Wisdom hath builded her house, she hath hewn out her seven pillars: She hath killed her beasts; she hath mingled her wine; she hath also furnished her table. She hath sent forth her maidens: she crieth upon the highest places of the city, Whoso is simple, let him turn in hither: as for him that wanteth understanding, she saith to him, Come, eat of my bread, and drink of the wine which I have mingled. Forsake the foolish, and live; and go in the way of understanding.

# Sophia

A Devotional Newsletter of St. Sophia Parish

St. Sophia Orthodox Church
195 Joseph St.
Victoria, BC
V8S 3H6
Canada

# St. Sophia Orthodox Church

*a Parish of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia*

*195 Joseph Street,*
*Victoria, British Columbia*
*Canada V8S 3H6*

*email: info@saintsophia.ca*
*website: www.saintsophia.ca*

*Services are in English*

***Saturday***

*Vigil – 6 p.m.* – Всенощное бдение

***Sunday***

*Hours – 10 a.m.* – Часы

*Divine Liturgy – 10:30 a.m.* – Божественная Литургия

*Vespers – 5 p.m.* – Вечерня

*Archpriest John Adams*
*Priest Philosoph Uhlman*
*Protodeacon Gordian Bruce*

# April 2018 Services

***If you wish to partake of Holy Communion during Holy Week you must come to Confession the night before. There is no time in the morning.***

- ***Saturday March 31- Vigil 6 pm Eve of Palm Sunday***
  *(Blessing & distribution of the willows during Matins)*
- ***Sunday April 1 - Liturgy 10:30 am Palm Sunday*** *(bring your willows)*

## *Passion Week*

***Sunday April 1- Matins – 7 pm***

***Monday April 2 - Great and Holy Monday Vespers with Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts 10am***

- ***Matins - 7 pm***

***Tuesday April 3 - Great and Holy Tuesday Vespers with Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts 10am***

- ***Matins – 7 pm***

***April 4 - Great and Holy Wednesday Vespers with the Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts 10am***

- ***Matins – 7 pm***

***April 5 - Great and Holy Thursday Vespers with Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great 10am***

- ***Passion Gospels, Matins - 7pm*** *(Bring your lanterns!)*

***April 6 - Great and Holy Friday***

- ***Bringing out of the Winding Sheet – 4 pm***
- ***Lamentations and Procession – 7 pm***

- ***April 7 - Great and Holy Saturday & Feast of the Annunciation***
- ***Vespers with Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great - 10 am***

***Confessions for Paschal Liturgy heard Holy Saturday between 4 pm-6 pm***

## ***Great & Holy Pascha***

- ***Reading of the Acts of the Apostles***
- ***Saturday night April 7th 10:30 pm…***
- ***Midnight Office 11:30 pm…***

***Immediately followed at midnight by Paschal Matins Sunday April 8th***

***12 am & Divine Liturgy;*** *followed by the blessing of the Eggs, Kulich, and Pascha Baskets.* ***This is the only time for blessing the eggs, Pascha baskets and Kulich.***

***Sunday April 8th Paschal Vespers 1 pm,***

- ***Followed by Festal Potluck Lunch*** ***(Food Signup sheet on Bulletin Board)***

***Bright Saturday April 14*** ***- Vigil 6 pm***
***Thomas Sunday April 15- Liturgy 10:30 am***

- ***Artos*** *dispersed after service*
- *Blessing the Orthodox graves at Royal Oak and Ross Bay Cemeteries for* ***Radonitsa****, after Liturgy, with parish picnic following/weather permitting*

***Saturday April 21- Vigil 6 pm***
***Sunday April 22 - Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women, Liturgy 10:30 am***

