

# ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

Vol. 1 No. 12.1

## ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

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December 2, 2012

26<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

### PARISH CALENDAR HI-LITES

*Please see monthly calendar for all events*

Sun., Dec. 2 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke. Prophet Obadiah

9:30 Divine Liturgy - Tone 1 pp 81-83.

Church School - Elementary

Altar Society Meeting

ENTRANCE OF HOLY MARY INTO THE TEMPLE

Mon., Dec. 3 5:00 PM Great Vespers with Litija

TUE., DEC. 4

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy. I will not be able to hear Confessions after Liturgy this day.

Sat., Dec. 8 Martyrs Plato & Roman

5:00 PM Vespers.

Sun., Dec. 9 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke. Monk Alipius.

9:30 Divine Liturgy - Tone 2 pp 84-86.

Men's Club Meeting

### FEASTS & FASTS

**Philipovka (Philip's Fast, or Christmas Lent)** begins on Wednesday, Nov. 28 civil calendar (Nov. 15 Julian) and goes until Christmas Eve, January 6 civil (Dec. 24 Julian). It is called Philip's Fast because it begins the day after the Feast of St. Philip the Apostle on Nov. 14/27. The **Traditional Fast** requires: (a) Strict Fast (no meat, dairy, and in some places no wine or oil) on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays; (b) no meat on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The MINIMUM Diocesan Rule is no meat on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Christmas Eve is ordinarily a DAY OF STRICT FAST in preparation for the celebration of the Birth of Our Lord. *However*, this year, because Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday, it is not a Strict Fast Day. We only fast from meat on Christmas Eve. However, we must keep STRICT FAST on the previous Friday, Jan. 4 civil calendar (Dec. 22 Julian)

No dispensation has been granted from fasting on Dec. 24, 25, or Jan. 1 (civil calendar).

**FEAST OF THE ENTRANCE OF HOLY MARY THEOTOKOS INTO THE TEMPLE** is on Tuesday, Dec. 4 civil (Nov. 21 Julian). See Calendar for services. This is a Major HolyDay with the same obligations of observance as Sunday.

**THE HOLY MYSTERY OF CONFESSION:** I am always available for Confessions after any weekday service unless otherwise noted. I note this especially on the December Calendar just as a reminder that it is ESPECIALLY important that we receive the Mystery of Confession sometime during the Christmas Fast, in preparation for the celebration of the great feasts of Our Lord's Birth and his Theophany. You have a number of opportunities to celebrate this Mystery, so please plan ahead.

If it is not possible for you to make any of the scheduled Confession times, you can make an appointment with me for Confession.

### CALENDAR EVENTS LOOKING AHEAD

*Pirohi Sales* scheduled December 14 & December 21. Don't forget to mark these weeks on your calendar.

ANNUAL ST. NICHOLAS BANQUET will be Sunday, December 16. See below for details.

## PEOPLE STUFF

*Please remember in your prayers:*

*Deceased:* Metropolitan Nicholas.

*Living:* Stephanie Bonk. Gloria Bracey. Susan Danchak. John & Jen Hrywnak. Gary Joyce. Joseph Kacaba. Lorraine Kacaba. Dee Lositski. Peggy Majcher. Emma Sacco. Amy Shimo. Connie Lou Slater Kathryn Stocoski. Jeff Thomas. Ann Marie Tigue. Gary Wassel. Julia Worobey.

*At Home:* Michael Andreosky. Elizabeth Basalyga. Steve & Julie Roberts. George & Anna Senich.

*In Assisted Living Homes:* Kathryn Derenick. Julie Kovacs. Irene Munchak. Julie Soares.

## PARISH EVENTS

ALTAR SOCIETY MEETING today.

**Elementary Church School** meets today.

**2013 PARISH CALENDARS** are now available. Pick up yours today!

**Friendship House Secret Santa names!** If you went to pick up a name tag in the hall last Sunday, you may have noted some changes from previous years. Apparently all of the children appear to be teenagers rather than little ones. If you wish to donate a gift, but feel that the price tag may be a bit out of your reach, you can get a Gift Certificate from a store that would sell that gift (e.g., Best Buy for an electronic gift, etc.) in the \$25 - \$30 (or more if you wish) price range.

Your generosity will help make a better Christmas for kids who are "at-risk" - coming from broken homes, abuse and a variety of problems in their lives. Thank you for being willing to show these children that someone out there cares!

