



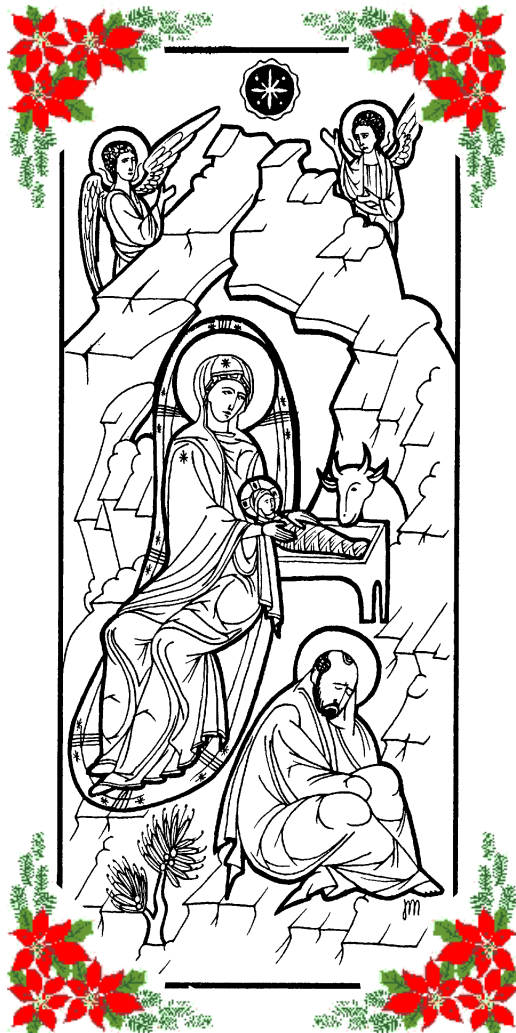
The Apostles' Joy



Issue # 27

www.holyapostleschurch.org

December 2007



My Dear Family & Friends in Christ,

CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!

Have you ever had that one person who just seems to be impossible to shop for? Gift-giving can be a real chore when you think of that person who already has everything. Many times people have the same feeling toward God, and even get overwhelmed pondering the question the Church poses to us on Christmas Eve: “*What shall we offer Thee O Christ?*” Good question! The hymns speak of everything in creation giving *SOMETHING*: The earth a cave, the wilderness a manger, the Angels a hymn, the heavens a star, the Magi their gifts, the Shepherds their wonder, and we offer to Him the Virgin Mother. But personally today, right now, what can we offer Christ? What one perfect gift can we offer the Christ Child on His Divine Birthday? I would think that the best gift we can offer Him is a blameless life. A life of prayer and repentance. A life devoid of animosity and anger. A life of purity and love.

So as we come closer and closer to this Holy Day, I ask you all to ponder this important question. We are reminded of the answer to it in almost every service - sometimes several times over: “*Let us commend ourselves, and one another, and our whole life to Christ our God!*”

May the joy of this Holy Season be with us all as we celebrate the Nativity of our Great God and Saviour!

With much love, and the blessing of the Newborn Saviour,

Nativity Service Times:

Christmas Eve

Monday, 12/24:

Parish Holy Supper: 3:30 pm

Nativity Vigil: 6:00 pm

Christmas - Tuesday, 12/25:

Nativity Liturgy: 9:30 am

Our Mission @ a glance:

Our Annual St. John the Almsgiver Charity Luncheon held on Sunday, November 11, was another success! The youth of our parish raised \$451 to be sent to His Grace, Bishop BENJAMIN to contribute to the Diocese of the West's relief fund to help those affected by the recent disastrous wildfires in Southern California.

Our All-Parish Annual Council Meeting was held on Sunday, November 18. We offer our congratulations to the newly elected members of the Mission Council, as well as offer our heartfelt thanks to the members of the 2007 Council for their work and dedication in building up our Mission. ***God Grant them all Many Years!***

2007 Service of Thanksgiving: The recent service held at Holy Apostles on the Eve of American Thanksgiving was a wonderful event. We had 5 priests from neighboring parishes in several Orthodox jurisdictions who concelebrated with His Grace, our Bishop TIKHON who presided and offered the sermon. We had over 90 people present to celebrate with us!

Confession times will be offered on the Fridays in December at 7:00 pm. Father will celebrate the Service of Compline followed by private confessions for those who would like to prepare for the Nativity. (See the note and reminder to Orthodox Christians below!)

Feast Day: We will celebrate the Feast of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker on Wednesday, 12/5 with Great Vespers & Litiya at 7:00 pm, and the Divine Liturgy on Thursday morning, 12/6 at 7:30 am.

Parish Cleaning & Decoration: On Saturday, December 22, at 10:00 am, we will have an All-Parish General Cleaning Day to prepare the Church for

Weekly Parish Events

- **Orthodoxy 101 classes: Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm in the Church Hall.**
- **Akathist to the Theotokos, Nurturer of Children: Thursday mornings at 8:15 am.**
- **Pan-Orthodox Bible Study: Thursdays at 7:00 pm at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Camp Hill.**

Christmas. Also we will be decorating the Church that morning. All youth of the parish are requested to come and participate. (Suggestion: Dad take the kids, Mom go do some last minute shopping!)

Mission Council Meeting: the Monthly meeting of the Mission Council will be held on Thursday, December 20 at 7:00 pm. All parish members are invited to participate in this important administrative ministry of the Church. All 2007 & 2008 Mission Council members are especially asked to attend this important transition meeting.

Christmas Caroling: Holy Apostles Mission Choir will be giving a concert of Christmas hymns and carols at Country Meadows Assisted Living Facility on Sunday, December 23, at 1:00 pm. Everyone is invited to participate or to come and just hear the wonderful songs of praise!

Nativity Donations: Thank you to everyone who have been so kind and generous to our parish in the recent months. We ask that you again please consider the needs of our community in your charitable giving this holiday season. May our Lord richly bless you all for all the goodness you have shown to us!

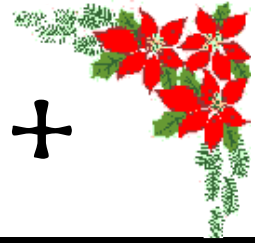
"The Apostles' Joy" Change: Due to some unforeseen circumstances, Father has decided to cut the monthly newsletter down to a quarterly one. This will be the last monthly issue as such. In the future, the newsletter will take on a different form, but still provide news about the life of Holy Apostles Mission.


An Advent Reminder:

All Orthodox Christians are called to prepare for the celebration of Christmas during this Lenten Fast. In addition to increased prayer, fasting, and charitable deeds, we are also called to come to Holy Confession. All members of Holy Apostles Mission should take the time to come and make their confession in preparation for the Nativity of Christ. Father will be having extra times for Confession on Fridays in December with a short service of Compline and then Confessions beginning at 7:00 pm. Please make every effort to take advantage of this! As we prepare our homes and get material things ready, we should also prepare the manger of our souls to meet the Christ-child on His Divine Birthday.



