

ST. NICHOLAS COMMUNITY NEWS

A Diverse Community Connected by Faith

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

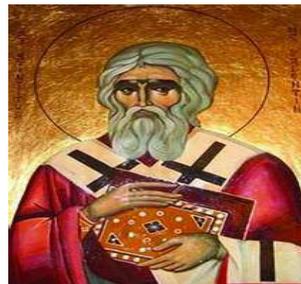
February 2012

PROLOGUE

The Dormition Guild expresses thanks for additional donations to the Icon Project from Anya Gan after her husband Adrian's funeral in December. For former longtime member Marie Yanowsky whose funeral and repast was held at Sts. Peter & Paul Antiochian Orthodox Church in January, the Guild was pleased to make a donation in her memory to the IOCC. The Dormition Guild participated in the preparation and service of refreshments following the Vespers for March For Life and Liturgy the following day before the annual program and march on the National Mall 23 Jan. With Matushka Marina as chair, members of the Guild served dinner to seminarians from St. Vladimir and St. Tikhon who came for the march by bus.



Metropolitan Jonah will be delivering the keynote address on the Sanctity of Life behalf of both the Orthodox church as well as the Roman Catholic church.



St. Valentine's Day, February 14

As Christians, this Valentine Day must be a time to re-commit our lives to the Lord: God is love and the source of true love. God loved us enough to die for us and St. Valentine loved God enough to die for God's Truth. What better way to celebrate Valentine's Day than to commit or recommit our lives to Christ.

For his belief and practice, St. Valentine was arrested, and imprisoned for his refusal to deny Our Lord and embrace the Roman gods.

While in prison, St. Valentine continued to minister, even witnessing to those who guarded him. One of the guards was a good man who had adopted a blind girl. He asked St. Valentine if his God could help his daughter. Valentine prayed and the girl was miraculously given her sight, demonstrating the power of the One True God. The guard and his whole family, 46 people in all, believed in Christ and were baptized. The emperor was furious about this, so he had St. Valentine beheaded.

*From Keynote Address Given by His Grace,
Bishop Demetri at the NAC Midwinter
Meeting, 1999*

PASSAGES



Happy Birthday
Many Years

- 01 Tatiana Moser
- 02 Nadine Gjurich
- 03 Ludmilla Medina
- 05 Ivan Davidson, Karen Rossler
- 08 Julie Jamieson, Steve Terrell
- 11 Robert Easton
- 12 Tom Bruni
Michele Smith
- 20 Fr. Valery Shemchuk
Irina Burgener
Dr. Steve Gleason
Yuriy Stenko
- 21 Ann Nartsissov
- 23 Anne Lynch
Sandy Serafin
Gregory Sykes
- 25 Kim Hawkins
Dale Houser
Lisa Stolaruk
- 26 Dn. Patrick Mitchell
George Yurchak
- 27 Anya Gan

Homebound

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

Sick Call

Sharon Osmolovsky
Lillian Blome
Emilia Barr

*For contact information to cheer those in need
you may email: andrealutov@gmail.com*

On the Mend

Andrea Lutov (following car accident)
Juliana Blome
Matushka Helen Oleynik

**Memory Eternal**

Marie Yanowsky, beloved mother of wife of Nicholas Yanowsky, mother of Betty (John) Slanta, Barbara (Michael) Bosworth, and Thomas (Vicki) Yanowsky. Marie had eight grandchildren
Nancy Croucher, sister of Paulette Marko
Catherine Mokay Bielawa, sister of Mary Bushallow

Baptisms

Philippe Alexey Melton Price
Victoria Fox
Nathaniel Jackson
Kaylyn Marcial,

Weddings

Valery and Yelena Selinevich January 28th

**Greetings from Joseph Konrad:**

"Joseph Konrad gratefully remembers St. Nicholas Cathedral while enjoying life in Vermont. So far this year's mild Vermont winter has pushed temperatures down to -12, but he stays warm by regularly visiting St. Jacob of Alaska Mission Parish (OCA), which played an important role in local flood relief after Hurricane Irene floods devastated nearby neighborhoods at lower elevations. He has continued his beekeeping hobby and is brewing draft meads.

Meaning of Metropolitan's *mantiya*

There is the episcopal mantle or *mantiya* which is not worn with the other episcopal vestments while celebrating the Divine Liturgy, but when the bishop formally enters the church beforehand, or when a bishop is formally attending (i.e., presiding over) a service in which he is not serving. Instead of black worn by monks, bishops use other colors: purple for bishops and archbishops; blue for metropolitans; and green for patriarchs in the Russian tradition.

In the Russian tradition, the episcopal *mantiya* is characteristically decorated with red and white horizontal ribbons, called "rivers" or "streams" (Greek: ποταμοί, *potamoi*; Slavonic: *Istochniki*), symbolizing the word of God going out into the entire world (Ezekiel 47:1-12, John 7:38, Revelation 22:1). Among the Greeks, these rivers are normally gold.

Did you know.....

Fr. Raphael Morgan was the African American Orthodox priest in the United States.

