



St. Michael the Archangel Eastern Orthodox Mission

Newsletter

January / February 2010

Christ is born!
Glorify Him!

Divine Liturgy 10:00 A.M.

Lord, now lettest thou thy
servant depart in peace,
according to thy word; For
mine eyes have seen Thy
salvation, which thou hast
prepared before the face of
all people; a light to lighten
the Gentiles, and the glory
of thy people Israel. And
Joseph and his mother
 marvelled at those things
which were spoken of him.

Luke 2:29-33

Important Upcoming Church Dates:

- Jan. 16th – Parish outing – hockey game at VBC.
We'll be meeting at 7:00 pm. Call Hal Pastrick
for more information.
- Jan. 17th - Forefeast of the Theophany. **Akathist
Service, 10:00 am.**
- Jan. 19th – **THEOPHANY of our Lord Jesus Christ.**
- Jan. 24th – **Zacchaeus Sunday.**
- Jan. 31st – Sunday of the **Prodigal Son.**
- Feb. 7th – Sunday of the **Last Judgment** (Meatfare).
- Feb. 14th – **Forgiveness Sunday** (Cheesefare).
- Feb. 15th – **The MEETING of Our Lord, God and
Saviour Jesus Christ (Presentation in the
Temple).** Also, the **Beginning of the Great
Fast.**
- Feb. 21st – Sunday of the **Triumph of Orthodoxy.**
- Feb. 28th – Sunday of **St. Gregory Palamas.**

Church Cleaning:

Jan – Ellis Feb – Jokich

This is your Church – help keep it clean!

Father Benedict's contact info:

Home: 205-856-0154. Cell: 205-441-7118

E-mail: fatherbenedict@charter.net

Coffee Hour:

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|--------------------------------|--|
| Jan 3 rd – Bergantz | Feb 7 th – Gulas |
| Jan 10 th – Buksa | Feb 14 th – Harouff (meat fast) |
| Jan 17 th – Kaiser | Feb 21 st – Jokich (fast day) |
| Jan 24 th – Ellis | Feb 28 th – Kaiser (fast day) |
| Jan 31 st – Stein | |

*If you will be unable to serve coffee hour on your Sunday,
please make arrangements to switch with another family.
Thanks!*

January/February Birthdays:

God Grant Them Many Years!

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|-----------------|--|
| January | 8 th - Elyse Jokich |
| | 9 th - Michael Crawford |
| | 12 th - Nicole Pamfilis |
| | 17 th - Edyth Hales |
| | 21 st - Jim Manley |
| | 30 th - Neli Manley |
| February | 1 st - Joe Bergantz |
| | 2 nd - Joseph Patterson |
| | 6 th - Mary Louise Crawford |
| | 7 th - Michele Platt |
| | 9 th - Cara Stein |
| | 9 th - Mary Ann Lee |
| | 16 th - Elena Meagher |
| | 20 th - Paul Harouff |

Anniversaries:

- | | |
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| January | 3 rd – Mark and Amanda Bushbacher |
| | 7 th - Cathy & Joe Patterson |
| February | 20 th - Pop. Milijana Jakovljevic |
| | 27 th - Sandy & Roger Ellis |

Prayer Requests: Please remember in your prayers: Child Jovana (2 years old – leukemia); Anna with child; Angela with child; Katarzyna Bazylewicz; Tatiana Kukhtareva; Mariam & Tom Calache; Mary Kochoff; Glenn Dengler (friend of Jokich family) and daughters Haley (7) and Nicole (3); Dessie Jokich (mother of Mike Jokich); Sandy & Roger Ellis; Daniel Ellis (brother of Roger); Ted Gulas; Edythe Hales; Markela Hatzakis; Brian Jokich; Elena Meagher and her son Igor; Daniel & Anne Kobasa (parents of H. Bergantz); Rhonda Lovette; Tim & Ron Waskerwitz; Evangeline Pamfilis; Pat Darzy; Mary Zarzaur; Fryne McCreary; and Natalie (niece of Rick Kaiser).

For the Departed: His Eminence Archbishop Job of Chicago. May his memory be eternal.

How We Should Pray - Learn it from the Publican



It is very important to know how we should pray. What is the right way? You can learn it from the Publican; and do not be embarrassed to have as a teacher one who had mastered the art so well that only a few simple words were enough for him to obtain perfect results . . . He called himself wretched, he beat his breast, he did not presume to raise his eyes to heaven. If you pray as he did, your prayer will become lighter than a feather. For if this way of praying could justify a sinner, how much more easily will it lift a just man to the heights!
- St. John Chrysostom

❖ One human soul

The human soul is not a cheap thing. It is more valuable than all the world. All of the treasures on earth and in the universe are not worth one Christian soul.

- St. Anthony of Optina (+1894)

❖ Do it for God

If you do good, you must do it only for God. For this reason, you must pay no attention to the ingratitude of people. Do not expect a reward here, but from the Lord in heaven.

- St. Ambrose of Optina (+1891)

❖ **When you read the Gospels**

When you read the Gospels, Christ speaks to you; when you pray, you are speaking to Him. O sweet discourse, joyous, amiable discourse! God speaks to man, the King of Heaven converses with his corruptible servant! - St. Tikhon of Zadonsk (+1775)

❖ **The Mystery of Confession**

When approaching the Mystery of Confession, one must present himself with fear, humility, and hope: With fear, as before God; . . . with humility, through recognition of one's sinfulness; with hope, for we approach the loving Father Who has sent His Son for our redemption, taking our sins, nailing them to the Cross, and washing them away with His most pure Blood. - St. Macarius of Optina

❖ **Anger – the passion within**

It often happens that someone sees himself sitting peacefully and quietly, but when his brother says a word that upsets him, he is troubled. Thus, he thinks that he is justly upset with him, saying, "If he hadn't come and spoken to me and troubled me, I wouldn't have sinned." **But this is folly and absurdity.** Did the person that spoke to him give him that passion? He simply showed him the passion that existed within him, so that, if he wanted to, he could repent of it. He is like fine bread that shines on the outside, but when one breaks it, he sees its moldiness. In just the same way, he was sitting (he thought) in peace, but he had this passion inside him that he was unaware of. His brother said one word and revealed the filth hidden inside him. Therefore if he wants to receive mercy, he must repent, purify himself, progress, **and he must understand that he ought to thank his brother for being the great cause of his spiritual benefit.** - St. Dorotheos of Gaza

❖ **Lest we forget . . . The value of a prayer book**

Tatiana Goricheva, in her book *Talking to God is Dangerous*, describes the following incident on a Moscow subway in the early 1980s under communism (p. 35):

"I opened my prayer book in the Metro and began to read a prayer to the Mother of God. A young man was sitting next to me. I noticed how his eyes were glued to the text; he was reading it with me. Opposite us was sitting a young couple. They had deciphered the words Orthodox Prayer Book on the cover. When I left the train, the young people also got out and ran up behind me: "Where can you get that? Please tell us, we would give anything for it."

All I could tell them was that I had spent a whole year looking for the prayer book. In Russia, they are harder to find than the Bible.