



TRANSFIGURATION
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
PARISH NEWSLETTER
"THE NARROW WAY"
OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2017

Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. . . . Narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.
(St. Luke 4:13-14)

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FROM FATHER SAVA

September 29, 2017

Dear-to-Christ parishioners and friends,

Did you notice the world coming to an end on September 23rd? Neither did I.

That was the prediction of "Christian numerologist" and conspiracy theorist David Meade.

Combining a few words from the Holy Scriptures with supposed "signs" built into the Great Pyramid of Giza, Meade wrote a book expounding his idea that the world would end this fall, after the sun was darkened in the eclipse of August 21, the Texas coast was obliterated by hurricane Harvey, and a mysterious "Planet X" collided with the earth.

Obviously, the world has not ended. Meade's preposterous predictions were wrong. Every person on earth is a witness to the fact that Meade is a false prophet. There is no "Planet X."

It is easy to understand why people like Meade concoct such doomsday forecasts. Mainly, they do it in order to get gullible people to pay attention to them and buy their books. Mr. Meade is even now busily recalculating the end of the world. When he arrives at his new date, many will be eager to place their faith in him once again.

The perplexing question is, why are so many people eager to believe such predictions, even after the failure of countless earnest prophecies? It could be because we like to be "in the



know," to feel that we have access to hidden knowledge that is revealed only to a select few, and that we are among those few, fortunate chosen. We also like to be able to make sense of a world that has become increasingly random and chaotic, so that we feel we have some control over our own future.

Our Lord Jesus Christ spoke about this common human thirst for "hidden knowledge" and our eagerness to believe prophecies of "the end of days":

Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. (Matthew 24:11)

As Orthodox Christians, we don't need numerologists (those who investigate the supposed hidden meaning of numbers) to deceive us about the end of the world. We have the plain words of our Lord recorded in the Holy Gospels, for example, in Saint Matthew's Gospel, chapter 24. Whatever we need to know about the last things, He has told us. Whatever He has not told us, we don't need to know.

"Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There!' do not believe it. For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you beforehand."

Instead of letting our ears be tickled and our imaginations fired by self-proclaimed "prophets," let's instead be sober and watchful over ourselves, giving our limited time and energy to the quiet, holy work of purifying our senses and our hearts, so that we will not be deceived by false prophets and false christs.

If we thus faithfully attend to ourselves — through faithful prayer, fasting, works of love and mercy, the Divine Liturgy — then, regardless of what's going on in the world, we'll be prepared for the inevitable Day of Judgment, whenever our Lord Jesus Christ may be pleased to return.

With my love and prayers,

Father Sava

OUR PARISH COUNCIL

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Patty Carey, Secretary
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WORDS OF LIFE

“Temptations come so that hidden passions may be revealed and so that it will be possible to fight them, and so that the soul may be rid of them. They are also a sign of God’s mercy. So give yourself with trust into God’s hands and ask His help, so that He will strengthen you in your struggle. God knows how much each one can bear and allows temptations according to the measure of our strength. Remember that after temptation comes spiritual joy, and that the Lord protects them that endure temptations and suffering for the sake of His love.”

— *St. Nektarios of Aegina (1846-1920)*



FROM OUR PARISH COUNCIL

Dear Transfiguration members:

As you have noticed, our parish is growing by leaps and bounds! We are blessed to have so many young families in our parish, and our young families bring the blessing of their children. Father Sava has asked the parish council to consider ways in which we could better serve the young people and children of our parish. We have, with Father’s blessing, decided that our first step will be to purchase **new Sunday School curriculum** for all ages. We will buy our new materials from the Archdiocese, as Father Sava would like us to have a coherent, consistent arc in our Sunday School classes, and the materials the Archdiocese publishes are excellent.

In order to undertake this important work, the parish council is asking for your help: we are hoping, through your generosity, to raise the funds for the new curriculum materials through **targeted donations** specifically designated for this special project.

Our Lord tells us in the Gospel of Matthew that “where [our] treasure is, there will [our] heart be also,” and our children are our future, our great treasure. We are hoping that by your generosity we may, with God’s help, instruct and bring up our children in the faith of His holy Orthodox Church. Thank-you for your constant willingness to contribute to the needs of our parish family!

Gratefully,

Caitilin Kane and Rod Fitts
Parish Council stewardship committee

PS: Please designate “Sunday School” in your check’s memo line to ensure that your gift goes to the right place!