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

July 2018 Sophia Issue #75 Services

Saturday June 30th Vigil 5:30pm Moleben St. John Maximovitch and Sunday July 1 Liturgy 10:30am

- *Sunday Evening Vespers- 5pm*

Saturday July 7 - Vigil 6pm
Sunday July 8 - Liturgy 10:30am

Wednesday July 11 – Vigil 6pm
Thursday July 12 – Liturgy 10:30am Holy Apostles Peter & Paul

Saturday July 14 - Vigil 6pm
Sunday July 15 - Liturgy 10:30am

- *Sunday Evening Vespers- 5pm*

Saturday July 21 - Vigil 6pm
Sunday July 22 - Liturgy 10:30am

- *Sunday Evening Vespers- 5pm*

Saturday July 28 - Vigil 6pm
Sunday, July 29 – EARLY Liturgy 9:30am
Followed by a blessing for the Youth & Leaders attending the Parish Summer Camp

In Memory of Michael D

In memory of Michael D, and with Father John's blessing, a parishioner donated money toward the needed recovering and re-cushioning of the wooden church chairs. *Memory Eternal Michael!*

In Memory of Faith L

In memory of Faith L - a centenarian grandmother, who reposed in 2000... With Father John's blessing, a parishioner donated the heat tolerant sedums to the church garden bowl in front of our church sign. Faith was an avid gardener, and her amazing rose garden appeared in the 1970's Times Colonist. Faith was baptized Orthodox at the age of 89! *Memory Eternal Faith!*

12th Annual Lavender Rose Tea
Saturday July 21st
10:30 am – 1:30 pm

The Lavender Rose Tea features highly inspired floral infused: sweets, savories, baking and preserves.
Complimentary hot and cold beverages!

This is an important annual Major Fundraiser for our parish, and there are many opportunities to help support this event. *Please watch the Bulletin Board for more information. We need your support!* The popular Public Mosaics Studio Tour is scheduled for noon. The Tea always coincides with the Victoria Art Gallery's Moss Street Paint- In, and attracts numerous new and returning visitors. This is a special opportunity to introduce the ancient beauty of the Orthodox Church to those who are unfamiliar with it. Thank you.

July Parish Saint's Days

Congratulations to Archpriest John, John P, John L, John M, Sergei R, Sergius B, Reader Peter Hal., Reader Peter Hen., Elizabeth C, Alexandra C, Juliana T, Olga S, Olga R, and Olga I. God grant you many years!

Parish Garden Report

Have you noticed how striking and revived our church garden is?

Shura began the original lovely décor and plantings over decade ago when she lived closer to the church. Please notice the Knot Garden in the Cross Shape copied from a Greek Monastery, when you look down and south over the front church entry!

As everyone knows, it takes dedication, elbow grease and love to keep and maintain a garden. This means that it has been church volunteers who have been watering, pruning, sweeping, and weeding over the years. We can thank Melania and Zoe for this!

And, one Saturday in May… several parish volunteers spent a combined effort of 35 - 40 hours doing extra garden work.

Zoe, Melania, Readers Peter Hen. and Peter Hal. and John M worked tirelessly, weeding, adding mulch, and placing large rocks strategically around the gardens.

A New California Lilac (Ceanothus) Hedge was planted out back along with some “back-up” pussy willow trees for Palm Sunday.

John zapped the stubborn weeds growing through the cement along the outside of the trapeza walk-way. Readers Peter and Peter removed the debris branches accumulated from Pascha.

Reader Peter Hen. cleaned the lower well of dead leaves and trimmings beside the Church stairs.

Zoe spent several hours weeding the lavender garden.

The team also weeded “the winding River Jordan” rock stream (May St side), and removed nefarious grasses near the gravel back lot.

The team sweeps and waters three times weekly. It is too much for one person to do alone. Teamwork! It would be amazing for a couple more volunteers to arrange with Zoe to assist over the hot summer. May God bless these gardeners for their love of beautifying God’s House!

Heard in Passing in the Fairfield Community

“Have you seen that little church? What a transformation!
It is so beautiful!”

In Memory of My Dear Godfather

My dear Godfather, Michael Dimozantos was born in Khartoum, Sudan in 1943 to a Greek father and an Ethiopian mother. He grew up in Ethiopia but considered himself Greek. Michael was an electrical engineer by trade, spoke 7 languages, wrote in 5 of those languages and lived on 3 continents.