**ST. NICHOLAS BANQUET:** Sunday, Dec. 16. Appetizers start as usual after the Liturgy, and the banquet will begin about Noon.

Everyone will be receiving a letter with details, tickets, etc. in the mail. The menu includes a Roast Beef & Holubki Dinner. Meal prices are \$12/adult, \$5/child. We hope to see everyone there!

**Christmas Cookie Walk!** The Altar Society will host a Cookie (and Treats) walk:

1. Friday December 21<sup>st</sup>
2. 9:30 A.M. until Sold Out
3. REQUESTS!!!: We are in need of baked goods for this sale: Assorted Cookies, breads, cakes, cupcakes, sugar free items...whatever your specialty is! If we start baking *now*, we will have plenty of time to bake and set it aside!
4. **Note!** If you bake ahead of time, we can keep your goodies in the freezer here at the church. See Carol Pugh about arrangements.
5. It will help a lot if we know what you are bringing. There will be sign up sheets in the hall. Please watch for them.
6. Please bring your bring baked goods by Thursday December 20<sup>th</sup>.

## YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND HIS CHURCH

November 25, 2012

|                   |                         |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| \$ 489.00         | General Collection      |
| \$ 24.00          | Holy Days               |
| \$ 88.00          | Church Dues             |
| \$ 89.00          | 7 Day Light             |
| \$ 4.00           | 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday  |
| \$ 160.00         | Maintenance & Repairs   |
| \$ 289.00         | Heat Offering           |
| <b>\$ 1143.00</b> | <b>Total Collection</b> |

## DIOCESAN NEWS

**Bishop Gregory** was ordained and installed as the new bishop of our Diocese this past Tuesday. We begin to pray for him in the Divine Liturgy and all services as our new hierarch. The ordination ceremony can be seen on the diocesan website [www.acrod.org](http://www.acrod.org). One of the most relevant promises that he made that day was to get to know our diocese and the people He has pledged to visit every parish in the diocese within the next two years. It is a demanding schedule, but we may want to consider when we would like to invite him to our parish. Something to think about.

**ACRY Lots-O-Luck Calendars** now available. This is the 21<sup>st</sup> consecutive year that the ACRY has run this

fundraiser for the benefit of our diocese, raising over \$200,000 in that time!

- See Millie Orzolek for your calendar.
- Deadline for purchasing is January 15, so get yours today!

## THE GREEK (EASTERN) ORTHODOX CHURCH: WHAT'S IN OUR NAME? (CONCLUSION)

By the Rev. Dr. Robert G. Stephanopoulos, Ph.D.

Fr. Stephanopoulos is the father of George Stephanopoulos, the ABC network newscaster. Fr. Robert is a highly respected theologian and was a professor at Holy Cross Orthodox Seminary for many years. This is the second part of an article written around 1992.

### TRADITION: THE KEY TO OUR SELF UNDERSTANDING

Orthodoxy holds that the eternal truths of God's saving revelation in Jesus Christ are preserved in the living Tradition of the Church under the guidance and inspiration of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Scriptures are at the heart of the Tradition and the touchstone of the faith. While the Bible is the written testimony of God's revelation, Holy Tradition is the all-encompassing experience of the faithful Church under the abiding guidance and direction of the Holy Spirit. Essentially, Orthodox Christians consider that their beliefs are very similar to those of other Christian traditions, but that the balance and integrity of the entire Apostolic faith once delivered to the Saints has been preserved inviolate in the Orthodox Church. This self-understanding of Orthodoxy has not prevented it from participating actively in the Ecumenical movement. There is full cooperation in the many efforts to affirm the Biblical and Apostolic testimony which alone provide the firm foundation for the unity of Christians in the one Church.

### THE NICENE CREED: THE FAITH OF ORTHODOXY

The Orthodox Church is profoundly biblical and patristic. Its essential creedal formulation is the Nicene Constantinopolitan Creed which was universally promulgated during the Second Ecumenical Council (AD 381). It is a brief, essential summary of the saving

truths of Christianity, proclaiming in doxological form the mystery of God's love and activity for mankind. The Nicene Creed contains the standards of the Christian faith, and is considered a guide for understanding the Bible. This Creed is the authoritative and official statement of faith and the infallible criterion of true Orthodoxy. It proclaims one God in three Persons-Father, Son and Holy Spirit; the one, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church; one Baptism for the remission of sins; the Resurrection of the dead; and life eternal. We know God in Trinity through His energies and actions for us in sacred history, first through the Jewish people and finally in His Son Jesus Christ and His mystical Body, the Church. The Christian Church is founded on the faith of the Holy Apostles and is led and sanctified by the abiding Holy Spirit. It is the "Body of Christ", the community of the faithful people of God. It is the historical locus of the inaugurated Kingdom of God which will find its ultimate fulfillment in God at the end of time.