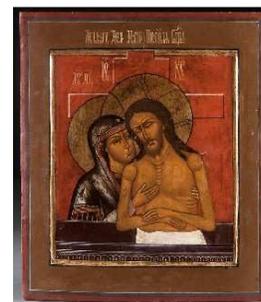
Holy Trinity Cathedral Orthodox Church in America. Established in 1857, it is the oldest Orthodox parish in the contiguous United States. The bells were donated by Tsar Alexander III of Russia in 1888."



January 1, 2012, With the blessing and invitation of His Eminence, Metropolitan Hilarion, First Hierarch of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia, His Beatitude Metropolitan Jonah celebrated the Divine Liturgy at the Russian Orthodox Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Washington D.C.



Archpriest Victor Potapov presents His Beatitude with a gift of an icon.

**Weep Not For Me Mother of God Icon**

It was noted that this was the first time a Primate of the Orthodox Church in America has celebrated the Divine Liturgy at St. John the Baptist ROCOR Cathedral.

"R" Club Christmas Party



Yolka



**Happy 85th Birthday! Many Years
Vladimir Tolstoy**



Sunday School Raffle Winners
Congratulations to you all!!

- Grand Prize- \$100.00 Gift Card from BEST BUY -- Vadim Knyazev
- First Prizes - Two 25.00 Gift Cards from St. Nicholas Gift Corner --
Svetlana Grenier & Kostia Howard
- Second Prizes -- Three Popular Toys --
Elmo Lets Rock -- Praskovia McGuigan
Pink Soccer Shirt -- George Nartsissov
Blue Soccer Shirt -- Nikolai Iginowski

Alaskan Seminarian Update

We are thrilled to report that our Cathedral sent a \$1,000 Christmas Gift Check to the John Askoak Family at St. Herman Seminary, thanks to 14 parishioners who believe in Outreach Alaska. John wrote..."My Family and I are happy for your parish's generous donation! Words cannot express what we feel...We will continue to remember you in our prayers in the presence of the Holy Relics of St. Herman! We thank Mrs. Lutov and St. Nicholas Cathedral's for your generosity and caring for this young family, with babe in arms, trying to manage while Papa studies to work in God's Vineyard. Peace on Earth, Good Will Among Men. Of 16 seminarians John is in a class of 4. He studies Old Testament 201, Homilitic 201, Liturgics 201, Music 201, Church History 201, Community Choir, Ethics 201, Church school and Church Slavonic.

New Book

Orthodoxy & Heterodoxy, Fr. Andrew Stephen Damick covers the gamut of ancient heresies, modern Christian denominations, fringe groups, and major world religions, highlighting the main points of each faith. This book is an invaluable reference for anyone who wants to understand the faiths of those they come in contact with—as well as their own.

About the Author The Rev. Fr. Andrew Stephen Damick is pastor of St. Paul Orthodox Church in Emmaus, Pennsylvania. He also lectures widely on Orthodox evangelism, history, ecology, comparative theology, and localism. He is a founding member and one of the associate directors of the Society for Orthodox Christian History in the Americas.

Metropolitan Jonah Tonsure's Timothy Skuby

Timothy Skuby, son of long time St. Nicholas parishioners Eleanor and Walter Skuby (Memory Eternal) has been tonsured a Reader by Metropolitan Jonah.

Tim's paternal grandfather was a priest and his maternal grandfather worked tirelessly for the church. From the age of 6 to 15 Tim served as an altar boy at St. Nicholas and began singing in the choir at age 15. Tim continues to sing at whatever church he attends.

Tim and his wife Maureen are well travelled thanks to his career in the Coast Guard. While on assignment in California Tim also earned an MBA. Part of his thesis was to write a 5 year strategic plan for the parish they were attending and where he served as President. For their work for the church Bishop of the West Tikhon presented them a joint Gramata. Syosset requested him to become a founding member of the Strategic Planning Committee.

As his final assignment Captain Skuby served as Chief of Staff for the First Coast Guard District in Boston. After another year of travel Tim and Maureen have settled in West Virginia where he serves as Director for the National Vessel Documentation Center in Falling Waters, WV.





Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It has become common to see every Sunday at the beginning of Divine Liturgy that the church is almost empty. Only a few people are in attendance. By the middle of the Liturgy and especially by the time of Holy Communion, attendance is much greater. I would like to say a few words about this and to call on you to try to make every effort to come to Church on time!

Coming to church late is more a matter of "habit" than circumstance. Everything during the Divine Liturgy before Holy Communion is a preparation. The sacred hymns, readings and prayers, which express our yearning for Divine Love, actually lead us into participation in this Love. As Metropolitan Anthony (Bloom) tells us in one of his sermons, "we do not always understand that in Communion we become one with Christ. His divinity and His pure, perfect, sinless humanity pervades us. We become partakers of the sinless, perfect and pure humanity of Christ and this humanity is filled to the brim with His divine essence and nature. With what sense of awe, of veneration, should we then prepare ourselves?"

