

CHRIST THE SAVIOUR ORTHODOX CHURCH

A PARISH OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA (OCA) • DIOCESE OF EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

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HIS GRACE BISHOP MELCHISEDEK, LOCUM TENENS

REV. STEPHEN VERNAK, PASTOR
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V. REV. DANIEL D. RESSETAR, PASTOR EMERITUS
V. REV. DR. MICHAEL G. KOVACH, ASSOCIATE

Celebrating 49 years of Proclaiming the Truth of Orthodox Christianity

SUNDAY DECEMBER 16, 2012

28th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 3. Sunday of the Forefathers. Prophet Haggai. Martyr Marinus of Rome. Bl. Empress Theophano.

Epistle: Colossians 3:4-11

Gospel: Luke 14:16-24

UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS:

- Dec 16, Sun: Holy Forefathers.** Adult Ed -8:30am; *Divine Liturgy* -9:30am; Fellowship - 11:15am; Church School Play -11:15am; "O" Club Cookie Sale; *Jana Adams Baptism* - 3pm
Hour Readers: 3rd Hour: **Scott Staller** • 6th Hour: **Chris Dupkanick**
- Dec 19, Wed:** Bible Study (33 N 2nd St) - noon; *Vespers* - 6:30pm; Bible Study -7pm; Hershey Bears Hockey Outing -7pm
- Dec 20, Thu:** **Hieromartyr Ignatius & St. John of Kronstadt.** Parish Council Meeting - 7pm;
- Dec 21, Fri:** "3rd in the Burg" @ Agia Sophia 5-9pm; Live Christmas Music 5:30 – 6:30pm; 3 "R's" of Christmas 7 – 8:30pm w. Fr. Dimitrios Nikolodakis
- Dec 22, Sat:** *Vespers & Confession* -6pm
- Dec 23, Sun: Ten Martyrs of Crete.** Adult Ed -8:30am; *Divine Liturgy* -9:30am; Fellowship - 11:15am; Orthodoxy 101 – noon
Hour Readers: 3rd Hour: **Bill Kuchta** • 6th Hour: **Chet Lubecki**
- Dec 24, Mon: Eve of Nativity.** *Royal Hours* -9am; *Vesperal Divine Liturgy* -10:30am; *Great Compline & Matins* -7:30pm
- Dec 25, Tue: Nativity of our Lord, God, & Saviour Jesus Christ.** *Divine Liturgy* -10am

CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!

- AncientFaithRadio.com - 24 hour Orthodox Internet Radio
- OrthodoxyinAmerica.org (Traveling or Going on Vacation?) **check it out!**

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS!!! Please join us for fellowship in the church hall following the service. **If you are interested in becoming a part of our community please ask to speak to Fr. Stephen. Please note:** Only those faithful who are Orthodox Christians and have properly prepared themselves by fasting (*from all food and drink from midnight*), prayer, and recent confession; and who were present for the reading of the Epistle and Gospel, should approach to receive the Eucharist.

PARISH PRAYER LIST:

Please remember the following persons during your daily morning and evening prayers. **Names will be listed for 2 weeks unless requested.** Submit names to the office by Wednesday for inclusion.

AILING: PARISHIONERS: Archpriest Michael Kovach; Dottie Barbu; Nicholas Somple; Timothy McMahon; Larry Smith; Frank Skirpan; Evelyn Onufer; Salwa Shunnara; **FAMILY AND FRIENDS:** Jackson Yoder (Jacob Herman's friend); Anthony Macinanti (Lydia Mantles friend); Devon Jacobs (Sheri Africa's son); Jean Watt (mother-in-law of Dana); Joan Sysak; Luke Spassef; Valerie Gyrisco, Michael Sysak; Charles Wurster (brother-in-law of Bill Kuchta); Dona Beshore & Christopher Mitchell (friend & family of Bob Drozd); Carrie Faust, Landon Payne, Dr. James Kipp; Becky Kenderdine (friends of Jerry & Ann Cole); Irene Priggin's (Christine's mother); Theodore & Nicholas Demopolous (Samantha's father and cousin); Diane Chambers (Anna Doray's daughter); infant Elizabeth Ruzanka; Jamie Krempasky & Irene Pagel (George's great niece, daughter and friend); Keturah Faust (J. Barns and L. Shuga's friend); Matthew Kocsis, John Fatich & Catherine Fatich (Janet Kuzupas' family); Joseph & Steven Demchak (Suzanne's brothers)

