

ST. NICHOLAS COMMUNITY NEWS

A Diverse Community Connected by Faith

Published by The Dormition Guild of St. Nicholas Cathedral
Celebrating 40 Years of Autocephaly

April 2012

PROLOGUE

The Dormition Guild had a very successful Lenten Soup Sale and Blini Luncheon this year thanks especially to Mark Pietrzykoski. We even shared blini with St. Matthew in Columbia for their very first Blini Luncheon!

The Guild will hold its annual Palm Sunday Bake Sale on April 8.

We will not take orders for baked goods this year as we are confident we will have sufficient quantities, with the exception of Filled Rolls. As in the past, we will offer Kulich, Cheese Pascha, Babka, Bread Pascha and a limited number of Filled Rolls for sale. The Rolls will be sold first-come, first-served.

In addition, the Guild will offer decorative candles for sale. See the notice on the bulletin board in the hall for price information.



Our Cathedral has always had a shortage of seats. Those we do have are for elderly, infirm or others who really need a seat. Please be considerate of your fellow parishioners and do not use empty seats for purse and coat parking. Thank you!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we approach Holy Week and come closer to the Feast of Feasts - the Holy Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ - we greet you with the joyous words of Pascha, "Christ is Risen!" Through His Cross and Resurrection, the Divine love of God is revealed to us in its fullness. The Saints teach us about this Divine love and when we touch upon it, the sweetness of the Holy Spirit transports the soul in wonder at her Beloved God and Heavenly Father. Then through God's Grace, we come to love everyone, even those who hate us. We become one family in God, fulfilling Christ's prayer for us: "Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee: may they also be one in Us" (John 17:21). Let us enter into the Joy of our Lord's Resurrection and receive the Grace of the Holy Spirit; let us humble ourselves that we may be worthy of the Divine love of God and that the Lord may adorn us with His meekness and humility; that our parish may truly be one family in Christ and that we may be worthy of the Heavenly mansion which the Lord has made ready for us. This is our Joy: that the Lord is with us and in us.

May the Joy of Christ's Resurrection encourage and empower each and every one of us in our lives as we journey to the Kingdom of Heaven.

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

With love in Christ, Fr Valery and
Matushka Marina Shemchuk

Why We.....

Holy Wednesday Anointing:

This is a Mystery of the Church and is for Orthodox only. It started among the Greeks as a way to avoid going to Confession before their Holy Thursday Communion -- not a proper use of the Mystery of the Oil for the Sick.

This is NOT the Holy Chrism or Myrrh consecrated by the Metropolitan and used in Holy Chrismation. It is also NOT the simply blessed oil used at Vigil. This general anointing w/the Oil of the Sick did not become common in Russia until sometime in 20th century and even more recently in both the OCA & ROCOR. Many theologians regard it as an abuse of the Mystery.

Why is he doing that?

Holy Saturday scattering of bay laurel leaves: Holy Saturday commemorates the burial of Christ and His descent into Hades. Between His Crucifixion and Resurrection, Christ "rested" in the tomb. The clergy change their vestments from purple or black, to white just before the Epistle is read. And, as the choir sings: "Arise, O God, judge the earth...", clergy sprinkle bay laurel leaves in the church to symbolize the shattered gates of Hades and the triumph over Christ's death.

GOOD FRIDAY READING OF THE PSALMS:

Sign up to read from 10 pm to 7am; in 1/2 hour increments. If you just want to come and pray or bring visitors to experience the moving atmosphere, please feel free to bring Orthodox and non Orthodox. Contact Peter and Helen Evans at we2rone@cox.net to schedule a time.



Notes from the Council

Exciting News

Many of you have commented on the careworn state of our church hall. It is in serious need of upgrade to bring it into compliance with current DC building codes and needs commercial grade facility improvements. We have recognized the problem, but have not had the fiscal resources to rectify it. God has heard our prayers.

Due to the wonderful generosity of an anonymous donor, we can now tackle the problem. The Parish Council has accepted the donation of \$300,000.00 to renovate the Cathedral basement. The donation is exclusively for renovating the basement.

Father Valery and I have established a renovation committee, chaired by Michele Smith, Treasurer, with Irina Panyutin as co-chair. Suzanne Tolstoy, George Nartsissov, Nadine Gjurich and Mark Pietrzykoski complete the committee's membership. Father Valery and I are ex-officio members. Work will begin in earnest after Pascha, with an open bid process, soliciting design/build firms licensed in DC, once the scope of what we can do within our budget has been determined.