The first time Michael and Maria and their boys, Demetrios and Marcos, came to St. Sophia parish was on Forgiveness Sunday (Blini). I'm told that he would ever after refer to that day as their anniversary. He once told me that although he was born Orthodox, that was the day he found the true Church.

I met him years later in trapeza after Liturgy one Sunday. I sat down at the table he was at and began listening to a story he was telling about how the saints truly hear our prayers and how St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco once answered one of his prayers almost before the words were out of his mouth. As I listened I realized that the man in front of me not only possessed a very strong faith but was also extremely intelligent and would not easily fall for supposed "miracles". This was very important to me, as I was a skeptic and God knowing everything about me, chose to put in my path this man whose very strong faith and gift for storytelling would help guide me on my path to Him.

Michael was a master storyteller. It was something that came easily to him. If you ever needed a reminder of what is true and actually worthy of your attention you could just sit down beside him and he'd bring your thoughts back to a spiritual place. He so impressed me with his stories that, with Father's blessing, before I joined the church, I asked if he would be my Godfather. That was a gift that would keep on giving for 12 years.

I'd sometimes write to him with questions, and my emails were confused and convoluted and sometimes "nit-picky" as he would put it. Michael was always able to sift through the chaff, finding the true question and proceed to explain things clearly and lovingly. I'd correspond with him by email mostly (never as often as he would have liked) as he lived up-island and couldn't come down to Victoria as often as he wished, and he'd always reply

with some humorous opening like “Thank you for your email. (After all, miracles do happen!!!)” Or “There you go again trying to run before you walk.” And then he’d begin a spiritually rich letter full of encouragement, love and very clear advice which centered on prayer and faith.

A couple of years ago my husband and I had the very great fortune of having Michael stay with us for a couple of nights. It was only supposed to be one night but God provided us with a snowstorm so that we could have more time together. Michael regaled us with stories of his life and insisted on cooking for us; both the stories and the delicious food were plentiful. It was a wonderful time with him that I’ll cherish forever.

Since his passing I’ve heard him whispering to me from time to time. I’ve heard him say, “That is the evil one at work. Do not lose faith. Be alert and pray to God.” And I’ve also heard him joke, “But what do I know? You know you can never trust a Greek.”

Whenever I stand before the Icon of the Resurrection I think of Michael sitting in his favourite chair, right in front of that icon, hands clasped over his tummy and ready with a smile and a kiss when I turn around. I love my Godfather so much, and I thank God that He chose him as a spiritual guide and support. May God grant him peace and a good defense before the Dread Judgment Seat of Christ! *Memory Eternal!* - G.H.

Be the Bee and not the Fly

Some people tell me that they are scandalized because they see many things wrong in the Church. I tell them that if you ask a fly, “Are there any flowers in this area?” it will say, “I don’t know about flowers, but over there in that heap of rubbish you can find all the filth you want.” And it will go on to list all the unclean things it has been to.

Now, if you ask a honeybee, “Have you seen any unclean things in this area?” it will reply, “Unclean things? No, I have not seen any; the place here is full of the most fragrant flowers.” And it will go on to name all the flowers of the garden or the meadow.

You see, the fly only knows where the unclean things are, while the honeybee knows where the beautiful iris or hyacinth is.

As I have come to understand, some people resemble the honeybee and some resemble the fly. Those who resemble the fly seek to find evil in every circumstance and are preoccupied with it; they see no good anywhere. But those who resemble the honeybee only see the good in everything they see.

The stupid person thinks stupidly and takes everything in the wrong way, whereas the person who has good thoughts, no matter what he sees, no matter what you tell him, maintains a positive and good thought. - *St. Paisios of Mt. Athos, “Good and Evil Thoughts,” Spiritual Counsels III: Spiritual Struggle*

A Founder of This Holy Temple the Very Reverend Father Vladimir

Fr. Vladimir Chekanovsky is pictured here above in one of our parishioner’s homes where we used to have Reader’s Services, when not travelling to Vancouver for a Liturgy.

Fr. Vladimir was born February 20, 1908 in Kiev; and reposed May 14, 1993 in Vancouver.