- *Sunday Evening Vespers - 5pm*

***Saturday April 28 - Vigil 6 pm***
***Sunday April 29 - Sunday of the Paralytic, Liturgy 10:30 am***

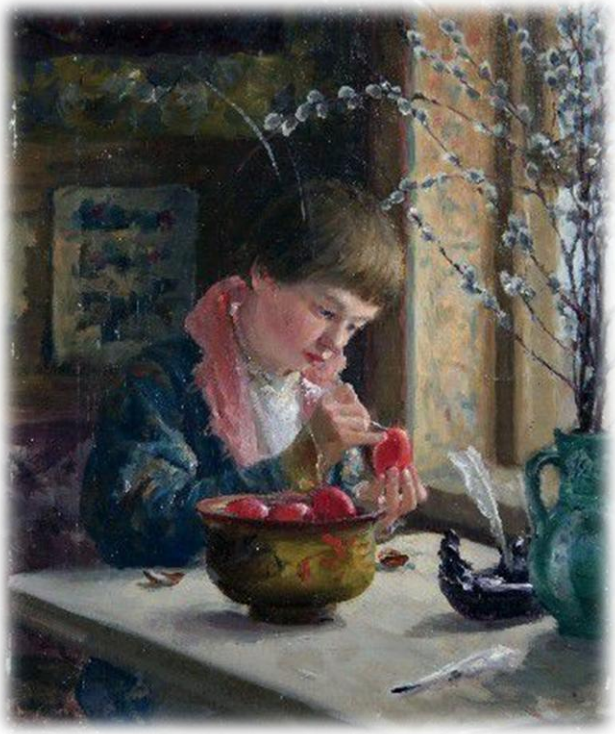
- *Sunday Evening Vespers - 5pm*

***Tuesday May 1 - Eve of Mid-Pentecost Vigil 6 pm***
***Wednesday May 2 - Mid-Pentecost Liturgy 10:30 am***

## Holy Week

...Therefore, no matter what we experience, or no matter how little we experience, let us attend these services, let us immerse ourselves in what they have to say to us.

We will not try to forcibly squeeze some feelings out of ourselves: it is enough to watch; it is enough to hear. Let the events themselves — for these are events and not just memories — break us in body and soul.

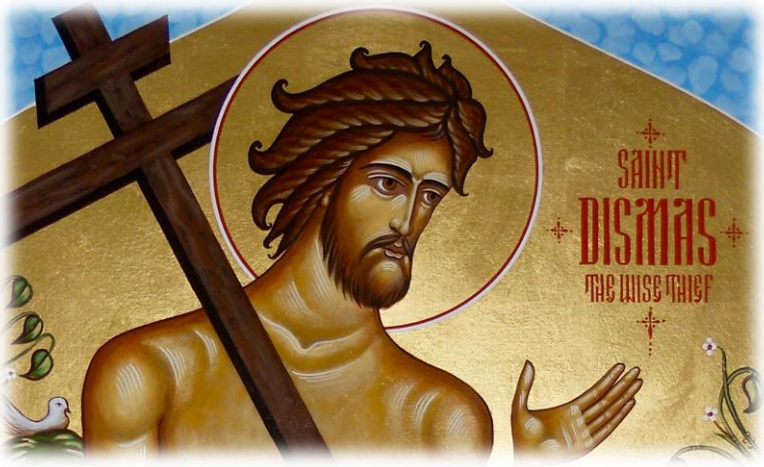


Then, when we forget ourselves and think rather of Christ, about what is really taking place during these days, we will reach also that Great Saturday when Christ is laid to rest in the tomb — and we also will find rest.

When at night we hear the announcement of the Resurrection, we too will be able to suddenly come alive from that terrible numbness, from that terrible death of Christ, from Christ's dying, of which we shall partake at least a little during these days of the Passion.

- *Metropolitan Anthony Bloom*

# Why the Wise Thief Was Pardoned




The Wise Thief's whole life had been one of theft and crime. But evidently his conscience had not died, and in the depths of his heart something good remained.

Tradition even hold that he was that very thief who, during Christ's flight into Egypt, took pity on the beautiful Baby and forbade his accomplices to kill Him when they attacked the holy family.

Did he perhaps recall the face of that Child when he looked upon the face of the One hanging next to him on the Cross?

