

# The Messenger

August 2022

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St. Thomas Orthodox Church

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### Our Mission

Growing in compassion, mercy, and love with a foundation in Christ

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### Weekly Schedule

Sundays	Orthros & Divine Liturgy	09:00
Wednesdays	Daily Vespers	18:00
Saturdays	Great Vespers	18:00

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### August Birthdays

13	George Jacobs	24	Brooklyn Schatz
15	George Stickney, Jr.	24	Kayleigh Stickney
15	Sam Lammers	26	Nick Corey
18	James Muhe	26	Alexis Suhr
22	Karen Yanney	29	Barb Brienzo

If your birthday is in August but is not listed here, please let Fr. Peter so know we can update our records.

# Why a Fast for Dormition?



It would be a gross understatement to say that much has been written about the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos. Yet very little has been written about the fast that precedes it.

Every Orthodox Christian is aware and generally knows the reason behind the fasts for Pascha and Christmas. But while they may know of the Dormition Fast, few follow it, and more than a few question why it is there, neither knowing its purpose. First, given the pervasive misunderstanding of the purpose of fasting itself, a refresher on its purpose is always a good idea. There is a perception that we should fast when we want something, as though the act of fasting somehow appeases God, and seeing us “suffer” gets Him to grant our request. Nothing can be further from the truth. It is not our fasting that pleases God, it is the fruits of our

fast (provided we fast in the proper mind set, and do not merely diet) that please Him. We fast, not to get what we want, but to prepare ourselves to receive what God wants to give us. The purpose of fasting is to bring us more in line with another Mary, the sister of Lazarus, and away from their sister Martha, who in the famous passage was “anxious and troubled about many things.” Fasting is intended to bring us to the realization of “the one thing needful.” It is to help us put God first and our own desires second, if not last. As such it serves to prepare us to be instruments of God’s will, as with Moses in his flight from Egypt and on Mt. Sinai, as well as our Lord’s fast in the wilderness. Fasting turns us away from ourselves and toward God. In essence it helps us become like the Theotokos, an obedient servant of God, who heard His word and kept it better than anyone else has or could.

So why do we fast before Dormition? In a close-knit family, word that its matriarch is on her deathbed brings normal life to a halt. Otherwise important things (parties, TV, luxuries, personal desires) become unimportant; life comes to revolve around the dying matriarch. It is the same with the Orthodox family; word that our matriarch is on her deathbed, could not (or at least should not) have any different effect than the one just mentioned. The Church, through the Paraklesis Service, gives us the opportunity to come to that deathbed and eulogize and entreat the woman who bore God, the vessel of our salvation and our chief advocate at His divine throne. And as, in the earthly family, daily routines and the indulgence in personal wants should come to a halt. Fasting, in its full sense (abstaining from food and desires) accomplishes this. Less time in leisure or other pursuits leaves more time for prayer and reflection on she who gave us Christ, and became the first and greatest Christian. In reflecting on her and her incomparable life, we see a model Christian life, embodying Christ’s retort to the woman who stated that Mary was blessed because she bore Him: blessed rather are those who hear His word and keep it. Mary did this better than anyone. As Fr. Thomas Hopko has stated, she heard the word of God and kept it so well, that she of all women in history was chosen not only to hear His Word but give birth to it (Him). So while we fast in contemplation of her life, we are simultaneously preparing ourselves to live a life in imitation of her. That is the purpose of the Dormition Fast.

When the assumption of thine undefiled body was being prepared, the Apostles gazed on thy bed, viewing thee with trembling. Some contemplated thy body and were dazzled, but Peter cried out to thee in tears, saying, I see thee clearly, O Virgin, stretched out, O life of all, and I am astonished. O thou undefiled one, in whom the bliss of future life dwelt, beseech thy Son and God to preserve thy people unimpaired. — *Sticheron after the Gospel, Orthros*

*Daniel Manzuk is a reader at the Church of the Virgin Mary in Alsip, IL.*

# St. Thomas on the Internet

Check out our Web site at <https://stthomassiouxcity.org> as well as our other pages:

Facebook:	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/St.ThomasOrthodoxChurchSC/">https://www.facebook.com/St.ThomasOrthodoxChurchSC/</a>
Siouxland Orthodox Group:	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/689850188457371/">https://www.facebook.com/groups/689850188457371/</a>
Instagram:	<a href="https://www.instagram.com/sathorch/">https://www.instagram.com/sathorch/</a>
SoundCloud:	<a href="https://soundcloud.com/sathorch">https://soundcloud.com/sathorch</a>
Twitter:	<a href="https://twitter.com/sathorch">https://twitter.com/sathorch</a>
YouTube:	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIkvjWIH3zMELHkelZ36kRA">https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIkvjWIH3zMELHkelZ36kRA</a>

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## In Memoriam

Remembering those who reposed in the month of August:

Anna Skaff, George Edward Haddad, Mary Yanney, Andrew Abdnor, Assaff N. Gosen, John E. Sr. Hanna, John R. Hamel, Samuel Ellis, Natalade Powell, Darlene Corey Williams, James T. Corey, George K. Sr. Ellis, Jillian Sue Corey, Sadie Headid, Mary Bashara, Marie Ann Yanney, Toy J. David, Delia B. Skaff, Edward G. Ness, Lester Ellis, Thomas Stevens, Cleopatra M. Kazos Manolis, Roy E. Headid, Michelle M Headid, Mæ L Hanna, Philip H. Hanna

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## Ladies Club

We had our meeting at the Glen Oaks Apartments. We had talked about giving out water to the RAGBRAI riders as they went by Teresa Muhe's driveway. We gave away approximately 130 waters. It was a very nice experience—the riders all were positive in their acknowledgement of our church.

We are going to try a Fatiyah sale. We will be downsizing from our usual orders as we are adapting to our church size and seeing how this goes.

God bless.

*Judy Stevens*

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## Christian Education

This summer, the ENTIRE church family is invited to join together to go through  
*Who Do You Say I Am?-The Gospel Of Matthew.*

These 15 lessons will be provided for you to do on your own. We will start Memorial Day weekend and end Labor Day weekend, just enough time for one lesson a week! Throughout the summer, there will be opportunities to win prizes as you journey through the lessons. More information will be released in the coming weeks, but start getting excited now!

# Parish Council Minutes

2021-06-08

In attendance: Fr. Peter Cox, Frank Brienzo, Judy Stevens, Julie Kinnaman, Erica Ameen

Father Peter opened the meeting with prayer at 6:59 PM

Judy moved to accept and approve minutes and reports that were sent emailed, Fr. seconded the motion and reports were passed.

## Pastoral Report

This Sunday we will celebrate Orthros and Divine Liturgy at Holy Trinity for the Feast of Pentecost. There will be no services the following week on Wednesday or Saturday due to PLC. In July, Father will be traveling to the Antiochian Village for the CLergy Symposium.

## Treasury Report

Frank shared that he has had some concerns with the Benevolence Fund, and ensuring that funds are being used appropriately. Father stated that he tries to maintain a balance of helping when its absolutely necessary with parishioners and the public.

There is some concern that people are not using the gifts they are given as they said they needed. Father will have more information regarding certain cases in the following month, but he expressed that we may want to revisit our policies regarding the Fund in the Fall. While it is our duty to help when we are called, and we can not control the decisions and actions of others, there may be better ways to make sure funds are being distributed and being used more efficiently.

## Maintenance Report

Frank will send Erica contact information for Tyler to send a thank you note for his donation with filling the hole.

It is time to get started on working on MRHD grant proposals. Frank will see about getting copies of proposals from recent recipients to look over. It might also be helpful to see if Dick Stone can find contact information for the person at his former parish who wrote the grant proposal they just had awarded. If anyone has grant writing knowledge, Frank would appreciate the information.

## New Business

After a short discussion, council members agreed for Father to ask Elisa Stickney to join the board to fill the vacant position. The term would be finished in December of this year.

Volunteer opportunities- Tentative date for a "Polish and Pizza" party (to clean and polish Alter items) will be August 20th.

Erica will email the Siouxland Foster Closet to see if there is a certain time they could use our help, and then set a date for parishioners to help there.

Due to schedules and our meeting with Holly, we will not meet in person for a Board meeting in July. All reports are still expected to be sent by email by July 15th. We will do a consent agenda via email at that time.