Father Vladimir likened our small parish of converts having Readers services when there was no Victoria priest, as to the Apostolic times when Christians would meet in each other’s homes for services!

Prior to our Church being in its current location, and before our growing congregation joined Father John and Matushka Alexandra for Services in their Church-home for 10 years, our young flock of recent Orthodox converts was under the guidance of Archpriest Vladimir.

Many were baptized, and/or married and their children had first Confession by/with Father Vladimir at Holy Trinity in Vancouver, and on occasions Father Vladimir would come to Victoria himself, to serve the Divine Liturgy in various Home Churches amongst our parishioners.

It is said that Father's eyes "shone like the sun" and his whole being radiated with Christian Love.

Some "Childhood Memories" of Father Vladimir

TRANSLATED RATHER FREELY FROM HIS RUSSIAN BY PRINCE NIKITA GALITZINE (WITH APOLOGIES FOR ANY ERRORS, 1986)

"In Kiev there was a church in honour of St. Michael, the first Metropolitan of the city. Liturgy used to be performed there on the Saint's Day by Bishop Vasili, the Rector of the Kiev Theological Academy.

When I was seven years old, I was placed then at the Royal Doors to hold his staff. That was the beginning of my life-long service at the altar.

My father was at that time a priest and a professor at the Kiev Theological Academy. My mother died of typhoid fever in 1920. When the affairs of the Academy were brought to an end, and feeding four children in Kiev became difficult, my father obtained a position as priest in the village of Pugachevka near the town of Byelaya Tserkov (White Church). *(An area, approximately 77 km southwest of Kiev in the Ukraine)*

... Later, a demand arose for worthy episcopal candidates, and my father was called to Kiev, to be ordained a bishop with the blessing of the

Patriarch Tikhon, after which he was appointed to a new cathedral parish in the province.

I remember emotional moments in my life. My father, already in the dignity of a bishop, returned from Kiev to his children at Pugachevka. We awaited his arrival in the enclosure of the Kazan Cathedral. Father had left us a simple priest, but when he stepped out of the peasant cart he was wearing the cowl and robes of a Vladika! Reverently and with tears in our eyes we received a bishop's blessing from him. (*Archbishop Alexei Chekanovsky)*

Father went back to his appointed place in the peasant cart, for the trains were not yet running. He took with him a suite of people: a priest, a deacon, an assistant archdeacon, and me as a holder of the sacred books.

We travelled for over a week, and only arrived in the new cathedral parish of the provincial town towards the Feast of the Presentation.

That was a turning point in my life, and I never thereafter was separated from the priesthood. There began tours of the new parish, from village to village, place to place. The routine was as follows: in advance there just went the deacon, assistant deacon, and I as a serving boy, carrying the bishop's robes. Arriving at the village church, our duty was to prepare everything for an evening service, but in some of the villages we never saw the Bishop himself. We were heartily welcomed…

We toured almost without ceasing, serving in one village church in the morning, and in another in the evening. Thus we travelled until Pascha.

That is when I permanently became an Archpriestly servitor. Not only did I hold the sacred books, but I robed the archpriest himself, assisted the deacons, gave signals to the choir, and generally performed various duties.

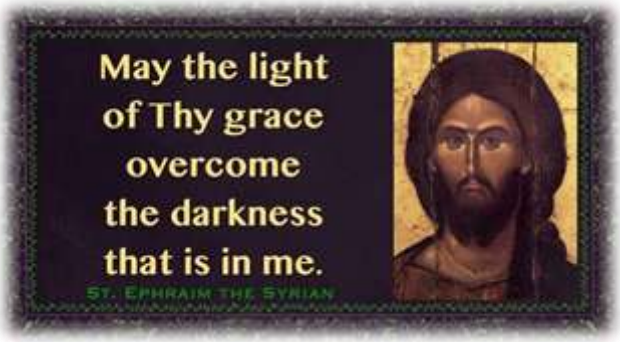
In this way, we made our tour for three years running. After that, I used to leave the city less frequently, and attended regular school, whilst in the city itself I often served at the altar or sang in the choir. "

Editor's Notes: After WW2, Fr. Vladimir escaped Russia with the help of the Germans. When he first arrived in Caracas, Venezuela, Father had no place to live. It was only in the countryside, that he was taken in by two very

poor, kind and pious people, who lived in a two-room cabin. This generous couple literally gave him half of their home so he could have his very own room.

He served the needs of his flock by organizing the first Russian Orthodox parish in Venezuela in the late 1940's and then moved to Canada in the 1950's, devoting his life to his Church; serving parishes in London & Ottawa, Ontario; Edmonton, Alberta and finally in Vancouver, BC, where he served at Holy Trinity for 23 years.

His obituary states, "he was particularly proud of the new parish established by him in Victoria." *Memory Eternal, dear Father Vladimir!*



Pearls of Wisdom

Our soul is a Divine Breath. Our body is His Creation. In our whole being we are the icon of God. - *Gerontissa (Elderess) Gabriella*

In church we distance ourselves from the hustle and bustle and are able to pray both about our own troubles and about the entire universe. In church, we pray to God asking Him to heal the diseases of our relatives, to free the captives, to preserve the travelers, to rescue to perishing. In church we are also in communion with those who have left this world but have not left Christ's Church. Whenever the departed visit the living they beg them to pray for them in churches. They say that every such a commemoration is like a birthday to them, but we often neglect that. Where then is our love? Let us imagine their condition. They have no bodies, they cannot receive communion, and they cannot do any good deeds (alms), either. They are waiting for support from their friends and relatives, but what they are getting are just excuses. It is the same as saying to your hungry mother: "Please forgive me, I am not going to give you anything to eat, because I badly need a nap". Do we not know that the church prayer is true food to the departed? – Website Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, Vancouver, BC

The following is an excerpt from an interview with Bishop Nicholas of Manhattan, entitled *I Give Thanks to the Lord.*

Q: Your Grace, what qualities do you treasure in people?

A: *Sincerity, kindness, openness and, of course, faith in God. You can be educated, modern, hospitable, knowledgeable about various cultures and languages, but when a person believes in God, this is a powerful unifying force. I like people who know how to be joyful and spread their joy to others. As the Apostle Paul says, "Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks" (I Thess. 5:16-18).*

Q: What qualities do you find unpleasant in people?

A: *An internal distance between a person and God. I pity such a person; he does not understand what he is missing. Computers, games, and cell phones cannot replace prayerful interaction with the departed or personal interaction with the living, with friends; they cannot replace contact with nature. These people are robbing themselves of the depth of perceiving the world, of understanding life, and of their nation's history, even their family. - His Grace, Bishop Nicholas is the Guardian of the Kursk Root Icon of the Mother of God. - www.pravoslavie.ru*

A Good Word, from Vladika Vitaly 1983

Excerpts from Metropolitan Vitaly, during his visit with the Victoria Parish, December 1983

(Vladika is pictured here with Princess Eve Galitzine, a Founder of our Parish)

Orthodoxy is truth coming from God. The possibilities for spiritual growth in Orthodoxy are endless,

just like Jacob's ladder, extending from earth to heaven.

A long time and a great many efforts are necessary in order to fathom the mysteries of Orthodoxy. In this day and age there very little true Orthodox. Most people who think and call themselves Orthodox are not Orthodox in their heart. It is essential to truly feel in our heart, that we are Orthodox, and not just think about it.

God loves us more than our parents or anyone else.

God's love is a completely different quality than our love.

Proofs of the presence of God can't be understood intellectually.

We can't taste them or describe them clearly in words.

Proofs of the presence of God are in our inward understanding- which sees and understands many things, not seen with our ordinary eyes. From this comes incredible knowledge. Real Christians know the essential things, and can see the essence of things. They can see God in everything, and with this comes love of God, and a state of great joyousness, and happiness... in which it is impossible to be depressed.

Excerpt from a visit from Vladika on September 21, 1986

A man should do three things:

1. Be thankful
2. Be joyful
3. Pray all the time, using the Jesus prayer, until it becomes prayer of the heart

The first time you pray the Jesus prayer 100 times, maybe once... it comes from the heart.

When it is from the heart, it is like electricity in a wire. You see the wire, but not the force of the electricity. You hear the words of the prayer, but not the push they are given as they come from the heart.