*- St. John the Wonderworker of Shanghai and San Francisco*

### *Sung at Matins on Holy Thursday*

*The Wise Thief, didst Thou make worthy of Paradise! In a single moment O Lord, by the wood of the Cross, illumine me as well, and save me!*

## Holy 40 Martyrs Lark Buns

This year the Lark Buns were all baked by the Parish Youth Bakers.

Thank you to ***Alix, Anysia, and Sam!***

## Parish Youth Fundraiser a *Souper Sunday* Sensation!

Thank you parish Youth for all your efforts souper during this fun and successful event! Thank you Irena for being the coordinator!

# Great and Holy Week… And You Seem to Disappear

It is impossible to understand, to emotionally depict, or imagine the meaning of the words, by our sins we crucify Christ. And we probably ought not to attempt it. However, it is impossible for a person who believes in Christ not to feel that way towards the end of Lent, during Holy Week. For, during Lent we are going up to Jerusalem. And the further along we get, the more serious it becomes, the more insistent does the Church become in reminding us about it in its Sunday Gospel readings.

On Palm Sunday, we become like them, the people of two thousand years ago, who with branches of palm trees exclaimed "Hosanna!" Christ enters Jerusalem, and we enter the Holy Week, mystically, but in a very real way. For Great Lent allows us to experience spiritual life as a genuine reality. For a person, it becomes an encounter with a reality that can neither be felt, nor described.

An instant, and eternity is before us. Suddenly we are near, and Holy Week is speeding past us. Possibly, only the poet Pasternak could have described the reality, with which it happens in a person's life, how people actually experience it within themselves…

An instant, and the Crucifix is before me, I'm holding a candle, and the Gospel of the Passions is being read. And the voice of the priest, the sound of the word of God suddenly becomes an absolute, amazing reality, the present. Here is Christ. And I am here. There goes the sound of the rooster crowing. That's when you understand, so this is why everything is happening. This is why Christ is on the cross. This is why the world is so dreadful. This is why so many things go wrong. The rooster crows – and I understand, this is what I am really like. And that is it. There is nothing else that needs to be explained.

We have to try to attend the services of the Holy Week as often as possible. Say what you will, not that many people attend these services, nor listen attentively to the Triodes.

Or, when unable to attend church, get yourself a Lenten Triodion, read the Triodes yourself, read the Stichera of the Aposticha. Immerse yourself into the poetry of the Lenten Triodion. It is some of the greatest Christian poetry, the greatest example of Christian art that has reached us…

And when you come to a service, it lifts you up, it penetrates you to the very core of your being like fresh air, cleanses you through the sound, the smell, the tone of Holy Week. You don't do anything, you don't prepare in any way, you simply line up. And the Church itself lines up in that moment and with it you tune into the sound of Holy Week, just like a musical instrument. And it happens all by itself. You seem to disappear.

What is the most wonderful thing that can happen to people during Holy Week? They can forget about themselves, disappear into these services. An instant, and it seems you're gone, there is nothing but Holy Week, you no longer even think about yourself.

It would be wonderful if that could happen. At some point, it happens to everyone during Holy Week, people disappear before God, forget themselves completely. Now that would be good.

*– Archpriest Alexei Uminsky*

## A Request From Our Neighbours

Our neighbouring family (next to the church) is growing vegetables alongside their house and back yard, and do not want vehicle exhaust blowing toward their plants. They kindly ask "please not to back into the parking stalls, but rather nose in."

Yours in Christ; Reader Peter - Church Warden

## @ Private Group Site!

### Registration & Non-Refundable Payment by Pascha!

* $40 per whole family or $15 per single youth/adult to pay for the group site and food

* Please pay m Barbara, thank you

* Church provides meat hot dogs, bread buns, condiments, chips, fruit and veggie platter, S'mores, hot and cold beverages.

* If you want to eat something other than what the church provides, please bring it.

***Please Register by Pascha!*** **Registration on Bulletin Board and payment to m Barbara for the Private Group Goldstream Campground fee and for the Campfire Food.**

***Please Register by Pascha!***

**Registration forms are beside church bulletin board and non-refundable payment separately to m Barbara for the two nights Private Group Goldstream Campground fee and for the food and beverages.**

## April Parish Saint's Days

Congratulations to Larissa H, Larissa V, Larissa T, Mary, Daria, and Marie A. God grant you many years!

