

# ST. NICHOLAS COMMUNITY NEWS

*A Diverse Community Connected By the Orthodox Faith*

*Published by "The Dormition Guild"*

**CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF AUTOCEPHALY**

**JUNE 2012**

## Prologue

The beautiful, new Ascension icon was present for Festal Vigil and Liturgy. We look forward to seeing the new icon for the Exaltation of the Cross in September.

To continue our mission of church beautification, the Guild had improved our many gardens around the church and is adding quite a few more. The roses and additional plantings were financed in large part from a generous donation from Donya Platoff in memory of Apollo Manchuk. Roses were actually a favorite of Donya's late husband, Gennady. Most of the plantings are perennials so that we don't have to buy annuals each year. It is also through parishioner support of Guild projects such as the bake sale that enables the Guild to do this work. If you would like to make a monetary donation to help with the cost or if you have a spectacular plant or plantings that you think would add to what we have, please contact Mark Pietrzykoski. Please do not add to the gardens without Mark's approval as he probably has plans for every space on the church grounds. **A lot of time and money has been spent on the gardens and we ask that parents please instruct their children not to use the gardens as a playground.**

Decorated candles are available for purchase, *appropriate for weddings, baptisms, graduation,*

*wedding anniversary gifts, etc.* The candles are white with gold trim and color bands available are: white, red, green, blue and pink.



**The beautiful, new Ascension icon was written/painted by Maria Manley and sponsored by the Zoltan Family "To the Glory of God."**

**Our thanks to everyone who has contributed to the icon project. There is still time to make a donation for the icons that are yet to be created.**

## PASSAGES



### Happy Birthday, Many Years

- 02 Marina Soukhanova-Watson
- 04 Tom Downey
- 06 Irina Poutiatine
- 09 Patrick Morris  
Maude Jacobson
- 10 Tom Sigler
- 11 Tracey Lobue  
Amal Morcos
- 12 Marsha Alexandrovich
- 13 Judith Pielemeier  
Vadim Uritsky
- 14 Dan Schuresko
- 15 John Krynitsky (94)
- 19 Fr. Constantine White
- 20 Johan Peters
- 24 Carol Congdon
- 25 Galina Repin  
Igor Panyutin
- 27 Dee Krisa

### On the Mend

Betty Slanta,  
Lana Gerich

### Homebound

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

### Memory Eternal +

Natalia Kornilova lost her husband Harrison Thomas on 17 May, a victim of cancer. Funeral was at the Thomas family's church in Annapolis Please keep Natalia (Natasha) and Harrison in your prayers.



### Holy Matrimony:

Michael Zachariades and Mary Beth Nalin

### Baptisms

- May 6 Michael Ilya Sviriduk
- May 9 Alexander Aaron Church
- May 22 Alexander Abashin
- May 23 Dimitry Volokhov
- May 24 Michael Samkurashvili



### Graduates:

- **Gina (Evgeniya) Knyazev** graduated in December 2012 from University of Cincinnati with a Master of Science degree in Criminology. In June she is leaving for Oregon for internship.

- **Andrew Boyd**, who is graduating from St. Vladimir's Seminary with a Masters in Divinity. Future plan: he is exploring several options for work until he gets ordained (date unknown).

- **Jason Thomas** has graduated from my Ph.D. program at George Washington University in May.

-**Timothy Christian Caryl** graduated from the accelerated program for gifted children at Bethesda Elementary school (5th grader). He will attend Westland Middle school in the fall.

**-Brother Kenneth Kasovac is graduating from St. Tikhon Orthodox Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity degree.**



**Future plan: Elevation to riassaphore as Father Konstantin and ordination to the Diaconate May 26, 2012**

There are three degrees of monasticism after the novitiate: (1) the beginner, known as the Rassaphore ("robe bearer") (2) the intermediate, known as the Stavrophore ("cross bearer"), and (3) the Great Schema worn by Great Schema Monks or Nuns. Only the last, the Schemamonk or Schemanun, the monastic of the highest degree, wears the full habit.

**Why We....**

## **Mid-Pentecost**

While the Gospel refers to the Feast of Sukkot (Greek: Σκηνοπηγία), the icon of the feast depicts the young Jesus in the Temple in Jerusalem speaking with the Elders (Luke 2:46-47), the first biblical example of Jesus as teacher (Rabbi). In traditional Orthodox icons of this subject, the figure of Jesus is depicted larger than those of the Elders, showing his superior spiritual status.

