



EASTERN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION

Volume 2 No. 5

July - August 2017

Newsletter

Of the Eastern Orthodox Church of the Annunciation

Holy Land Pilgrimage

A group of our parishioners, along with Fr. Matthew and parishioners from other churches, left Portland for the Holy Land on 4/25/17 and returned on 5/5/17. The group members were: Michael Alyas, Fr. Matthew, Tammy and Christopher Croll, Dn. Cuthbert and Martina Downs, Karen Barton, Anne Peugh, Mary Rohan, Susan Judy, Dennis and Pam Hille, Andrew and Stacey Gianopolos, and John Lampros.

The pilgrims visited many of the sacred spots where our Lord walked and lived. Below are some of our parishioners' accounts of their experiences on this pilgrimage:

"My faith is deepened because I can now overlay an ancient visual reality to the words of Scripture and the Lives of the Saints. My most memorable experience was at Golgotha, touching the ground where Christ's Cross was placed, revealing to me more than ever before, the extent of His Love and Compassion for me - for all of mankind - right down into the core of my being. Right up there in the memorable was singing our Troparion with Fr. Matthew and all the other pilgrims at the original Church of the Annunciation in Nazareth." - **Mary Rohan**

"To be on the ground where Jesus walked was beyond words. One of the

places we know that Jesus was actually at was Jacob's well where he spoke to the Samaritan woman. We were at this well, which we believe has never been disputed as being the actual well, and we drew water from it and drank it. We even brought some of the water home to share. The Sunday after we arrived home the message was that of the Samaritan woman, which brought the reality of it back to mind.

The other overwhelming feeling for me was that I had always dreamt of being baptized in the Jordan River, but thought it was something that would never happen, but it did! Michael Alyas had arranged for us to shop at a special store in Bethlehem. There, Denny bought me a solid green malachite pendant with a Jerusalem cross on the front. Well, after being baptized, that pendant had a blue river running through on the back side of it. To me, God had given me the Jordan River for a lasting memory of His love for me. It was an unbelievable experience that we will always cherish."

- **Pam and Denny Hille**

"The Holy Land pilgrimage was awesome! My favorite parts were Jacob's well in Samaria, and the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem. Jacob's well is behind iron doors in Samaria, and the altar of the church is over Jacob's well. You can go down the steps and see the old stone well, which was ancient even in Jesus' time. You can use the crank to pull up some very good water, as in the day of the Lord. This is the place where He spoke with the Samaritan woman. There is one older

monk who is the guardian of this place. There are also relics there of St. Philomenous, who was murdered by Zionists in 1979 (not that long ago). One of the relics of St. Philomenous, which the priest brought out, was so fragrant that you could smell it from 6 feet away. It was a heavenly smell.

The Church of the Holy Sepulchre contains many things. We saw and touched the stone slab where Jesus was laid (the Holy Sepulchre itself), and Golgotha (where you can see the place of the skull). On either side of where Jesus was crucified are two dome-like white outcroppings of rock, which actually look like the sides of a skull. You wait your turn to venerate the place where Jesus was crucified. There is an altar there, under which is a star, which surrounds a hole. If you put your arm down that hole, you can feel the granite like hole, and the marks used to carve out this hole, where the cross was placed. Then you move along, and can go down and wait to venerate the Holy Sepulchre.

There is also an Anointing Stone on the way into the church. The Anointing Stone is where Jesus was anointed after death. The tour guide was not sure if this was the original Anointing Stone. There is also the cave where Joseph of Arimathea was buried. Besides that, you can go down below the Skull and see where the rock itself was "rent in twain" as it says in the Gospel. All of this was in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. As I said, it was awesome, in the true sense of the word!" - **Susan Judy**

"To travel to my Lord's earthly homeland had only been a dream. I have always loved history - walking in the footprints that have been left behind have great meaning to me. A small example is the fact that my home is over 100 years old, and when my husband refinished the floors, I didn't want all the stains taken out, for there is a story to each of those stains. So you can imagine the thrill, as well as anxiety (if you know me), that traveling to Israel held for

me. After 17 hours of traveling, we arrived in Tel Aviv.

