Joy of all who sorrow art thou
and protectress of the oppressed,
feeder of the hungry, consolation of travelers,
haven for the tempest tossed,
visitation for the sick,
protection and aid for the infirm, staff of old age,
O, all pure Mother of the Most High God,
Hasten, we pray, to save thy servants.

We welcome all who seek to know Christ in His Word
and in His Church.
A Message from Father Peter

As many of you know I spent a week at St. Andrew’s camp cooking for the campers and staff. I did not have much time to reflect upon that experience until I returned to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the camp. As Matushka Jeanne and I were driving to the camp for the anniversary, she asked me what were my thoughts when I first drove to cook for the week. I told her that I was anxious about the conditions of the kitchen, what food I was to prepare and my unfamiliarity of the camp in general. These were practical concerns. I did not think about the campers, the staff and if I would have any encounter or relationship with them. I was going to cook, not be a counselor, their spiritual director, or friend. My task was clear, they needed a cook for the week, and I volunteered and that is what I would do, cook three meals a day.

Matushka Jeanne’s question stayed with me the entire weekend that we spent at the 60th anniversary. The question became more than just what were you thinking. I began to ask why I was not preparing for a ministry, a service, I was focused on the equipment, supplies, task. I realized that her question called me into accountability. I somehow divorced the task of being a cook at camp for a week from being a priest cook at the camp for a week. What an “aha” moment. I allowed myself to fall into the trap that there is somehow a difference in “spiritual work” and work. I needed to repent.

The day of the 60th anniversary was the first time that I was to celebrate liturgy in the St. Andrews chapel. A chapel that brought so many of our youth to a personal relationship with God. A chapel that changed lives, and where many served. It was the chapel that, for many, they heard the divine services in English for the first time. A place where they understood, there were more divine services of the Church than only the Divine Liturgy. They prayed matins, vespers, compline. Confessions were heard and tears were shed. Hope, compassion, love and a relationship with an Incarnate God was found. I stood, and for the first time, prayed with the past and the future.

After liturgy, it was time to meet the past and future face to face in those that gathered. Past campers from Matushka’s time, to present and those too young to attend next year. I met again those that I cooked for, and heard that I was not “just” a cook. My concerns driving up were transformed into relationships. God used me to feed His people in ways that I did not think about when I was driving up. I was given and shown a gift that was given me in what I thought was just a menial task of cooking. I became part of the history of this sacred place. I too heard the voice of God anew. I too felt hope, compassion, love and a new relationship with my Incarnate God. I needed to shed tears of repentance and joy.

I share this with you because I want us all to remember that what we do each day must be done with the purpose of understanding that God transforms the work of our hands into redemptive ministries. We think, as I thought, that we are doing something that is not “spiritual,” even secular, but we do not or cannot do anything but the work and will of our God. We do all in the understanding of the Incarnate God who has sanctified all. In this birth, He had transformed childbearing. Everyday experiences have now new meaning, because Christ has transformed all. As we prepare for autumn, as the leaves fall and the colors change, may we use this time to help us understand we are the work of God’s hands. May we do all in His name, and proclaim: “How great is our God, the God who does wonders.”
Please save the dates for the following:

**Services, Feasts & Special Events:**

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>10/01/17</td>
<td>Sunday School @ 9:00am</td>
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<td>Divine Liturgy @ 10:00 am - The Protection of</td>
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<td>our Most Holy Lady the Mother of God and</td>
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<td>Ever-Virgin Mary</td>
<td>10/21/17</td>
<td>Vespers @ 5:00pm</td>
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<td>10/06/17</td>
<td>Moses the Black Conference All Day</td>
<td>10/22/17</td>
<td>Sunday School @ 9:00am</td>
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<td>Moses the Black Conference All Day</td>
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<td>10/08/17</td>
<td>Sunday School @ 9:00am</td>
<td>10/23/17</td>
<td>Vesperal Liturgy @ 6:30 pm</td>
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<td>Divine Liturgy @ 10:00 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/14/17</td>
<td>Flea Market (Rain Date 10/21)</td>
<td>10/24/17</td>
<td>Mother of God Joy of All Who Sorrow Name Day</td>
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<td>Vespers @ 5:00pm</td>
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From 10/14 onward, the Saturday Vesperal potluck discussion topic will be the Gospel of Mark.

**Administration:**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>10/15/17</td>
<td>Deanery Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/16/17</td>
<td>Parish Council Meeting @ 6:30pm</td>
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**View the master MOG calendar at:**
https://drive.google.com/file/d/0Bxdc3POE6-QCZ0VIRXZnaFdzWEU/view
Self-Reliance Vs. God Reliance – A Podcast by Sr. Vassa Larin

Our first meeting took place at Julie Stell’s house where the women enjoyed coffee, refreshments and conversation. Our topic for the evening was “Self-Reliance Vs. God Reliance”. Here is a summary of that talk.