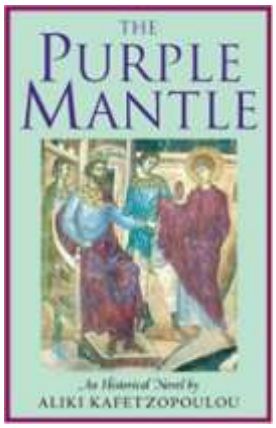
St. Peter and St. Fevronia

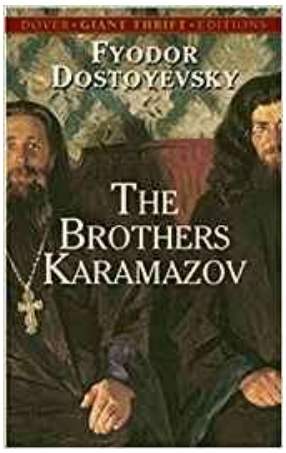
On July 8 (June 25), Russia celebrates the Day of Family, Love, and Fidelity, a holiday promoting traditional family values...
The Day of St. Peter and St. Fevronia patrons of marriage.
Many people come to visit Murom on this day, the city where they reigned. The daisy is a symbol of the holiday, as a flower of purity and fidelity.

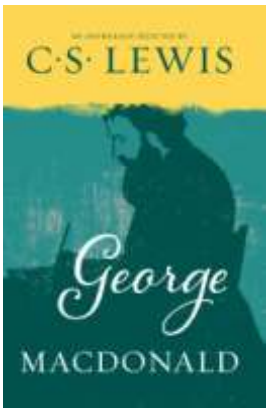
July Parish Library Features

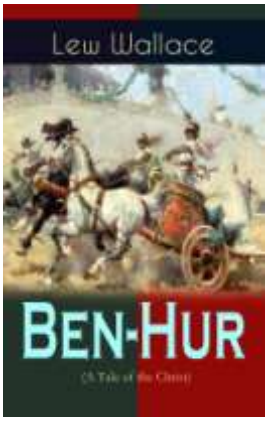
ЕпископКассиан (Безобразов) «ДаприидетЦарствиеТвое», Presses Saint-Serge – Institut de TheologieOrthodoxe, SDO, Paris, 2003, 187.
Шесть богословских статей посвящены обсуждению новозаветных текстов и вопросов. Они были написаны по-русски в годы Парижского периода жизни этого маститого профессора теологии между 1928 и 1949 годами.
The six articles in this book were written between 1928-1949 in Paris by one of the most outstanding Russian theologian Bishop Cassian (Bezobrazov). He discusses various New Testament topics.

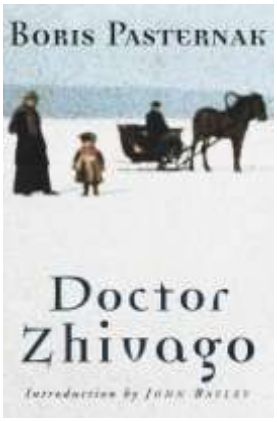
Summer Parish Library Reads











Volume 6
St. Sophia Parish Online Youth Quarterly:
The Ark

http://www.saintsophia.ca/the-ark/

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

In Memory of the Royal Martyrs by St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco

A sermon given by St. John in 1934 during the memorial service for Tsar Nicholas II and those slain with him... Almost 50 years before the Royal Martyrs' canonization in 1981.

St. John Maximovitch explains the great sacrifices of the Tsar and the Royal family for Russia, and the great sin incurred by the Russian people for the murder of their God-anointed sovereign. (Archbishop John of Shanghai and San Francisco himself, was canonized in 1994)

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Tomorrow (July 4/17) the Holy Church praises Saint Andrew, the Bishop of Crete, the author of the Great Canon of Repentance, and at the same time we gather here to pray for the souls of the Tsar-Martyr and those assassinated with him. Likewise, people in Russia used to gather in churches on the day of the other Saint Andrew of Crete (Oct. 17), not the writer of the Great Canon whose day is celebrated tomorrow, but the Martyr Andrew, martyred for confession of Christ and His Truth. On the day of Martyr Andrew, people in Russia thanked God for the miraculous delivery of Emperor Alexander III from the train wreck at Borki on October 17, 1888. In the terrible derailment which occurred during his journey, all the carriages of the train were wrecked, except the one carrying the Tsar and his Family.

