



SAINT MARY'S
ORTHODOX CHURCH
Goshen, IN

monthly NEWSLETTER

God has a face by Reader Matthew Whirledge

The incarnation is a distinctly Christian doctrine. Christians alone believe God became Man. The Son, who shares the same divinity as the Father, became man to share our humanity. "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14)

Because God became man, God has a face. That which was invisible can now be seen. Seeing God is what icons are all about, and really, what Christianity is all about.

Saint Basil the Great tells us "What the Gospels tell us in words, the icons show us in lines and colors." The Truth is the same, but the medium, experience, and impact are different. Catholic philosopher Marshall McLuhan said "the medium is the message;" that is, the way something is presented says more than the content itself. Icons help us encounter Christ and the Gospel in a totally different way than the Bible can. A text is read and processed over time, an image shows everything at once, but like a text, can be studied over time. The Bible can be shut and put away, but an icon hanging on the wall ceaselessly preaches the Gospel, and catch us when we least expect it. An icon becomes a palpable presence of Christ in our homes and lives. In addition to experiencing Christ textually and verbally, we can experience Christ visually. In the Bible, we read about God incarnate; in an icon, we see God incarnate.

Icons are often explained as a visual aid for Medieval Christians to learn about their faith. This is partially true, as the illiterate could enter their local Church and "read" the Bible visually by remembering the details of the stories depicted on the walls. Nevertheless, the "icon-as-visual-aid" misses the point; iconography is much more than an accessory to the text.

Icons are a presence, rather than a mere illustration or visual-aide. Christ is present within an icon. We can look at him, make eye contact, we can get to know him. Consider the difference between thinking about someone and being with that person, face-to-face. We can communicate face to face with God because of the incarnation. God became a Man, and so now God has a face we can paint in icons, and with icons, we can stand praying face to face with God.

Think about everything you gain from a personal encounter that cannot be quantified with words or thoughts. The visual experience is totally different than the textual experience. You can get some information from a text, but you can get different information from an image. A picture is worth a thousand words. The medium is the message.

Prayer can be with words, but prayer can be with a pencil, a paintbrush, and color. This is why I love icon painting so much--it affords hours face to face with Jesus. The visual encounter is so powerful, and so different than a verbal or textual encounter. (CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

ST. MARY'S ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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His Eminence the Most Reverend Metropolitan Joseph, Archbishop of NY and Metropolitan of all North America
His Grace the Right Reverend Anthony, Bishop of Toledo and the Diocese of the Midwest

The Reverend Father Matthew Wade, Priest of St. Mary's Orthodox Church; Deacon Kenneth Timothy Hull;
Deacon Gerasimos Brandow; Subdeacons Matthew Cochran, John Bickel, Justin Shoopman;
Readers Matthew Whirledge (Choir Director), Adrian Sharp;

Missions/Evangelism Ambassadors: Kh. Kelly Marina Wade, Dn. Kenneth Timothy Hull, Dn. Gerasimos Brandow

Parish Council and General Appointment Members: Connie Bickel (chair), Shirley Coblentz (vice-chair), Nicole Schwalm (Treasurer), Rachel Shoopman (Bookkeeper), Myrna Hull (Education Coordinator), Bruce Batson (Head of Buildings and Grounds), Christopher Beachy (Secretary), Communications Coordinator, Richard Worsham

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FALL FESTIVAL AT ST. MARY'S

An icon itself is a prayer with lines and colors, rather than words. Brother Paul (Stetsenko) said, "An icon is a prayer that takes the shape of an image. The icon's reason to exist is to foster prayer."

THE LIFE OF ST. LONGINUS

Commemorated October 16th

From goarch.org

This Martyr was in the service of Pontius Pilate at the time of Christ our Saviour's Passion. While standing guard at the Cross and beholding the earthquake and all that came to pass, he cried out with fear, "Truly this was the Son of God" (Matt. 27:54). After the Resurrection, he forsook the military and departed for Cappadocia, his homeland, where he preached Christ. By the agency of Pontius Pilate, Tiberius Caesar had him arrested and beheaded.

Apolytikion of Longinus the Centurion
Fourth Tone

Thy Martyr, O Lord, in his courageous contest for Thee received the prize of the crowns of incorruption and life from Thee, our immortal God. For since he possessed Thy strength, he cast down the tyrants and wholly destroyed the demons' strengthless presumption. O Christ God, by his prayers, save our souls, since Thou art merciful.

UPCOMING SUNDAY READINGS

	Epistle	Gospel
Oct 13	Titus 3:8-15	Luke 8:5-15
Oct 20	2nd Corinthians 9:6-11	Luke 8:26-39
Oct 27	2nd Corinthians 11:31-33; 12:1-9	Luke 8:41-56
Nov 3	Galatians 1:11-19	Luke 16:19-31

AUGUST & SEPTEMBER ATTENDANCE

September average: 82

August average: 75

SEPTEMBER FINANCIALS

September profit: \$24,38

YTD loss: -\$2,029

General Fund YTD: \$84,964

Upcoming Dates

Oct. 23 - 26: Fall Gathering (see Fr. Matthew for more information)

Oct. 31: St. Mary's Fall Festival

Nov. 1: Interfaith Hospitality Network

Nov. 15: Beginning of the Nativity Fast

Join us at St. Mary's on Thursday, October 31st! Activities will include bobbing for apples, decorating pumpkins, a coloring contest, and more! See Ashley Smith or Shirley Coblentz for more information.

UPCOMING SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

During recessional at Divine Liturgy:

- October 13: Antiochian seminarians
- October 27: Special Olympics

PROSPHORA SCHEDULE

Oct 13	Myrna	Oct 20	Ron Dove
Oct 27	Deb Wilson	Nov 3	Curies
Nov 10	Myrna	Nov 17	Ron Dove

Extra Prosophora is always needed. See Gloria to take your turn in making this special bread.

USHERS SCHEDULE

Oct. 13	Elijah and Ean
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EPISTLE READERS SCHEDULE

Oct 13	Lucy	Oct 20	Hannah
Oct 27	Ezekiel		

UPCOMING NEWSLETTER ARTICLE

November	Rdr. Matthew Whirledge
December	Dcn. Kenneth Timothy

Please see Christopher for more information.

UPCOMING READING GROUPS

Oct 13	Wades'	5 pm
Oct 27	Wards'	4 pm
Oct 27	Batsons'	5 pm

November: Groups to read the Book of Tobit

NEXT NEWSLETTER

Please submit materials to Christopher by November 3!