+ DECEMBER 2007 +



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!</p> <p><i>Holy Apostles Orthodox Mission</i> Mechanicsburg, PA (717) 691-1600 www.holyapostleschurch.org</p>						<p><i>1</i></p> <p>Great Vespers & Confessions: 6pm Presentation following</p>
<p><i>2</i> <i>Tone 2</i></p> <p>Server Team 2 Divine Liturgy, Church School & Fellowship 9:30am</p>	<p><i>3</i></p> <p>Elizabeth Gaither's Birthday!</p>	<p><i>4</i></p> <p>GREAT MARTYR BARBARA ST. ALEXANDER</p>	<p><i>5</i></p> <p>Great Vespers & Litiya 7:00pm</p>	<p><i>6</i></p> <p>ST. NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER Divine Liturgy 7:30am</p>	<p><i>7</i></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content;"> <p>Pan-Orthodox Bible Study, Camp Hill 7:00pm</p> </div> <p>Compline & Confessions 7pm</p>	<p><i>8</i></p> <p>Great Vespers & Confessions: 6pm</p>
<p><i>9</i> <i>Tone 3</i></p> <p>Server Team 1 Divine Liturgy, Church School & Fellowship 9:30am</p>	<p><i>10</i></p> <p>Barb Williams's Birthday!</p>	<p><i>11</i></p>	<p><i>12</i></p> <p>Orthodoxy 101 7:00pm</p>	<p><i>13</i></p> <p>ST. HERMAN Akathist 8:15am Akathist to St. Herman of Alaska 7:00pm</p>	<p><i>14</i></p> <p>Compline & Confessions 7pm</p>	<p><i>15</i></p> <p>Great Vespers & Confessions: 6pm</p>
<p><i>16</i> <i>Tone 4</i></p> <p>Server Team 2 Chrismation 9am Divine Liturgy, Church School & Fellowship 9:30am</p>	<p><i>17</i></p> <p>THREE HOLY YOUTHS Mat. Anastasia & Joe Kurtz Sr.'s Birthdays!</p>	<p><i>18</i></p>	<p><i>19</i></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content;"> <p>Mission Council Mtg. 7pm</p> </div> <p>Orthodoxy 101 7:00pm</p>	<p><i>20</i></p> <p>Akathist 8:15am Pan-Orthodox Bible Study, Camp Hill 7:00pm</p>	<p><i>21</i></p> <p>Akathist to Jesus Christ, Emmanuel & Confessions 7pm</p>	<p><i>22</i></p> <p>All-Parish Church Cleaning & Tree Decoration: 10am Great Vespers & Confessions: 6pm</p>
<p><i>23</i> <i>Tone 5</i></p> <p>Server Team 1 Divine Liturgy, Ch. School & Fellowship 9:30am Caroling @ Country Meadows 1pm</p>	<p><i>24</i></p> <p>CHRISTMAS EVE Holy Supper 3:30pm Vigil 6:00pm</p>	<p><i>25</i></p> <p>NATIVITY OF OUR LORD Divine Liturgy 9:30am</p>	<p><i>26</i></p> <p>Divine Liturgy @ Christ the Saviour 9:30am No Orthodoxy 101</p>	<p><i>27</i></p> <p>ST. STEPHEN Diocesan Liturgy @ St. Stephen's Cathedral, Philadelphia</p>	<p><i>28</i></p> <p>Linda Kurtz's Birthday!</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content;"> <p>No Akathist or Bible Study</p> </div>	<p><i>29</i></p> <p>Great Vespers & Confessions: 6pm</p>
<p>CHRIST IS BORN! FAST FREE WEEK GLORIFY HIM!</p>						
<p><i>30</i> <i>Tone 6</i></p> <p>Server Team 2 Divine Liturgy, Church School & Fellowship 9:30am</p>	<p><i>31</i></p> <p>Great Vespers & Litiya 7:00pm</p>	<p><i>1</i></p> <p>New Year's Day Divine Liturgy 9:00am</p>	<p><i>2</i></p> <p>Orthodoxy 101 7:00pm</p>	<p><i>3</i></p> <p>Akathist 8:15am Pan-Orthodox Bible Study, Camp Hill 7:00pm</p>	<p><i>4</i></p>	<p><i>5</i></p> <p>THEOPHANY EVE Great Compline & the Great Blessing of Water: 6pm</p>
<p>CHRIST IS BORN! FAST FREE WEEK GLORIFY HIM!</p>						



Holy Apostles
Orthodox Mission

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December 2007

Address service requested

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!



Христос Рождается! Славите Его!

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), Archimandrite Jerome (Newville), Priestmonk Ambrose (Young), Archpriest John Perich, Archpriest Michael Mihalick, Priest Innokentios Byakatonda, Presbytera Pearl Veronis, Mat. Mary Geeza, Mat. Olga Kovach, Joseph & Pauline Fetsko, Margaret Balog, Leo & Marlene Washburn, Lubov (Lillian) Hustead, Michael & Margot Katchur, Ludmilla Kern, Clare Brown, Melania Kosty, Amelia Kuzmiak, Mary Burke, the child Christopher Elliot, Matushka Tamara Cowan & the Child to be granted to her, Mat. Elizabeth Wyslutsky & the Child to be born of her, Mat. Emily Parsells & the Child to be born of her, Hannah Gordon, Harry Sysak, Sharon Hanna, Mary Lou Grove, Janice Fields, Mary Kneiss, Eva Pron, Ryan Matthew Pron, Peter Melnik, Charles Hier, Julie Harb, Beth Arneson, Fred Salay, Samuel Utley, Subdeacon Peter Takarchek, Subdeacon Richard Hathaway, John DellaMonica, Carol Allen, Gregory Geeza, Carol Durkish, Anne Merlina, Daniel, Pei, Lydia, Joshua, & Anna Medill, Francis Waldrop, Kevin Carpenter, Vincent Durkish, the child JaNae, Barbara Reynolds, Kathleen Cavanaugh, Almaz Alemu, Klare Sunderland, Maurice Pennock, