

ST. NEKTARIOS ORTHODOX MISSION

Orthodox Church in America

208 West Franklin Street, WAXAHACHIE, TX

“Seek God daily. But seek Him in your heart, not outside it. And when you find Him, stand with fear and trembling, like the Cherubim and the Seraphim, for your heart has become a throne of God. But in order to find God, become humble as dust before the Lord, for the Lord abhors the proud, whereas He visits those that are humble in heart. Wherefore He says: ‘To whom will I look, but to him that is meek and humble in heart?’” St. Nektarios of Aegina

July, 2012 NEWSLETTER

A Hidden Christ

From the upstairs window of the house where I am living here in Dallas, I have a view of Holy Trinity Catholic Church and Convent. On Sunday evenings, I stand at that window and watch people pour into the doors of the Church. They drive there, they walk there, they bicycle there. Young people with children, single men, single women, elderly couples; there is no one that is not represented. All shapes, sizes, and colors, as they say. I stand there and watch this happening and I wonder to myself, what are they expecting to find in this place? What do they need? What is drawing them here? The neighborhood does not appear to be particularly pious. There is no obvious poverty around the Church. And yet, they come. Eagerly, it would seem.

I believe it must be something simple and perhaps even somewhat hidden from most of the people that make that effort to come and pray. In a word, I believe it is Christ. Christ himself draws them there. Christ hidden in those walls, in those nuns, in that sacrament. Christ hidden mystically in the very body that he draws to himself, a fabric composed of the people gathered together. Christ hidden for our salvation in the stuff of life so that when he is revealed to us, we are able to see him with our own eyes and hear him with our own ears.

JULY SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Wednesdays ~ 6:30 Vespers

Saturdays ~ 6:30 Great Vespers

*Sundays ~ 9:00 The Hours
9:30 Divine Liturgy*

*Common meal to follow Divine Liturgy
on Sundays*

*Sacrament of Confession at 5:30 on
Saturdays and following Great Vespers*

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When he reveals himself to us, there is nothing that is strange. There is nothing that is unfamiliar. There is only our Heavenly King, filling all things.

And so, there, in the middle of this urban neighborhood, with all that material wealth and prosperity, Christ comes to people in his humble simplicity. And it is a mystery. How can this be God? For the mystery of Christ is that he has hidden himself in foolish things and gives himself to foolish people. He is unexpected, even after two millennia. We bristle at the thought that God could be this way. We find ourselves wanting to shape and fashion our own ideas of what God should be like. We find that our ideas are often more appealing than the reality that disappoints us.

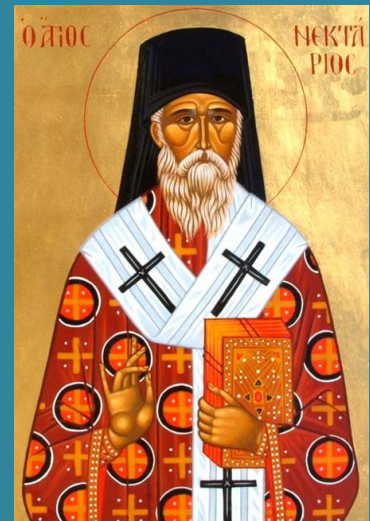
I recently had a meal with an old acquaintance who has changed his mind about the existence of God. He has very good questions and doubts and has weighed the evidence and has decided against it. It was inevitable that our conversation would get to the question of Christ. When I asked, "What about Jesus?" he quoted the writer Kurt Vonnegut (a wonderful story-teller) who said, "If what Jesus said was good, what can it matter whether he was God or not?" I found myself unable to answer this question. It would be similar to someone saying, "If the man that raised you was good to you, what does it matter if he is really your father or not?" The only thing I could think of to say was, "But nothing else matters." But that is a foolish thing to say to someone who wants proof.

And so I stand at this window and watch the people as they hurry into Holy Trinity Church. They hurry to receive Christ somehow hidden in that mystery which is his body and blood. And I hurry to gather with those that God has given me to pray with and worship with and offer in our simple way, thanksgiving to God for becoming one of us. I hurry to see if I will be given more of the grace to see Christ hidden in the simple and foolish things of life. I hurry to be with all of you and stand with you and say, "I believe. Help my unbelief." Because after all, nothing else matters.

Fr. David



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Who We Are...St. Nektarios Orthodox Mission is a new mission of the Orthodox Church in America in Waxahachie, Texas. We are located at 208 West Franklin Street in downtown Waxahachie, TX near the historic square. We are in the process of purchasing property and building a proper temple to call home and to minister to the local community. For information, please contact Fr. David Bozeman at 816-509-6411 or at frdbozeman@gmail.com. You can also receive updates through our website www.stnektariosdfw.org or through social media at <http://www.facebook.com/SaintNektariosMission>. Christ is in our midst!