



December 20, 2009

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—Tone 3
Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ—SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY

Hieromartyr Ignatius the God-bearer, Bishop of Antioch; Ven. Ignatius the Archimandrite of the Kiev Caves; St. Philigonus, Bishop of Antioch; St. Daniel, Archbishop of Serbia; St. Anthony, Bishop of Voronezh; The Repose of St. John of Kronstadt

Epistle: Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40

Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25

The Church in Worship & Study

Tues, Dec 22 7:00 a.m. Daily Matins

Wed, Dec 23 10:00 a.m. Confessions
7:00 p.m. Confessions

Thurs, Dec 24 **EVE OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST (Strict Fast Day)**
9:00 a.m. Nun-martyr Eugenia of Rome
Vespertal Liturgy Epistle: Heb 1:1-12 Gospel: Luke 2:1-20
(*Confessions before Liturgy will begin at 8:30 a.m. Please do not arrive later than 8:45 a.m.*)
8:00 p.m. Great Compline & Matins followed by Confessions

Fri, Dec 25 **THE NATIVITY ACCORDING TO THE FLESH OF OUR LORD GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST**
10:00 a.m. Epistle: Gal 4:4-7 Gospel: Matt 2:1-12
Divine Liturgy

Sat, Dec 26 **SECOND DAY OF THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY—SYNAXIS OF THE MOST-HOLY THEOTOKOS**
9:00 a.m. **Saturday After the Nativity;** Hieromartyr Euthymius, Bishop of Sardis
Divine Liturgy Epistles: Heb 2:11-18 Gospels: Matt 2:13-23
1 Tim 6:11-18 (Saturday After) Matt 12:15-21 (Saturday After)
6:30 p.m. Panihida for **Stefan Schijan** (Annual) and **Katherine Rudenia** (Annual) offered by **Natalie Gander**
7:00 p.m. Great Vespers with Litiya

Sun, Dec 27 **29TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—Tone 4**
9:00 a.m. **THIRD DAY OF THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY—Sunday After the Nativity of Christ**
Divine Liturgy **Holy Righteous Ones: Joseph the Betrothed, David the King and James the Brother of the Lord; Holy Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen;** Ven. Theodore Graptus
Epistles: Gal 1:11-19 Gospel: Matt 2:13-23
Acts 6:8-15; 7:1-5, 47-60 (Saint) Matt 21:33-42 (Saint)
11:00 a.m. *Faith Feedback Session* with Fr. David

The Church in Fellowship

Because of yesterday's snowstorm, **Church School Classes** are **CANCELLED**. There will be **NO** sessions for the remainder of the year. All classes will resume on **Sunday, January 10**. Enjoy your Christmas break, kids—from school, **NOT** church!

Have a question about the Faith? The come to Fr. David’s **Faith Feedback Session next Sunday, December 27**, during Coffee Hour, and get the answer! For those who wish to remain anonymous, a card on which to write a query is available in the church vestibule. Once completed, it can be dropped in the *Faith Feedback Question Box*. This is a wonderful forum for education and enlightenment; please take advantage of this opportunity and plan to attend.

The **Wonderworking Kursk Root Icon of the Mother of God** will visit **SS. Peter & Paul Church** in Jersey City on **Saturday, January 2**. The special help granted by the Theotokos through this icon is associated with important events in Russian history. A Hierarchical Liturgy will be celebrated at 9:30 a.m. with His Beatitude, Metropolitan JONAH, who will be joined by clergy and faithful throughout New Jersey. All are invited! (**NOTE:** *Anyone interested in carpooling on this day should get in touch with Fr. David.*)

Parish Council will meet on **Monday, January 4**, at 7 p.m., in the church hall. (*PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE!*)

Prosphora (Holy Bread) Baking will be held in the church hall on **Saturday, January 9**, at 9 a.m. Everyone with a heart and passion to serve the Lord and others is welcome to participate, for this activity is a way to be mindful of all that we really are called to offer Him. As the Apostle Paul says: *“There are different gifts, but the same Spirit; there are different ministries, but the same Lord; there are different works, but the same God Who accomplishes all of them in everyone. To each person the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.”* (1 Cor 12:4-7) Come!

