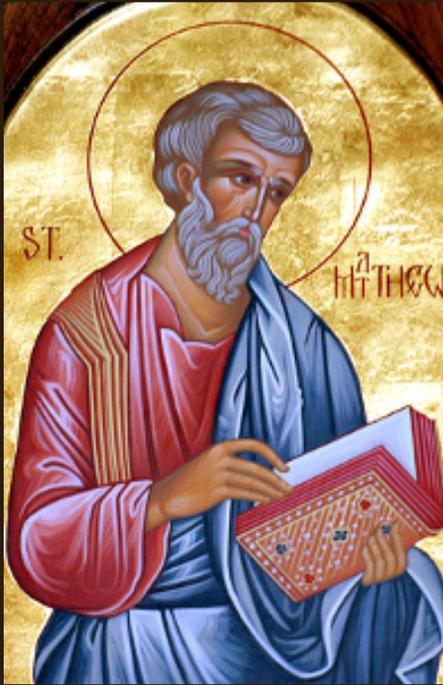


ST. MATTHEW ORTHODOX CHURCH



From the desk of Father Eugene.....

During the month of August, we celebrate two Great Feasts of the Church. On August 1st we begin a 15-day fast culminating in the Great Feast of the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos on August 15th. On August 6th, we celebrate the Great Feast of the Transfiguration. What can we see in our lives today when we take a closer look at these feasts? St. Gregory Palamas, in his homily on Transfiguration, tells us:

“[T]his Light is not a light of the senses, and those contemplating it do not simply see with sensual eyes, but rather they are changed by the power of the Divine Spirit. They (the disciples) were transformed, and only in this way did they see the transformation taking place...”

The Apostles beheld our Lord transfigured on the mountain, a glorious revelation. Having been given a glimpse of the Kingdom, they wanted to remain with Him on the mountain. At the same time, this was not something they fully understood. As we hear in the troparia of the feast, this revelation was given to them only as far as they could bear it. Our Lord ensures that we receive what is appropriate at the fitting time. Thus, we too can experience veiled revelation in our lives. Like Peter, James, and John, our desire is to continue to be transformed by Him that we may behold His glory. We grow in our life in Christ and in the Church, patiently awaiting this transformation in ourselves.

Just as the Apostles found their hearts desire with the Lord on the mountain, so too do we find our home in the Church. During the fast, we go to confession and celebrate Transfiguration and we see the Church manifest as our nurturing Mother. For Dormition, the troparia tells us the Mother of God did not forsake us in falling asleep. We celebrate the Theotokos' constant intercession for us, particularly in times of need. As the Mother of God is quick to hear, we find ourselves once again brought together as the Body of Christ, celebrating at the Master's table.

Parish Council President's Perspective.....Paul Novak

How are you doing ? A simple question that we are asking people at the company I work for. As you can imagine, there are a lot of very interesting answers. I hope you are all doing well and I wanted to share some items on how I and SMOC are doing.

- I have been working from home, yes in DePere since March. Endless meetings using WebEx, Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Bluejeans. Technology!
- The Parish Council continues to meet albeit via conference call. We are moving things forward as best we can. If you have something that you want the council to discuss you can send me an email and we will discuss it at the next meeting which will be in August.
- The Novaks got a new puppy....His name is Ryder. He is really good at digging holes!
- Please reply to Father when he sends out his emails about attending Church services. I can't wait until we can all return because we have like 100 people that want to come to services at SMOC.
- Really glad that sports are coming back to the television. If I watch one more show on HGTV I am going tough "Love it or List it".
- Coffee hour outside is going good I think. Love hot coffee outside in Hot weather. Plan to stop by our mobile coffee shop and chat.
- If you are working from home like me, sit during the morning and stand up in the afternoon. Lots of ways to have a standup desk. Ask me for ideas.
- Thanks again for your financial support of SMOC. It's been wonderful.



So, that's how I and SMOC are doing. I look forward to seeing and talking with you all soon.

In Christ,
 Paul M. Novak
 Parish Council President

Greetings from the Ministry Team!

August is House of Hope month. House of Hope provides emergency shelter with a safe and stable environment for young homeless moms and their children. Their intensive case management program supports residents by focusing on areas such as employment, positive parenting skills, financial literacy and debt management to name a few.

By donating needed items and/or making a financial contribution, we help support the positive support system for those they serve during the challenges and celebrations of their journeys to independent stability. Please consider picking up an extra item when you are shopping.

Suggestions:

alarm clock, brooms/dust pans,
body wash (adult),
children's underwear- toddler to 6 years old
dryer sheets, African American hair products,
laundry baskets, laundry soap, new stuffed animals,
towels, paper towels, zip lock bags - all sizes

Thank you for
your generosity!



