



The Orthodox Parish of the Holy and Life-Giving Cross, Lancaster

The Stavronian

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*The Parish of the Holy and Life-Giving Cross,
belongs to the Antiochian Orthodox Deanery of the United Kingdom and Ireland,
which is part of the Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of Europe.*

*Our Metropolitan is His Eminence Archbishop John.
The Patriarchate of Antioch is third senior of the Orthodox Churches.
The Patriarch is His Beatitude Ignatius IV.*

*The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch
(Acts 11:26)*

Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

Χριστός Ανέστη! Αληθώς Ανέστη!

Христос Воскресе! Воистину Воскресе!

Hristos a înviat! Adevărat a înviat!

Christus ist auferstanden! Er ist wahrhaftig auferstanden!

Cristo è risorto! È veramente risorto!

Le Christ est ressuscité! Vraiment Il est ressuscité!

Cristo ressuscitou! Verdadeiramente ressuscitou!

Cristo ha resucitado! Verdaderamente, ha resucitado!

Al-Masih-Qam! Hakkan Qam!

了活復實確也 了活復督基

!活復に実!活復ストスリハ

CHRIST IS RISEN!!

Lord of the Flies is a novel by William Golding about a group of British school-boys stuck on a deserted island who try to govern themselves, with disastrous results. They begin life on the island full of excitement, but gradually the order they tried to create breaks down. The civilised schoolboys become savages. A conch shell determines the one who can speak! “*Lord of the Flies*” is also a translation of the words *Baal Zebub*, the prince of demons (2 Kings 1:2-3).

James 3:6; “*And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell*”.

E-mail, facebook and twitter have many useful attributes for ease of communication and social networking but like all technological innovations we are persuaded that we need them in order for us to be more efficient and effective. In fact they have the reverse effect. Communication like money is neutral but it is how we use these systems of exchange that is important. Like flies we are drawn into a world wide web where we can be caught up spending more and more time before a screen that prevents us from real social interaction and that slowly digests our ability to focus on the true priorities of life. We are absorbed into cyber space where the atmosphere of the real world is replaced with a vacuum in which sin begins to numb our sensitivities and warp our judgements.

We should take very seriously Christ’s warnings about what we say or write about others even more so today when all and sundry have access to the record of our thoughts: Matthew 5:22; “*But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, 'Raca,' is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell*”.

Our Lord clearly points out that since words possess power we will be held responsible for how we speak about others.

Matthew 12:36; “*But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken*”.

The mouth-piece is the sounding board of our inner thoughts.

Matthew 15:11; “*What goes into a man's mouth does not make him 'unclean,' but what comes out of his mouth, that is what makes him 'unclean'*”.

Matthew 15:18; “*But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man 'unclean'*”.

There can be no justification in speaking or writing that which comes from the passion

of anger which is the child of pride, nor can there be an excuse for the word of truth which is not spoken in love. Love is the hallmark of the Christian - by this Christ said all people will know that you are my disciples. Gentleness and respect for others, humility and repentance is the way for those caught in the passions - if we fail to exercise such continence then God in his mercy will surely humble us.

Facebook may be a way of keeping in contact with others but it should always be for the building up of relationships not to break them down. Our information highway sometimes brings out "road rage" and can be the outlet for all kinds of frustration, hatred, bile and vituperations - such broadcasting of the devil's machinations and promptings has no place in the Christian message of Good News.

Christ through His death on the Cross has overcome the power of death and sin and by His glorious Resurrection He has made us citizens of Heaven. The Light of the Resurrection has dawned upon us! Let us live as those who are sons and daughters of the Light!

Christ is Risen!

He is Risen Indeed!



ORBITS

As you grow older you become more invisible

Like imaginary friends known only to the very small,

As morning dew that vaporizes to meet the day.

Self effacement is a redundant virtue

In the presence of young vanity who strikes the bolder pace.

When you are the centre of your own Universe

You are your own reference point; subject not object.

Other satellites orbit you and you not others.

But slowly a re-orientation takes place,

The brash confidence of boastful youth

Is replaced by a more considered tone and retiring gaze.

The blunt burden of age bears a sharper wisdom

That fills the spaces in between the moving hands of the clock.

Salt water tears yield to a deeper undertow- the tide of years.

As darker into the night the stars grow brighter still,

'Til the dimming pupil reflects an inner sight;

As the Sun's glory now seen in the full Moon's lesser light.

Day arrives, and the Moon whilst present sleeps

And disappears from the orbit of the human eye

A new dawn wakes

And the Light of the Resurrection greets a new Life.

JAH, Pascha 2011

LETTER FROM AMERICA

Dear Father Jonathan,

I hope, you are doing well.

Father Deacon Thomas Parthenakis was ordained a priest at Ithaca's St. Catherine Greek Orthodox Church in Ithaca.

