
THE LADDER of Divine Ascent

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The Newsletter of St John of the Ladder Orthodox Church

October 2008

Update from the OCMC Missionaries Floyd and Ancuța Frantz

On Sunday, October 26th, following Divine Liturgy, the Frantz's will give a presentation in order to update the parish on their continuing missionary endeavors in Romania with OCMC. Since 2003, St John of the Ladder has regularly (on a monthly basis) supported their missionary work from its charity/alms fund.

The Protection of the Theotokos Family Counseling Program, began in 2005 by Ancuța Frantz in Cluj, Romania, is actively engaged the prevention of the abandonment of new born children by their mothers. The activities of the Protection Center include day-care of the infant and counseling and material support for the mother while she pursues job training or is finding suitable employment.

Officially the program cares for a maximum of 10 infants in the day-program, with their mothers participating in the counseling program. The actual fact is that there are many more mothers attending the counseling groups, as they want to continue even after their children are old enough to be graduated from the program into a kindergarten. They also continue with material support for the family after graduation, such as by giving the mothers extra food and clothing, and by helping to pay for the kindergarten if it is needed. Usually it is, as many of these single mothers have been abandoned by their partners and by their families.

This year Ancuța graduated a masters level program in management of non-governmental programs, and her project received a national certification to operate as a fully functioning center of its type. This is like a permanent license, and it is very difficult to obtain.

Also operating out of Cluj, the St. Dimitrie Program, which is the project of Floyd Frantz, began in 2000, and is concerned primarily with the treatment of addictions and with education about how such treatment programs function. This program is also engaged in providing education about the basics of recovery from addictions. Although designed primarily for the clergy of the Orthodox Church, other professional people frequently attend their trainings.

The St. Dimitrie Program currently is providing treatment or information programs in the Leon Daniello Tuberculosis Hospital in Savadislă, the long term care psychiatric hospital in Borsa, the maximum security prison in Gherla, the main psychiatric hospital in Cluj, and at the polyclinic St. Pantelimon. They also have a day drop-in center, "Casa Alba", which acts as a staging point for their activities and as administrative offices. At the request of the priest, they also provide Orthodox parishes in the area with information about 12 step recovery groups and about the basics of prevention programs.

An important part of the mission of the St. Dimitrie Program is in the area of education. This year they have provided more than 200 priests in 6 archdioceses of Romania with training about addictions recovery principals and prevention programs for their parishes. This effort has now been blessed by the Church, and in collaboration with the Iasi Archdiocese we are helping the Church nationally to develop alcohol education programs in the Orthodox faculty seminaries, the high school seminaries, and in the local parishes.

One last thing to mention is that Floyd Frantz has started a new initiative in the Republic of Moldova similar to the one in Romania. It is being accomplished through the Romanian Orthodox Church and has been well received in Moldova. The Orthodox Church in Moldova is now seeking ways of funding its continuation.

You may read more about Floyd and Ancuța by visiting the OCMC web site at www.ocmc.org.

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A Word from the Desert

"We ought to be on guard, in case our conscience has stopped troubling us, not so much because of its being clear, but because of its being immersed in sin."

