



Christ the Saviour Orthodox Church

Orthodox Church in America
Colonial Park ♦ 5501 Locust Lane

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17109-5623

Telephone: (717) 652-1825 • Fax: (717) 652-0446
www.ChristtheSaviourHbg.org • Email: ctsocahbg@aol.com

G. Kovach, Associate
Email: frdanhbg@aol.com

V. Rev. Daniel D. Ressetar, Pastor Emeritus

V. Rev. Dr. Michael

V. Rev. Neal J. Carrigan, Assistant

December 24, 2006

December 31, 2006

28th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - Tone 3. *Sunday Before the Nativity of Christ. EVE OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST.* Nun Martyr Eugenia of Rome, and with her, Martyrs Philip, her father, Protus, Hyacinth, Basilla, and Claudia; Venerable Nicholas the Monk, of Bulgaria.

Readings: Epistle: Ephesians 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40
Galatians 3:15-22
Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25 and Luke 2:1-20

8:00 a.m.—Orthodox Radio on AM 720 WW II

9:00 a.m.—Adult Church School Classes

9:30 a.m.—Prayers of Repentance, Confessions

9:40 a.m.—Reading of the Third and Sixth Hours

10:00 a.m.—Divine Liturgy, Sermon, Student and Senior A cappella Choirs

11:45 p.m.—Fellowship

7:30 p.m.—Great Compline & Nativity Matins

Christ is Born,—Glorify Him!

Calendar:

Dec 25, Mon: *The Nativity (Legal Holiday)* Prayers of Repentance, Confessions—9:30 a.m.; Divine Liturgy of St. Basil, The Great; Carols and Nativity Hymns—10:00 a.m.; Fellowship & Carol Singing—11:45 a.m.;

Dec 26, Tues: *2nd Day of the Nativity* Divine Liturgy—9:30 a.m.

Dec 27, Wed: *3rd Day of the Nativity*

Divine Liturgy—9:30 a.m.; Carolers visit Shut-Ins—6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Dec 28, Thu: Men's Club Open House at the Parish Hall—6:30 p.m.

Dec 30, Sat: Vespers—7:00 p.m.

Dec 31, Sun: 720 AM Radio—8 a.m.; All Church School Classes—9:00 a.m.; Prayers of Repentance, Confessions—9:30 a.m.; Reading of the Third and Sixth Hours—9:40 a.m.; Divine Liturgy—10:00 a.m.; Fellowship—11:45 a.m.; Great Vespers, Confessions—7:00 p.m.

Today's Prayers: Please remember those mentioned here in your daily prayers in the morning and in the evening, at home and in church. The detailed prayer list is published once a month in the parish mailing. However, the names will be mentioned during the Liturgy of Preparation every Sunday. Parishioners are urged to update or delete their prayer listings.

Those Ailing: **Matushka Katherine Kowalczyk;** **John Oleksa**, father of Patty Taleff; **Johnny Farrow;** **Ted Bacha**, brother of Lydia Mantle; **John Fatich**, Janet Kuzupas' brother; **Stephen Kanoff**, nephew of Katherine Macut; **Donald Semic**, Shirley Hathaway's brother; **James Mitnik;** **Mary Essock;** **Nina Shvartsakh;** **Joe Krajsa**, friend of the choir; **Karen Berger**, friend of Angie Mioff-McGreevy; **Eva Kondratick**, Aunt of Evelyn Krempasky; **Tanner Carmen**, great nephew of Betty Pellegrini; **Dorothy Pellegrini**, cousin of Paul Pellegrini; **Alexander Galvin**, 4-yr old grand-nephew of Evelyn Krempasky; **Gregory Burch;** **Anna Pampalona** sister of Janet Kuzupas;

Health and well-being of: **Nicholas Serio**, in Iraq; **Katherine Pilc;** **Russ Sass;**

Newly Departed from This Life: **Deacon Peter Homik**, Cleveland, OH—Dec 15th; **Wede Mikhail**—Nov 30th; **Alan Shiposki**—Nov 24th

Anniversaries of Those Departed from This Life:

Olga Evans, aunt of Matushka Theodora, December 25th is the 13th anniversary;

Tsgay Andemichael, brother of Sebhatu Andemichael, January 27th is the 2nd anniversary;

Sophie Mehalko, sister-in-law of Patricia Drebot, December 29th is the 4th anniversary;

John Solovey, December 26th is the 38th anniversary;

Dr. Michael Ressetar, uncle of Fr. Dan, December 26th is the 7th anniversary;

Vida Kodi, Bishop Mitrophan's Mother, December 26th is the 1st anniversary;

Steven Bortniak, brother-in-law of Fr. Dan, December 30th is the 14th anniversary;

29th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - Tone 4. *Sunday After the Nativity of Christ.* Holy Righteous One: Joseph the Betrothed, David the King and James the Brother of the Lord. Leavetaking of the Nativity. Venerable Melania the Younger of Rome. Venerable Chiriacos (Kyriakos) of Bisericani. Venerable Chiriacos (Kyriakos) of Tazlu. New Hieromartyrs Thaddeus (Uspensky), Archbishop of Tver' and Nikolai (Klement'ev), Archbishop of Velikii Ustiug.