The Troparion of the Feast hints at the encounter of Jesus with the Samaritan Woman, which will be celebrated on the following Sunday:

## **An Ecumenical Visit to St. Nicholas Cathedral**



On Thursday of Bright Week, April 17th, a delegation of some sixty Friends of the Washington Theological Consortium arrived at St. Nicholas Cathedral for a special visit. The evening began with a festive reception in the Parish hall where the delegation had an opportunity to meet and talk with His Beatitude, Metropolitan Jonah, Fr. Valery and a few parishioners who were in attendance. Members of the Dormition Guild prepared a light supper and dessert buffet which was popularly enjoyed by all.

Following the welcoming reception, everyone went up to the church for a Moleben to the Holy Spirit, specially produced in the Orthodox tradition by Jack Figel, Eastern rite Catholic and founder of the Oriental Lumen conferences that take place every year at Catholic University.

The delegation, which consisted of men and women of various Protestant denominations as well as some Roman Catholics, responded to the Litanies which were read by Fr. Valery.

Following the Moleben, Metropolitan Jonah spoke to the group, explaining the significance of the architecture and iconography seen in the church.

Many of the visitors expressed enthusiastic interest and appreciation of the program and of St. Nicholas Cathedral at the end of the evening. It was clearly a great success.



## **The Basement Renovation Process is Underway!**

STEP ONE - Selection of an Architectural and Engineering Firm. The Basement Renovation Committee began the process of selecting architecture and engineering (A/E) firm in April. Eight firms in the Washington Metropolitan area were identified via the American Institute of Architects data base of firms with experience in church renovation projects. After conducting telephone interviews with these eight firms, three were selected to walk through the basement in late April and early May: MTFA Architecture, Inc.; John F. Heltzel, AIA Architect; and Studio Crowley Hall. On April 19, the committee released a Request for Proposals (RFP) and all three firms intend to submit a proposal. Proposals are due on May 18th and will be evaluated between May 19th-25th. Based on the quality of the proposals, one to two A/E firms will be asked to attend an interview with the Basement Renovation Committee. Following these interviews, the committee will select a firm and forward this selection as a recommendation to the Parish Council in June.

**OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS** - During the process of writing the RFP, a meeting was reserved with the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA), the government agency in Washington D.C. that will review the basement renovation designs and issue permits. This was the soonest possible date to secure a meeting with DCRA. In the best case scenario, the permitting process could take two weeks and it normally takes two months. Given the date of this meeting and the processing times,

renovation is likely to begin in late Fall and continue through the holiday season. After consulting with clergy, it was decided that construction during the Christmas holidays was preferable to postponing construction and potentially disrupting Great Lent in 2013. **NEXT STEPS** - After the selection of architectural firms is made and approved in June, the architectural firm will begin the process of developing detailed design options and cost estimates for the Cathedral's review. Stay tuned for more details.

## **PICNIC!! JUNE 3**



All Parishioners are invited to the annual **SUNDAY SCHOOL END-OF-YEAR PICNIC**: Continuing our annual tradition, the Sunday School will hold its annual Picnic Barbeque to mark the end of the school year on **Sunday, 3 June 2012**, immediately after the last class of the school year (approximately 11:30AM). The Picnic will be held as always in the parking lot behind the Annex. We may have special entertainment for the kids.

The menu will include the following: Burgers and Dogs with all the fixins; potato salad; coleslaw; vinaigrette salad; green salad; chips; **SUNDAYS**; Water Melon.

**COST**: Children are free; \$10.00 per adult, for all you can eat (within reason).





## SUMMER CAMPS:

Applications for **St Tikhon's Summer Camp** are available NOW online at [stikhonscamp.org](http://stikhonscamp.org). It'll be held the week of July 1-7 for ages 7-17. Registration deadline is May 31. Plan ahead! (Space has been filling up fast the last few years!)

### **St. Andrew's Camp**

#### **Central New York State**

Applications are now being accepted

<http://www.standrewscamp.com/>

## **APPALACHIAN OUTREACH**

**AUG. 24-26, 2012**

Pavlakos, St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church, the Mission and Outreach Committee is organizing a pan-Orthodox group to travel to the West Virginia Panhandle region (Martinsburg, WV) in support of Habitat for Humanity "critical repair" projects. Critical repairs translate into many areas: painting, clearing debris, roofing, basic carpentry, plumbing, etc.

Transportation, Lodging, and Meals: Each volunteer will contribute to these costs. We are looking into renting a bus and having group members share rooms in a modest motel near the work sites at Martinsburg, WV.

If interested please contact Daphne Papamichael, [cyprusd@aol.com](mailto:cyprusd@aol.com) or Stacey Kazacos, [stacey@sent.com](mailto:stacey@sent.com)

## **Children's Iconography Camp**

Instructed by Colette M. Kalvesmaki, is for children ages 8 to 11.

This class will teach children the basic technical and spiritual principles of iconography. They will draw the face of St. Nicholas in acrylic and they will make an oklad--a frame to put on (we will paint and decorate it) their icon. All supplies will be provided. Classes are held for four days from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon.

Cost: \$175. Family discounts available. Non-refundable deposit of \$50 due at registration no later than 2 weeks before class (counts toward total cost).

All classes will be held in iconographer's home studio in Gaithersburg. Call 301-977-7297 for specific details and registration information. The class is limited to a maximum of eight students.

All classes will be held in iconographer's home studio in Gaithersburg. Call 301-977-7297 for specific details and registration information.

### **For more information:**

<http://www.sacredpresence.com/2012kids.pdf>



## **Did You Know.....**

Maria Menounos (Dancing With The Stars) and Zach Galifianakis are both Orthodox

## **JUNE 4, 2012**

On Monday June 4th on the Day of the Holy Spirit there will be Divine Liturgy at 10am and during the Liturgy the Myrrh-streaming Iveron Icon of the Theotokos from Hawaii will be available for veneration at our Cathedral.

### **FUNDRAISING EVENT FOR ST.**

**TIKHON'S SEMINARY:** The members of the board of trustees and the alumni association of St. Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary cordially invite you to attend a presentation by His Grace, Michael, Bishop of New York on **Tuesday evening June 5th, 2012 - 6:30pm at the Fort Myer officer's club** (214 Jackson Avenue, Fort Myer, VA 22211.) Suggested donation is \$100. Please present photo ID and invitation at gate. Reception to follow: The Abrams and Chaffee Room (214 Jackson Avenue, Fort Myer, VA 22211.) RSVP by May 30th, 2012 to Mrs. Donya Platoff (phone: (703)978-0648 or e-mail:

*iconkingdom@gmail.com*.) If are unable to attend, please consider making a donation to St. Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary c/o Mrs. Donya Platoff at 4802 Guinea Road, Fairfax, VA 22032 – 2112..



## **ORIENTALE LUMEN XVI**

### **CONFERENCE: WASHINGTON, DC - JUN 18 TO 21**

The theme of the conference is "The Theology of the Laity" and will feature several speakers to include Metropolitan Kallistos Ware, Frederica Mathewes-Green & Others. It will be held at the Washington Retreat House: 202-529-1111 or [washretreat@juno.com](mailto:washretreat@juno.com)

Washington Retreat House  
4000 Harewood Road, NE  
Washington, DC 20017

For more information:

<http://www.olconference.com/OLC16Brochure.pdf>

### **LECTURE**

On **Saturday, June 16th** after Divine Liturgy nun Vassa (Larin) will give a talk "Why study the history of the Liturgy?" with questions and answers. Below is some information about the nun.

"Dr. Sr. Vassa Larin, a nun of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad, teaches Liturgical Studies at the University of Vienna in Austria. The daughter of a Russian Orthodox priest, she was born and raised in New York. Sr. Vassa is the author of a monograph on the Byzantine Hierarchal Liturgy, along with numerous articles dealing with the historical development of the Byzantine Liturgy."

Her Bibliography may be seen here: <http://ktf.univie.ac.at/site/lt/mitarbeiterinnen/article/3097.html>

## Discover Greece Discover the Early Church

Catherine Vangellow and Marti Evanoff were among 26 pilgrims, led by Nina Lamson and Father Anthony Salzman of Wakinsville GA, in search of history as recorded in Icons.

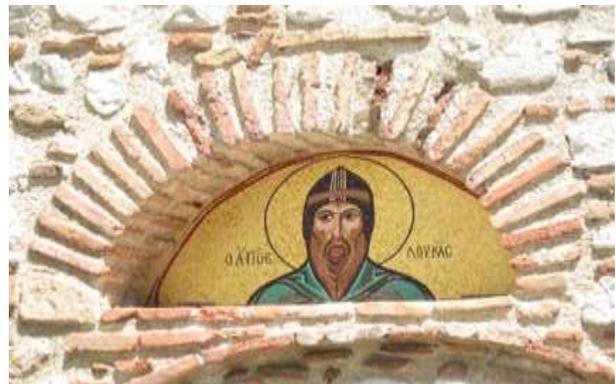
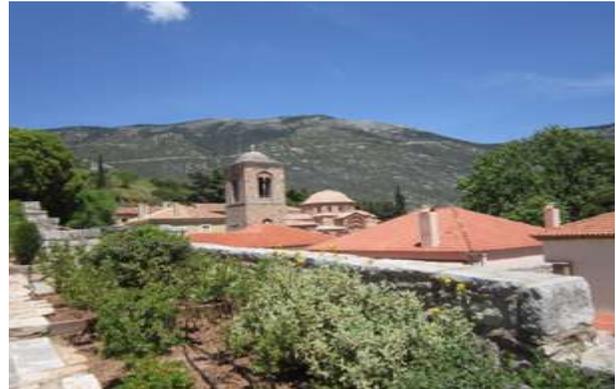


Their journey stretched from Athens to Corfu and Thessalonika with each stop along the way revealing another page of our history as Christians.

