



North Texas Orthodox Missions

The Orthodox Church is evangelical, but not Protestant. It is orthodox, but not Jewish. It is catholic, but not Roman. It's not non-denominational--it's pre-denominational. It has believed, taught, preserved, defended and died for the Faith of the Apostles for 2000 years.

Orthodox Christian Perspectives 2015

Falling Asleep in the Lord

--An Orthodox Perspective on Dying, Death and Grief

"But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus."—1 Thessalonians 4:13-14

Friday January 30, 2015

6:00 pm – 9:30 pm

St. Demetrios GOC

2020 Northwest 21st Street, Fort Worth, TX 76164

817-626-5578, www.stdemetrios.net

Saturday January 31, 2015

8:30 am – 2:00 pm

Holy Trinity GOC

13555 Hillcrest Road, Dallas, TX 75240

972-991-1166, www.holytrinity.info

- 6:00 pm Registration-Book signing-
Reception/Supper
- 7:00 pm "Blessed be the way - Praying for the
suffering, the dying and the
departed in the Orthodox Church,"
Fr. Vasile Tudora
- 8:00 pm "Rediscovering Ancient Christian
Burial Customs for the Modern
World," Dn. Mark Barna
- 9:00 pm Memorial Service
Visit with speaker-Book signing

- 8:30 am Registration-Book signing-Coffee
- 9:00 am "Blessed be the way - Praying for the
suffering, the dying and the
departed in the Orthodox Church,"
Fr. Vasile Tudora
- 9:55 am "Rediscovering Ancient Christian
Burial Customs for the Modern
World," Dn. Mark Barna
- 10:40 am Estate Planning, Ms Dian Kauth,
Attorney at Law
- 11:30 am "Elder Care and Caring for the Dying
Patient," Dns. Elizabeth Barna
- 12:30 pm Memorial Service
- 1:00 pm Luncheon-Visit with speakers-Book
signing

"How should Christian people prepare for death, their own and that of loved ones? ... in the United States, we tend to avoid the question as much as we can. We consider death to be brutal and tragic, whatever its circumstances and causes. It marks an end to our ambitions, while it underscores the ephemeral nature of our existence. Therefore we treat it like a "last enemy" from which there is no escape, no salvation. Death appears as a specter, a menacing evil, that evokes a reaction of dread."

--From the forward of: [A Christian Ending](#) by Dn. Mark and Elizabeth Barna, Divine Ascent Press

These events are free to all. Please note, childcare is not available.

Please check the NTOM website (www.ntom.org) for to date information

Deacon Mark and Elizabeth Barna



Mark and Elizabeth Barna live in Charleston, South Carolina where Mark serves as an ordained Deacon in the Orthodox Church in America (OCA) at Holy Ascension Orthodox Church, Mt. Pleasant, SC and as a manager for the South Carolina State Ports Authority. Elizabeth is a business woman with many years working in the hospitality industry. She is a certified food safety instructor and operates Atlantic Food Safety LLC, instructing restaurant managers in proper safe food preparation. She also manages a successful recipe web site, www.recipedirect.net.

In their thirty-five years together they have rarely been alone, raising two sons and taking care of anyone else who came along. "Some people take in stray animals," they say, "We take in stray people." Caring for Elizabeth's mother, dying of breast cancer introduced them to hospice care. After Ella's death it was clear her father Frank could not care for himself for long. Within a short time they had their three remaining parents, two with Alzheimer's and one with Parkinson's, living with them in their home for nearly seven years, until Mark's mother's death in 2010.

Their book [A Christian Ending](#) fills a gap for millions of readers who confuse natural burial with New-age or the Green movement. The authors point out that natural burial is the manner used by Christians before the invention of chemical embalming in the mid-nineteenth century. They debunk many of the fallacies surrounding the funeral industry and point to a better, more natural form of ancient burial tradition. In a congenial and conversational tone, they discuss the evolution of funeral practice up to the development of today's funeral industry and the effects of current practice on the culture as a whole. They have used the techniques described in the book many times for friends, family, and strangers, accepting no payment for their services. In 2011 they were asked to prepare their beloved Archbishop Dmitri of the Diocese of the South (OCA) for burial in Dallas, TX.