L’Affaire Extraordinaire, an evening of culinary instruction, dining and wine pairing, will be held in the hall on **Saturday, January 16**, at 7 p.m. (*Great Vespers will be served at 6 p.m.*) This fundraising event to benefit *St. Andrew’s Camp* in Jewell, NY will feature a five-course French filet mignon dinner prepared by three professional chefs; one was trained in France and the other two graduated from the *Culinary Institute of America*. This dining experience will be accompanied by live entertainment and raffle drawings, including a 50/50, kitchen appliances & tools, entertaining ware, restaurant gift certificates, wines and chocolates. Tickets are \$50 each; please contact Kathy Cooper (732-986-5914) or Natasha Rogozenski (908-420-3210) to purchase yours. Seating is limited to only 150, so make your reservation early! (*For more information or to contribute via Paypal/credit card, visit www.standrewscamp.org on the Web.*)

It’s once again time for the **Senior R Club Annual Ski Weekend**. Whether you are an expert or a beginner, come join the excitement! This year’s three-day excursion to Lake Placid-Whiteface Mountain will be held **Friday-Sunday, January 22-24**. Total cost is only \$250, including all taxes and gratuities. (*Lunches, ski lift tickets and ski rentals are excluded.*) The bus will depart from the church’s main parking lot on Friday promptly at 3 p.m. and arrive home on Sunday around 10 p.m. Non-skiers are also welcome to attend and explore the village of Lake Placid, enjoy the activities on the lake, watch the skiers or just relax. For details, contact Carol Deerson (732-254-4979) or see the flyer posted on the bulletin board near the hall kitchen.

As part of a *“Get to Know Us Tour”* around the diocese before his consecration in May, our bishop-elect, **Fr. Michael Dahulich**, will be visiting our parish on **Saturday-Sunday, January 30-31**. Other than an expanded Coffee Hour after Liturgy, this will be a very low-key event. Father Michael is coming to meet with us and to listen to what our desires and concerns are regarding the present and future of this God-protected community as a parish within the *Diocese of New York & New Jersey*. Please mark your calendars for this very special weekend.

The **Annual Parish Meeting** will be held in the hall on **Sunday, February 7**, following Coffee Hour. Every family in the parish should be represented at this gathering. (*In the event of inclement weather, the meeting will be rescheduled for Sunday, February 28.*)

The Church in Information

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD’S GRACE Attendance at Liturgy last Sunday was **152**.

MINISTRY DUTIES The Epistle will be read next week by **Paul Machyowsky**. Coffee Hour will be hosted by the **Altar Society**.

CONFESSION DURING ADVENT Everyone is encouraged to go to confession during this Advent season in preparation for the great holiday of the Nativity of Christ. For those who are regular communicants, it is a requirement. Opportunities this week include **Wednesday, December 23**, from 10-11 a.m. and 7-8 p.m., as well as **Christmas Eve, December 24**, before the Vespertal Liturgy in the morning and following the festal Vigil.

SERVICE TIME CHANGES To allow everyone to enjoy a less harried and rushed *Holy Supper*, Vigil on Christmas Eve will be served at **8 p.m.**, not at the customary 7 p.m. start time. Also, to accommodate those families with small children, Liturgy on Christmas Day will be celebrated at **10 a.m.**, one hour later than usual. Please make note of these time changes.

COFFEE HOUR REQUEST There is an urgent need for volunteers for this ministry in January. Please contact Fr. David or Starosta, **as soon as possible**, if you are able to help. Unfortunately, if no one comes forth, Coffee Hour next month will be **CANCELLED**.

PERPEPTUAL CARE FUND A sincere *Thank You* is extended to **Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hoff, Mr. & Mrs. M. Kohl, Evelyn Romashko, The Rugala Family** and **Mr. & Mrs. J. Zak** for their offerings in memory of **Sophie Husaim**. May God grant them good health and long life.

ANNUAL CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT Last Sunday, our church resounded to the angelic voices of our parish choir during its *Annual Christmas Concert* for the community. Those in attendance were treated to not only liturgical compositions, but to popular carols from around the world. We express our deepest gratitude to our Choir Director, **Basil Kozak**, and all **Choir Members** for gifting us with an excellent afternoon of entertainment in anticipation of the holiday; may your vitality in praising God through song continue for many years—Mnogaya Lyeta! We also thank the **Senior R Club** for the lovely reception in the hall following the concert and wish involved true happiness this Christmas season.