Readings: Epistle: Galatians 4:4-7
Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

8:00 a.m.—Orthodox Radio on AM 720 WW II

9:00 a.m.—Church School Classes

9:30 a.m.—Prayers of Repentance, Confessions

9:40 a.m.—Reading of the Third and Sixth Hours

10:00 a.m.—Divine Liturgy, Sermon, Student and Senior A cappella Choirs

11:45 a.m.—Fellowship

7:00 p.m.—Great Vespers, Confessions

Jan 1, Mon: *New Year's Day (Legal Holiday)* Divine Liturgy Circumcision of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; Commemorating St. Basil the Great—9:30a.m.; Fellowship, Finding the coin in the Vasilopita breads—10:45 a.m.

Jan 4, Thu: Pan-Orthodox Bible Study at Holy Trinity Cathedral—7:00 p.m.

Jan 5, Fri: *Eve of Theophany—Day of Strict Fasting;* Royal Hours, Vesperal Divine Liturgy—9 a.m.; Parish Holy Supper—5p.m.; Great Compline with Matins

Jan 6th, Sat: *Holy Theophany and Baptism of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ;* Divine Liturgy and the Blessing of Waters—9:30 a.m.; Fellowship—11:30 a.m.;

Jan 7th, Sun: *Second day of Theophany; Synaxis of St. John the Baptist;* 720 AM Radio—8 a.m.; Adult Church School—9:00 a.m.; Prayers of Repentance, Confessions—9:30 a.m.; Reading of the Third and Sixth Hours—9:40 a.m.; Divine Liturgy—10:00 a.m.; Fellowship—11:45 a.m.;

Helen Evans, grandmother of Matushka Theodora, January 1st is the 74th anniversary;

Archpriest Nicholas Fedetz, brother of Andy Fedetz, January 1st is the 2nd anniversary;

Helen Bushko, sister of Dorothy Fedetz, January 2nd is the 9th anniversary;

Loretta Lennon, niece of Katharine Newhouse, January 3rd is the 1st anniversary;

Watson Edward Ealy, January 5th is the 7th anniversary;

Helen Zuzulock, mother of Kathleen Z. Pankiw, Jan. 5th is the 8th anniversary;

Samuel Evans, uncle of Matushka Theodora, January 6th is the anniversary;

Andrew Matyuf, brother of Dorothy Fedetz, January 6th is the 4th anniversary;

Candle Offerings:

Two candles on the center table are offered in memory of **Sophia Smetanick** by Vicki & Jim Henry and Family. December 23rd is the 14th anniversary of Sophia's departure from this life.

Nine altar candles are offered for **Mary J. Hornack** by her daughter Evelyn Onufer, in commemoration of Mary's 98th birthday.

Seven day votive candles are offered for John Popp, father of Janice Zuro. January 7th is the 2nd anniversary of John's departure from this life.

Many Years (*Names for the singing of MANY YEARS after the Sunday Divine Liturgy will be accepted for publication in the weekly bulletin. Please email ctsocahbg@aol.com with the information.*)

Noelle Webb will celebrate her birthday on **December 24th**.

Holly Webb Komoroski will celebrate her birthday on **December 26th**.

Reta Fisher will celebrate her birthday on **December 26th**.

Irene Sumple will celebrate her birthday on **January 2nd**.

Matthew Sysak will celebrate his birthday on **January 5th**.



TODAYS NEWS

FOR DEC. 24th AND DEC. 25th **Fr. Michael Kovach** will be in Philadelphia and **Fr. Neal Carrigan** will be in McAdoo serving.

For **Dec. 26th**, the 2nd day of the Nativity, a Tuesday, co-celebrating the Divine Liturgy will be **Fr. Timothy Hojnicky**; his father-in-law, **Fr. Nicholas Harris**; and his brother-in-law, the recently ordained **Fr. David Cowan**, a seminarian at St. Tikhon's.

At the morning Divine Liturgy **Dec. 24th** and the evening Great (Christmas Eve) Compline with the Nativity Matins, and for the **Dec. 25th** Nativity Divine Liturgy, **Deacon Joseph Kreta** will assist **Fr. Dan**.

PARISH NEWS

BLESSING HOMES in January 2007 are not in Father Dan's plans. Retired and still helping the parish, he thought his replacement would have been here by this time. He made other arrangements months ago in his schedule for all weekends in January.

Those who would like to have their homes blessed should call 652-1835 or 545-5054, and we will see if some of the blessings could be taken care of with a possible schedule. Father Neal might be available, also, but on a limited basis. We might get a temporarily assigned priest for weekends.

"SUPPORT-A-SEMINARIAN is a temporary project our parish has been asked to participate in. It was brought up at our annual November parish meeting and approved by the parish council at its November meeting. The expenses will not be part of the 2007 parish budget.

A seminarian at St. Tikhon's Orthodox Seminary in South Canaan is in need of at least \$200 a month for living expenses. He is married and has a child. The funding will be from **December 2006 through May 2007** (\$200 x 6=only \$1,200)

We are asking individuals from the parish and outside the parish to contribute to this Seminarian Fund on a regular basis until the total amount is acquired. Any overage will be kept in the parish treasury for any future Seminarian Program.

Please, let's begin with a gift, no matter how small, to this seminarian for Christmas. By the way, the checks must be sent directly to the seminarian. So please make a money order or a check contribution or cash to: Christ the Saviour Orthodox Church if you would like to help. In the memo area, write "Support-A-Seminarian". Our church treasurer will forward the monthly church check to him.

DVD copies of **Father Dan's** 13-minute retirement dinner presentation are being distributed, by request, to those who did not see it. Please return your DVD copy after viewing it for others to see it.

FOR THE ADVENT RETREAT on Sat Dec 10th, we had 18 children. Each child made their own bread (prosfora) to take home. Father Dan explained what he does with the prosfora during the Proskomedia (Liturgy of Preparation) and did a demonstration using each of the five loaves. The younger children stamped bags and made gingerbread ornaments while

CHURCH SCHOOL CLASSES will not be held for the students *today*, (Dec. 24th), but the adult class in the church social room will be held at 9 a.m. On Dec. 31st, all classes will resume at 9 a.m. as usual.

Thank you to:

ALL those who came to help with the nut roll project from setting up, baking, packing and cleaning up.

ALL choir members who came to sing at the choral concert at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Camp Hill.

ALL who decorated the church for the Feast of the Nativity. Church School Children helped to decorate the tree with the Junior "O" Club members. The decorations look wonderful!

the older children painted tissue boxes to donate to a local nursing home. The day concluded with pizza and a movie. Thank you to Matushka Theodora, Janice Zuro, Angie Mioff McGreevy and Amy Minarich for helping to make this day possible.

THE YEAR 2006 is coming to a close. Parishioners are reminded to fulfill their minimum financial obligations to the parish by December 31st. It is easier to give regularly throughout the year than to give your church gift in one lump sum during Christmas time. In any case, remember the parish, priority one, this month.

REMEMBER: Gifts, donations, payments to the church made before December 31st are tax deductible for 2005. There is no time like the "present"!

THE OCCSCP CHARITIES BANQUET, November 19 in York at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, sponsored by the Orthodox Council of Churches of South Central Pennsylvania, was a huge social and financial success. Over 200 were in attendance and \$9,525.00 was netted—everything was donated, all the food, the hall rental, flowers, ticket printing, etc.

One half of the proceeds, \$4,762.50, was sent to IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities) and the other half was sent to OCMC (The Orthodox Christian Mission Center).

A highlight of the event was the singing of the combined choirs of St. John Chrysostom Anchiocian Church and Annunciation Greek Church.

We are grateful to all those who helped by purchasing tickets even though they were unable to attend.

FUTURE EVENTS

CAROLERS will make visits to those confined in nursing homes or at home 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on **Wed, Dec. 27th**. We meet at the church parking lot 5:45 p.m. Children are most welcome to come along with their parents. Non-choir members are also invited. It's lots of fun and we will do a good deed to cheer up people. Sign up at the candle desk.

NATIVITY HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE, sponsored by the **Orthodox Men's Club**, will be held on Thursday, **December 28th**, beginning at **6 p.m.** All members of the parish are invited to join in Fellowship during this joyous season of the Nativity. Plan to eat dinner there also, as lots of good food will be served.

THE "O" CLUB will meet on January 11th at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Evelyn Onufer.