Online Lecture Series by Pedro Sarsama:

The Sojourn of Israel: Scriptural and Historical Roots of the Contemporary Orthodox Church

Every Saturday, beginning Saturday, July 18, until Saturday, November 28, from 9:00 to 9:50, with an optional Q&A to follow at 9:55.

Please use the following link to register for the class. After you register, the confirmation page will provide the appropriate link to join the lecture.

<https://forms.gle/prYPzyepwLCHJavr9>

Choir Notes from Jeff Zdrale

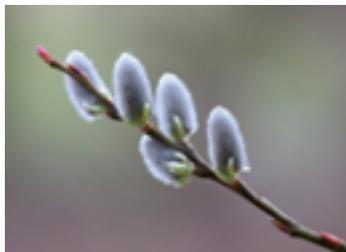
Even though the quarantine is continuing, there have been several signs of positive change for the choir. We are now permitted to have four people singing and two of them do not have to wear masks when doing so. We need to stand in a large arc all facing the same way. Each person will have his or her own stand and book. I will be at one end giving the page numbers and pitches.

This is for any singers whose week it is to attend Sunday services. So perhaps there may not be any on a particular week. That's OK. We can work with what we have that day. Of course, everyone else in church joining in loud and clear will always be welcome.

A deacon at St. Tikhon Seminary and Monastery is doing a study of Orthodox church choirs for his graduate work. I was sent a survey that covered many aspects of choir singing—the numbers involved; how much of the service is sung; opportunities for rehearsal; skill level of the singers, etc. It'll be interesting to see how our information compares with the other choir respondents. The data won't be identified by specific church, but we'll be able to figure it out.

One last item....try to listen to some of the virtual choirs on Facebook. Not all Orthodox, but some beautiful arrangements by groups as large as 17,000. I'm still hoping that we can do something like that. It may not be as large as 17,000, but I think we'll manage.

Father is planning to bless pussy willows during the Dormition Fast (the falling asleep of the Mother of God) in August. We have a nice crop of pussy willows this year and we look forward to handing them out in August.



CURRIED CHICKPEAS

2 Tbsp vegetable oil
 1 ½ sliced onion
 3 minced garlic cloves
 1 Tbsp curry powder
 1 can coconut milk
 1 can rinsed chickpeas
 Green and red bell pepper strips
 (and/or other veggies you have on hand)

2 Tbsp tomato paste
 1 Tbsp packed brown sugar
 1 Tbsp lemon juice
 salt and pepper to taste
 pinch hot pepper flakes

**Thank you Mary Petersen
 for this yummy recipe!!!**

1. In a large skillet, heat the oil, add onion, and cook until softened. Add garlic and curry powder and cook 1 minute.
2. Stir in the coconut milk and the rest of the ingredients. Bring to a boil, reduce the heat and simmer, uncovered, 25 minutes or until the sauce is thickened and vegetables are tender.
3. Serve over rice or quinoa.

(I use other veggies I may have on hand as well.
 Delicious with shrimp instead of chickpeas)

Crunchy Snap Pea Popcorn Salad

1/3 cup popcorn kernels
 White cheddar popcorn seasoning
 1/2 cup mayonnaise
 1/4 cup sour cream
 2 tablespoons cider vinegar
 1 tablespoon sugar
 2 teaspoons Dijon mustard
 1 shallot, thinly sliced
 Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
 2 cups sugar snap peas, strings removed, cut crosswise into thirds
 1 cup shredded carrot
 1 cup chopped celery, plus 1/2 cup tender inner celery leaves
 1 bunch watercress, trimmed and torn into bite-size pieces

1. Pop the popcorn. While still hot, sprinkle with white cheddar popcorn seasoning. Let cool completely. (You should have about 12 cups of popcorn)
2. Whisk the mayonnaise, sour cream, cider vinegar, sugar, and Dijon mustard together in a large serving bowl. Stir in the shallot. Season with salt and pepper (remembering the popcorn will also be salty).
3. Add the snap peas, carrots, and chopped celery and toss to coat. Add the popcorn and toss to coat the kernels in the dressing. Pile the watercress on top and sprinkle with celery leaves. Serve immediately.

Let's Celebrate.....



Tom & Cheryl Julian - 8/14

Doug & Linda Bisbee - 8/30



Congratulations to....
Brandon and Tara Enck
who were married on July 10, 2020

Many Years!!! Many Years!!! Many Years!!! Many Years!!!

Matthew
Pings
8/2

Lars
Odman
8/3

Jim Stuck
8/4

Joy
Jeffers
8/21

Ion Nistor
8/23

Mark
Massopust
8/25