**Athens** - we toured the Acropolis—the original City on a Hill— walking amid the ruins of the Parthenon and the Temple of Athena Nike with its graceful statue of the goddess Athena. We toured Acropolis, viewed the Presidential Guard in their traditional costumes and the classically inspired Greek Parliament. Then pass through Syntagma Square, where you'll see the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The National Archeological Museum was awesome

**Delphi** The featured Byzantine Monasteries of Osios Loukas and the Convent of the Prophet Elias were toured. Delphi is both an archaeological site and a modern town in Greece on the south-western

spur of Mount Parnassus in the valley of Phocis. Below photos from Osio Loukas.



**Kalambaka** is situated at the foot of the Pindus Mountains, under the shadow of the precipitous rocks of Meteora. Meteora's stunning monasteries, Byzantine structures perched high atop 1,000-foot-high pinnacle rocks. Kalambaka was voted as one of the most beautiful places in Greece by the Skai TV show I LOVE GR.

The town is built on the location of the ancient city of Aiginion. It is attested since the 10th century, when it was known as Stagoi (Στάγοι), a Byzantine fortress and bishopric. Of its medieval monuments, only the cathedral, the Church of the Dormition, survives. It is a late 11th/early 12th century building, built on the remains of an earlier, late antique church.

Next; photos from Meteora.



**Thessaloniki** We began traveling to picturesque Kastoria - Father Anthony was our guide beginning at Moni Vlatadon, a Stavropigiaki monastery of the Ecumenical Patriarch and purported to be the site of where St. Paul preached to the Thessalonians, with a beautiful view of the city, at the top of the city wall. This is one of the few remaining working monasteries from the Paleologan period. We walked down to visit the 5th century Church of Osios David that contains a famous mosaic icon of the beardless Christ depicting Ezekiel's vision, located in the apse of the Church. It is a working church today making it nearly 16 hundred years of Christian worship. From there a short walk to a very famous 14th century church called St. Nicholas Orfanos. This contains some of the most beautiful iconography of the period,

but its most unique feature is the 24 scenes of the life and passion of Christ and the Virgin Mary on the upper registry around the walls of the Church. We visited the Museum of Byzantine Culture in which various aspects of life during the byzantine and post-byzantine periods are captured.

**Ioannina** We visited the Mt. Athos center to visit their museum and exhibits to learn about this important monastic center. From there it is a short walk to the Rotunda "Agios Georgios." We transferred to the lakeside town of Ioannina. On the way, you'll visit Panagia Parigoritissa, one of the most legendary churches from the Byzantine era. It was built during the reign of the dynasty of Komnenos Doukas. It lies at an elevation of approximately 500 meters above sea level, on the western shore of lake Pamvotis (Παμβώτις). It is located within the Ioannina municipality, and is the capital of Ioannina regional unit and the region of Epirus. Ioannina is located 450 km northwest of Athens, 290 km southwest of Thessaloniki and 80 km east of the port of Igoumenitsa in the Ionian Sea.

**Corfu** We exited at the port of Igoumenitsa via a ferry bound for the island of Corfu. A Guided sightseeing tour introduced us to Corfu. Once ruled by the Venetians, this island has retained much of its Italian charm. The best architectural reflection of this influence is found at the Spianada, which still stands today as the most impressive square in Greece. We were able to tour the regal Achillion Museum, build for Princess Elizabeth of Austria Hungry and subsequently was the palatial summer residence of German Kaiser Wilhelm II.

A special visit for us was to St Theodora's Orthodox Church where we participated in a memorial service and were able to venerate her blessed remains.

## NEWS ABOUT ALASKA

ANCHORAGE, AK [OCA]



Sovereign Cruises and Events LLC is sponsoring a cruise that is both a conference and a pilgrimage, in which travelers can explore the roots of Orthodoxy in North America. The cruise sets sail on Sunday, September 16 and continues until Sunday, September 23, 2012. The theme – “Spiral of Divine Ascent: Experiencing and Defending the Glory of Orthodox Christianity,” will be reinforced by a wide variety of daily lectures and workshops offered by Father Meletios Webber, Abbot of Saint John’s Monastery, Manton, CA, and Father Laurent Cleenewerck, author and Academic Advisor at the Theological Institute of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Mexico and Acting Rector of Saint Innocent Church, Eureka, CA.