I had a myriad of feelings that passed through me during my trip. There were many highlights. It was the water places that held the greatest magnetism for me. Jacob's Well, the Sea of Galilee, and the Jordan River were the truest destinations. To think, touch, and drink from Jacob's Well where Christ met with St Photini, the Samaritan woman, was awe-inspiring. It was hard for me to take it all in. To be baptized by Father Matthew in the River Jordan was another overwhelming and spiritual experience. To take a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee, as well as sit on the shore and put my feet in the water, was emotionally immense for me.

Venerating the place of crucifixion, the Holy Sepulchre, Christ's place of birth in the Holy Nativity Church, walking through the Mount Olives, Gethsemane, stepping on the cobblestones of Old Jerusalem and Bethlehem, and the many other sights and sounds that were offered was like feasting and drinking upon the most stimulating and blessed of experiences. Though there was great joy, I also felt a deep sadness for my fellow Christian brothers and sisters who live in the Holy Land. It is a place that truly has known no peace. Their life is hard. We must continue to pray. The scripture that kept coming back to me time and time again was Luke 4:24 "And He said, Verily I say unto you no prophet is welcome in His own country." In conclusion, I can't emphasize enough that it was truly an experience of a lifetime to spend time in the Holy Land and to walk where once Jesus walked." - **Karen Barton**

Lecture on Holy Matrimony

On Saturday, June 17, Drs. David and Mary Ford visited our church as part of a trip they were taking through Montana and other Western states. They had visited eight parishes before arriving here at Church of the Annunciation. Fr. Athanasius Shaw introduced the Fords to those who were present at the lecture and mentioned some of the experiences he had as a student of Dr. David Ford at St. Tikhon's Seminary.

Dr. David Ford gave a talk on "Insights on Marriage from the Saints through the Centuries" in our parish hall downstairs. He and his wife, Dr. Mary Ford, are professors at St. Tikhon's Seminary and authors of two books: *Glory and Honor: Orthodox Christian Resources on Marriage* and *Marriage as a Path to Holiness: Lives of the Married Saints*. He quoted many passages in these books regarding what the church fathers have taught about Holy Matrimony. Towards the end of the lecture, Dr. Ford took questions from those in attendance.

"In marriage, the intimate male/female sexual bond, preserved and sanctified in mutual fidelity and trust, and fully good because it is the gift of the Good God Who loves mankind, knits husband and wife ever more closely in a union that is more profound than anything else in the entire realm of human relationships. And we as Orthodox Christians also understand that marriage is meant to last forever. Indeed, since we will be the same persons with the same memories in the next life, all our relationships will continue there, yet in a wondrously transfigured way. (The Orthodox wedding service does not have the words, 'Till death do us part.' Rather, the celebrant prays, 'Receive their crowns into Thy Kingdom, preserving them spotless, blameless, and without reproach, unto ages of ages.')" - Dr. David Ford



Drs. David and Mary Ford

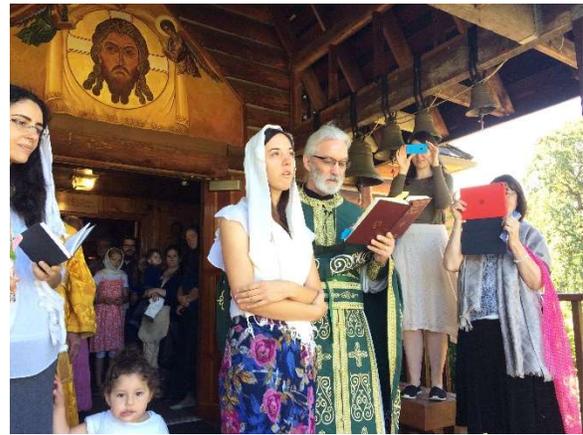
Sacraments and Blessings



Marta Dennee



Abigail Christina Sommer



Laura Wachsmuth



Lydia Porter



Lizeth Nino



Samuel Banke



Mik Seppala



Michael, Olga, and Abraham Hodges

Sacraments and Blessings

Baptisms

6/18/17: **Abigail Christina Sommer** (St. Christina)

