

ПАНТЕЛЕИМОНСКИЙ ЛИСТОК

A Newsletter for the Russian Orthodox Community of Saint Panteleimon, Gosford

~ Number 7, 24 November 2002 ~



Обращение к пастве по случаю 20-летия Чудотворной иконы Божией Матери "Иверской-Мироточивой" Монреальской

В воскресенье 11/24 ноября с.г. исполняется 20 лет Чудотворной иконе Божией Матери "Иверской-Мироточивой" Монреальской.

Сия икона изливающая обильное чудотворное миро 15 лет утешала нашу Русскую Зарубежную Церковь, являясь зримым и ощутимым знаменем милосердного заступничества Божией Матери за нас грешных. Но вот уже 5 лет прошло со дня убийства верного хранителя иконы брата Иосифа и исчезновения мироточивого образа Богородицы. Достоин ли мы вели себя во время присутствия в нашей Церкви явно чудотворящей иконы? Использовали ли мы это посещение Матери Господа нашего с пользой для души и не наш ли общий грех охлаждения к святыне и молитве, к делам благочестия и свидетельства веры православной стал причиной отнятия по Божию попущению от нас святой иконы?

Пусть послужит этот праздник Чудотворной иконы побуждением ко смирению нашей гордыни, ибо гордыня удаляет от человека Божию благодать. Пусть он послужит для нас побуждением исправить свои жизненные пути, подчиняя их воле Божией.

Братья и сестры! С трепетной благодарностью молитвенно воспомянем о пребывании сей чудной мироточивой иконы в нашей Церкви и с покаянием помолимся Пресвятой Богородице о прощении наших грехов, о водворении мира в Церкви нашей православной. Мы считаем уместным, чтобы во всех храмах после Божественной литургии в этот день был отслужен молебен перед иконой Божией Матери. Пресвятая Богородица спаси нас!

ПРЕДСЕДАТЕЛЬ Архиерейского Синода: † Митрополит Лавр, † Архиепископ Марк, † Епископ Кирилл, † Епископ Амвросий, † Епископ Евтихий, † Епископ Александр, † Епископ Гавриил, † Епископ Михаил

Монреальская Иверская-Мироточивая икона Божией Матери

Монреальская Иверская икона была написана на Афоне в 1981 году греческим монахом с оригинала иконы Богородицы Вратарницы. В 1982 году эту икону привез с Афона в Монреаль, Канаду Иосиф Муньос Кортес, испанец по происхождению, давно принявший православие. Вот что было, говорит Иосиф Муньос: "24 ноября, в три часа ночи, я проснулся от сильного благоухания. Вначале подумал, что оно исходит от мощей или разлитого флакона духов, но, подойдя к иконе, я поразился: вся она была покрыта благоухающим миром! Я застыл на месте от такого чуда! Вскоре мироточивая икона была отнесена в храм. С тех пор икона Божией Матери постоянно мироточила, за исключением Страстных недель. Замечательно, что миро истекало главным образом из рук Богородицы и Христа, а также звезды, находящейся на правом плече Пречистой. В то же время задняя сторона иконы всегда сухая.

Чудотворный образ побывал в Америке, Австралии, Новой Зеландии, в Болгарии и в Западной Европе. Везде, куда бы ни прибыла эта икона, она распространяла любовь и согласие, как, например, в одной общине, где ссорившиеся прихожане вновь обрели путь к молитве и церковному единению. Ее присутствие умножало молитвенный жар до такой степени, что литургии, совершаемые при ней, могли быть сравнимы с пасхальными, столь пламенными в Православной Церкви.

Известны многие случаи возврата людей к посещению храма, исповеди, причастию. Так, одна бедная женщина, узнав о смерти своего сына, готовилась лишиться себя жизни, но, тронутая до глубины души при виде чудотворной иконы, раскаялась в своем ужасном намерении и немедленно исповедалась.

Икона мироточила 15 лет. В ночь с 30 на 31 октября 1997 года хранитель иконы Иосиф Муньос Кортес был зверски убит в Афинах, а Чудотворная Иверская бесследно пропала.

Appeal to the Flock on the 20th anniversary of the Myrrh-streaming Iveron Icon of the Mother of God of Montreal

Sunday, 11/24 November, will mark the 20th anniversary of the Myrrh-streaming Iveron Icon of the Mother of God of Montreal. This icon, which abundantly streamed miracle-working myrrh for 15 years, consoled our Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia, a visible and tangible symbol of the mercy of the intercession of the Mother of God for us sinners.