Erica moved to close the meeting, Julie and Judy seconded. Father closed the meeting in prayer at 7:34PM

## Treasurer's Report – June 2022

### Income

2022 Pledges	3,558.40
Miscellaneous	334.00
Other Donations	0.00
Other Income	0.00

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**Total Income** **\$3,992.40**

### Expenses

401 Maintenance	0.00
402 Lawn & Snow	0.00
403 Education	0.00
404 Internet	-135.23
406 Trash Pick-Up	0.00
407 Insurance on Church Property	0.00
408 Church Utilities	-664.83
409 General Expenses	-401.29
410 Office Expense	-29.00
411 Copier & Copy Expense	-470.82
412 Benevolence	-500.00
413 Transfer between Accounts	0.00
416 Travel and Conferences	-246.00
431 Priest Base Salary	-2,650.00
432 Priest Cell Phone	-100.00
433 Priest Health Insurance	-800.00
434 Priest Life Insurance	-135.00
436 Priest IRA	-200.00
437 Priest Medical Expense	0.00
438 Priest Auto Allowance	-400.00
439 Priest Auto Insurance	-50.00
440 Priest SS & Medicare	-750.00
441 Priest Housing & Utilities	-1,050.00
442 DOWAMA	0.00
451 Archdiocesan Assessment	-386.91
460 Online Fees	0.00

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**Total Expenses** **-\$8,569.08**

**Net** **-\$4,576.68**

## Treasurer's Report – 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2022

### Income

2022 Pledges	18,395.44
Miscellaneous	3,066.72
Other Donations	3,430.00
Other Income	

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<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$25,061.91</b>
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### Expenses

401 Maintenance	-1,800.00
402 Lawn & Snow	0.00
403 Education	0.00
404 Internet	-405.69
406 Trash Pick-Up	-30.00
407 Insurance on Church Property	-1,838.75
408 Church Utilities	-2,761.51
409 General Expenses	-1,999.55
410 Office Expense	-402.49
411 Copier & Copy Expense	-653.68
412 Benevolence	-1,500.00
413 Transfer between Accounts	0.00
416 Travel and Conferences	-1,135.35
431 Priest Base Salary	-7,950.00
432 Priest Cell Phone	-300.00
433 Priest Health Insurance	-2,400.00
434 Priest Life Insurance	-405.00
436 Priest IRA	-600.00
437 Priest Medical Expense	0.00
438 Priest Auto Allowance	-1,200.00
439 Priest Auto Insurance	-150.00
440 Priest SS & Medicare	-750.00
441 Priest Housing & Utilities	-3,150.00
442 DOWAMA	-900.00
451 Archdiocesan Assessment	-1,160.73
460 Online Fees	0.00

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<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>-\$31,092.75</b>
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<b>Net</b>	<b>-\$6,030.84</b>
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## Treasurer's Report – January-June 2022

### Income

2022 Pledges	67,303.95
Miscellaneous	5,007.02
Other Donations	5,880.00
Other Income	

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<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$79,740.72</b>
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### Expenses

401 Maintenance	-1,928.91
402 Lawn & Snow	0.00
403 Education	0.00
404 Internet	-804.96
406 Trash Pick-Up	-217.20
407 Insurance on Church Property	-2,533.50
408 Church Utilities	-6,692.72
409 General Expenses	2,897.73
410 Office Expense	-730.65
411 Copier & Copy Expense	-1,250.86
412 Benevolence	-4,351.29
413 Transfer between Accounts	0.00
416 Travel and Conferences	-1,895.85
431 Priest Base Salary	-15,900.00
432 Priest Cell Phone	-600.00
433 Priest Health Insurance	-4,800.00
434 Priest Life Insurance	-810.00
436 Priest IRA	-1,200.00
437 Priest Medical Expense	0.00
438 Priest Auto Allowance	-2,400.00
439 Priest Auto Insurance	-300.00
440 Priest SS & Medicare	-1,500.00
441 Priest Housing & Utilities	-6,300.00
442 DOWAMA	-900.00
451 Archdiocesan Assessment	-2,321.46
460 Online Fees	0.00

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<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>-\$60,455.12</b>
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<b>Net</b>	<b>\$19,285.60</b>
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