Father Tom decided to enter the priesthood after he retired from a 36-year career of teaching U.S. history at Gannon University in Erie, Pennsylvania.

I want to quote the local "Ithaca Journal" where this event was described: Father Tom said: *"As a layperson, it's easy to be critical, but if you put yourself in the shoes of the clergy, you gain a different perspective. It takes a lot of your time and energy to do a good job, to fulfill all of the responsibilities of what a priest is supposed to do"*.

The Ordination officiated His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas of Detroit. During the ceremony His Eminence mentioned that *"while it might appear unusual for a man of Father Tom's years to enter the priesthood but it's a sign of a trend that's been developing in recent years. It's a reflection of what's happening in today's world, people become what mommy and daddy wanted -doctors, lawyers, teachers- but as they are growing and maturing they are realising something is missing"*.

Near the end of the ceremony Archbishop Nicholas asked Fr. Tom: *"What is the most important thing in life?"* He replied *"Love"* and His Eminence said: *"Yes, that is true you passed your final exam"* (Fr. Tom is a former professor of history).

After the ceremony we had dinner in honour of Fr. Tom. We met Archbishop Nicholas; he found time to speak with me and Masha and suddenly he gave Masha a present - a small porcelain doll in Russian style costume. When I saw it I was so surprised. He smiled, asked our names and blessed us. His Eminence said that there are Russian people in his church in Detroit who presented him these dolls. After His Blessing I got such a sense of joy, light and holiness that it is difficult to describe by words.

There are some links of photos illustrating this event, [here](#) and [here](#).

In Christ,
Alla Ganshyna



PHOTOS FROM THE TWELVE GOSPELS SERVICE



OLD STAVRONIAN CORNER

We would like to extend our thanks to Eftychia Schini for the generous donation to the Community of a large parcel of brown & white candles for Pascha which arrived at school today and for the lovely Orthodox books which will be distributed amongst the faithful. We hope that God has granted you a Holy Pascha and a Glorious celebration of the Resurrection!

We would also like to thank Sophocles and Angleliki Ioulianou for the candles and little plastic coated icon cards of the Resurrection that they sent for us. They were given out to the faithful at Pascha. We are for ever appreciative of your kindness and generosity to our community. God give you His blessing and we hope He has granted you a Joyous Pascha and Resurrection celebration.

Another of our Old Stavronians, Costas Papakonstantinou, with the help of Marina Christodoulou and one of his work colleagues Argyro Kesta who is the mother of a former Lancaster Student, Maria, has sent us a parcel with candles and cards of the Resurrection. We thank them all very much indeed for their generosity of spirit and hope that they had a joyful Pascha in Christ!

We also like to thank Ionut Uliniuc and Maria Anastasiou who returned to the Community of the Holy Cross for Great Week. Their presence and their singing at the services was a great blessing for us!

Kostya Holubyev sends warm regards to father Jonathan and all the brother- and sisterhood at the Holy Cross. He has now moved from Heidelberg to Wurzberg, Germany, working in a medical physics research group at a clinic for radiation therapy! We wish him all the best in Christ during his stay in Wurzberg.

PARISH NEWS

One of our old Stavronians, Anna Sedina (2002-2006), has visited the Community on

Palm Sunday which was a blessing indeed. A few photos of the liturgy follow:



MAJOR CELEBRATIONS THIS MONTH

1st May: Thomas Sunday

5th May: The Great Martyr Irene

8th May: St. John the Theologian and St. Arsenius the Great

11th May: Sts. Cyril and Methodius, Equal-to-the Apostles

15th May: St. Pachomius the Great Martyr

18th May: Mid-Pentecost

21st May: St. Constantine and Helen Equal-to-the Apostles

23rd May: The retrieval of the relics of St. Joachim of Ithaca

25th May: The 3rd Finding of the Precious Head of the Forerunner and Baptist John

For the lives of Saints please visit the Calendar of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America: www.calendar.goarch.org

Services during May*

Sat. 7 th	10:00 am	Holy Liturgy in R.C. - Chrismation of Ben Seraphim
Sat. 14 th	10:00 am	Holy Liturgy in R.C.
Sat. 21 st	10:00 am	Holy Liturgy in R.C.
Sun. 29 th	10:00 am	Holy Liturgy in Q.R. followed by Parish lunch

*Help setting up the church is greatly appreciated and starts from 9.15 a.m.

“God cares for everyone. Despair is in effect a lack of faith”
- St. George Karslides -



For further information please contact:

Father Jonathan Hemmings
67 Sibsey Str., Fairfield, Lancaster, LA1 5DQ
Tel: +44 1524 840759, +44 1524 580600

Email: frjah@yahoo.co.uk
www.antiochian-orthodox.co.uk