For a person who is faithfully attending Church services and attempting to follow God's commandments and the Church's ascetical practices, confession is not required every time one receives Holy Communion. But, certainly, whenever one has committed a serious or grave sin, a sin that we truly know stands between us and God, or between us and our neighbor, or

between us and the Church, one should confess before receiving Holy Communion. Often the sins and failings of faithful Christians are less grave and may even seem rather trivial. Nonetheless, they too are weeds that block our spiritual growth. With the advice of one's confessor, one should develop a regular pattern of confession, which can help us root out these "weeds."

In addition to being in the proper spiritual state, which will involve a regular cycle of confession, preparation for receiving the Eucharist requires participation in the entire Liturgy. Hearing the Word of God (the Epistle and Gospel) is an essential part of that preparation. Sometimes we are late for church because of illness or unavoidable delays beyond our control. But if you arrive after the reading of the Epistle, because you simply have not made the proper effort to be on time, it is better, on that occasion, to refrain from partaking of the Holy Eucharist. One should never plan to come to church just at the time of Communion and presume to come forward to receive. If there is some special difficulty or problem about being on time, please discuss it with one of the priests.

Also, leaving the church before dismissal deprives us of an important part of the Liturgy. We ask the Lord to "grant us that with one mouth and one heart we may praise Thine all-honorable and majestic name: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit..." and we need to praise and give thanks to God together --- in one voice --- for the Divine Gifts we have received.

The experience of Thanksgiving is the experience of Paradise. Let us always in sacred reverence come to the Feast of Feasts, the Divine Liturgy.

With love in Christ,
Fr Valery



FEBRUARY SERVICES

Wednesday, February 1	7 pm
Vigil (E,S)	
Thursday, February 2	10 am
Divine Liturgy (E,S) <i>Meeting of the Lord</i>	
Saturday, February 4	5 pm
Vigil (E,S)	
Sunday, February 5	9 am
Divine Liturgy (E) <i>Publican and Pharisee</i>	
Divine Liturgy (S) 10:45 am	
Saturday, February 11	5 pm
Vigil (E,S)	
Sunday, February 12	9 am
Divine Liturgy (E) <i>Prodigal Son Sunday</i>	
Divine Liturgy (S) 10:45 am	
Wednesday, February 15	10 am
Divine Liturgy (S,OC) <i>Meeting of the Lord</i>	

Wednesday, February 15	10 am
Divine Liturgy (S,OC) <i>Meeting of the Lord</i>	
Saturday, February 18th	10am
Liturgy (E,S) Memorial Saturday	
Saturday, February 18	5 pm
Vigil (E,S)	
Sunday, February 19	9 am
Divine Liturgy (E) <i>Sunday of the Last Judgment (Meat-fare)</i>	
Divine Liturgy (S) 10:45 am	
Saturday, February 25	5 pm
Vigil (E,S)	
Sunday, February 26	9 am
Divine Liturgy (E,S) <i>Forgiveness Sunday (Cheese-fare)</i>	
Monday, February 27	7 pm
Canon of St. Andrew of Crete (E)	
Tuesday, February 28	7 pm
Canon of St. Andrew of Crete (S)	
Wednesday, February 29	7 pm
Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts (E)	

GREAT LENT BEGINS FEBRUARY 27, 2012

St. Basil the Great writes: A true fast is the elimination of evil, restraint of what one says, suppression of anger, the alienation of lust, malignant gossip, lies, and perjury. Abstinence from all these is true fasting." In summary, just as we fell into sin and lost heavenly bliss because of the lack of restraint of our forefathers, so through voluntary fasting we can restore in ourselves the grace of God."

MARCH FOR LIFE, 2012

Metropolitan Jonah addresses the crowd at the march and will participate in the Rose dinner the same evening.

Other members of the Orthodox Church in America's Holy Synod of Bishops participating in the March include His Grace, Bishop Melchisedek; His Grace, Bishop Michael; and His Grace, Bishop Matthias. Archpriest John Jillions, OCA Chancellor; Archpriest John Kowalczyk; numerous other clergy; and students and faculty members of Saint Tikhon's and Saint Vladimir's seminaries will be joining Orthodox Christian faithful from around the country as they carry the "Orthodox Christians for Life" banner and the icon of the Visitation of the Theotokos to Elizabeth. Other members of the Orthodox Church in America's Holy Synod of Bishops participating in the March include His Grace, Bishop Melchisedek; His Grace, Bishop Michael; and His Grace, Bishop Matthias. Archpriest John Jillions, OCA Chancellor; Archpriest John Kowalczyk; numerous other clergy; and students and faculty members of Saint Tikhon's and Saint Vladimir's seminaries will be joining Orthodox Christian faithful from around the country as they carry the "Orthodox Christians for Life" banner and the icon of the Visitation of the Theotokos to Elizabeth. Other members of the Orthodox Church in America's Holy Synod of Bishops participating in the March include His Grace, Bishop Melchisedek; His Grace,

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From blog, morning of January 23:

"Offering a beautiful opening prayer, Met. Jonah leads us in a litany in which the crowd responds, 'Lord, have mercy' as he weaves together biblical and theological references. Citing Jeremiah, he affirms that God knows each of us from our mother's womb: he cites the lament of Rachel weeping for her children, and Jesus telling the disciples that they must accept the kingdom like little children."