I. What are some indications that we have fallen into self-reliance, or trusting ourselves and not God?

A. We feel irritated, depressed, discomfort.
B. We begin to see things falsely based on deluded notions.
C. God ceases to play a role in our lives.
D. Faith is dead.

II. What are some delusions we may fall into when we are being self-reliant?

A. Everything depends on my will power. It is not that we have no will power, it is that we have misdirected it.
B. We have false guilt about things we must do but aren’t doing.
C. We have self-centered fear and worry: What do others think? We fear not being loved. We fear failure, rejection. We get caught up in sinful routines. We carry the world on our shoulders.

III. What are some solutions? How can we be God-Reliant?

A. We can change our focus to God so our will can be directed properly. Praying on a regular basis.
B. We can face our true debts, embrace forgiveness of ourselves as God forgives us. Forgiveness comes from God. It is this Divine capacity which calls us to forgive first.
C. We can confess our sins, both in the sacrament and to each other.
D. We can live in the present. The Lord’s Prayer says, “Give us, this day, our daily bread. Matthew 6:25: “Do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat, what you shall drink, what you shall put on... but seek ye first the Kingdom of God and all these things shall be added unto you.”
E. Prayer of the heart replaces self-reliance with faith. It opens us up, clears away blocks within.
F. We can spend quiet time with God. A prayer journal is a tool which can help. Writing fears and solutions, remembering to thank God for His blessings.
G. Sharing our journey with a Spiritual father or mother, and a trusted friend makes us accountable and gives us perspective.
Events & Other Announcements

Guest Speaker, Dr. Grant White
On Sunday, October 29, 2017, Dr. Grant White will honor us as a guest speaker. Here is a brief biography of Dr. White.

Dr. Grant S. White

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF LITURGICAL THEOLOGY

Grant White is an Orthodox layperson and a member of the Orthodox Church of Finland. A native of central Kansas, he has taught history of Christian liturgy, liturgical theology, historical theology, church history, patristics, Orthodox theology, history of the ecumenical movement, and history of Christian-Jewish relations in the United States, Finland, and the United Kingdom. He has served as Principal of the Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies in Cambridge, England, and is currently a member of the Board of Directors of Filantropia, the international missions and development agency of the Orthodox Church of Finland. His interests include: Orthodox theology in the (post-)modern age, the work and legacy of Fr. Lev Gillet, art and spirituality in the modern world, Orthodox theological approaches and pastoral responses to suffering, and Orthodox-Evangelical dialogue. He and his family live in Turku, Finland.

Reminders

2017 Pledge Appeal
It is that time of year again when we are asked to take inventory of our resources and talents. The 2017 appeal began in November and we encourage you to get your pledges and talent commitments in a.s.a.p. as it affects the operating budget and operation of the church. Thank you.

Arm in Arm
Mother of God continues to support this program with food donations placed in the collection bin at the side entrance of the Church. Please, as you are shopping, think of those in our community that are in need and bring your offering to the Church. The name of the Crisis Ministry of Mercer County has changed names to Arm in Arm, however, the mission remains the same. Thank you for your support for this program.

Books for Sale
We have books for sale on the table near the side entrance of the church.

Shop at Amazon, Help MOG
Mother of God has signed up with Amazon.com's Associates program allowing us to receive a minimum of 4% commission off every Amazon order placed through this link. Funds will go towards our capital campaign.
For more info, visit http://mogoca.org/amazon.html.
Blessing of Sunday School Children and of The Sisterhood of Saints Mary and Martha
September 10, 2017

Photos by Gabrielle Dragan
A big thank you to Amy Stivala and her family who donated a beautiful baptismal font in memory of her mother, Geraldine Udovich.
Icon of the Mother of God “the Joy of All Who Sorrow”

The wonderworking “Joy of All Who Sorrow” Icon of the Mother of God was glorified in the year 1688. Euphymia, the sister of Patriarch Joachim (1674–1690), lived at Moscow and suffered from an incurable illness for a long time. One morning during a time of prayer she heard a voice say, “Euphymia! Go to the temple of the Transfiguration of My Son; there you will find an icon called the “Joy of All Who Sorrow.” Have the priest celebrate a Molieben with the blessing of water, and you will receive healing from sickness.” Euphymia did as she was directed by the Most Holy Theotokos, and she was healed. This occurred on October 24, 1688.

The icon of the Mother of God “Joy of All Who Sorrow” (with coins fused to it by a bolt of lightning), was manifested at Saint Petersburg in 1888. See July 23.