CONGRATULATIONS to **Susan Witkowski** for winning the crocheted afghan and Russian fairy tale book that were raffled off by the Altar Society last Sunday. This parish organization would like to thank all those who contributed to the success of this fundraiser.

THE VOICE OF ORTHODOXY is an association of Orthodox Christians that prepares and broadcasts services, homilies and catechetical talks in Russia. This group was established in 1984. With the Russian Church facing the challenge of evangelizing a great number of people with little or no understanding of the faith, financial assistance to continue this work is more important than ever. Send a donation to *The Voice of Orthodoxy*, P.O. Box 743, Hartsdale, NY 10536. All contributions are tax-deductible.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY for the following parishioners, family members and friends this week:

Departed

Sophie Husaim
Patriarch PAVLE (Stojcevic)
Michael Domanow
Mary Shwahla
Teddy Bentancort
Irene Caryote
Cynthia Leggon
Terry Hoak
Archbishop JOB (Osacky)

Elaine Ashton
Irene Boulle
Mary Lementowicz
Joseph Casall
Victor Mueller
Brahm Dubin
William Dilubert
Nadja Lewis
Thomas Fackovic
David Ogan
Edward Romanofsky
Harold Symanski
Edwin Paz
Walentyna Posluszny
Morgan Pritchit
Alan Zenkert
Christopher Collins
Myron Stepas
Michael Dargento
Virginia Moran
Daryl Deissinger
Cynthia Denlinger
Constantine Romanofsky
Linda Martinovich
Josephine Tillison
Mary Lou Goldy
Julia Glazer
Sonia Fineberg
William Dworetzky
Joseph Casale

Sick

Lasha Giorgi Pozidis
Aiden Gowarty
Dorothy Swenticky
Sara Cseh
Marie Olsen
Olga Smith
Reginald Thomas
Anthony Garito
Ermelinda Faziola
Kirsten Hyland
John Cameron
Vivian Hunkele
Janet Firestone
Adam Krosnowski
Ellie Shipman
Archpriest Sergei Glagolev
Vera Rosenthal
Edna Maletz
Savanna Dore
Dorothy Dabkowski
Joan Roshak
Patricia Campbell
Sarah Hall
Dotsy Hartman
Katherine Tarzewski
Paula Hila
Joseph Posluszny
Nancy Filak
Stefan Wilczynski
Anna Durovich

Servicemen

Ivan Shidlovsky
Lisa Beard
Gregory Nosol
June Buyofsky-Rittman
David T. Floyd
Archpriest Peter Baktis
Patrick Lohr
Keith Sudder
Priest Paul Rivers
Andrew Kubik
Jason Vaughn
Patrick Baldwin
Timothy Stepan
Michael Gregus
Peter Shaw
Jacqueline Martinez
Robert Mahrer
Karen Bonet
David Gambert
Gregg Poole
Fred Bush

Donna Casale
Dr. Joseph Pastore
Karen Kennedy
Randall Cline
Joseph Lynch
Jean Staples
Joan Tita

Kira Gregor
Tonya Soto
Oleg Burlak
Lisa Muhs
Denise Yager
Martha Drobnak

If you have a name you would like included in the bulletin, contact Fr. David or Starosta.

ANNUAL PARISH ASSESSMENT It is now the end of the year. Parishioners who have not paid their annual parish assessment for 2009 and previous years are kindly asked to do so very soon.

BLESSING OF HOMES It is traditional to have our homes blessed during the season of Theophany, which starts on **January 6**. This is a great celebration that should include the entire family, if at all possible. If your home was not blessed this year and you would like it to be this coming year, contact Fr. David to have your name added to his list. Your assistance in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