### GOD'S REVELATION IN WORSHIP:

#### THE BEAUTY OF ORTHODOXY

God's revelation is made fully known in Jesus Christ and is confirmed by the Holy Spirit in our obedience of faith. In Jesus Christ we have "the revelation of the mystery which was kept secret for long ages, but is now disclosed and, through the prophetic writings, made known to all nations" (Romans 16:25-26). Those associated with Christ during His lifetime or mystically and sacramentally united with him thereafter are Saints. Foremost among the Saints is the Virgin Mary, also known by the doctrinal title "Theotokos" Mother of God.

The total event of Christ, that is, the Incarnation, Earthly Ministry, Death, Resurrection and Ascension in Glory, is a historical event which unites eternity and creation. This insight of biblical realism is captured in the elaborate and highly symbolical worship of the Orthodox Church. Easter is the "Feast of Feasts", repeated annually and weekly in Sunday worship. The Church celebrates and participates in the event of the Resurrection of the Lord at each Divine Liturgy. Each particular moment of Christ's life and ministry is seen in the Light of the Resurrection. Each worship motif of the Church is intimately related to the Proclamation

and participation in this saving event. Every aspect of liturgy and prayer is understood as an effort at the beautiful expression of this reality. All the senses are employed in Orthodox worship. Every appropriate means is employed to reveal in human terms the mystery of God's love for us.

#### THE SACRAMENT:

##### THE MYSTICAL LIFE OF ORTHODOXY

An Orthodox Christian, of whatever national origin, may go to any Orthodox Church and receive the sacraments: Baptism, Chrismation, Holy Communion, Confession, Unction, Matrimony and Holy Orders. The first four are obligatory, the latter three optional. The usual practice is to baptize infants, based on the understanding of a close knit Christian family and the importance of a sponsor or Godparent. Christian nurture is placed properly in the home and in the teaching office of the Church.

*Baptism:* Water Baptism of adults and infants is celebrated by three-fold immersion in the Name of the Trinity. It is an initiation into the Church, forgiveness of sins and the beginning of the Christian life. The Sacrament of Chrismation (Confirmation), in conformity with the ancient practice, is performed immediately after baptism as a seal of the divine gifts of the Holy Spirit to the new Christian. Holy Communion is also given at baptism, emphasizing the fullness of participation in the sacramental life of the Church.

*Holy Eucharist/Communion:* The Holy Eucharist, known as the Divine Liturgy, is the chief worship service and is celebrated on all Sundays and Holy days during the liturgical year. Orthodoxy maintains a high

sacramental view. The Sacraments are visible signs of an invisible Divine Grace. The elements of bread and wine in the Holy Eucharist are believed to be the very Body and Blood of Jesus Christ received for the remission of sins and life everlasting.

*Holy Unction [or Holy Anointing]:* Holy Unction, the sacrament of the sick, is an anointing with oil and prayers for those who feel the need for healing of body and soul. However, it is not exclusively a "last rite."

*Confession:* Confession or the Sacrament of Penance is considered necessary to the spiritual development and growth of a believer. This is usually conducted privately, in the presence and under the direction of a spiritual father and confessor.

*Marriage:* Christian marriage is a Sacrament of union of a man and woman for mutual complementarity and propagation of the race. It must be performed by an Orthodox priest on behalf of the community of faith.

*Holy Orders:* Holy Orders or the Sacrament of Priesthood is understood as a special ministry of service in and for the Church. The three major orders of clergy are deacon, presbyter and bishop. Bishops are consecrated by at least three other Bishops. Orthodox priests are often married men, although they must wed before ordination. Bishops are chosen from among the monastic clergy who have the vow of celibacy.

Many other rites and blessings are expressions of the one sacramental ministry of the Church. All of these may be seen as gracious and spiritually fruitful actions for the welfare of the faithful. There are services for the dead, based on the understanding that the entire church, visible and invisible, is one communion of faithful bound together in love and prayer.

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