## Church Cleaners

*Thank you* to Elena and Olga, the March Church Cleaners. May God reward your diligent and loving efforts!

## Church Gardeners Needed: Please Help!

*Please look to the bulletin board and see where you and your family may help and sign up together for a month of gardening/watering… at least once or twice a week for a half hour to an hour.*

*Our usual two parish gardeners who have worked diligently for the past four years are unable to continue, and the parish does not have the finances to pay a professional gardener. Thank you.*

## The Flower Bunch

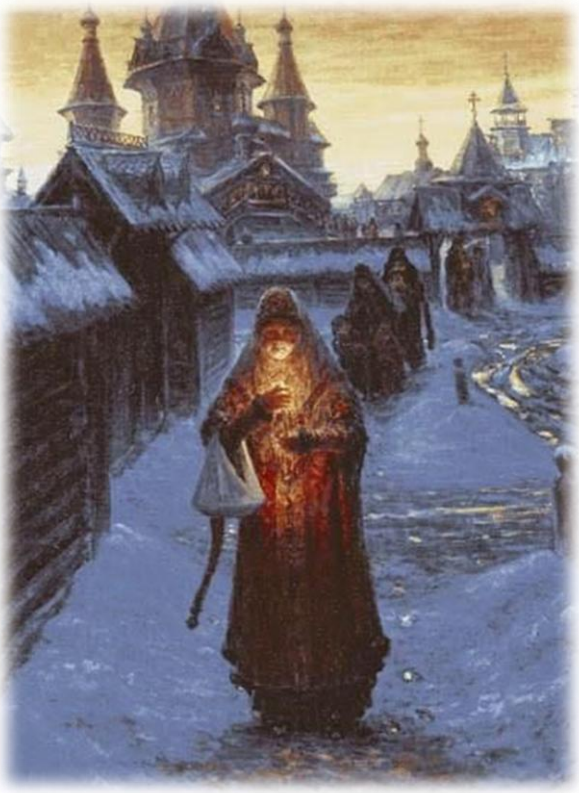
Thank you to the Corwin Family for beautifying God's House for the month of March. The flowers for all services were donated and wonderfully arranged.

## Pearls of Wisdom

.. At dawn, the Paschal service finishes in the church but continues in our souls. We started seeing everything in the light of Christ's Paschal glory, and everything looked different than yesterday. Everything is more beautiful, more sensible, more glorious. Only in that light of the Resurrection does life have meaning.

*– St. Nikolai Velimirovich*

... Now since you are celebrating the holy Pascha, you should know, brethren, what the Pascha is. Pascha means the crossing-over, and so the Festival is called by this name. For it was on this day that the Children of Israel crossed over out of Egypt and the Son of God crossed over from this world to His Father. What gain is it to celebrate unless you imitate Him Whom you worship; that is, unless you cross over from Egypt, that is, from the darkness of evildoing to the light of virtue, from the love of this world to the love of your heavenly home? - *St. Ambrose of Milan*



... Their poor ointments, with which they meant to preserve from corruption Him who Himself keeps the heavens from decay, and with which they desired to anoint Him from whom the heavens take their fragrance! O most fragrant Lord, the only fragrance of the human being and human history; how wondrously didst Thou reward these devoted and faithful souls who did not forget Thee dead in Thy tomb! Thou didst make the Myrrh-Bearing Women the bearers of the tidings of Thy Resurrection and Thy glory! They did not anoint Thy dead body, but Thou didst anoint their living souls with the oil of gladness. The mourners of the dead became the swallows of a new spring. - *St. Nikolai Velimirovich*

Yesterday I was crucified with Him; today I am glorified with Him. Yesterday I died with Him; today I am made alive with Him. Yesterday I was buried with Him; today I am raised up with Him. Let us offer to Him Who suffered and rose again for us ... ourselves, the possession most