But now almost 5 years have passed since the day of the murder of the devoted caretaker of the icon, Brother Joseph, and of the disappearance of the Icon of the Mother of God. Did we act in a worthy manner during the presence in our Church of this Icon, which clearly performed miracles? Did we put to good use this visitation of the Mother of Our Lord for our souls, and is it not our collective sin of having grown cold towards this holy Icon and in our prayers, cold to the works of charity and witness to the Orthodox faith, that was the reason for its disappearance, through God's will?

May this holiday of the Miracle-working Icon serve to encourage us to humble our pride, for pride distances man from God's grace. May it serve as a reminder for us to correct our earthly paths, to subject our ways to the will of God.

Brothers and sisters! With tremulous gratitude we prayerfully recall the arrival of this wondrous myrrh-streaming Icon in our Church, and with repentance we pray to the Most-Holy Mother of God for the forgiveness of our transgressions, for peace to reign in our Orthodox Church. We deem it appropriate for all the churches to conduct a service of supplication [moleben] before the icon of the Mother of God after Divine Liturgy on this day.

Most-Holy Mother of God save us!

PRESIDENT of the Synod of Bishops, + Metropolitan Laurus, + Archbishop Mark, + Bishop Kyrill, + Bishop Ambroise, + Bishop Evtikhii, + Bishop Alexander, + Bishop Gabriel, + Bishop Michael

The Montreal Myrrh-streaming Iveron Icon of the Mother of God

The Montreal Iveron Icon was painted on Athos in 1981 by a Greek monk from the original Icon of the Mother of God the Portaitisa. In 1982, Jose Munoz Cortez, a Spaniard by origin who had long ago accepted Orthodoxy, brought this icon from Athos to Montreal, Canada. Here is what happened, said Jose Munoz: "On the 24th of November, at three o'clock in the morning, I was wakened by a powerful fragrance. At first I thought that it came from relics or a spilled bottle of perfume; but on going up to the icon, I was awestruck: it was entirely covered with fragrant myrrh! I froze on the spot at such a miracle! Soon the myrrh-streaming icon was taken to church. From that time, the Icon of the Mother God has continuously streamed myrrh, with the exception of Passion Week. It is remarkable that the myrrh has flowed out mainly from the hands of the Mother of God and Christ, and also from the star on the right shoulder of the Immaculate one. At the same time, the back side of the icon is always dry."

The wonderworking image has been in America, Australia, New Zealand, Bulgaria and Western Europe. No matter

where this icon has been, it has spread love and concord everywhere, as, for example, in one community where the quarrelling parishioners found once again the way to prayer and church unity. Its presence increased prayerful fervour to such an extent that Liturgies performed in its presence could be compared to paschal Liturgies, which are so intense in the Orthodox Church.

Many cases of people's return to attending church, to going to Confession, to receiving Communion are known. Thus, one poor woman, having learned of the death of her son, prepared to take her own life; but touched to the depths of her soul at the sight of the wonderworking icon, she repented of her horrible intention and immediately went to Confession.

The icon streamed myrrh for fifteen years. On the night of 30-31 October 1997, the custodian of the icon – Jose Munoz Cortez – was brutally killed in Athens, and the wonderworking Iveron Icon vanished without a trace.

With a number of parishioners away this week, and the choir having already prepared for the Service of Intercession in Time of Drought, we will not be serving a moleben before the Iveron Icon on this day. Nevertheless, there will be a copy of the icon in church for veneration and will pray for the repose of the soul of Jose Munoz Cortez.

SERVICE OF INTERCESSION IN TIME OF DROUGHT

In the last newsletter it was announced that we would be serving the special service of request for rain today, 24 November 2002, in accordance with Archbishop Hilarion's request. This will take place after the Divine Liturgy. These are the troparia to be sung during the moleben:

Tone 2: O Lord Who at Thy command alterest the composition of the air: Do Thou grant abundant rain with health-bearing winds unto the land, that it may bear abundant fruits for Thy people and satisfy every living thing with Thy benefits, through the prayers of the Mother of God & of all the saints.