News for the Mind and Soul – Wisdom of Our Church Fathers

The Realities of the Spiritual World

Sin and Evil

1. A lie is a delusion of the mind, while evil is a delusion of the will. The sign by which one is distinguished from the other is the judgement of God Himself ... that which he teaches a man: Truth is that which leads a man to will the good. But whatever contradicts this is entirely false, entirely evil. (St. Nicholas Cabasilas, Seven Sermons on the Life in Christ, 7)

2. Our world is guided by two principles and sources: God and the devil. All that is better in the world of men has its source in God, and all that is bad has the devil as its principle and source. In the final account, all good comes from God, and all evil from the devil. (St. Justin Popovich, Explanation of I John 3:11)

3. Food is not evil, but gluttony is. Childbearing is not evil, but fornication is. Money is not evil, but avarice is. Glory is not evil, but vainglory is. Indeed, there is no evil in existing things, but only in their misuse. (St. Maximus the Confessor, Chapters on Love, 3.4)

4. God and the devil are found at opposite poles. No one can turn his face to God who has not first turned his back on sin. When a man turns his face to God, all of his paths lead to God. When a man turns his face away from God, all of his paths lead to perdition. When a man finally rejects God by word and in his heart, he is no longer fit to do anything that does not serve for his complete destruction, both of his soul and of his body. (St. Nicholas of Serbia, Thoughts on Good and Evil)
Introducing "Stewardship" - a monthly selection of inspiring and entertaining short articles for a fresh and joyful take on what we do as Christians.

Stewardship

Inspiring a deeper understanding of true giving

October 2017

The next time you see geese heading south for the winter flying along in a V formation, you might be interested in knowing what science has discovered about why they fly that way. It has been learned that as each bird flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for the bird immediately following. By flying in a V formation, the whole flock adds at least 71% greater flying range than if each bird flew on its own.

Christians who share a common direction and a sense of community can also get where they are going quicker and easier because they are traveling on the thrust and uplift of one another.

Whenever a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to go it alone, and quickly gets back into formation, to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird immediately in front. If we have as much sense as a goose, we will stay in formation with those who are headed the same way we are going. When the lead goose gets tired, he rotates back in the wing and another goose flies point. It pays to take turns doing hard jobs with people at church or with geese flying south. The geese honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed. What do we say when we honk from behind?

Finally, when a goose gets sick, or is wounded by gun shot and falls out, two geese fall out of formation and follow him down to help and protect him. They stay with him until he is able to fly or until he is dead; and then they launch out on their own or with another formation to catch up with their original group.

The geese who helped each other shared. Sharing is both serving and giving. It's a part of our "stewardship." We believe that it is the privilege of the Christian to dedicate what he has, what he is, to God. We commonly speak of time, talents and possessions: How we use these is a choice we make that indicates the depth of our faith.

It is the notion of stewardship that helps us to understand that whatever we think we own is only for a time. Whatever we seem to have within our grasp ... our time, our talent and our treasure ... all these belong now and forever to God, who put them into our hands in trust. If we are faithful, we are stewards. If we are faithful, we know that we manage what is someone else's.

You can share your time by serving in the activities of your church. You can share your talent ... your abilities ... by answering the call for workers."Also, Continued on page 4...
Our Christian teaching insists that the goods of creation exist, first and foremost, to serve the needs of all human beings everywhere. They exist not just for some but for everyone. Creation is God’s free gift to us all. None of us earned it; none of us deserved it. All of creation issues forth from the boundless generosity of God. We are merely the stewards of created things, and we stand accountable to the Creator for our stewardship over his property. God expects us to use these things for the purpose for which he made it and gave it, namely, to serve the needs of all.

Happiness is doing a little more, going the extra mile and adding a little extra. Several years ago I had the privilege of meeting a delightful lady. She taught my children piano lessons. Although she was up in years, she agreed to teach all three of my children, giving them back-to-back, thirty-minute lessons. It never failed, however, that when I returned to pick them up after an hour and a half, I had to wait for the last child to complete his lesson.

“I always try to give a little extra,” Mrs. Winkers explained. She explained how when she was a child her piano teacher didn’t give her the time for which she paid. “I made a commitment that if I ever learned to play the piano well enough to teach, I would make sure my students got their money’s worth.”

Mrs. Winkers remained true to her word until the day her arthritic hands wouldn’t allow her to teach any longer. Mrs. Winkers’ commitment taught me a valuable lesson. When we deal with people, we should always strive to give back more than we receive.

When we add a little extra or give a little more than what’s expected, both the giver and the receiver are greatly blessed. The person on the receiving end appreciates the extra attention. The giver receives a special blessing as a result of his generosity.

So to sum it all up, giving a little extra can mount up to a great blessing for everyone.