On the day of the Martyr Andrew of Crete, martyred by enemies of Christ and His Church, the Heir to the throne and subsequent tsar, Nicholas Alexandrovich, was saved, and on the day of Saint Andrew of Crete the Canonist, who reposed in peace, the Tsar was assassinated by atheists and

traitors. On the day of Martyr Andrew, Russia also celebrated the day of the Prophet Hosea, who foretold Christ's Resurrection. Churches were built in honor of these saints wherever Russian people thanked God for the delivery of their Sovereign. Thirty years later, on the day of Saint Andrew the Canonist, who taught repentance, the Sovereign was assassinated before the eyes of the whole nation that did nothing to save him. It is especially dreadful and incomprehensible since the Sovereign, Nicholas Alexandrovich, incarnated the best virtues of those Tsars whom the Russian people knew, loved, and esteemed.

Most of all, the Tsar-Martyr resembled Tsar Alexis Michailovich Tishayshiy (the Most Meek, 1645-76) excelling in unshakable meekness. Russia knew Alexander II (1855-81) as Liberator, but Tsar Nicholas II liberated even more nations of the fraternal Slavic tribe. Russia knew Alexander III (1881-94) as Peacemaker but Sovereign Nicholas II did not limit himself to care for peace in his own days but made a significant step towards establishing peace in Europe and in all the world so that all nations should solve their controversies peacefully. To that purpose, by his dispassionate and noble initiative, the Hague Conferences (1) were called. Russia admired Alexander 1 (1801-25) and called him the Blessed One because he liberated Europe from the alien rule of a tyrant, Napoleon. Sovereign Nicholas II under much more difficult circumstances rose against another ruler's attempt, Kaiser Wilhelm II, to enslave Slavic nations, and in the defense of that nation showed a determination that was devoid of compromises. Russia knew the Great Reformer Peter I but if we recall all the reforms of Nicholas II, we would be uncertain whom to give preference and the latter's reforms were conducted more carefully, more thoughtfully, and without abruptness. John Kalita (1328-40) and John III (1449-1505), Grand Princes of Moscow, were known for uniting the Russian people, but their cause was finally accomplished only by Sovereign Nicholas when in 1915 he returned to Russia all her sons, though only for a short time .(2) Sovereign of All Russia, Nicholas 11 was the first Pan-Russian Tsar. His inner, spiritual, moral image was so beautiful that even the Bolsheviks in their desire to blacken him could blame him only for his piety.

It is known for certain that he always began and ended the day with prayer. He always received Communion on the days of the Church's great holidays and often went to receive the Great Sacrament in a crowd of commoners, as for instance during the opening of the relics of Saint Seraphim of Sarov. He was an example of marital fidelity and the head of an exemplary Orthodox family, bringing up his children to be ready to serve the Russian people and strictly preparing them for the future labors and feats of that calling. He was deeply considerate towards his subjects' needs and always wanted to ascertain clearly and acutely their labor and service. Everyone knows that he once marched alone many miles in soldier's full equipment in order to better understand the conditions of a soldier's service. He walked alone, which refutes the slanderers who say that he was afraid for his life. Peter I said: "know about Peter, that life is not precious for him, but may Russia live" and Sovereign Nicholas II indeed fulfilled his words. Some people say that he was credulous. But the great father of the Church, Saint Gregory the Great, says that the more pure the heart, the more credulous it is.

What did Russia render to her pure-hearted Sovereign, who loved her more than life? She returned love with slander. He was of great morality, but people began to talk about his viciousness. He loved Russia, but people began to talk about his treason. Even the people close to the Sovereign repeated the slander, passing on to each other rumors and gossip. Because of the ill intention of some and the lack of discipline of others, rumors spread and love for the Tsar began to grow cool. They started to talk of the danger to Russia and discuss means of avoiding that non-existent danger, they started to say that to save Russia it would be necessary to dismiss the Sovereign. Calculated evil did its work: it separated Russia from her Tsar and in the dread moment at Pskov (3) he was alone; no one near to him. Those faithful to him were not admitted to his presence. The dreadful loneliness of the Tsar… But he did not abandon Russia; Russia abandoned him, the one who loved Russia more than life. Thus, in the hope that his self-belittling would still the raging passions of the people, the Sovereign abdicated. But passion never stills. Having achieved what it desires it only inflames more. There was an exultation among those who desired the fall of the Sovereign. The others were silent. They succeeded in arresting the Sovereign; succeeded, and further events were almost inevitable. If

someone is left in a beast's cage he will be torn to pieces sooner or later. The Sovereign was killed, and Russia remained silent. There was no indignation, no protest when that dread, evil deed happened, and this silence is the great sin of the Russian people, and it happened on the day of Saint Andrew, the writer of the Great Canon of Repentance, which is read in churches during Great Lent.

