

# **St. Vincent of Lerins Orthodox Church**

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## **The Week of Oct 1-8, 2017**

**Sun - Oct 1** 2nd Sunday of Luke Commemorating Sts. Ananias and Roman the Melodist  
9:00 am Orthros  
10:00 am Divine Liturgy - Agape lunch - Potluck style

**Mon - Oct 2** 5:15 PM Light House Dinner

**Thur - Oct 5** 6:30 PM Great Vespers for the Feast of St. Thomas the Apostle

**Fri - Oct 6** 9 AM Orthos  
10 AM Divine Liturgy for the Feast of St. Thomas the Apostle

**Sat - Oct 7** 5:45 pm Confessions  
"No" Church school (Thanksgiving Weekend)  
6:00 pm Inquirers' Class  
7:00 pm Great Vespers

**Sun - Oct 8** 9 AM Orthros  
10 AM Divine Liturgy - Agape lunch - Potluck style



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## 1. From the Atrium.

Enrollment in the atrium has increased this year and, with the cooler weather starting, we find we are in need of more slippers for the children. If you can donate any for ages 3-9, it would be greatly appreciated. Just set them inside the atrium door. Thank you.

**Catechist:** Why do you think the Bible has been translated into so many languages?

Boy (7): Because God's words are for everyone in the whole world.

Boy (6): Everyone in the whole universe!

- ## 2. Please remember to send your announcements to the church's email address [stvincentorthch@sasktel.net](mailto:stvincentorthch@sasktel.net) **for the weekly bulletins - by Wednesdays;** and **for the monthly calendars - by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.**



# LOOKING AHEAD

- ❖ **Sunday Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> 9am.** With the blessing of Fr. Bernard, the Proskomedion Service will be held outside the altar area as a Parish Education Event. Everyone is welcome! This event will replace the regular Sunday Atrium Session. Parents, please bring your children to see the articles they have learned about in the Atrium!
- ❖ **November 18-20** God willing we will be having a Pre-Nativity of Christ retreat with Fr. John Bethancourt on the topic - ***Faith in a Fragmented World: Living Orthodoxy from a Joyful Heart.*** Mark your calendar and invite a friend!

# PASTORAL TEACHINGS, INFORMATION, DIRECTIVES, NOTES & SAYINGS

## THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

By Fr. George Ajalat

*"...you are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will live in them and move among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be My people."*

On this 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost St. Paul reminds us of our true calling as a Church and as individual believers. We are called first and foremost to holiness. We have spoken recently on seeking personal holiness, which is crucial, without which, no one will see the Lord. Each one of us should strive for virtue. However, we must also understand that we must enter into holiness corporately-in our churches. When St. Paul says "you are the temple", the "you" here is plural. He was speaking to the body of believers - the church. So each and every one of us should also strive to make our churches holy.

Certainly, we start by making them holy in their physical structure. As we adorn our churches, they must reflect the presence of God in each square inch. In the icons, in the candles, in the oil lamps, in her cleanliness, in the sacredness of the Altar, we must not only strive for "correctness" or efficiency but to reflect the holiness of God. We should perceive the holiness in our senses, as we smell the holy fragrance of the tomb of our Lord Jesus. In our hearts we should feel the joy and amazement that the women had when they heard the angel say "He is not here, He has risen!" Our churches should reflect a stillness and a sobriety appropriate to the Holiness of our God. Let us strive to create this atmosphere materially. When someone walks into one of our churches, they should be certain that they are walking into another world, that they are entering another Kingdom.

The material decorations, however, are insufficient in themselves and can only be fulfilled by the spiritual decorations- that is our prayer. It is prayer, and particularly corporate prayer as the body of our Lord, which will make our churches holy. Prayer is the incense of holiness. We must be obedient to the prayer cycle of the Church. Make feasts and fasts a priority and a joy in our lives. Our prayers must be beautiful outwardly, but these must be adorned and fulfilled inwardly by a heart that prays. And to truly pray we need to prepare- especially as clergy and clergy wives. We prepare for prayer by warming our hearts with the love of God, with wanting to please him with all of our being. Read the Gospel the night before and say, with contrition, the prayers before communion. The best preparation is by forgiving and asking forgiveness of those who have wounded us, either in our perception or in reality. True prayer pours forth from humility as in the Canaanite woman.

Lastly, and most importantly, let us cleanse ourselves, corporately, from every defilement of body or spirit. That is, when pride and conflict raise their ugly head in our churches, we must stop it at the source, and immediately. This takes vigilance. Put out the small flame as it starts before it becomes a raging fire. This can only be done with the water of humility and love. Strive for spiritual unity and flee vigorously from carnal strife. We can do this by building each other up and not tearing each other down. Do not Gossip, and do not condemn nor judge anyone. Let every word that comes from our mouths reflect love. Honor and love other clergy, even if we do not always agree with them. Honor, love, and correct each other as brothers and sisters. Always keep in mind that if correction does not come from love and respect, it will not correct. Dearest Ladies, if we pursue these things, indeed, our churches will become holy. We will become His temple and He will live in us and move among us- and we will truly be His people. Amen.