Wishing you a meaningful Lenten journey,

Barbara Rhenish,

Parish President

Christ Has Risen! X.B.!!!!

APRIL 15, 2012

In 325 CE the Council of Nicaea established that Easter would be held on the first Sunday after the first full moon occurring on or after the March equinox. From that point forward, the Easter date depended on the ecclesiastical approximation of March 21 for the [March equinox](#). Easter is delayed one week if the full moon is on Sunday, which decreases the chances of it falling on the same day as the Jewish Passover.

Kulich, a modification of the Artos also has a symbolic basis. The Paschal kulich on the festive table symbolizes the presence of God in the world and in human life. The sweetness, bakery goods, and beauty of the Paschal kulich, in this way express the Lord's concern for all of human existence.



The cheese pascha is a symbol of Paschal joy, the sweetness of paradisiacal life, blessed Eternity.

He Has Truly Risen!!! B.B.!!!!!!



Dying Easter eggs red comes from a rather late Apocrypha that speaks of the Roman Emperor Tiberius' conversion to Christianity. Wishing to put an end to the preaching of Mary Magdalene, he declared that he would sooner believe in a white egg turning red than in the possibility of the resurrection of the dead. An egg turned red, and this became the last argument in the polemic that culminated in the Roman Caesar's Baptism.



Easter Baskets include: KULICH, PASCHA, BUTTER, HORSERADISH, BLESSED CANDLE, EGGS, MEAT, SALT, and perhaps CHOCOLATE.

SALT represents the message of Jesus Christ. Just as salt preserves food, so preserved are the teachings of Jesus Christ and eternal salvation.

BLESSED CANDLE symbolizes the "Light of the World, Our Lord, Jesus Christ".

MEAT symbolizes the sacrificial animals of the Old Testament as well as a representation of the fattened calf presented to the Prodigal Son.

HORSERADISH represents the bitter drink of vinegar and gall, offered to Jesus by the Roman as He was nailed on the cross.

PASSAGES**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

Many Years!!

- 02 Paul Koch, Harold Krivell, John Mitchell
- 04 Maureen Skuby
- 06 Alexandra Dockham
- 06 Catherine Vangellow
- 07 Lika Bozhich
- 08 Greg Oleynik
- 12 Alla Lowe
- 14 Anna Butler, Andrew Hill
- 15 Matushka Helen Oleynik
- 16 Karen Koch
- 19 John Slanta
- 20 Br. Kenneth (Kasovac)
- 21 Elizabeth Manchuk
- 25 Daniel Osolinsky
Sharon Osmolovsky
- 26 Elena Zaytseva (Howard)
Alyssa Przystawik
Janet Yakubik
- 27 Mary Bushallow
- 28 Ann Alaoglu
- 29 Sasha Yousuk
- 30 Andrew Garber, Daria Virvan

Sick Call - Emilia Barr, Eugene Osolinsky,
Lillian Blome, Victor & Rufina (parents of Irina
Burwell)

On the Mend - Matushka Helen Oleynik
Jeff King
Donya Platoff

Congratulations to Tatjana, Jimmy and future
big brother Vladimir D'Archangelo on the
upcoming addition to their family.

Homebound - Martha Zewan, Helen
Mikhalevsky, Dee Krisa, Nick Yanowsky, Marie
Starn, Galina Tolliver, Olga Lyerly, Renee
Robinson, Ed Rhenish, Matushka Lydia
Malasch, Matushka Helen Oleynik, Lillian
Tcherkassky

News from Adopted Seminarian - - - -

John Askoak has a summer assignment in Pilot
Point, a remote Alaskan village just before The
Chain (Aleutian Islands). His mission is to teach
the local people about the Orthodox faith. An
Orthodox church is there however a different
church is trying to take hold of the faithful.
Please remember John in your prayers for
strength to meet this challenge.

Oops!

Names in last month's Memory Eternal section
were incorrectly written. The names should
read: Milena (Pelagia) Tarasyek and Vissarion
Sesnev.

Show your love by calling or visiting our sick and
homebound parishioners. For contact
information call or write to Andrea Lutov:
andrealutov@gmail.com

Congratulations Fr. C!!!!

Archpriest Constantine White recently received
a 20-year service award from Georgetown
University in recognition of his years of service
as the school's full-time Orthodox Christian
chaplain. Father Constantine has worked
extensively with Orthodox Christian clergy and
faithful from different jurisdictions.