Pilgrims, who will travel via the Holland American Line Ms. Oosterdam, will also be afforded the opportunity of visiting breathtaking Alaskan landscapes and explore Juneau and Sitka, the home of the historic Archangel Michael Cathedral.

The pilgrimage is being conducted with the blessing of His Eminence, Archbishop Benjamin of San Francisco and the West.

## Update on Adopted Seminarian

John Askoak has finished classes at St. Herman Seminary for the year and school let out officially with Graduation Day 27 May. He will spend the summer in Pilot Point AK teaching the Orthodox Faith. The family is proud of daughter Trinity who received an award for having perfect attendance in Church School and in public school.

### CALL TO MISSIONS: OLD HARBOR, ALASKA - JUNE 27 TO JULY 7

The Mission Committee of St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church of Falls Church, Virginia is organizing a pan-Orthodox team to travel to the village of Old Harbor on beautiful Kodiak Island. They are looking for a few good folks to help with floor tiling, light electrical work, carpentry and landscaping at the Church – as well as a few cooks and catechists to support the project. The trip is open to both sexes, including teens accompanied by a parent; space is limited.

Team members should expect basic accommodations, simple meals, daily worship, meeting nice people, and a full day’s work; and will also join the village in celebrating the Fourth of July, their biggest event of the year. For more information, please contact Gregory McKinney at (571) 338-6929 (571) 338-6929 .

Other information: <http://www.saint-katherines.org/assets/files/Sunday%20Bulletins/02262012.pdf>





Divine Liturgy (E)                   **9am**  
Divine Liturgy (S)                   **10:45am**

**Saturday, June 23**  
Vigil                   (E,S)                   **5pm**

**Sunday, June 24**   *Nativity of the Baptist*  
Divine Liturgy (E)                   **9am**  
Divine Liturgy (S)                   **10:45am**

**Thursday, June 28**  
Vigil                   (E,S)                   **7pm**

**Friday, June 29**   *Sts. Peter and Paul*  
Divine Liturgy (E,S)                   **10am**

**Saturday, June 30**  
Vigil (E,S)                   **5pm**

**Saturday, June 2**   *Memorial Saturday*

Divine Liturgy (E,S)                   **10am**  
Vigil (E,S)                   **5pm**

**Sunday, June 3**   **PENTECOST**

Divine Liturgy w/  
Kneeling Prayers (E)                   **9am**

**Monday, June 4**   *Day of the Holy Spirit*

Divine Liturgy (E,S)                   **10am**

Saturday, June 9  
Vigil (E,S)                   **5 pm**

**Sunday, June 10**

Divine Liturgy (E)                   **9am**  
Divine Liturgy (S)                   **10:45am**

**Saturday, June 16**

Divine Liturgy (E,S)                   **10am**  
Vigil                   (E,S)                   **5pm**

**Sunday, June 17**



**PENTECOST**

The week prior to the feast is known as "green week," during which all manner of plants and herbs are gathered. The Sunday of Pentecost is called "Trinity Sunday."

Churches are decorated with green branches but private home also decorate doorways and icons with greens. Many people wear green on this day.

Many translators consider this their special feast day.

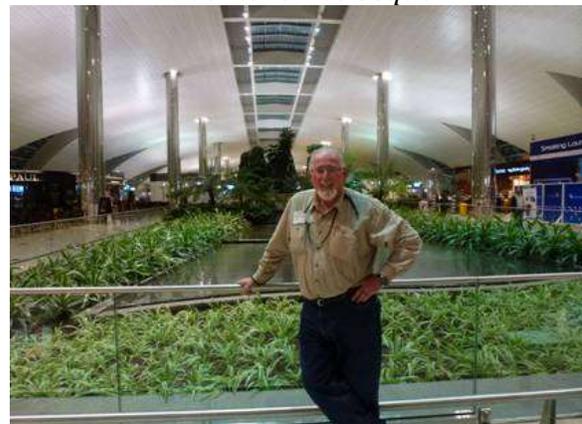
**New Icon of the Ascension**



**Look who shaved!!!**



**Tom Bruni's great Middle East Adventure *The Sequel***



**Tom's on his way to Bagdad – again!!  
(UAE airport terminal)**

**New Gardens thanks to Mark Pietrzkoski  
and Donya Platoff**



**Saddam's fishing house in Bagdad**

