



WELCOME TO THE GOD-LOVING & GOD-PROTECTED PARISH OF ST. MICHAEL'S!

a parish of the UOC-USA and the Ecumenical Patriarchate

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FR. BORISLAV KRONER

January 30, 2016

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

My dear Brothers and Sisters, today I want to talk to you about something which is very important to the lives of all Orthodox Christians. I want to talk to you about Repentance and the Sacrament of Confession.

Many of you come to confession frequently where before the Cross, the Gospel and the face of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ you bear your souls and with humility and fear of God ask for forgiveness. Many on the other hand, come less than they should. This is why, I think it is important for us to understand what repentance is, what the sacrament of confession is all about. It is important to understand that it is not only useful to our souls, but it is absolutely necessary for our lives in Christ.

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ knew very well that even the best of us sometimes make mistakes and fall into sin. In His love and compassion, in His wisdom and care for mankind; in His desire for all of us to attain His Kingdom, our Lord Jesus Christ left us the sacrament of Repentance. The Holy Scriptures teach us that our Lord takes "no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live!"

St Symeon the Theologian said that "if after baptism we gravitate towards evil and foul actions, we lose the sanctification of baptism completely. But through repentance, confession and tears we receive a corresponding remission of our former sins and, in this way, sanctification accompanied for the very first time, Repentance cleanses us from all our sins." St. Mark the Ascetic said "There is a sin that is always unto death: the sin for which we do not repent!" On the other hand, there is no sin that will not be forgiven us, if our repentance is true and sincere by the grace of God. Like the Baptismal Waters wash away our sins when we put on Christ. If we take one step to our Lord in Repentance, He will forgive us like the gracious Father forgave the Prodigal Son.

We have to remember that repentance is not just empty words. It is a way to better ourselves, for the sacrament of Repentance is not just a list of our sins that we read to the priest. It is our sincere, wholehearted decision to stop sinning. It is our complete remorse for the sins committed. It is finally our disgust with these sins, and a resolution to try our very best not to ever fall into the same actions again. We must not in our confession condemn others or blame sins committed by us on others. We must confess our sins to God truthfully, with all our heart with the Priest listening as a witness and than absolves us of our Sins. "Verily I say unto you, whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." (Mat 18:18) Jesus Christ, the Son of God left us this mystery in His love and compassion for humankind. Through compassion we can cast off sin and return to the path of unity with Christ.

Brothers and Sisters, God gave us the mystery of Repentance as the only way for a sinner, and we are all sinners, to reconcile him or herself to God. He gave us this wonderful mystery so that we can free ourselves from the pain and spiritual damage caused by the needles of unconfused sin. These needles penetrate our heart and our soul causing us great emotional distress, and by opening the hidden places of our heart to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ we can allow him to pull these needles out. We can allow his healing touch to take the pain away. We can allow him to come into our heart and comfort us with his love.

Let us forgive those who have wronged us, let us ask for forgiveness of the ones we have wronged. Let us not turn away from our Brothers and Sisters in pride, but instead let us embrace each other for we are one in Christ and with Christ, we are all members of His Holy Orthodoxy Church, thus every one of us is a part of His holy and most pure Body! We must love God, and we must love one another. These two commandments are the most important ones. If we keep these two, the rest will come to us naturally. Let us use repentance, let us use the Eucharist to strengthen our spiritual health so that we can apply these commandments in our every day life!

PARISH NEWS

These are the upcoming fund raising we have planned for the Senior UOL to raise \$ for Convention 2017!

Drink and Dabble February 12 6:30PM

If you can't attend but could donate something for the evening, please see Cindy

Cookie Walk and Bake Sale

Saturday March 19 9-11AM

By popular demand, our Christmas cookie walk is such a great success, that we have been asked numerous times to consider doing another in the Spring. Voila! Here it is! Not only are we looking for spring (Easter) themed cookies, we will offer some Easter breads, fruit rolls and cakes! This is the week before "the other" Easter, so our public will be looking for their desserts, and we'd like to oblige!

Bullets in the Bathtub Murder Mystery

Dinner, was postponed due to inclement weather. We are looking for a date of May 14 and are hoping that more of you can join us!

Flea Market Saturday May 21

We will be looking for help to set up, as well as help to work at the event. Time TBA.

For those that don't know, the Convention we are hosting will take place July 26-30, 2017.

We are currently searching for hotels, activities etc. If you have any "connections" in getting RI based "gifts" that might be donated, please let a UOL member know!!

Adult Education Class

6pm on February 27th

The class will cover The Fall and Original Sin

SERVICE SCHEDULE

Sunday, January 31st

Tone 2

9AM Divine Liturgy

12PM Semi Annual Meeting

Wednesday, February 3rd

6PM Litia for those who have fallen asleep

Saturday, February 6th

5PM Great Vespers

Sunday, February 7th

Tone 3

8:15AM Service of Repentance

9AM Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, February 10th

6PM Litia for those who have fallen asleep

Saturday, February 13th

6PM Great Vespers

Sunday, February 14th

Tone 4

9AM Divine Liturgy

Monday, February 15th

10:30AM Blessing of the Candles for the Meeting of Our Lord

While only Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves through fasting and prayer may come to communion today, God calls all to Communion with Him through Holy Orthodoxy. If you would like to become Orthodox, see me!
