



# THE PARISH VINE



## ПРИХОДСКАЯ ЛОЗА

*I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. John 15*

**The Youth Newsletter of St. Vladimir Russian Orthodox Church  
Молодёжный Листок Прихода Св. Владимира  
Ann Arbor, MI**

**April 2007**

### **Youth Group Takes a Trip to the Dormition of the Mother of God Monastery.**

On March 30th, we took a pleasant trip to the Dormition of the Mother of God Monastery, located in Rives Junction, MI. Abbess Gabriella greeted us upon arrival and gave us a brief history of the convent itself. Mother Benedicta, who was the abbess of the Monastery of the Transfiguration at the time, left her community to pursue missionary work with two other Romanian nuns. The three of them founded the monastery we visited, in pursuit of spreading Orthodoxy further into America. To support the monastery, the nuns sew, make prayer ropes, paint icons, publish books, and other various activities that they partake in during the day, when they're not in prayer. The monastery stands in a peaceful environment, where you can truly escape from the secular world. It was a great experience, and if you ever have the chance, we encourage you to visit, as they'll be happy to have you.



Diocese of Chicago & Mid-America Russian Orthodox Church

# First Annual Diocese-Wide Bell Ringing Competition



## June 30, 2007

8:00a.m. Divine Liturgy (St. John of Shanghai  
& San Francisco)  
10:00a.m. Bell Ringing Clinic/Practice/Lunch  
6:00p.m. Vigil/Dinner

## July 1, 2007:

10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy/Lunch  
1:00 p.m. Diocesan Bell Ringing  
Competition

Registration by June 1: \$50 per 3-person team  
Registration after June 1: \$75 per 3-person team  
All Ages!

*St. Vladimir Russian Orthodox Church  
Ann Arbor, MI*

[www.stvladimiraami.org](http://www.stvladimiraami.org)

## More Information + Registration Forms:

Dr. Konstantin Poplavsky (kepoplavsky@yahoo.com)

Alexander Droupine (D503@howemilitary.com)

Fr. Gregory Joyce (ogrisha@stvladimiraami.org or 734-649-5746)

*Sponsored by the Diocese of Chicago & Mid-America Youth Committee with the Blessing of His Grace, Bishop Peter of Cleveland*

# Egg Hunt! ~ Охота на яйца!

Sunday, April 22 Divine Liturgy ~ Бож. Литургия: 10:00 a.m.  
Egg Hunt – Follows Divine Liturgy ~ После литургии



For St. Vladimir's Young Parishioners! Come find eggs filled with candy and the GOLDEN EGG too!



Brought to you by St. Herman of Alaska Youth Group of St. Vladimir's Church



Cost: Absolutely Free!  
Don't miss this fun event!

Rain date: Sunday, April 29 – Following Divine Liturgy

## Standing and Bows During Prayer.

In order to express to God our reverence before Him and our worship of Him, during prayer we stand, and do not sit; only the sick and elderly are allowed to pray sitting down. Standing while at prayer is an ancient and God-ordained tradition. In Old Testament times, the congregation of Israel stood in the Temple (Neh. 9:4,5; 8:7, 2 Chron. 20:5,13), the Saints stand in Heaven before the Throne of God (Is. 6:2, 1 Kings 22:19, Dan. 7:10, Rev. 7:11), and even Jesus Christ Himself said, "*When ye **stand** praying*" (Mark 9:25). Therefore Christians, according to apostolic teaching, **stand** through the Divine Services, where it is often proclaimed: "Let us stand aright."



In recognizing our sinfulness and unworthiness before God, and as a sign of our humility, we make **bows** during our prayers. There are bows **from the waist**, when we bow from the waist, and **to the ground**, when we bow down on our knees and touch our head to the ground (a prostration).

## Different Types of Prayer.

If we and those close to us are healthy and safe, if we have a place to live, clothes to wear, food to eat, then we ought to give praise and give thanks to God in our prayers.

Such prayers are called **praise** and **thanksgiving**.

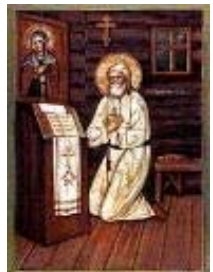
If some kind of misfortune, sickness, or woe happens or if we need something, then we must ask for God's help. These prayers are called **petitions**.



If we do something wrong, sin, and we are guilty before God, then we must ask His forgiveness — repent.

These prayers are called **penitential**.

Since we are sinful before God (we constantly sin), we must always, before we ask God for anything, first repent and then ask God concerning our needs. This means that penitential prayer must always precede our petitions in prayer.



## When God Hears Our Prayer.

When we prepare to pray, we must first make peace with everyone to whom we have done evil, and even with those who have anything against us, and after that, with reverence and attention, stand for prayer. During prayer we must direct our mind so that it does not think about anything else, so that our heart wishes only one thing: to pray better and please God.

If we pray without making peace with our neighbors, if we pray hurriedly, if we talk or laugh during prayer, then our prayer will not be pleasing to God. God will not hear such a prayer, and He might even punish us.

For more diligent and intense prayer, and for a good pious life, **fasting** has been established.

The time of fasting, or lent, is the period when we must think more about God, about our sins before God, when we must pray more, repent, not get upset or hurt anyone, but rather, help everyone, read God's law, and so on. And to make it easier to fulfill all this we must first of all eat less — not eat any meat, eggs, or milk, that is, animal and dairy products, but eat only "lenten" food, that is, from plants: bread, vegetables, fruit, and fish (if allowed). We fast because the rich foods from animal and dairy products call forth a desire not to pray, but to sleep, or to act foolishly. When we develop the habit of not giving in to our desires for more or rich foods it makes it easier to fight against sin.

The greatest and longest fast comes before Pascha. It is called "Great Lent."

## Where and How We Can Pray to God.

We can pray to God everywhere because God is everywhere: at home, in church, on every path. The Christian must pray every day, morning and evening, before and after eating, before and after every kind of work.

This kind of prayer is called **prayer at home** or **private prayer**.

On **Sundays** and **holy days**, and also on weekdays when we are free from work, we should go to church, where other Christians like us gather. There we all pray together.

This kind of prayer is called **public prayer** or **prayer in church**.



**With the blessing of Bishop Peter of Cleveland,  
The diocese of Chicago and Mid-America (ROCOR)  
Presents:**

# **The 2007 Spring Young Adult Retreat**

Topic: Orthodox Christianity in America

**May 27 – 28, 2007**

**Holy Trinity Church ~ Fort Wayne, IN**  
*2402 Smith St, Ft Wayne, IN 46803*

## Sunday, May 27

- 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. Registration at the Church
- 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. BBQ at the Church
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 8:00 p.m. Matins
- 9:30 p.m. Check-in to Hotel

## Monday, May 28

- 9:00 a.m. Meeting of Bishop Peter & Hours
- 9:30 a.m. Hierarchical Divine Liturgy for Parish Feast Day
- Noon - 1:00 p.m. Festal Meal at Church Hall
- 1:30 - 2:00 p.m. Talk by Fr. Daniel Marshall  
"What, me a Missionary?" - St. Innocent's Advice on  
Spreading the Word of God
- 2:00 - 4:30pm Open Discussion
- 5:00 pm Farewell Dinner

*For more information please visit: [www.saintsergius.org/retreat2007](http://www.saintsergius.org/retreat2007)*

*Cost - \$25 per person – make check payable to St. Sergius Cathedral includes:  
lectures, lodging and food*

*Registration deadline- **May 21, 2007***

*Contact Yuliya (734-330-5296) or Ksenia (734-709-9994)*

*or email: [sthermanyouthgroupcoordinators@yahoo.com](mailto:sthermanyouthgroupcoordinators@yahoo.com)*

*Open to Orthodox Young Adults (18 and older)*

# Spring 2007 Young Adult Retreat

May 27-28, 2007

Fort Wayne, IN

[www.saintsergius.org/retreat2007](http://www.saintsergius.org/retreat2007)



SPONSORED BY:

DIOCESAN YOUTH COMMITTEE  
OF THE DIOCESE OF CHICAGO & MID-AMERICA

*Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia*

The retreat will consist of lecture and discussion regarding the topic: “Orthodox Christianity in America”. There will be an emphasis on participation in the Divine Services by partaking of Holy Communion and singing and there will be ample opportunity for the gathered youth to interact with Bishop Peter of Cleveland, Administrator of the Diocese of Chicago & Mid-America.

This retreat is targeted specifically at college-aged Orthodox Christians. All proceedings will take place in English, with the Divine services held in both Church Slavonic and English. Registration is open to Orthodox young adults (18 and older).

**Registration must be received by **May 21!****

**Cost: \$25 per person**

This cost includes all meals, social events, transportation at the event and one night lodging (double occupancy) on Sunday, May 27. Lodging will be at the **Richfield Quality Inn (former Holiday Inn)** and all lectures and services will be held at Holy Trinity Church.

Please send the registration form with your check to:

Youth Retreat – St. Vladimir Orthodox Church  
c/o Yuliya Obertas  
5871 Cottonwood Dr.  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Please make your check payable to: *St. Sergius Cathedral*

**Please direct any questions to: [sthermanyouthgroupcoordinators@yahoo.com](mailto:sthermanyouthgroupcoordinators@yahoo.com) or 734-330-5296**

*Please note: we will make every effort to room you with those you request, but due to the limits of the venue we may not be able to honor all requests.*

Name: _____	Age: _____
Address: _____	Email: _____
_____	Phone: _____
List room mate preference: _____	
<i>Please be certain the person you list here is attending the retreat!</i>	

## Next Youth Group Meeting

Saturday, April 28 at 10 a.m.

Join us in the baking of Prosfhora for our Saint Vladimir Orthodox Church Parish!



The Holy Art of Prosfhora Baking:

[http://serko.net/index.php/wiki/Orthodox:Making\\_Prosfhora/](http://serko.net/index.php/wiki/Orthodox:Making_Prosfhora/)



We will be meeting at Panagioti Apostolou's home:  
Panagioti, Patricia & Dimitri Apostolou:  
2065 Chalmers Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 734-973-2993.

Panagioti Apostolou will be available the entire time to go over any questions...

Be advised, however, that we treat the baking of Prosfhora as a reverent service to our Saint Vladimir Parish. Sure, we WILL have fun as Orthodox Christians...remembering what it is that we are doing.

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*"If God be for us, who can be against us?"*  
*St. John Chrysostom*

### **"The Parish Vine"**

Published monthly by the St. Herman of Alaska Youth Group of St. Vladimir Russian Orthodox Church of Ann Arbor, MI with the Blessing of Priest Gregory Joyce, Rector  
Youth Group Coordinators: Yuliya Obertas & Ksenia Krivtsov  
Web: [www.stvladimiraami.org](http://www.stvladimiraami.org)  
Email: [sthermanyouthgroupcoordinators@yahoo.com](mailto:sthermanyouthgroupcoordinators@yahoo.com)

Do you like to help others?  
Would you like to learn more about your Orthodox Faith?  
Do you like to meet new people?  
**Join the Youth Group!**

***St. Herman Youth Group is for ALL St. Vladimir's Teens!***

**→ Contact our Youth Group Coordinators for more information. ←**