



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**

January 2008



Youth Group Meeting

1/27/08

On January 27th, 2008 we held our first youth group meeting of the year of 2008. We started off with discussing our fundraising meal which we agreed to hold on March 9th seeing as lent starts the following day. Our annual ice skating event followed by ice cream will be held that same day right after the meal. We then discussed the Heart Walk which we all agreed to participate on May 3rd at 9:45AM. When it came to volunteering we agreed that our first priority is to visit our sick. Each month we are going to organize a day when we can all get together and visit the sick of our Parish. We are still continuing to see Vasiliki on the first Monday of every month. Our ideas for other volunteering organizations included the VA Hospital, Ronald McDonald House, a Soup Kitchen and etc. We wrapped up our discussion of this year's plans with the Adult Youth Conference. The youth group is looking forward to having this year's conference in our area (preferably Brighton) and we are long into having the date be at the end of August.

Our discussion of questions submitted by youth group members included the prohibition on clergy dancing in public, women's participation in seminaries as well as a thorough discussion about the Pope of Rome and his relation to our religion.



Nativity Ball 2008

On January 11th, our parish spent a delightful evening at the Travis Pointe Country Club house. We had a good turn out of young adults. The evening was spent watching our fellow parishioners perform, engaging in conversation with new and familiar faces, and of course dancing the night away. Thank you to all the people that worked hard to make this ball a success!



Adult Youth Conference in Goshen, IN November 2007

Last year's Thanksgiving Adult Youth Conference in the Diocese of Chicago & Mid-America took place at the Protection of the Mother of God Parish in Goshen, Indiana on the topic: "Marriage in Orthodoxy: Saving Your Soul in Tandem." The lectures were presented by Fr. John Moses of All Saints of North America Church in Middlebrook, Virginia as well as by Protinica Mira Kostur of St. Elijah Serbian Orthodox Cathedral in Merrillville, Indiana. They were very enlightening and captured the interests of all the members of the conference. The participation of all the members was spectacular and everyone enjoyed each other's company. The activity at this conference included going to explore the Amish Acres and finding out about how the Amish live. The experience was very fulfilling and also enjoyed by all.



The Sacred History of the Old Testament.

How God Created the First People.

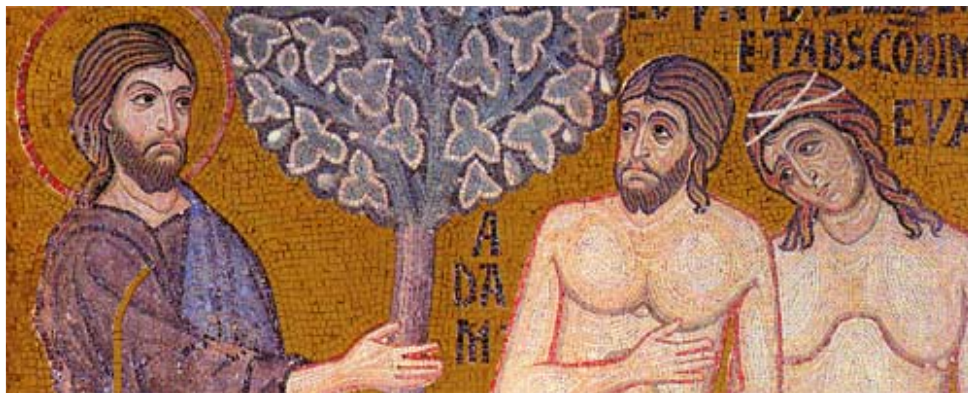
God created man in a different way from the other creatures. Before His creation, God, in the Most-holy Trinity, confirmed His wish. He said: *"Let Us make man in Our own image, after Our own likeness"* (Gen 1:26).

God created man out of the dust of the earth, that is, from matter, from which all material things were created in the earthly world, and He breathed into his face the spirit of life; that is, He gave him a spirit, free, intelligent, alive, and immortal, according to His image and likeness, and man came into being with an immortal soul. By this "breath of God," or immortal soul, man is separated from all the other living creatures.

So we belong to two worlds: in body to the visible, material, earthly world, but in soul to the invisible, spiritual, heavenly world.

God gave the first man the name Adam, which means "taken from the earth." He then caused Paradise, a beautiful garden, to grow on the earth, and placed Adam to dwell there so that he would cultivate and keep it.

In Paradise all kinds of trees with the most beautiful fruit grew; among them there were two special trees: one was called the tree of life, the other the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Tasting of the fruits of the tree of life had the power to preserve man from illness and death. Concerning the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, God commanded man: *"of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shall not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die"* (Gen 2:16-17). Then, at the command of God, Adam gave names to all the beasts and birds of the air, but he did not find among them a companion and helper for himself. God then brought a deep sleep upon Adam; when he went to sleep, He took one of his ribs and closed the place with flesh. And from the rib taken from man, God created woman. Adam called her Eve, that is, the mother of men.



God blessed the first people in Paradise, and said to them: *"Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it"* (Gen. 1:28).

By having created woman from the rib of the first man, God showed us that all people come from one body and soul, that they should be one, and should love and care for one another.

Note: See Genesis, chaps. 1:27-29; 2:7-9; 2:15-25; 5:1-2.



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

www.stvladimiraami.org
sthermanyouthgroupcoordinators@yahoo.com

Ksenia Krivtsov and Anya Makovik

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Priest Gregory Joyce, Rector
Youth Group Coordinators:
Anya Makovik & Ksenia Krivtsov
Web: www.stvladimiraami.org
Email: 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!

Diocese of Chicago and Mid-America Youth is a group for Orthodox young adults, which helps us stay united and in contact across the Midwest. Please join if you would like to know more about the Orthodox faith as well as be up to date on events/activities going on in our diocese.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/DioceseofChicagoMidAmericaYouth/>