HEALTH & WELL-BEING: PARISHIONERS: Dottie Sysak; Sheena Hisiro; Saba Ghebresalassie; Ghebremichael Habtegeorghis; Daniel Bretz; Elizabeth & Paul Pellegrini; Robin Kuzupas **HOME-BOUND & IN CARE FACILITIES:** Betty Danko; Ann Pusey; Agnes Risser; Millicent Russell; Shirley Sass; Nicholas Essis; **EXPECTANT MOTHERS:** Viviana Sysak, Lorina Leija; *and the children to be born of them;* **COLLEGE STUDENTS:** David & Yelena Ambartsumian, Jessica Drebot, Matthew Hadginske, Paige & Skye Hisiro, Jennifer Krider, Magdalena Newhouse, Anastasia Nikolaeva, Alexandra & Nicholas Pawlush, Dimitri & Sophia Ressetar, Mariah Schware; Michael & Sarah Somple, Evelyn Staller, Jessica Taleff; **MILITARY:** John Akimov; Jeremy Fetsko; Stephanie King; Matthew Pylypciw; Steven Heberle; Thomas Shingara; Nathaniel Lubliner **ADOPTED SEMINARY FAMILY:** Fr. Dn. Matthew, M. Elizabeth, Elias & Genevieve Brown; **OCMC MISSIONARIES:** Christina Semon (Romania); Julian Burgan (Tanzania) **FAMILY AND FRIENDS:** Archpriest Alexander Atty; V. Rev. John Onofrey; Anthony Seitz; Joseph & April Parsons; Gregory Sysak; William Scheaffer, Noah Hindes and Diane Peredna (brother-in-law & friends of John R. Barns); Christine Kihm, Charles Klein, Margaret & Cecilia Hunt (Larry Smith's friend, aunt & cousin); Addison, Judy & Greg (Christine Priggins family); Mattie Martin; Diane Broskey; Willard Brown

NEWLY DEPARTED: Archpriest Michael Mihalik – Dec 10; Patriarch IGNATIUS of Antioch – Dec 5; John Heberle (Uncle of Jean Dotsey) –Dec 3; Elizabeth McCarthy (Aunt of Jean Dotsey) –Nov 23; Joseph Salvadia (Libby's nephew) –Nov 19;

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEPARTED: Pani Suan Mesaros, wife of Fr. Frank, Dec 16 -10th; Michael Kundrat, brother of John, Dec 17 -10th; Michael Sandovich, grandson of St. Maksym, cousin of Fr. Dan, Dec 17 -9th; Herbert C. Caldwell III, son of Olga, Dec 17 -8th; Archbishop JOB (Diocese of Chicago and Midwest), Dec 18 -3rd; Kathryn Sultzbaugh, sister of +Russell Sass, Dec 19 -24th; Bill Brousseau, husband of Evelyn Krempasky's cousin, Dec 20- 2nd; Todorka Mioff, mother of Eli, Dec 21 -24th; Nadya Snow, sister of Gloria Maliniak, Dec 21 -11th; Peter Krempasky Jr., George's brother, Dec 22 – 6th;

CANDLE OFFERINGS: To purchase commemoration candles, please go to the candle desk or speak with one of the vestrymen. Please note: offerings must be in the office by Wednesday for inclusion.

* **Two Decorated Candles (on Center table)** are offered in **Health & Salvation of Tekeste Tesfazion**, brother of Yorusalem Tesfazion

MANY YEARS: Please submit to ctsocahbg@aol.com by the preceding Wednesday.

BIRTHDAYS: Angela DiFlorio – Dec 18; Leavitt Keener – Dec 21; Christopher Dupkanick - Dec 22

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS:

A Warm Welcome to: Deacon Matthew & M. Elizabeth Brown, and their children **Elias & Genevieve**, our FOCA adopt-a-seminary family for Christmas, as well as the recipients of our parish seminary tuition scholarship. Dn. Matthew is a third year seminarian from St. Tikhon Seminary.

Church School Nativity Pageant: TODAY following *Divine Liturgy*, the church school students will entertain us in this year *Nativity Pageant*, please come out and support our youth & their dedicated teachers.

Angel Tree Program: Please bring the gift in by **Sunday, December 23rd** with the angel attached. There are a few angels left, thank you. Gifts are given to

Sales Desks: The Sales Desk has many NEW children books. Please check out the display and make your gift purchase.

Nut Roll Baking Thank You: On behalf of the baking committee, we would like to thank all of the members of our parish community who helped with our Christmas baking project. Even with several members of our regular team absent due to illness, we were able to bake the full amount of 1,200 rolls. Your willingness to pitch in and help in our time of need was greatly appreciated.
----- *Sincerely, Jeannie Dotsey*

Christmas & Decorated Candles: You can donate a poinsettia to adorn our church during the *Nativity & Theophany* season or donate decorated candles for the *Great Feast of Nativity* in memory of a loved one or for the health and salvation of your family & friends. Please see the sign-up lists on the candle desk in the vestibule



- **Poinsettias** are \$8 ea. and you may take it home after the festive season.
- **Regular Decorated Candles** are \$10 ea.

Parish Family Nativity Open House: will be held on **Sunday, Dec. 30th**. Social hour begins at 5pm with a complimentary dinner at 6pm. Please sign the list in the vestibule if you plan to attend. If you wish to bring a dessert please make a notation by your name on the sheet. *A special thanks to the Men's Club for sponsoring this holiday treat for our parish family and friends!*

Alaskan Pilgrimage (August 2013): The trip will include a three day pilgrimage to Kodiak Island and Spruce Island plus sightseeing in Anchorage (**Sunday, Aug 4th - Sunday, Aug 11th**). If you are interested please see **Alice Mallick**.

Fellowship Hour Schedule: Parishioners are asked to help by bringing at least **48** servings of baked goods and to serve them during their assigned fellowship hour. Please check the dates below and mark your calendar accordingly. ***The complete list through next May 2012 is available at the parish hall.*** If you are unable to be at church on your scheduled date contact **Nadzia Schilling** at 652-2759.

Dec 16:	Larissa Shuga	Evelyn Krempasky	Mary White
Dec 23:		Altar Guild	
Dec 30:	Natalie Treece	Patty Taleff	Samantha Demopoulos

LAST SUNDAY LITURGY ATTENDANCE: 172

EVENTS AROUND OUR ORTHODOX COMMUNITY

TOO MANY BOOKS?: Are you finding your bookshelves cluttered with old books? Those school classics that you or your children read once. Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet. Hemmingway's Old Man and the Sea. Dickens' Great Expectations. The Diary of Anne Frank. Thoreau's Walden. And so on. The Manager of Agia Sophia Coffeehouse and Bookstore (225 Market Street) wants to expand the shop's offering of gently used books (sold for \$5) to include such established classics (paperback or hardback). She will come to our church to collect any donations on Tuesday, 12/4, and Tuesday, 1/22. Please look over your books at home prior to these dates for any appropriate old classics you may wish to donate to the coffeehouse. (Used Bibles are also welcome)."

76th Novogodny Ball: Sunday, January 20th in Philadelphia. More information is posted in the fellowship hall.

THE PROLOGUE OF OHRID:

THE DAILY LIVES OF THE SAINTS AND REFLECTIONS

BY ST. NIKOLAI OF ZIGHA AND SOUTH GANAAN

<http://www.westsrbdio.org/prolog/my.html>

The Holy Prophet Haggai

Haggai was born in Babylon during the time of the captivity of Israel. He was of the tribe of Levi and prophesied about 470 years before Christ. As a youth, he visited Jerusalem. He urged Zerubbabel and Joshua the priest to restore the Temple of the Lord in Jerusalem, prophesying for this Temple greater glory than the former Temple of Solomon, *The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the Lord of Hosts* (Haggai 2:9), for the Lord and Savior was to appear in this new temple. He lived long enough to see one part of the temple built by Zerubbabel. He died in old age and joined his ancestors.

Saint Theophano the Empress

Theophano was born of eminent parents, Constantine and Anna, who were kin to several emperors. Her parents were childless for a long time and prayed to the Most-holy Theotokos to give them an offspring. And God gave them this daughter, Theophano. Imbued with the Christian spirit from her childhood, Theophano surpassed all her companions in all the Christian virtues. When she grew up, she entered into marriage with Leo, the son of Emperor Basil the Macedonian. She endured great hardships alongside her husband. Responding to slander-that Leo carried a knife in his boot and planned to kill his father at an opportune time-the gullible father, Basil, locked his son and daughter-in-law in prison. Thus, two innocent souls languished in prison for three years. Once, during the Feast of the Prophet Elias, the emperor summoned all his noblemen to his court for a banquet. Suddenly the emperor's parrot unexpectedly spoke these words, "Alas, alas, my Lord Leo!" and repeated these words a number of times. This brought great anxiety to all of the imperial noblemen, and they all begged the emperor to release his son and daughter-in-law. The grieved emperor did so. After his father's death, Leo became emperor and was called "the Wise." Theophano did not consider her imperial dignity as anything, but, completely devoted to God, she cared only about the salvation of her soul, fasting and praying, distributing many alms, and restoring many monasteries and churches. Neither an untrue word nor an excessive word nor, least of all, slander proceeded from her lips. Before her death she called all her closest friends, took leave of them and gave up her soul to her God in the year 892. The Emperor Leo wanted to build a church over her grave in her name, but since the patriarch objected to this, he built a church to All Saints, saying that if Theophano became a saint, she would be glorified together with the other saints. The Feast of All Saints was then instituted to be celebrated on the Sunday after the Feast of the Holy Trinity.