The other day I was looking for a certain hymn. Turning to the hymnal’s index, I noticed that many hymns begin with the word: “Come.” “Come We That Love the Lord,” “Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus,” “Come Ye Thankful People, Come,” and dozens more.

That makes sense, when you think about it. Throughout the Bible, God invites us to come to him. During Sunday worship and private prayer, we in turn ask God to come to us.

“Coming” means leaving where we were. For stewardship, it means getting out of bed Sunday mornings to go to church. It means leaving the dinner table to go to choir practice. It means walking away from the recliner to rake leaves for shut-ins. It means moving three pews up to welcome a visitor. It means driving bags of groceries to a food pantry in the next town. For some, it could mean driving hundreds of miles from home to help rebuild after a natural disaster.

“A body at rest tends to remain at rest, unless some force acts to move it.” That is Sir Isaac Newton’s first law of motion. For Christians, that force is God’s command to us to love our neighbor. Come!
Use your talents. If you think you are a nobody, you are wrong. The sustaining truth for those who play roles in the shadows is a simple and yet important one, namely: In the economy of God, Nature’s nobodies are somebodies.

The question is not how well do you rate on the economic or status scale, but rather, how well do you use the talents and powers that are yours? Most of the work of the world is done by men and women in the shadows, by the nameless heroes of everyday life.

This is a story about a pastor who made it a practice to address the children in his congregation on some special topic, along with his regular Sunday morning sermon. There was a good attendance of children at the morning hour of worship, so the pastor always gave special preparation to his topic for the children.

Each week he would encourage the children to answer his questions and interject with their own thoughts. One morning he presented the subject of making a budget. His theme was on the careful handling of money. To help develop this theme he had a dollar in change. He counted out the dollar before the children and then raised the question: “Suppose a dollar were given to you each week by your parents as your allowance, and you could have no more; how would you use it?” There was silence for a moment, and then children one by one began to give their suggestions. One thought some of the dollar could be spent on pencils and paper for school. Others interjected with amounts for candy, pop and ice cream. One boy contributed the idea of saving some of the dollar through the local grade school savings plan. By this time the entire dollar was used up, so the pastor then raised the questions:

Where does the church come in?

What have we left for Sunday School?

How does God figure into our budget?

After a short silence, one lad spoke up. “We started wrong,” he said. “Let’s give God a dime first, and then spend the rest.” So a dime was budgeted for God and the remaining ninety cents was spent with the greatest enthusiasm, and no small amount of wisdom.

This story is a good example to follow our own budgeting. Why leave God until the end? Why not put God first in appreciation for his generosity to us? Then, we can budget the rest with great enthusiasm.

A dime out of every dollar for God? If you haven’t tried it, you haven’t discovered the real fun of spending the other ninety cents.
When we add a little extra or give a little more than what's expected, both the giver and the receiver are greatly blessed.

Continued from page 1...

**The next time you see...**

you can share your possessions disciples of all nations.”

You can acknowledge the priority of God’s work by giving your time, talent and treasure in the proportion of these gifts God has given you. 🙏
To date, we've received 24 pledge cards for the 2017 year. Thank you! If you are a new member or have not previously filled out all the information on the card, we ask that you please do so. We will record this information in our Church Plus software. This information will allow us to run various reports to assist in the ministry of the church. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Terry Filippini at (908) 231-1960 or tfilippini@verizon.net. Thank you!

++ Consider making your stewardship payments through your online banking.
Prayer Requests

“...and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”

James 5:16, NKJV:

Commemoration of the Living Servants of God:

O Lord Jesus Christ our God, Who for the sake of Your eternal mercy and loving kindness became man, and suffered crucifixion and death for the salvation of all; Who rose from the dead and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father, where You hear the prayers of all who call upon You humbly and with their whole heart: incline Your ear to us, and hearken to the prayer which your unworthy servants offer as a spiritual sacrifice for all Your people.

Have mercy, O Lord, upon:

Sarah Perkins Thomas, Margery's stepdaughter
Donald Dowd, friend of Jan and Margery

Olga Mezina, friend of Lana
Susan, Margery's cousin

May we join you in pray for all of those on your mind; all of those in your prayers, and all of those in your heart. Lord Have Mercy.

Please send the names of those you would like included in the prayer requests list in the coming year to ladyofleesure@yahoo.com. Also let her know when those on the list have recovered (Praise be to God).

COMMEMORATION OF THE DEPARTED

MEMORY ETERNAL

Daily Bible Readings

For a listing and links to the daily scripture readings go to http://oca.org/readings. Bookmark this site for daily readings for every day of the year!
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Please Pray for the Mother of God Joy of All Who Sorrow  
Orthodox Church as we move forward.  
 May God’s Will Be Done In All Things!