



# The Apostles' Joy

Issue # 15

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December, 2006



**HOLY APOSTLES**  
**ORTHODOX MISSION**

*Temporarily Worshipping at:*

**“Mission Central”**

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Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

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*A Mission Parish of the  
Diocese of Eastern PA  
www.doepa.org*

*The Orthodox Church  
in America  
www.oca.org*

**Christ is Born!**  
**Glorify Him!**

Dear Friends and Family in Christ,

***Christ is Born! Glorify Him!***

In the first ode of the Nativity Canon the Church cries out:

*“Christ is born, glorify Him. Christ is from heaven, go to meet Him. Christ is on earth, be lifted up. Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing out with gladness, all ye people. For He is glorified.”*

With all the fanfare surrounding the holiday season, seemingly going all out for Christmas, this hymn of the Church may seem redundant. However, it is not hard to see that the reality of the world we live in is that in proclaiming and celebrating “Christmas” the birth of our Savior is sometimes the *last* thing people are considering, and that’s just awful! How many of us would be offended if everyone was talking about our birthday - but we weren’t invited!?! This is the sad reality. Our society uses the birth of our Redeemer as an excuse to celebrate excess, money, greed, commercialism, many of the things that the Lord came to teach against. We however must defy the world and live for the blessedness of Christmas and all the positive things that we know and love about it - generosity, love, and the blessing of togetherness that all leap forth from the manger.

While its easy to get sucked into this mindset, we are called to something greater. In a world where most ask, “*What do I get?*” this time of year, the Church poses the opposite question, “*What shall we offer Thee, O Christ?*” What can we give our great God and Savior, for all the good things He has given to us?

Let us offer Him our love and understanding, especially for one other. This would be the greatest gift to Christ! To use that which He has taught and gifted to us, to be used to His glory.

I, together with our entire parish community, wish you all a holy Nativity season, and all the blessings that come from Christmas.

With much love and the blessing of the Newborn Savior,



***“ONE OF MY FAVORITE SAYINGS FROM ST. PAUL IS, ‘WE KNOW THAT ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD FOR THOSE WHO LOVE GOD. (ROM 8:28)’ IF WE BELIEVE THIS, THEN WHAT DO WE HAVE TO FEAR? WHY ARE WE OVERWHELMED? WHY DESPAIR?”***

**- ARCHBISHOP ANASTASIOS OF ALBANIA**

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## *Our Mission @ a glance:*

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***Our parish is growing!*** Recently Fr. Tim & Matushka Anastasia announced that Nicholas will soon be a big brother! We rejoice as a parish community at the news of another little one on the way. Please continue to pray for Matushka Anastasia and the Child to be born of her.

***Mission Council:*** We thank the members of the 2006 Mission Council for all their work in the past year, and we also congratulate the new 2007 Mission Council and ask God's blessing on their work this coming year. Our Monthly meeting of the Mission Council will take place Thursday evening, December 21, at 7:00 pm at the West Shore Farmer's Market. All 2006 council members as well as the 2007 council members, are asked to attend.

***Charity Sunday:*** For the Feast of St. John the Almsgiver, November 12, our parish participated in a series of events tying into the theme of charity. For three weeks we brought canned goods and other foods items in and ended up donating almost 200 lbs. of food products to a local food bank. Also, our parish youth on three separate days created a menu and worked together to prepare a meal of which the \$1,025.00 raised went towards a priest of the OCA needing financial assistance. This was a beautiful event of the parish working together on all age levels toward the goal of helping those in need of help.

***The annual St. Andrew's Day lecture*** will be held at Holy Ascension Orthodox Church, Frackville, PA on Sunday, December 3, at 4:00 pm. Deacon Stephen Vernak will be the guest presenter and will speak on "***Orthodox Missions.***"

***Vespers for the Feast of St. Nicholas:*** Our parish will celebrate the feast of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker on the eve of his feast, Tuesday, December 5, at the Kurtz residence at 7:00 pm. Come and join us as we, for the time being,

celebrate the feast in our own humble way.

***Author Chrissi Hart*** will be visiting our parish on Sunday, December 10, to make a presentation and to read her new children's book "***Under the Grapevine: A Miracle by Saint Kendeas of Cyprus.***" Please mark your calendars and plan to attend the reading of a true story about the author's grandmother, written for children ages 4 and up. Books will be available for purchase for \$15.95 after the reading. *This book would be a perfect Christmas gift!*

***Ecumenical Christmas Concert:*** For the second year in a row, the choirs of the local Orthodox Churches will give a brief concert at Good Shepherd Roman Catholic Church on Sunday, December 10, at 4:30 pm. This event was so popular last year that Roman Catholic Bishop Kevin Rhodes expressed interest in attending. Choir members interested in singing -please see Fr. Tim. Mark your calendars!

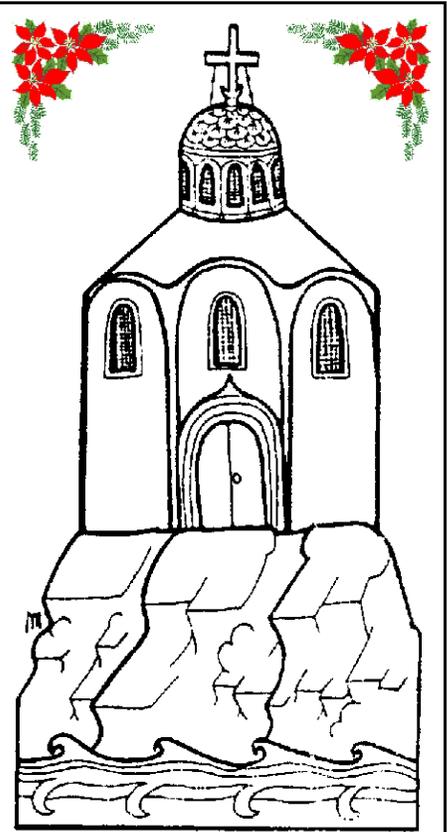
***Christmas Concert:*** Our parish choir will be offering a Christmas Concert at the West Shore Farmer's Market on Saturday, December 16, at Noon. Come and join us as we add to the holiday season by singing the praises of Christ the true reason for the season...

***"Orthodoxy 101" Class:*** We will continue our parish education program every Wednesday evening at 7:00 pm at "Mission Central." We have been looking at Archbishop Gregory's (Afonsky) book "Christ and the Church." Join us as we learn more about what the Church is...and what the Church is not. We will meet this month on December 6, 13, & 20.

***Orthodox Bible Study:*** Join us every Thursday evening at 7:00 pm, as Fr. Yanni Virginnis and our own Fr. Tim, lead us in the study of the Gospel of St. Matthew. We are using the Orthodox Study Bible as our main text. We will meet this month December 7, 14, & 21.

***If anyone is so moved to contribute toward our Mission in their charitable donations this Christmas season, an envelope has been provided in this newsletter for your convenience.***

With the blessing of His Grace our Bishop TIKHON, and with the overwhelming approval of the parish body, this past November 19, our parish voted to move forward to purchase an office condo-suite located at 101-5006 E. Trindle Rd in Mechanicsburg. While this is not the final move in establishing a permanent spiritual home for our community, it is none-the-less a step in the right direction. Right now the deal is moving toward a positive resolution, but there are hurdles that need to be crossed. Once these things get approval from the other tenants of the condo association, our purchase will move toward completion. Please continue to pray that things continue to move in a positive direction, and that the will of God be accomplished in this momentous and historic event in the life our Mission. Further updates will be relayed in the January edition of "The Apostles' Joy".



## Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

### Christmas Schedule of services:

#### Sunday, December 24th:

Divine Liturgy: 9:30 am

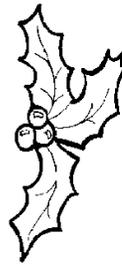
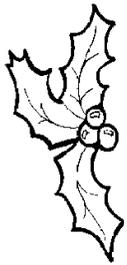
Holy Supper: 4:00 pm

Nativity Vigil: 6:00 pm

#### Monday, December 25th:

Divine Liturgy: 9:30 am

All services will be held at "Mission Central"



### Parish December Birthdays

Elizabeth Gaither: 12/3

Joe Kurtz Sr.: 12/16

Matushka Anastasia: 12/16

Linda Kurtz: 12/28

God grant them Many Years!



### Advent Preparation

A reminder for all parishioners that during the Advent fast it is proper to participate in the sacrament of Holy Confession in preparation for the Lord's Birth on Christmas Day. Father is available for confession before or after Vespers and by appointment. Remember too, that only those Orthodox Christians who have *properly* prepared themselves by prayer, fasting, confession of sins, and especially those who are at *peace in their hearts* with their brothers and sisters are invited to partake of the Holy Eucharist. If you have any questions, please contact Father Timothy.

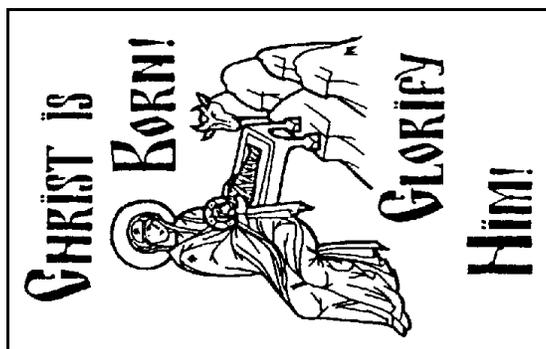


**Holy Apostles Orthodox Mission**  
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**Mechanicsburg, PA 17055**

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***December 2006***



***Prayers for the Health & Salvation of those who are in need:***

Metropolitan THEODOSIUS (retired Primate of the OCA), Archbishop GREGORY (retired OCA Archbishop of Alaska), Archbishop KYRILL, Archpriest John Perich, Archpriest Michael Mihalick, Abbess Mother Christophora, Presbytera Pearl Veronis, Matushka Karen Mahaffey, Pauline Fetsko, Margaret Balog, Marlene Washburn, Lubov (Lillian) Hustead, Melania Kosty, Amelia Kuzmiak, Theophan Koziar, Nina Dacko, Mary Burke, Nona Carey, Marie Molodyko-Harris, the child Christopher Elliot, Maria Hillhouse & the newborn infant Luke, Matushka Tamara Cowan & the Child to be granted to her, Matushka Anastasia Hojnicky & the Child to be born of her, Matushka Anna Vernak & the Child to be born of her, Mary Pletnikoff & the Child to be born of her, Susan Olivetti and the Child to be born of her, Hannah Gordon, Harry Sysak, Sharon Hanna, Mary Lou Grove, Dorthy Medill, Janice Fields, Joseph Basalayga, Joseph Kneiss, Mary Kneiss, Lorraine Brown, Peter Melnik, Charles Hier, Marie Holowatch, Barbara Salthause, Gloria Onufrak, and our catechumens, Robert Larson and Autumn Carpenter.

***Prayers for the newly Departed: Memory Eternal!***

Deacon Joseph Kerns (+11/24), Anna Regenye (+11/23), Protopresbyter John Dohly (+11/19), Janice (+11/17), Helen Teplica (+11/15), Lydia Kesich (+11/14), Irene Philemonof (+11/13), Thomas Williams (+11/9)