--- St. John Climacus

St John of the Ladder Orthodox Church

~~~ Schedule of Services ~~~

October 2008

| Sunday                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Monday                                                                                                                                                  | Tuesday                                                                                                                                                   | Wednesday                                                                                                                                                                           | Thursday                                                                                                                                                                                    | Friday                                                                                                                                                | Saturday                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>A Word from the Desert</b></p> <p>"An old man was asked, 'What is humility?' He replied, 'It is when your brother sins against you and you forgive him before he comes to ask for forgiveness.' "</p>       |                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                           | <p><b>01</b> <i>Fast</i></p> <p><b>Protection of the Theotokos</b><br/><u>Adult Class</u><br/><i>The Epistle to the Romans</i><br/>7:00 pm<br/><b>Daily Vespers</b><br/>6:00 pm</p> | <p><b>02</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>OCF</i><br/>at Clemson University<br/>7:00 pm</p>                                                                                        | <p><b>03</b> <i>Fast</i></p>                                                                                                                          | <p><b>04</b></p> <p><i>SS Mary &amp; Martha Monastery Liturgy</i><br/>9:00 am<br/><i>Choir Rehearsal</i><br/>5:15 pm<br/><i>Confessions</i><br/><b>Great Vespers</b><br/>6:00 pm</p> |
| <p><b>05</b> <b>16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b><br/><i>Church School</i><br/>9:00 am<br/><i>Slavonic Molieben</i><br/>12:00 noon<br/><b>Divine Liturgy</b><br/>9:30 am</p>                             | <p><b>06</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>OCF</i><br/>at Furman University<br/>6:00 pm</p>                                                     | <p><b>07</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Choir Performance</u><br/><i>Konevets Quartet</i><br/>7:00 pm<br/><b>Daily Vespers</b><br/>6:00 pm</p> | <p><b>08</b> <i>Fast</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>No Adult Class</u><br/><b>No Daily Vespers</b></p>                                                                   | <p><b>09</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>St Tikhon Met of Moscow</b><br/><i>OCF</i><br/>at Clemson University<br/>7:00 pm</p>                                                     | <p><b>10</b> <i>Fast</i></p>                                                                                                                          | <p><b>11</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Great Vespers</b><br/>6:00 pm</p>                                                                                                 |
| <p><b>12</b> <b>17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b><br/><b>Fathers of the 7<sup>th</sup> Ecumenical Council</b><br/><i>Alms Sunday</i><br/><i>Charity Brunch</i><br/><b>Divine Liturgy</b><br/>9:30 am</p> | <p><b>13</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>OCF</i><br/>at Furman University<br/>6:00 pm</p>                                                     | <p><b>14</b></p>                                                                                                                                          | <p><b>15</b> <i>Fast</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Adult Class</u><br/><i>The Epistle to the Romans</i><br/>7:00 pm<br/><b>Daily Vespers</b><br/>6:00 pm</p>            | <p><b>16</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Retreat</u><br/><i>Matthew Gallatin 'Thirsting for God'</i><br/>7:00 pm @<br/><i>Christ the Saviour in Anderson</i><br/>864 224 7478</p> | <p><b>17</b> <i>Fast</i></p>                                                                                                                          | <p><b>18</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Retreat</u><br/><i>Matthew Gallatin 'If Build It, They Will Come'</i><br/>4:00 pm<br/><b>Great Vespers</b><br/>6:00 pm</p>        |
| <p><b>19</b> <b>18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b><br/><i>Church School</i><br/>9:00 am<br/><i>'Ask the Priest' w/ Mt Gallatin</i><br/><b>Divine Liturgy</b><br/>9:30 am</p>                              | <p><b>20</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Lecture</u><br/><i>Matthew Gallatin</i><br/>7:00 pm<br/>@ <i>Daniel Chapel Furman University</i></p> | <p><b>21</b></p>                                                                                                                                          | <p><b>22</b> <i>Fast</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Adult Class</u><br/><i>The Epistle to the Romans</i><br/>7:00 pm<br/><b>Daily Vespers</b><br/>6:00 pm</p>            | <p><b>23</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>OCF</i><br/>at Clemson University<br/>7:00 pm</p>                                                                                        | <p><b>24</b> <i>Fast</i></p>                                                                                                                          | <p><b>25</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Choir Rehearsal</i><br/>5:15 pm<br/><i>Confessions</i><br/><b>Great Vespers</b><br/>6:00 pm</p>                                   |
| <p><b>26</b> <b>19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b><br/><b>Great Martyr Demetrius</b><br/><i>Church School</i><br/>9:00 am<br/><b>Divine Liturgy</b><br/>9:30 am</p>                                       | <p><b>27</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>OCF</i><br/>at Furman University<br/>6:00 pm</p>                                                     | <p><b>28</b></p>                                                                                                                                          | <p><b>29</b> <i>Fast</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Adult Class</u><br/><i>The Epistle to the Romans</i><br/>7:00 pm<br/><b>Daily Vespers</b><br/>6:00 pm</p>            | <p><b>30</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>OCF</i><br/>at Clemson University<br/>7:00 pm</p>                                                                                        | <p><b>31</b> <i>Fast</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Fr Marcus travels to Dallas for consecration. Returns November 1<sup>st</sup>.</i></p> |                                                                                                                                                                                      |