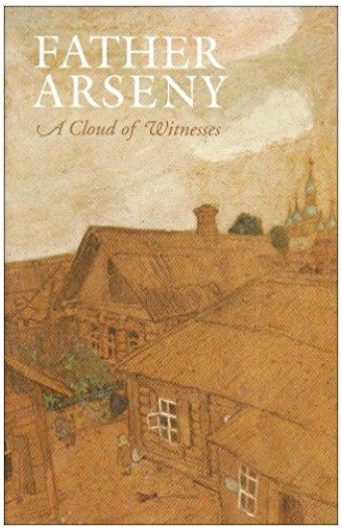
precious to God and most proper. Let us become like Christ, since Christ became like us. Let us become Divine for His sake, since for us He became Man. He assumed the worse that He might give us the better. He became poor that by His poverty we might become rich. He accepted the form of a servant that we might win back our freedom. He came down that we might be lifted up. He was tempted that through Him we might conquer. He was dishonored that He might glorify us. He died that He might save us. He ascended that He might draw to Himself us, who were thrown down through the fall of sin. Let us give all, offer all, to Him who gave Himself a Ransom and Reconciliation for us. We needed an incarnate God, a God put to death, that we might live. We were put to death together with Him that we might be cleansed… We rose again with Him because we were put to death with Him. We were glorified with Him because we rose again with Him. A few drops of Blood recreate the whole of creation!
- *St. Gregory the Theologian, Pascha Orations*

Once an ascetic of the Kiev Caves Lavra went on Pascha day to the famous caves where hundreds of monks are buried. Filled with Paschal joy, he cried out, "Christ is risen!"

"In truth He is risen!" came a brotherly, jubilant response… It was a greeting from another world, from the reposed monks of the caves; citizens of the Heavenly Kingdom.

Although a parish will travel to the cemetery one week Sunday after Pascha with the priest (for Radonitsa) to bless the graves of our Orthodox kin, visiting the cemetery as a family <u>on</u> Pascha Day just to sing *Christ is Risen* to our dear ones is also traditional pious custom. *–Abbess A.*

# APRIL Library Features

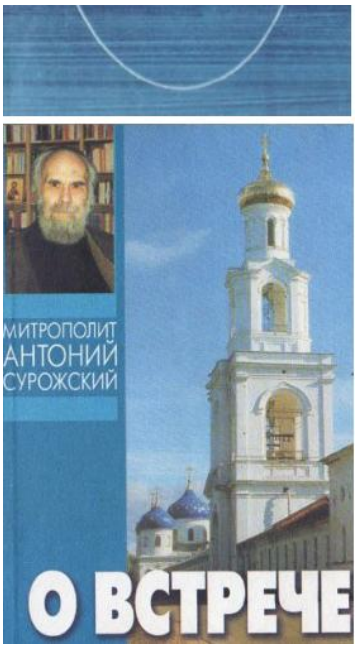



**Father Arseny: A Cloud of Witnesses**
**-** *translated by Vera Bouteneff*

The stories of Father Arseny and his work in the Soviet prison camps have captured the minds and hearts of readers all over the world. In this second volume readers will find additional narratives about Father Arseny newly translated from the most recent Russian edition.

Митрополит Антоний Сурожский «Беседы о вере и церкви», СП Интербук, М. 1991, 319 стр.

Митрополит Антоний Сурожский «О Встрече», САТИСЪ, Санкт-Петербург, 2020, 284 стр.




Митрополит Сурожский Антоний — православный епископ, более 30-ти лет возглавлявший епархию Русской Православной церкви в Великобритании. В своих статьях он проповедует, размышляет о живой традиции православной Церкви вне России, вспоминает жизнь свою и тех православных христиан, которые несли Слово Божие на Запад в 20-м веке.

Metropolitan Antony of Surozh headed the Russian Orthodox Church in Great Britain for over 30 years. In his articles he meditates upon the Bible subjects, recalls his life and that of the Orthodox Christians who were bringing the Russian Orthodoxy to the West in the 20th century.

# Paschal Greeting

I greet you with the Feast of Christ's Bright Resurrection, with the passing of winter, and with the coming spring and summer. May God grant us again and again to spend many future years as joyously as on this radiant day of Christ's Resurrection!

Everything gives place to other things: spring resurrects nature; in autumn it dies, and during winter it sleeps a deep sleep. Likewise, all of humanity falls into the sleep of death, so as to rise again into a better, eternal life. But it sleeps until the coming of the dawn of the Bright Day, until the morning of the general resurrection shines forth joyously for the righteous.

Those parted from us by death are sleeping in the bosom of the earth. Oh, how wondrous that sleep is! Neither the noise of the wind, nor the whistling and howling of storms, nor the clap of thunder, nor our exclamations, sobs, and wails-nothing can awaken those sleeping in the graves until the time appointed by God.

The light of the dead has faded, the spark of life has gone out, and their bodies have become stiff. Gradual decay has separated member from member, bone from bone, and their whole human structure has turned to dust.

We, treading upon the earth, are treading upon the dust of our ancestors. Pick up a handful of earth, and think-an eye, sparkling with life, or laughing lips, or a cheek, beautified by ruddiness and whiteness!

The dust, that earth, once comprised living beings, but they did not take on human form by themselves - they were created by the Omnipotent Creator.

Why does it seem unbelievable to us that this earth, which the dead turn into, will again be brought to life by God's omnipotent word, which calls what is non-existent into being [cf.Rom.4:17]?

Can one call such a state sleep? Will these dry bones live? Will dust blossom with beauty and splendor?

Recall the order of spring during each year of your life, and look upon the surrounding nature in spring, which is frozen each winter in deadly cold.

But what happens in spring? Everything, from blades of grass, begins to grow, puts out shoots, blossoms, becomes fragrant, and enjoys new life. Do you see? The plant and the tree hope [cf.Job14:7]; everything comes alive and stands out beautifully with new existence!

Oh, there is no doubt, brethren in Christ, for those who believe in the general resurrection. Those who did good will be raised unto the resurrection of life, and those who did evil unto the resurrection of judgment.

*Verily, verily, I say unto you, if a man keep My saying, he shall never see death [*John 8:51] *He that believeth on Him is not condemned; but he that believeth not is condemned already [John 3:18].*

In the future life, everything - the smallest tear shed by you out of pity for an innocent man - will not be forgotten, and the smallest alms will be repaid. Concealed, kind compassion and a sigh for another will be glorified before the whole world.

For a cup of cold water, immortal springs will be poured out for you. Both conjugal love and the virginal purity of widows will be honoured before God's eyes, as will be the submission of subordinates to those above them and the care of those under their command.

Every good intention will not be put to shame; diligence will be praised, labour will be rewarded, faithfulness will be glorified, zeal for God will be kissed, struggles of faith and all virtues will be crowned - nothing good that you have done be hidden. *Thy Father who seeth in secret Himself shall reward thee openly* [Matt.6:4]

Therefore, every Christian must have the zeal to spend his life in piety and purity if he desires that this temporal life be turned into eternal, blessed life.

This is the reward of those who endure with faith and live in Christ; Blessed will be that day of the general resurrection. Amen.

*-The Love of God: The Life and Teachings of St. Gabriel of the Seven Lakes Monastery*

# The 100th Anniversary of the Martyrdom of the Russian Royal Family … A series of articles from various Russian Orthodox Language sources

## Prince Alexei Romanov

Look at the icon of New Martyrs and Confessors of the Russian Orthodox Church and you will see something very important.

There is a boy standing in front of all the great martyrs and confessors who defended the Faith in its darkest hour in Russia. He is in front there like the main intercessor before God for all people. How come a boy's prayers can be so powerful and important to God?

This boy is St. Alexei (†1918), Tsar Nicholas and Tsarina Alexandra's only son and the heir to the Russian throne. The whole royal family went through martyrdom at the cruel hands of godless commissars in July of 1918. St. Alexei was the youngest in the family; he was about 14 at the time.