April 7, 2012

LAZARUS SATURDAY / PASCHA PREPARATION DAY

10:00 AM Liturgy for Lazarus Saturday

Family Confession Day (Clergy available after liturgy to hear children's confessions)

11:30 AM Lunch

Pascha Preparation Festivities

Come join us for our annual St. Nicholas tradition of liturgy followed by several hours of Pascha-related crafts:

- Variety of American Egg Decorating/Dying Activities
- Pysanky Egg Decorating (facilitated by our own Andrea Lutov)
- Memorial Stone Decorating
- Cookie Decorating (to be sold as a fundraiser for the children's program)

Our children need your help! If you are able to assist with FOOD (donations, set-up, serving, etc),

CRAFTS (supervising an already-organized activity) or OUTREACH (helping prep and assemble gift bags for our shut-in & other needy members) please contact:

Marina McGuigan for food:

marina.mcguigan@cox.net

Claire Nobles for outreach:

clairesophia@verizon.net



St. Nicholas Cathedral's Sunday School is sponsoring a Lenten collection for the Pajama Program, between now and Lazarus Saturday (7 April). Please bring new pajamas (any size) and/or a new book and put in the labeled box in the Church Hall or Annex. The Pajama Program provides new pajamas and new books to children in need, many who are waiting and hoping to be adopted.

Thousands of the children they serve live in group homes and shelters and are often shuffled between temporary living facilities. Many of them have been abused or abandoned, and have never enjoyed the simple comfort of having a mother or father tuck them in at bedtime and read to them. Thank you so much for your support! To learn more, contact Claire Nobles at clairesophia@verizon.net or visit www.pajamaprogram.org.

During this Lenten season please remember those in need. While we think of foods not to eat there are many who have no food at all. Bring can goods to church and we will deliver them to Friendship Place or volunteer to help at Christ House.

Contacts: Irina Burgener
iburgen@gmail.com for Friendship Place

Claire Nobles, clairesophia@verizon.net for Christ House



FOCA announces 2012 Creative Arts Contest:

"My Friends In The Faith" is this years' theme.

Entrants may submit original pieces of creative writing, music, photography and visual arts. For details go to the FOCA web site

(<http://www.orthodoxfellowship.org>)

April 27-29

Iconographer courses led by Colette M. Kalvesmaki will be held on Friday and Saturday, 9:30 to 5:00; Sunday, 1:00 until finished. Cost: \$350 (\$300 + \$50 deposit) + optional prepared board (bring your own or buy at class, \$75). You will receive step-by-step instructions on the ancient technique of the egg tempera method of iconography. To sign up, contact us online, or call 301 977-7297.

St. Vladimir's Seminary "Pilgrimage to the Holy Land"

April 17 to Friday, April 27, 2012

Archpriest Ekonomos Constantine Nasr, who was born in Jerusalem and is a seminary alumnus, is planning an extraordinary "St. Vladimir's Seminary Pilgrimage to the Holy Land" from Bright Tuesday, April 17 to Friday, April 27, 2012.

Father Constantine, the retired pastor of St. Elijah Orthodox Christian Church in Oklahoma City, is seeking 20 pilgrims for the journey, and is at this juncture trying to gauge interest in the tour.

We thank all of our parishioners for donating money to the Rev. Adam Sexton family who lost everything in the fire that consumed the 100 year old church rectory in Nanticoke, PA. A check totally \$3,450.00 was sent to the family.

Special thanks also to the co-chairpersons of Maslenitsa, Suzanne Tolstoy and Marina Poutiatine for sending a generous check from Maslenitsa profits to the Sexton children, all eight of them.



Prairie Parish Press is a press dedicated to publishing Eastern Christian history and thought in an electronic format. The flagship academic publication is the *Journal of American Orthodox Church History (JAOCH)*. Prairie Parish Press also publishes collected works of important Eastern Christian saints, theologians, and/or pastors, with a particular emphasis on American figures. The ejournal and ebook publications each have their own pages. Please visit them to peruse our offerings. Please see the submission guidelines on the "Contact" page if you are interested in submitting either an article for *JAOCH* or a proposal for an ebook.

Blessing of the Paschal Baskets:

Holy Saturday, April 14

Parish Hall

12:00 noon

10:00 pm

10:30 pm

11:00 pm

11:15 pm

With the beginning of the Nocturns at 11:30 pm, there shall be no more Blessing of Paschal Baskets until next morning. Please, do not leave baskets in the church hall overnight.