Tone 6: Knowing Thee as the creator and Fashioner and Bestower of all good things, O Lord, we fall down before Thee and earnestly beseech Thee: Spare us, O Kindhearted One, and, as Thou art good, forgive us our transgressions. And deliver Thy servants from Thy present righteous anger, granting fruitful rains unto the thirsting land, for Thou only art great in mercies.

FATHER JOHN'S NAMEDAY

Tomorrow, 25th November, is the commemoration of St John the merciful, and Hieromonk John's name-day. Unfortunately, he is unable to serve with us today, as he is interstate. We congratulate him on the occasion and pray that God will grant him a prosperous and peaceful life, health and salvation, success in all things, and **many years!**

GOSFORD SERVICES IN DECEMBER & JANUARY

15 December	Sunday	25 th Sunday after Pentecost <i>Divine Liturgy</i>	9.00 am
5 January	Sunday	Sunday before the Nativity of Christ <i>Divine Liturgy</i>	9.00 am
19 January	Sunday	Theophany - The Baptism of the Lord <i>Divine Liturgy</i> followed by Great Blessing of Waters & blessing of parish homes	9.00 am

A new schedule with details of services for January-May 2003 is available today.

OTHER IMPORTANT CHURCH DATES

28 November Начало Рождественского Поста
Beginning of Nativity Fast

This fast (пост) lasts for 40 days, from 28th November until 6th January. It is a time of spiritual preparation for the feast of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ (Christmas) on January 7th. This can be difficult as it coincides with the "festive season" and the frequent obligation to attend festive gatherings, especially at workplaces. Nevertheless, it is a time in which we should give greater attention to our relationship with God, praying & attending church more frequently, and helping those in need. Strictly speaking, Orthodox Christians do not eat meat or dairy products during this period, but fish is allowed on Saturdays & Sundays up until 2nd January. Wine & oil are usually allowed on Tuesdays & Thursdays, as well as the weekends.

Some worthy charitable organisations to remember during this period are:

- The **Chinese Orthodox Mission**, established to meet the needs of Orthodox Christian Chinese, both in China & here in Australia;
- The **Korean Orthodox Mission**, established to help Fr Justin Kang and his parish of Saint Anna in Korea; and
- **Orthodox Action - Sydney**, an organisation helping the needy, especially in Russia. They distribute money to individuals, families, orphanages, hospices, aged people's homes, & needy clergy.

All of these organisations are linked to the Russian Orthodox Church outside Russia. Donations to the Chinese & Korean Orthodox Missions can be made through the Diocesan office at Croydon. Donations to Orthodox Action can be sent to PO Box 6250 Blacktown 2148.

4 December **Введение во храм Пресвятыя Богородицы**
Entry of the Mother of God into the Temple

19 December **Святителя Николая, архиепископа Мир Ликийских, чудотворца**
St Nicholas, the Wonderworker of Myra in Lycia

THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL ARE ASKED FOR:

The sick: Metropolitan Vitaly, Archbishop Alypy, George, Maria

Expectant mothers: Victoria, Amy (Orthodox)

Special needs: Katherine, David, Constantine (Orthodox); Margaret (non-Orthodox)

Preparing for marriage: Peter & Svetlana, Daniel & Ioanna, Peter & Tatiana

Newly-married: Paul & Ksenia (married on 8/9), Matthew & Irene (married on 4/10)

Newly-departed: Alexander

GATEWAY TRAVEL - РУССКОЕ БЮРО ПУТЕШЕСТВИЙ

Gateway Travel in Strathfield has been a benefactor over many years of activities within the Russian community. In 2001, they provided a generous first prize in a fundraising raffle for the Australian Russian Orthodox Youth Conference. In connection with the Youth Conference, they recently wrote to Fr James saying, "We would like to ask you to ask all your friends/relatives to try to use our travel services for travel to anywhere they wish as this is the only way we can try to assist Russian Orthodox organisations. We expect your support and [that of] others from the Russian/Australian community". It is of course only right that we support all the businesses within our community that support our church & cultural activities. With this in mind, please consider Gateway Travel whenever you are planning to travel. They are located at 48 The Boulevarde, Strathfield, and can be contacted on 9745-3333 or agent@russian-gateway.com.au. They also have a website: <http://www.russian-gateway.com.au>.

Father James will be preparing this newsletter to coincide with each service at Gosford. Try and let him know at least a week in advance if there is anything that you would like included (prayer requests, news, announcements). You can call him on 02-9721-2659 or email him at fr.james.carles@rocor.org.au.