St. Alexei was born on July 30 (August 12, NS), 1904, in Peterhof, a beautiful suburb of St. Petersburg. He was the fifth and the last child in the royal family. Alexei was very long awaited by his parents as the line of hereditary succession in Russia required a male heir to the throne. Before Alexei, the tsar and tsarina had four daughters: Olga, Tatiana, Maria and Anastasia. Together they made up one of the most loving and exemplary families in the world. They were canonized in Orthodox Christianity as a family too.

Pierre Gilliard, a Swiss academic and a French language tutor to the royal children, wrote in his memoirs about the first time he saw Alexei: "I almost finished my class with Olga Nikolaevna [Tsar's daughter] when the empress entered holding the prince-heir in her arms. She obviously wanted to show me her newborn son whom I had not seen yet. Her face shone with

maternal joy, as the prince was the answer to her long prayers. I felt she was very proud and happy for her beautiful son… And indeed, the prince was as good-looking a boy as you could only imagine, with his pretty fair-hair curls, big grey-green eyes, long and beautiful eyelashes. His face had a healthy rosy complexion, and when he was smiling he had two cute dimples at his cheeks… I noticed that the empress was holding the prince very tenderly and tightly to herself. There was some deep underlying concern about her loving look at him. It was much later when I realized the reason for her concern."

Little Alexei was found to have a rare hereditary blood condition called hemophilia, which causes very slow blood clotting and thinning of blood vessels. Any small bruise or cut would cause him a lot of painful suffering and might be deadly. From his earliest age his doctors required special care for him, which was done by two sailors who were with him at all times. Many regular kids' activities that his sisters enjoyed were prohibited for him, like playing tennis or riding a bike.

Nonetheless, little Alexei was a very playful boy. Pierre Gilliard noted in his diaries that Alexei liked to play with his guards' kids, never paying any attention to his royal status or their being sailors' children; yet he was a very thoughtful, bright and compassionate boy. Gilliard was often struck by the questions Alexei would ask, which showed just how delicate and sensitive he was.

Gilliard wrote: "I found in him a boy with a naturally loving heart with an unusually deep understanding of other people's pain, probably because he suffered himself a lot."

Another commentator noted that Alexei's condition increased his will power, as he did not like to cause too much concern in those around him

while his sufferings were truly great. He also had a lot of respect for his mother and for all who would devote themselves to caring for others.

The young prince's life was far from luxurious. Alexei spent a lot of time studying and doing homework. He studied with breaks from 9 am to 2 pm. Then there was a mandatory walk in the fresh air with other kids, his favourite pet animals or his sisters (he especially enjoyed the company of Anastasia, who was just a little older than him). At 4 pm the studies resumed and lasted until dinner time. All commentators noted his bright and quick mind, his high ability to learn. Before bedtime Alexei would listen to his father reading from his favourite book. Alexei was very religious and when his health allowed it, he always attended church services with his family (for other members of the royal family, missing church was not an option).

All this suffering and the incurable condition shaped a very special personality within him. By ten he had learnt quite well what pain was and how close death could be. Once his sister Olga found him lying on his back and looking at the clouds: "What are you doing?" she asked.

"I like to think. I enjoy so much the sun and the summer, and I know tomorrow I might not see it again," he replied. He realized very well how fragile life was and how limited the physical presence might be even if you are a prince.

They say there are no ifs in history, but looking at the downfall of Soviet Russia in the 20th century, it's very tempting to think of what Russia would have become had Alexei become its Tsar. His father, Tsar Nicholas II, laid out a very firm and fertile foundation for the economic, cultural and religious development of the country, which flourished under his rule.

Russia was still behind some world powers but this lag was only temporary. With Alexei being all Nicholas II hoped for in terms of intellect, character, faith and more – due to his specific condition – Russia would have soared as an economic, political, scientific, cultural and spiritual leader of the world. It would have become the country demonstrating both might and the highest moral principles and ideals, setting the mark of benevolent political

behaviour at such high levels that are nowhere seen at the real moment. The Russian monarchy would have become the glorious kingdom, emulating the mystical kingdom as close as it is physically possible in this world.