Paschal Sunday, April 15

Parish Hall

12:45 pm



Gift Corner

Don't forget to get this years Fabrege pendent



Just one example of the many varieties to choose from. Stop by after liturgy and check out the Easter cards and other wonderful gifts available.

Thanks to everyone who has worked so hard to prepare Easter goodies for us. A special thanks to Mark Pietrzykoski and the entire Dormition Guild.



Sisters Corner

Dear Borthers and Sisters at St. Nicholas,

Pray for us!

Be sure that we are praying for you, with much gratitude for the time of our sojourning with you, keeping you all in our hearts as we draw nearer daily to the Lord's Cross and Resurrection.

Blessed Pascha!

Abbess Aemiliane
and the Sisters with me in Christ



In front of church entrance



Small Refractory



Narthex

CHRIST HAS RISEN!
INDEED HE HAS RISEN!!!!



Sunday, April 1 ***St. Mary of Egypt***
 9 am Divine Liturgy (E)
 10:45am Divine Liturgy (S)

Wednesday, April 4
 7 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts (E)

Friday, April 6
 10 am Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts (S)
 7 pm Matins (E,S)

Saturday, April 7
 10 am Divine Liturgy (E,S)
 5 pm Vigil (E,S)

Sunday, April 8 *Palm Sunday*
9 am Divine Liturgy (E)

Monday, April 9 ***Great and Holy Monday***
 7 pm Bridegroom Matins (E,S)

Tuesday, April 10 ***Great and Holy Tuesday***
 10 am Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts (E,S)
 7 pm Bridegroom Matins (E,S)

Wednesday, April 11 ***Great and Holy Wednesday***
 7 pm Bridegroom Matins (E,S)

Thursday, April 12 ***Great and Holy Tuesday***
 10 am Vespers and Liturgy of St. Basil (E,S)
 7 pm Matins (E,S)

Friday, April 13 ***Great and Holy Friday***
9 am Royal Hours (E,S)
2 pm Vespers with placing of Shroud
7 pm Matins with Procession (E,S)

Saturday, April 14 ***Great and Holy Saturday***
 10 am Vespers and Divine Liturgy (E,S)
 11:30pm Nocturns (E,S)

Sunday, April 15 ***PASCHA*******
 midnight Paschal Matins
 1am Paschal Divine Liturgy (E,S)
 9:30 am Paschal Divine Liturgy (E,S)
 12 Noon Paschal Vespers (E,S)

Monday, April 16 ***Bright Monday***
 9 am Matins (E,S)
 10 am Divine Liturgy (E,S)

Tuesday, April 17 ***Bright Tuesday***
 9 am Matins (E,S)
 10 am Divine Liturgy (E,S)

Saturday, April 21 ***Bright Saturday***
 10 am Divine Liturgy (E,S)
 5 pm Vigil (E,S)

Sunday, April 22
 9 am Divine Liturgy (E)
 10:45 am Divine Liturgy (S)

Tuesday, April 24 ***Day of Joy***
 10 am Memorial Liturgy (E,S)

Saturday, April 28
 5 pm Vigil (E,S)

Sunday, April 29
 9 am Divine Liturgy (E)
 10:45 am Divine Liturgy (S)

Happy Bakers!



Master Baker Mark and his ladies

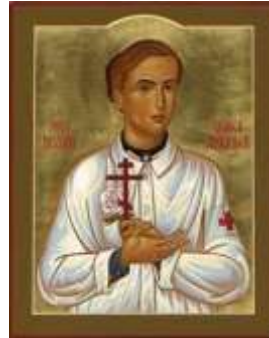


Kulich runway!

Do not forget to buy your kulich and pascha on Palm Sunday.

New Saint in the Russian Church

Information taken from the newspaper the Telegraph



The church canonized **Alexander Schmorell** for his involvement in the White Rose group, which vented its disgust of Hitler and the Nazi regime by writing pamphlets opposing the regime and condemning the treatment of Soviet citizens under German occupation.

Schmorell, who had a Russian mother, had been baptized into the Orthodox Church and remained a committed Christian till he was sent to the guillotine in 1943 aged 25.

A stint as a combat medic on the Eastern Front exposed the idealistic student to the appalling treatment German forces meted out to Soviet civilians and POWs. On his return to Munich he and the White Roses printed a fifth pamphlet, telling people that the "day of reckoning" had arrived "for the most contemptible tyrant our people have ever endured".

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