In the vaults of a basement in Ekaterinburg the Ruler of Russia was killed, deprived by the peoples' insidiousness of the tsar's crown, but not deprived of God's Sacred Anointment. Hitherto, all the cases of regicide in the history of Russia were committed by cliques, not by the people.

When Paul I was killed, people knew nothing about it and when it became known, for many years they brought to his grave compassion and prayers. The assassination of Alexander II produced in Russia a storm of indignation that healed the people's morality and assisted the reign of Alexander III. The people remained innocent of the blood of the Tsar-Liberator Alexander II. But in the case of Nicholas II the entire nation is guilty of shedding the blood of its tsar. The assassins did the terrible deed, their masters approved the murder, sharing the same sin, and the people did not prevent it. All are guilty and indeed we must say: "His blood is on us and on our children." The garland with which the Russian people crowned their Tsar was made of treason, treachery, the breaking of the oath of allegiance to Tsar Michael Theodorovich, the first Tsar of the Romanov dynasty and his heirs, passivity, hardness of heart, and insensitivity. Today is a day of sorrow and repentance. Why – we could ask – did the Lord save the Tsar [previously] on the day of Martyr Andrew and not save him on the day of the other Saint Andrew, the teacher of repentance? With deep grief we answer: the Lord could have saved him, but the Russian people did not deserve it.

The Sovereign received a martyr's crown, but this neither justifies us, nor reduces our guilt, as the Resurrection of Christ does not justify, but condemns Judas, Pilate, and Caiaphas and those who demanded from Pilate the murder of Christ.

It is a great sin to lift up a hand against the God-Anointed Sovereign. When the news of the murder of Saul was brought to King David, he ordered the execution of the messenger, although he knew that the messenger did not participate in the murder but only hurried to bring that news, and he ascribed the murder to him. Even the slightest participation in such a sin is not without retribution…

Let us remember that this evil deed of the whole nation was committed on the day of Saint Andrew of Crete, who calls us to deep repentance. Let us remember also, that there is no sin which cannot be washed away by repentance. But our repentance has to be full, without self-justification, without reserve, condemning ourselves and the evil deed from the very beginning.

The deliverance of the Royal Family at Borki the icon depicting the patron saints of the family was painted. Perhaps the day will come when not just the patrons but also the Royal Martyrs themselves will be depicted on icons' in remembrance of the event we recollect today.

But now, let us pray for their souls and ask God for deep humble repentance and forgiveness for us and for all Russian people.

-Tserkovnaya Zhizn (Church Life) #8, 1934; Republished in Pravoslavnaya Rus (Orthodox Russia) #12, 1994

1) Hague Peace Conference 1899 and 1907. Convened on the initiative of Emperor Nicholas II with the primary objective of limiting armaments on land and sea and furthermore prohibiting the use of asphyxiating gases, expanding (dumdum) bullets and the dropping of explosives from the air.

2) The offensive against the Austro-Hungarian Empire in 1915 once again incorporated all the lands of Ancient Kiev into the Russian Empire that had for almost 1000 years been under Hungarian rule.

3) The abdication of Tsar Nicholas 11 took place at Pskov on March 2, 1917.

-http://stvladimirs.ca/in-memory-of-the-royal-martyrs-by-st-john-of-shanghai-and-san-francisco/

Practical Tips

Fr. John asks those who light the candles before service, to *please bring the lampada over to you*. Do <u>not</u> tilt a beeswax candle over a lampada to light it, as the wax drippings fall on the hardwood floor or carpet and this is very hard to clean.

Also, please *do not use a beeswax candle to light an olive oil votive's wick*. The dripping wax falls on the wick and into the olive oil.

Please use a match specifically for the olive oil lampadas. Thank you!

Links

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

St. Sophia Parish Youth Quarterly: The Ark
http://www.saintsophia.ca/the-ark/

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

Official site of the Montreal and Canadian Diocese
http://mcdiocese.com/en/

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/

"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.