There is profound wisdom in the fact that God did not let this happen at that time. For the good of the mankind he sent his own Son to die on the cross.

For the same good of the Russian people the Royal Passion Bearers accepted their martyrdom. The world was simply not ready for this bright kingdom that Russia would have become, and God in his wisdom made it impossible—for the moment. But as St. Paul wrote it in his Epistle, "For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through its wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of preaching to save those who believe" (1 Cor. 1:21).

The life of St. Alexei shows that the only true and lasting answer to all human weakness and suffering is humility, unconditional love for Jesus Christ, who would accept all his faithful servants in his heavenly kingdom. And this kingdom would never crumble as Russia did without Orthodox Christianity and the pious tsar. - *A Short and Bright Life by Julia Komleva*

## Practical Tips

**PLEASE! No Wearing of Lipstick or Lip Balm When Coming to Holy Communion or kissing Holy Icons!**

It is shocking to see those who came to Holy Communion wearing *lipstick*.

If any approached the Holy Chalice wearing lipstick at St. John Maximovitch's cathedral, he would refuse to Commune them.
All our parish's painted icons now have to have

glass coverings on them because lipstick is ruining them.

It is terrible to see the glass icon covers and even the Blessing Cross with lipstick blotches. Who wants to kiss over that?

*And, lately, there has been found lipstick stains on the Holy Chalice itself, which as you know, holds the very Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.*

**Please do NOT wear lipstick or balm when kissing icons, or when going to Holy Communion! Thank you!**

## Links

St. Sophia Orthodox Church, Victoria BC
http://saintsophia.ca/

St. Sophia's **FREE** Lenten Cookbook Recipes "Come and Dine"
http://comeanddinerecipe.blogspot.ca/

St. Sophia Youth Quarterly **THE ARK**
http://www.saintsophia.ca/the-ark/

Official site of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia
http://www.russianorthodoxchurch.ws/synod/indexeng.htm

The Rudder: Streaming Orthodox Christian sacred music 24/7
http://www.myocn.com/rudder/

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, Vancouver BC
http://russianorthodoxchurch.ca/en/

Morning Offering by Abbot Tryphon
http://blogs.ancientfaith.com/morningoffering/

Western America Diocese Official Site
http://www.wadiocese.org/

*"We knew not whether we were in heaven or earth… We only know that God dwells there among men, and their service is fairer than the ceremonies of other nations."*

# The Orthodox Church

*With these words, envoys sent from Russia by Prince Vladimir in the year 987 recorded their impression of Constantinople's awesome Orthodox Cathedral, Hagia Sophia. They had been sent to search for the true religion. Within a year of their report, Prince Vladimir and the Russian people were baptized in Christ by Orthodox missionaries. Today, as in Prince Vladimir's time, the Orthodox Church – fully aware that man is a union of body and soul – uses all the beauty of creation to move her faithful children to prayer and worship: icons, beautiful singing, sweet-smelling incense, and majestic services.*

*The Greek word 'Orthodoxia' means 'correct praise' or 'correct teaching' and in the Orthodox worship the praise and teaching are closely interwoven.*

*Jesus Christ founded His Church through the Apostles. By the grace received from God at Pentecost, the Apostles established the Church throughout the world. In Greece, Russia, and elsewhere, the True Apostolic Church continues to flourish, preserving the Faith of Christ pure and unchanged.*

*"Christ the Power of God,*
*and the Wisdom of God"*

*– First Corinthians*

## Troparion in the Second Tone

*We bow down before Thine all pure image, O Good One, asking forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ God; for Thou wast well pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh of Thine own will, that Thou mightest save what Thou hadst created from slavery to the enemy. Wherefore, we cry out to Thee in thanksgiving: Thou hast filled all things with joy, O our Saviour, Who hast come to save the world.*

## Kontakion in the Second Tone

*O uncircumscribable Word of the Father, knowing the victorious image, uninscribed and divinely wrought, of Thine ineffable and divine dispensation towards man, of Thy true incarnation, we honour it with veneration.*