Fellowship and Coffee Hour: Sundays immediately following Divine Liturgy

Church School: Sundays before Divine Liturgy at 9:00 am. See Barbara for more details.

Choir Rehearsal: Saturdays preceding Great Vespers as scheduled above

Confessions: Saturday Evenings following Great Vespers (as scheduled above) or by appointment

Adult Class on Romans and Fellowship: Wednesdays following Vespers

'Ask the Priest' Gatherings during Coffee Fellowship: 1<sup>st</sup> (in Russian) and 3<sup>rd</sup> (in English) Sundays in October

## Schedule of Events for Matthew Gallatin

Matthew Gallatin, the author of *Thirsting for God in a Land of Shallow Wells* (Conciliar Press, 2002), will join us for a series of talks. Audiences around the country have heard him share the story of his journey from evangelical Protestantism into Eastern Orthodoxy. His *Pilgrims from Paradise* podcast presents teachings on a host of issues relating to Christian belief and practice, and is one of the most popular offerings on Ancient Faith Radio (ancientfaithradio.com).

**Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm**  
**'Thirsting For God'**

(@ Christ the Saviour Orthodox Church in Anderson)

**Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup> 4:00 pm**  
**'If You Build It, They Will Come: Evangelism St Seraphim Style'**

(@ St John of the Ladder Orthodox Church)

**Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup> (following Divine Liturgy)**  
**Ask the Priest with Matthew as the 'Special Guest'**

(@ St John of the Ladder Orthodox Church)

**Monday, October 20<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm**  
**'The Christ of Christian Pluralism'**

(@ the Daniel Chapel of Furman University)

### 2008 Financial Update

|                       | Income    | Expenses  |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|
| <b>YTD (thru Aug)</b> | \$105,470 | \$107,759 |
| <b>August</b>         | \$14,478  | \$16,751  |
| <b>Charity YTD</b>    | \$9,163   | \$10,907  |



### **Ask the Priest?**

**During coffee fellowship we will continue a once a month 'Ask the Priest' gathering.**

On October 5<sup>th</sup>, during coffee hour, discussion will be led by Fr Nikolay for our Russian speakers. On October 19<sup>th</sup>, during coffee hour, discussion will be led by Fr Marcus (in English, of course!) with Matthew Gallatin as our special guest. All are welcomed and encouraged to attend. A box for questions is on the Bookshelf for submitting questions for consideration at upcoming gatherings.



## **The Konevets Quartet** **A Concert of Russian Sacred and Secular Music**

**Tuesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at 7:00 pm**

**Featuring a post-concert reception with the Quartet.  
 Donations taken to benefit the Konevets Monastery.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ■ CONSECRATION OF AUXILIARY BISHOP

Fr Marcus will travel to Dallas on October 31<sup>st</sup> for the consecration of the new auxiliary bishop for the Diocese of the South. Fr Jonah Paffhausen will be consecrated bishop at the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy on Saturday morning, November 1<sup>st</sup>. For more information go to [www.dosoca.org](http://www.dosoca.org).

### ■ CHARITY SUNDAY/ALMS BRUNCH

Our Charity Brunch community meal and alms collection will be on October 12<sup>th</sup>. Please remember that monies collected on this Sunday (as well as any monies that go into the alms basket in the vestibule) go to support our charitable outreach, such as the work of the Frantz's in Romania, our support of United Ministries in Greenville, and the seminarian support we send on a monthly basis. So far this year the income to the charity fund is lagging our expenses. With more challenging economic times ahead, as well as the colder winter months, it is more important than ever that we remember to give generously toward this fund, as well as bring food stuffs for the United Ministries food bank. Food stuffs can be put in the collection baskets in the vestibule.

### ■ UNITED MINISTRIES 19<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL WALK FOR THE HOMELESS

Fr Marcus and Fr Nikolay plan to participate in the walk for the homeless sponsored by United Ministries on October 5<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm. If anyone would like to walk with them or sponsor them, please contact them directly.

## A Reminder ... and a Hearty 'Thank You!' October Fellowship and Coffee Hour

|                          |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| October 5 <sup>th</sup>  | Team 5                  |
| October 12 <sup>th</sup> | Charity Brunch (Team 5) |
| October 19 <sup>th</sup> | Team 6                  |
| October 26 <sup>th</sup> | Team 7                  |

Celebrating Anniversaries and Birthdays in October: T ori E ich (1<sup>st</sup>), Samuel E ich (2<sup>nd</sup>), Jaye Levitsky (5<sup>th</sup>), George and Helen Kaminsky, (5<sup>th</sup>), Liza Godonoaga (9<sup>th</sup>), T ikhon and S haron Pichai (8<sup>th</sup>), E d Webb (11<sup>th</sup>), James Riddle, Sr (13<sup>th</sup>), Andrew O'Shaughnessy (23<sup>rd</sup>), Sharon Pichai (24<sup>th</sup>), T ikhon Pichai (28<sup>th</sup>), Mira Pichai (29<sup>th</sup>)

### St Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow Enlightener of America (October 9<sup>th</sup>)

Chosen by God in a turbulent time,  
you glorified God in complete holiness;  
and attained greatness through humility and showed  
forth the power of God through simplicity and piety;  
you laid down your life for the Church and her people,  
O Holy Confessor and Patriarch, Father Tikhon,  
pray to Christ God with whom you were also crucified  
that He may save our souls. (*Vespers of the Feast*)



### Orthodox Church in America

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[www.stjohnoftheladder.org](http://www.stjohnoftheladder.org)

Rev Fr Marcus C Burch, Rector  
Rev Fr Nikolay Miletkov, Assistant

#### ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

#### Schedule of Services

Vespers Wednesday, 6:00 pm  
Great Vespers, Saturday, 6:00 pm  
Divine Liturgy, Sunday, 9:30 am

**Let your prayer be completely simple.  
For both the Publican and the Prodigal Son  
we were reconciled to God by a single phrase.**

~~~ St John of the Ladder, *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*, Step 28. ~~~



Mailing Address

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OCTOBER 2008