Godparents: David Jeremiah Fuimaono and Shannon Rick

Parents: Curt and Kara Sommer

6/18/17: **Marta Dennee**

Godparents: Dn John Jensen and Cindy Olson

Parents: Michael and Anne Dennee

6/18/17: **Lydia Porter**

Godparents: Rd Michael Lowery and Erin Lowery

Parents: John and Pelagia Porter

7/2/17: **Samuel Banke** (St. Samuel)

Godparents: Daniel Vallejos and Bethlehem Senge

Parents: Christopher and Bethany Banke

7/9/17: **Mick Seppala** (St. John of Damascus)

Sponsors: Roy Aveling and Mat. Elizabeth Lien

7/9/17: **Michael Hodges** (St. Seraphim)

Sponsors: Ken Sabel and Ruth Burkett

7/9/17: **Olga Hodges** (St. Olga of Kiev and Matushka Olga of Alaska)

Sponsors: Carolyn Sabel and Jeff Gunderson

7/9/17: **Abraham Hodges** (St. Abraham)

Godparents: Yousef Matta and Martina Cuthbert

Parents: Michael and Olga Hodges

7/9/17: **Lizeth Nino** (St. Xenia)

Sponsors: Roy Aveling and Mat. Connie Shank

Chrismation

7/2/17: **Laura Wachsmuth** (St. Miriam)

Sponsor: Christine Matta

Wedding

5/21/17: **Jeremy Rick and Shannon Dolan**

Correction from May-June Newsletter

In our May-June newsletter, Dn Cuthbert was mistakenly shown as Jeremy Rick's godparent. However, Dn John Jensen is actually Jeremy's godparent. We apologize for the mistake.

Calendar of Events

JULY

7/9 Adult baptisms, 8:30 a.m.

7/17-22 Icon Workshop, Part 1

7/24-29 Icon Workshop, Part 2

7/26 Parish Council, 7:00 p.m.

AUGUST

8/6 Transfiguration

8/8 Vigil, St. Herman of Alaska, 6:30 p.m.

8/9 Liturgy, 9:00 a.m., St. Herman of Alaska

8/12 Readers Meeting, 6:00 p.m.

8/14 Vigil, Holy Dormition, 6:30 p.m.

8/15 Liturgy, 9:00 a.m., Holy Dormition

8/30 Parish Council, 7:00 p.m.

Iconography Workshops

The Prosopon School of Iconology Beginner's Workshop will be held 7/17-7/22. The Advanced Iconography Workshop will be held 7/24-7/29. For more information, visit www.prosoponschool.org. For questions, please contact Rosalie Broding at broding.oregon@comcast.net or (503)330-6545; or Roxy "Mary" Rohan at roxannerohan@gmail.com, or (503)729-5965.

Hospitality Schedule

July 16 – Jensen / McMichael
 July 23 – Shevchenko
 July 30 – McConnell / Johnson / Asano
 Aug 6 – Walker / Boyd
 Aug 13 – Vallejos / Mattea
 Aug 20 – Larkins / Reynolds
 Aug 27 – Wendel / Porter
 Sept 3 – Jolly / Liid / Ziegenfus
 Sept 10 – Schuurmans / Dressler

Here is what the Holy Fathers say about thoughts: "If thoughts that take away our peace assail us, know that they are from hell". Such thoughts must not be accepted. They must be banished immediately. We must struggle for our own good and strive for peace to take roots in our souls--peace, joy, and Divine love. Our Heavenly Father wants all of His children to have His Divine properties. He wants us to be full of love, peace, joy, truthfulness, and kindness. He wants us to be able to comfort others. We also want to become meek and humble, for only such a person radiates goodness and kindness.... Such a person is never insulted even when you shout and scold him; you can even hit him and all he does is pity you for tormenting yourself so. There are very few such people on this earth, but they are the reason why the sun still warms planet Earth and why God gives us His blessing to go on living and to have everything we need in order to live. You see now why our thoughts must change.

- Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica, *Our Thoughts Determine Our Lives*

If you have submissions for the newsletter,
 please e-mail them to
 Gail Cramer, islandtimezone@yahoo.com