

**Russian Orthodox Church of the
Resurrection of Christ**

1201 Hathaway Lane NE
Minneapolis, MN 55432-5720
Phone: 763-574-1001 / Fax 763-574-7560
web site: www.skete.info/ email: rusmch@att.net

Schedule for the Week of August 9 - 15, 2009

Sunday Aug 9	St. Panteleimon
Thursday Aug 13	Vigil – Procession of the Cross 6:30 PM
Friday Aug 14	Procession of the Holy Cross Присхождение Креста 9:00 AM – Divine Liturgy / Литургия <i>Beginning of Dormition Fast</i> <i>Начало Успенского Поста</i>
Saturday Aug 15	5:30 PM Vigil
Sunday Aug 16	Sts. Isaac, Dalmatus and Faustus 8:30 AM Confessions, Nocturns 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy / Литургия

вашими у Отца Небеснаго всем нам прощение грехов наших и от бед избавление.

Вы бо помощницы, заступницы и молитвенницы, и о вас славу возсылаем Отцу и Сыны и Святому Духу, ныне и присно и во веки веков. Аминь.

* * *

A Sincere Thank You!

To everyone who assisted and celebrated St. Seraphim's day with us on Saturday, August 1

To the Sisterhood, the Singers who made the service so festive; to those who did their beautiful work in the decoration of the festal Icon for us, to Fr. Andrew and Fr. Christopher who joined us in our celebration, and especially to all of you who attended the services and supported our festal celebration this year, and for the delicious impromptu brunch prepared after the services.

It was a truly festive and joyous time!

Fr. John

* * *

Dates to Remember:

Успенский Пост	14 – 27 Aug
Первый Спас / Procession of the Cross	14 Aug
Преображение / Transfiguration	19 Aug.
Успение / Dormition	28 Aug

*Молитва об исцелении святым врачам
Великомученику Пантелеимону, мученикам Косме и
Дамиану, Киру и Иоанну, Священномученику
Ермолаю, мученикам Диомиду, Фотию и Аниките:*

О великие Христовы угодницы и чудотворцы Пантелеимоне, Космо и Дамиане, Кире и Иоанне, Ермолае, Диомиде, Фотие и Аникито! Услышите нас, вам молящихся (имена). Вы весте наши скорби и недуги, слышите воздыхания множества к вам притекающих. Сего ради к вам, яко скорым помощникам и теплым молитвенникам нашим, зовем: не оставляйте нас вашим у Бога ходатайством. Мы присно заблуждаем от пути спасения, руководите нас, милостивые наставницы. Мы немощны есмы в вере, утвердите нас, правоверия учителя.

Мы зело убози сотворихомся добрых дел, обогатите нас, благосердия сокровища. Мы присно наветуемы есмы от враг видимых и невидимых и озлобляемы, помозите нам, беспомощных заступницы. Гнев праведный, движимый на ны за беззакония наша, отвратите от нас вашим ходатайством у престола Судии Бога, Емуже вы предстоите на небеси, святые праведницы. Услышите, молим вас, велиции Христовы угодницы, вас с верою призывающия, и испросите молитвами

Excerpts From a Sermon on Reading Spiritual Works
by Archbishop Platon of Kostroma

The reading of holy writings of profit to the soul is one of the main means of succeeding in the spiritual life. Following the Apostle, the Holy Fathers also command us to read continually the holy writings, since this is an important means to spiritual perfection. Such reading is absolutely necessary, especially in the present age, when worldly education and worldly habits threaten to stifle a taste for everything spiritual, and false teachings and ideas are spreading rapidly.

God speaks with us when we read the Holy Scripture, for what does it contain, if not the Word of God itself? In it is His truth, His teaching, His commandments. But do we listen when He speaks, or as we read? Regardless of when these words were written, one and the same God speaks to us. "If we read the Sacred Scriptures with faith," says St. Basil the Great, "we will feel that we see and hear Christ Himself. What is it we need, an actual voice or the One Who speaks to us through the Scriptures? It is all the same. In Sacred Scripture, God speaks with us just as truly as when we speak with Him through prayer." For this reason, prayer and the reading of sacred books must be our continuous occupation. Pray or read continually if you want to be with God at all times.

The saints talk with us when we read their writings. Through their writings, they guide us and speak to us and we, so to speak, resurrect through them after their death in order to talk with them. Thus, we have no reason to envy the contemporaries of Chrysostom, Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, Athanasius the Great, Ambrose and others. From the holy ranks of the Fathers we may choose with whom it is best for us to converse. There is no better, more joyous, and more beneficial way to spend the time we have than in reading the writings of the Holy Fathers.

... "When I read holy books," says St. Gregory the Theologian about the books of St. Basil the Great, "then the spirit and body are illumined and I become the temple of God and the harp of the Holy Spirit, played by divine powers through them I am corrected and through them I receive a kind of divine change and I am made into a different person." The great Hierarch Gregory says this about reading holy writings out of his own experience. They completely transfigure a person, making him into a saint and deifying him.

... what delight, joy, and comfort there is to be gained through the reading of works which profit the soul. There is nothing more pleasant than this occupation. The Psalmist says, "How sweet to my tongue are Thy words, O Lord" (Ps. 118:103), "sweeter than honey and the honeycomb" (Ps. 108). This food pleases every palate.

This is the true manna, the heavenly food, the angelic bread which was prepared by Heaven without labor on our part, and which has in it every sort of sweetness and every sort of fragrance, satisfying every man's needs. What can be more pleasant than this? If you do not know this from your own experience, then believe the experience of the countless saints who found in the reading of the word of God all their joy and the greatest of comfort. For how many times and how powerfully it comforted the holy Maccabees amidst their great sorrows. Was it not in the reading of holy books that they found their joy? The holy Apostle Paul advises the Romans to seek comfort in the Sacred Scriptures (Rom. 15:4). With what did St. Paul comfort himself in prison? He asks his beloved disciple Timothy to send the books he left behind, in order to use them during his confinement in prison (2 Tim. 4).

Do we, with the saints, find our joy in the reading of soul-saving books? Alas! We find our comfort, our glory, and food in vain things. We read books which only feed curiosity and which are often very harmful. The day seems too short for acquiring knowledge and we spend whole nights in reading books, while nothing can distract us. What can be said of those who spend day and night in the reading of harmful, tempting books which smother faith and which arouse and feed the passions? Leave them quickly, my brother," says one great ascetic, 'so that you do not surround your own heart with the diabolic fire, so that in place of grain these tares may not be sown in your field and in place of life you receive death, and... (why do I waste words?) that in place of Christ you accept into yourself the devil. Do not be tardy in this, but save yourself as did Lot from Sodom" (St. Barsanuphius, p. 607).

So let our eyes be enlightened by the light of the word of God, for Sacred Scripture enlightens more brightly than the sun those who read with love and who keep the commandments of God.

Do not be lazy, O Christians! Read spiritual works so that your soul may not die starved of hearing the word of God with which God threatens us through the prophets. Remember that the noble Queen Candace, while sitting in a chariot on the road, read the Sacred Scriptures and for this was vouchsafed to be called to the Kingdom of Jesus Christ. Let us continually read Sacred Scripture, the writings of the Holy Fathers of the Church, and other soul-profitting works. But when we approach the reading of these books, we must first pray with all our heart to the Lord God that He might open the eyes of our heart and that we not only understand what is written, but do it. For he who reads and does not do what is written despises the Divine Scriptures. (*From Orthodox Life, Vol. 34, No. 3 (May-June, 1984)*)