THE VISIT of Pope Benedict XVI with Patriarch Bartholomew in Turkey last month and the Synodical Divine Liturgy at the Phanar was videotaped by John Osuch, Jr. It will be shown at the church at a later date.

A QUOTE from letter written by Rev. Fr. John H. Erickson, Dean, St. Vladimir's Seminary: "In our Orthodox icon for the Nativity of Christ, many small images surround the central figures of the Virgin and the Christ Child. We see the Magi journeying from afar, angels bowing in adoration, shepherds offering their praises. We also see an image of St. Joseph being tempted by the devil. St. Joseph is perplexed at the miraculour birth, while Satan, in the form of an old man, tries to distract him from the mystery of the Incarnation by whispering in his ear that this is impossible.



This Nativity season, we too face many distractions. Ongoing wars and threats of terrorism have raised concerns about our personal and national security. Political scandals have led many to question their leaders. Every church and denomination – including the Orthodox – has seen scandals and accusations of wrongdoing. All these have magnified the usual challenges of living in North America as Orthodox Christians.

We know that, in the end, St. Joseph rejected the devil's distractions. He remembered the comforting words of the angel of the Lord that this child would save His people from their sins (Mt. 1:21). Placing his trust in God, he laid aside his worldly care and doubts, and held fast to God's promise and gift of salvation – the incarnate Word of God."

Fast Free Week: December 25, 2006 to January 4, 2007

This Christmas night, peace was bestowed upon the whole world; so let no one threaten. This is the night of the Most Gentle One; let no one be cruel. This is the night of the Most Humble One; let no one be proud. Now is the day of joy; let us not revenge. Now is the day of goodwill; let us not be mean. In this day of peace let us not be conquered by anger. Today the Beautiful One impoverished Himself for our sake; so you rich ones, invite the poor to your table. Today we received a gift for which we did not ask; so let us give alms to those who implore us and beg. This present day's fast opens the heavenly door to our prayers. Let us open our door to those who ask our forgiveness. Now the Divine Being took upon Himself the seal of humanity, in order for humanity to be decorated by the seal of Divinity.

~Saint Isaac the Syrian



Sunday before the Nativity ♦ Commemorated on December 24

The Sunday before the Nativity of the Lord (December 18-24) is known as the Sunday of the Holy Fathers. On this day the Church commemorates all those who were well-pleasing to God from all ages, from Adam to St Joseph the Betrothed of the Most Holy Theotokos, those who are mentioned in the genealogy of Luke 3:23-38. The holy prophets and prophetesses are also remembered today, especially the Prophet Daniel and the three holy youths (December 17).

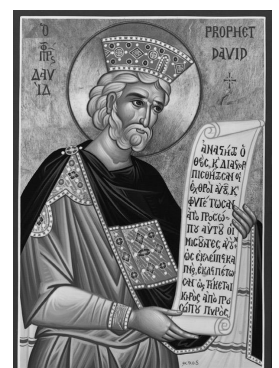
The Troparion to the Prophet Daniel and the three holy youths ("Great are the accomplishments of faith...") is quite similar to the Troparion for St Theodore the Recruit (February 17, and the first Saturday of Great Lent). The Kontakion to St Theodore, who suffered martyrdom by fire, reminds us that he also had faith as his breastplate (see I Thessalonians 5:8).

Sunday after the Nativity: Commemoration of the Holy Righteous David the King, Joseph the Betrothed, and James the Brother of the Lord ♦ Commemorated on December 31

The Holy Prophet-King David, St Joseph the Betrothed and St James the Brother of the Lord are commemorated on the Sunday after the Nativity. If there is no Sunday between December 25 and January 1, their commemoration is moved to December 26.

At an early date, some churches in the East began to commemorate certain important figures of the New Testament at the time of Theophany, and later during the Nativity season. In Syria, for example, St Stephen (December 27), Sts James (April 30) and John (September 26), and Sts Peter and Paul (June 29) were commemorated near the end of December.

In Jerusalem, the saints mentioned above were combined with a feast that the Jews of Hebron celebrated on December 25 or 26 in honor of the Old Testament Patriarch Jacob. Later on, the Christians substituted St James (October 23) for Jacob, and then the commemoration of the Brother of the Lord became associated with his ancestor King David. In time, St. Joseph was linked with Sts David and James.



The fact that the omnipotent nature should have been capable of descending to the humiliated condition of humanity provides a clearer proof of power than great and supernatural miracles. His descent to our lowliness is the supreme expression of his power. ~ *St. Gregory of Nyssa*