



The Well

an ordinary place
where extraordinary
things happen

STSA.CHURCH/THEWELL



DIGGING DEEPER

Treasures of the Ancient Faith, Part 1

“Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and if true, of infinite importance, the only thing it cannot be is moderately important” C.S. Lewis

The _____ is the _____ of the Christian faith

“And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty...if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins!” 1 Corinthians 15:14,17

“For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me also...” 1 Corinthians 15:3-8

The _____ church that Christ established is still _____ today!

“And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.” Matthew 16:18

“Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.” 2 Thessalonians 2:15

“The apostles...founded churches in every city, from which all the other churches –one after another- borrowed the tradition of faith and seeds of doctrine. Indeed, it is only on this account that they will be able to deem themselves apostolic – as being the offspring of apostolic churches.”
Tertullian

“And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.” Ephesians 1:22-23

The church _____ our _____ union with _____

“The church exists to bring men and women into communion with God through Christ, that they might become by grace what Christ is by nature.” Fr. Michael Shanbour

DIGGING DEEPER

Part 2: Digging Deeper Into Liturgy

Finding treasure cost something

The greatest experiences in our lives are _____
_____.

3 KEYS TO UNLOCK THE TREASURES IN THE LITURGY:

1 - Understand the _____ of the Liturgy

"So God created man in His own image." Genesis 1:27

How do we fulfill this Goal? We are _____ with God.

Sin causes:

- our image to be distorted
- our mind to be darkened
- our desire to be perverted
- our will to be weak
- our actions to be confused

God still reaches out to us through His _____

"The Holy Eucharist maintains and supports this spiritual life and health, for the Bread of Life gives us the power to always remain on this higher level of living." Bishop Nicholas Cabasilas

2- Understand the _____ of Liturgy

1 - Matins - Prepares the soil of my heart.

2 - Offering of the Lamb - Offer our heart to be ready for God as God offers Himself for us

3 - Liturgy of the Word - Planting His Word in my heart

"Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?" Luke 24:32

4 - Liturgy of the Faithful - Unites my heart to God by unity with others

3- Understand how to _____ the Liturgy

- Liturgy in Greek means: Work of the _____
- How to be active participants?

1 - Receive Holy Communion

2 - Being the Church

"If man doesn't not put aside every work of this present world he cannot worship God" St. Isaiah the Anchorite

3 - Singing & Responding

"We must respond with our mouth, but also our mind and heart." St. John Chrysostom

4 - Keep body senses active

5 - Be prayerful throughout every part

6- Live the Liturgy outside and protect what your received.

*"Liturgical worship is like a refining fire. It never goes out. God shines forth in it, in all His glory. When i come to it, I must yield to the God who is revealed in it. I speak the words He commands. I sing the songs He calls forth. I pray the prayer He enjoins me to pray. What He desires, I must adhere to. What He wants done, I must do. There is no room for concern over myself or my wants. What is this worship, other an opportunity for me to **become like Christ.**" Thirsting for God, Matthew Gallatian*

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Part 3: Friendship with the Saints

DEATH NO LONGER _____ US FROM CHRIST

“For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Romans 8:38-39

“...Remember, O Lord, the souls of Your servants who have fallen asleep... For there is no death for Your servants, but a departure.”

Litany of the Departed

CHRIST _____ HEAVEN AND EARTH

“He made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.” Ephesians 1:10

SAINTS ARE PART OF OUR _____

For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.” Romans 12:4-5

“Neither are the souls of pious dead separated from the Church which even now is the kingdom of Christ. Otherwise there would be no remembrance of them at the altar of God in the communication of the Body of Christ.” St. Augustine

SAINTS _____ US TOWARDS _____

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.”
Hebrews 12:1-2

SAINTS ARE _____ TO _____ FOR US

“Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints [on earth].” Revelation 5:8

“In this way is he [the true Christian] always pure for prayer. He also prays in the society of angels, as being already of an angelic rank, and he is never out of their holy keeping; and though he pray alone, he has the choir of the saints standing with him in prayer.” St. Clement

“Let us on both sides of [of life and death] always pray for one another. Let us relieve burdens and afflictions by mutual love, that if one of us...shall go hence first, our love may continue in the presence of the Lord, and our prayers for our brethren and sisters not cease in the presence of the Father’s mercy.” St. Cyprian

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Part 4: Unity of the Church

MODEL OF UNITY

The best model of the Church unity is the _____

The relationship of the persons of the Trinity is called _____

CHRIST IS THE HEAD

Christ is the Head and we are His _____

"And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fill all in all. We are His Body, but He fills us with His fullness." Ephesians 1:22-23

"Eve was created from the side of the first Adam, the Church is born from the Body of the New Adam, Jesus Christ." -St John Chrysostom

GRAFTED IN THE BODY

One must be united to Christ the Vine through the vineyard of the Church in order to be _____ by the divine sap that flow from it.

And if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them, and with them became a partaker of the root and fatness of the olive tree," Romans 11:17

CHRIST'S BODY - UNITY IN ACTION

Christ wanted us to live out our Christian faith _____ not in isolation.

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common..."

They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. Acts 2:42-47

"He can no longer have God for his Father, who has not the church for his mother. If anyone could escape who was outside the ark of Noah, then he also may escape who shall be outside of the church."— St. Cyprian of Carthage

ORTHODOX SACRAMENTS PROTECT OUR UNITY

The Church helps us protect our unity through the _____

1. In _____ you are now part of the eternal family of God
2. In _____ you are now united with Christ and each other

"What then holds the Church together? The Orthodox answer, the act of communion in the sacraments. Unity is established by the celebration of the Eucharist. The act of communion therefore forms the criterion for membership of the Church." -Bishop Kallistos Ware

3. In _____ I restore my unity with God and Others
4. Church unity is evident in the Sacrament of _____

ACTION

1. Invest in relationships in my local church
2. Invest in the Church Sacraments like the Eucharist and Confession which protect my unity with God and others

A UNITED CHURCH IS AN UNSTOPPABLE CHURCH!

"Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment." 1 Corinthians 1:10