



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

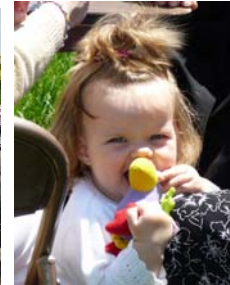
The Youth Newsletter of St. Vladimir Russian Orthodox Church
Молодёжный Листок Прихода Св. Владимира
Ann Arbor, MI

May 2007

The weekend of May 12th was an eventful one for the youth group. Early on Saturday morning, we met with Panagioti Apostolou at his home to get an inclusive inside look of how the Prospophora bread is prepared for our church. We learned the secret recipe, the prayers that are read when making it, and even got the chance to help out Panagioti during the whole process (be sure to take a look at our pictures on our church website in order to see our youth group at work :) www.stvladimiraami.org). It was definitely an amazing experience for us and now we can really appreciate the work that is put inside the baking of the Prospophora. Therefore, next time you're eating holy bread, remember how much time and love is put into each piece and thank Panagioti Apostolou and Juliana Feloniuk who also bakes prospophora for our church!



On Sunday, the youth group prepared a fundraising meal for the church. It turned out very nice and the weather was beautiful. We missed all of you who were not able to join us!



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

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

Make a Wish Foundation

From: Tasia Fedorov

Hello my dear friends:

There is a little boy in Granville (a town north of Albany) who has cancer. When approached by the "Make a Wish Foundation" about a special trip or gift, this little boy didn't want to go to Disneyland or receive any huge gift. What he wants more than anything is to receive ONE MILLION birthday cards for his 8th Birthday - **May 30th**.

While a million is probably not realistic, it would be great if he receives lots of them. (Hey, they're 2 for a buck in the dollar store). I'm going to send some and thought you might like to do the same. It would be great if he received cards from different states or even countries (say something like "Birthday wishes from Massachusetts, or New Jersey, or Connecticut, Canada", whatever the case may be..... Please pass this along to your friends, family and e-mail buddies and let us all try to make a little boys dream come true. If you have children, maybe their class would like to do this as a class project.

They should be sent to:

Granville Elementary

60 Quater St.

Granville, NY 12832

Attn: Shane's Birthday Cards

Thank you and God Bless you all,

Tasia Fedorov

Hey guys,

*Tasia Fedorov is Marcus's aunt and she's the one who wrote and sent this out, **THUS** it is not junk mail, it's serious. And honestly - \$2 a card? We can **ALL** contribute at **LEAST** that much if not more right? Please do this for the little boy. If anything - let it be your first contribution to charity and somewhere actually worthwhile as opposed to the enormous amounts of food and clothes, half of which we do not need and may actually be better off without. Please give it a thought and spread the word.*

God Bless,

Anya Makovik

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

*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

Open to Orthodox Young Adults (18 and older)

Spring 2007 Young Adult Retreat

May 27-28, 2007

Fort Wayne, IN

www.saintsergius.org/retreat2007

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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> |              |

## The Church Building.

The church ("temple") is a special house consecrated to God — "the House of God" in which the Divine Services are conducted. In the church there abides the special grace or mercy of God, which is given to us through those who conduct the Divine Services, namely, the clergy (bishops, priests and deacons).

The external appearance of the church differs from other buildings in that there is a **dome** which symbolizes Heaven rising over the church. At the top of the dome is its **peak**, where the Cross stands, to the glory of the Head, Jesus Christ. Over the entrance to the church there is usually built a **bell tower** where the bells are hung. The ringing of the bells serves to summon the faithful to prayer — to the Divine Services, and to give notice of the most important parts of the service taking place in the church.

At the entrance to the church there is a **porch** (courtyard, or entrance way). The inside of the church is divided into three parts: 1) the **narthex**, 2) the **church** itself, or the **nave, or middle part** of the church, where the people stand, 3) the **Altar**, or Sanctuary, where the services are conducted by the clergy and where the most important part of the whole church is located — **the Holy Table** (altar table), on which the Mystery of the Holy Eucharist is celebrated.



The altar is separated from the central part of the church by the **iconostasis**, which consists of several rows of **icons** and has three doors. The central doors are called **the Royal Doors**, because through them the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, the King of glory, passes invisibly in the Holy Gifts (in Holy Communion). Therefore, no one may pass through the Royal Doors except the clergy.

The reading and chanting of prayers that are served in the church by the clergy are called **Divine Services**.



The most important divine service is the **Liturgy**. It is conducted before noonday. During this service the entire earthly life of the Saviour is commemorated, and the **Mystery of the Eucharist (Holy Communion), which Christ himself instituted at the Mystical Supper**, is celebrated.

The Mystery of Holy Communion is the consecration of bread and wine by God's Grace, when they become the true Body and true Blood of Christ. In appearance they remain bread and wine, but we receive the **true Body and true Blood of the Saviour**, under the appearance of bread and wine, in order to enter the Kingdom of Heaven, have eternal life and change ourselves.

Since the church is a **very holy place**, where **God Himself** is present invisibly by special mercy, we must enter it with prayer, and conduct ourselves quietly and reverently. During the Divine Services it is forbidden to talk, and even more so to laugh. It is forbidden to stand with your back to the Altar. Each person stands in his place and does not walk from one place to another. Only in case of sickness is it permitted to sit down and rest. It is wrong to leave the church before the end of the Divine Service.

We must approach Holy Communion **calmly** and **without haste**, with our arms crossed over our breast. After Communion we kiss the chalice without making the sign of the Cross, in order not to strike the chalice accidentally.

## **The Priest's Blessing.**

The clergy (that is, specially ordained people who celebrate the Divine Services) are our spiritual fathers. Bishops and priests sign us with the sign of the Cross. This is called a **blessing**.

When the priest blesses us, he forms the Greek letters **IC XC**, that is, Jesus Christ, with the fingers of his hand. This means that through the priest our Lord Jesus Christ Himself blesses us. Therefore, we must receive the blessing of the clergy with reverence.

When we hear in the church the words of blessing, "Peace unto all" and others, in reply to them we should bow without making the sign of the Cross. In order to receive a personal blessing from a bishop or a priest, we should place our hands in the form of a cross: the right hand on the left with the palms upward. When we have received the blessing we kiss the hand that blesses us — we kiss, as it were, the invisible hand of Christ the Saviour Himself.



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

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

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of St. Vladimir Russian Orthodox Church of Ann Arbor, MI  
with the Blessing of Priest Gregory Joyce, Rector  
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Web: [www.stvladimirami.org](http://www.stvladimirami.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. ←**