrected Lord is here in our midst ready to move us forward in life. Jesus never promised that we wouldn’t have tough times, but he promises to be with us in times of trouble, and to be our refuge for those who trust Him. If we can trust in Jesus’ Resurrection we can sure enough trust in His Word! This is one of the exciting things that happen to us when we put our trust in Him no matter what obstacle is in our way.

The Resurrection of Jesus encourages believers to believe, but it also encourages seekers to seek. The Resurrection proves that Jesus is true to His word and it encourages us to believe in the miraculous power of God! It encourages seekers to take a peek at the evidence of the empty Tomb just like Peter. The Resurrection of Jesus proves that we serve a Risen Savior who is alive and active today. All we need to do is trust in our Resurrected Lord and be willing to proceed beyond the obstacles we have before us, and we too will be able to see with our own eyes the empty tomb and proclaim, “He is Risen!”

Proceeding past obstacles and witnessing the empty tomb is not enough. The other obstacle we often face is to live and proclaim this joy of the Resurrection. In order for our Paschal joy to be made complete we cannot keep this joy to ourselves. We must go and proclaim the Good News! Experiencing the Resurrection in our hearts happens when you see others receive this joyous message. Giving is always better than receiving, and your joy will be made complete when you listen to the angel’s command at the empty tomb to: “Go and tell...” When we do not complete this joy in our hearts, we often fall back into our life of dead ends. The words “Christ is Risen!” shatters all obstacles that keep our heart and other people’s hearts blocked from God’s grace and love. When we trust our life living in the Victory of Christ and share this joy, there can be no obstacles. If God is for us, who can be against us!

It’s amazing how we listen to a groundhog announce in advance the end of winter. The groundhog’s predictions come true and we celebrate. How much more amazing it is and how much more we ought to celebrate when our God, Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ said ahead of time that the tomb will be empty in three days, and it was! That is cause for celebration! Not only is Jesus true to His word but His word brings us life, because Jesus is the Life and Resurrection! Let us rejoice and celebrate! Let us all proceed forward in our desire to be with Christ, and trust in His word in which today is made true! Ready or not, we have seen Christ’s Resurrection free of any obstacles. Let us not go back into our dark holes but shine, shine, shine as a Child of Light! Christ is Risen!

-Fr. Dusan Koprivica

Bible Questions

Answers to last months questions:

1. Naomi had 2 sons, what are their names? **Mahlon and Chilon**
2. The 2 sons were married to whom? **Oprah and Ruth**
3. In whose field did Ruth find a place to collect grain? **Boaz**
4. What was the custom in Israel to make a contract binding? **Take off a shoe and give it to the other person.**
5. Whom did Boaz marry? **Ruth**

The answers may be found in the first book of Samuel:

1. What was Samuel's mothers' name?
2. How many wives did Elkanah have?
3. Who was it David defeated in a fight?
4. How did David kill the enemy in the fight?
5. When Samuel died what city was he buried in?

Sunday, April 25th—All Church Members—Special Meeting

The Church Board has called a special meeting and vote, in accordance with the by-laws of St. Demetrius Parish. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the possibility of a new church hall addition and whether or not to proceed with this project. The meeting will take place on **Sunday, April 25th at 11:am** following Divine Liturgy.

We will have a presentation by the Building Committee, which will include the related estimates of the addition. This undertaking addresses our concern for having a first floor handicap accessible hall for the use of our parishioners. We also welcome any and all ideas and comments from the parish. After the information has been presented, we will have a discussion, on whether to proceed with a vote to continue to move forward with this project.

A quorum of our 55 members, who were eligible to vote at the December 6, 2009 Annual Meeting, is necessary for the parish to proceed, or not, on this project. If you are a voting member and cannot be present at this meeting, or if you have any questions, please call Fr. Dusan.

We hope that you will make an effort to attend this important meeting, and ask for your prayers for the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

St. Demetrius Church Board

The **Mystery of the Walled in Wallet' Writing Contest** winning entries will be announced in our Church on St. Thomas Sunday, **April 11th**. We had over a hundred entries and many wonderful stories. The three grand prizes of First place \$300; Second place \$200; and Third place \$100 will be awarded that day to the winning students. Come and see, how the mystery will be revealed!

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Holy Week Services

Great & Holy Wednesday, March 31 Unc-
tion Service 6 pm

Great & Holy Thursday, April 1, Liturgy
10 am, Matins 12 Gospel Readings 6 pm

Great & Holy Friday, April 2 Decorate
Tomb 9 am, Vespers/Rite of Entomb-
ment 4 pm, Matins/Laminations 6 pm.

Great & Holy Saturday, April 3, Liturgy
with 15 O.T. readings 9:30 am. Satur-
day night Compline Procession, Pascha
Liturgy 11 pm

Paschal Vespers, Sunday, April 4th, 11
am

Please remember in your prayers

For Good Health

Van Christoff
Cyndi Frantzis
Winnie Wangler
Michael Wangler
Kalliopi Anastasiadis
Pavlos Anastasiadis
Mary Lazaroff
Elaine Kleiner
Patty Canalas
Phil Lazaroff
Milan Koprivica
Jack Anderson
John Stamcos
Herb Foor
Helen Tannis

Departed

Deno Demos
Ted Chames
Ellen Koprivica
Samantha Cipolla
Mike Egnatuk
Archbishop Job
Stella Stamatakis
Norman Kirchis
Elaine Overley

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