IN BLESSED REPOSE With sadness at the loss, but with profound gratitude for a long and productive life of pastoral ministry, we announce the unexpected falling asleep in the Lord of **His Eminence JOB, Archbishop of Chicago and the Midwest**, on Friday, December 18. His Eminence was on his way back to Chicago from a deanery meeting in Cleveland when he was found unconscious behind the wheel of his car in a hotel parking garage. He was rushed by paramedics to the hospital, where he was pronounced dead shortly after he arrived, succumbing to walking pneumonia. In his years as ruling hierarch of the *Diocese of the Midwest*, JOB witnessed tremendous growth through the establishment of many new mission parishes. He was also an accomplished iconographer, iconologist and liturgical composer and had an extraordinary affinity with Orthodox youth that gained him church-wide recognition. We thank God for all the marvelous things accomplished by His Eminence during his 63 years on earth. He certainly filled his life in the best way, enriching the flock entrusted to his care and working tirelessly for the *Orthodox Church in America*. May his memory be eternal—*Vechnaya Pamyat!*

FUNDRAISING MADE EASY Would you like to be a part of a fundraiser that does not cost you ANYTHING? Then, participate in the **Food Gift Card Program!** The way it works is simple. Local supermarkets are generous enough to donate a percentage of their profit from our sale of gift cards back to the parish. These cards are used just like cash. At checkout, you simply give the cashier the gift card and he/she will deduct your shopping total from it. Any unused balance will remain on the card for your next visit. These gift cards don't cost you anything extra. They can be used for your weekly grocery and/or pharmacy purchases. For more info, stop by the *Food Gift Card Table* in the church hall. **Food Cards – Because It Doesn't Make Sense *Not* To!**

2010 CHURCH CALENDARS for your home or workplace are now available FREE at the Candle Desk. Pick up yours today!

ALL THE BEST to **Lauren Horvath, Erin Barrett** and **Edward John Zelasko** who are celebrating birthdays this week. We wish them every happiness and pray that God will grant them good health and fortune for many years—*Mnogaya Lyeta!*

WARM THE CHILDREN (WTC) UPDATE Since the end of October, 14 boxes of warm clothing and supplies were sent to orphaned, ill and needy children in Russia, Belarus and Ukraine. From the many heartwarming letters received, the recipients truly appreciate the love, generosity and concern that parish organizations and parishioners throughout the United States have for them. If you would like to be a part of this humanitarian organization, either through knitting/crocheting or offering financial support, please call (908-232-2632), E-mail (bnafranowicz@verizon.net) or write (167 North Cottage Place, Westfield, NJ 07090) WTC Coordinator, Barbara Nafranowicz. Let's fulfill our commitment to be socially and spiritually responsible by giving back to our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

THE ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAKE SALE of *Holy Annunciation Church* is **Brick ends TODAY**. An array of scrumptious dessert rolls is still being offered for \$12 each: apricot, apricot nut, chocolate chip nut, poppy and walnut. Delivery will be before the holiday—guaranteed! To place an order, see James Kornafel or phone him at (732) 462-3388. Let our sister parish help take away the hassle of having to bake for Christmas!

EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINE Because of the Christmas holiday, any announcements for next week's bulletin must be submitted to Father David or our Starosta/Bulletin Editor, James Kornafel, by **Tuesday, December 22**. You can reach Father at the rectory or contact Jim by telephone (732-462-3388), fax (732-845-3515) or E-mail (jimmyk@optonline.net).



*Please remember that the Eve of the Nativity (December 24) is a day of **strict fast**. From December 25 through January 4, there is **NO** fasting or kneeling in celebration of the Birth of our Lord.*



The season of **ADVENT** is coming to an end. Soon, fasting will be replaced by feasting. In these final days before Christmas, try not to lose sight of the reason for this penitential period: to prepare to greet the Son of God in the flesh. Through the repeated observance of Christ's birth, we are reminded that we are the children of God and that Jesus became one of us when He deigned to be born of the Virgin. His Incarnation was the dawn of salvation. Everyone who keeps this true meaning of Christmas alive in their hearts will have a fuller and happier life and will, indeed, attain eternal salvation.

Please remember that, as Orthodox Christians, our celebration of this great feast starts in church, both on the eve and the day; all worldly or secular activities associated with this holiday should take place afterwards. Perhaps the following verse from the Christmas Canon best describes how we should observe the Nativity of Christ: *"Let us keep the feast not popularly, but in a holy way; not as worldly folk, but as otherworldly; not as our affair, but as His—our Lord's; not to bring sickness, but to bring healing; not through the birth, but through the new birth."*

May you all have a blessed holiday and a season filled with love, joy, faith, light, hope, courage, peace and goodwill.

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Glory Forever!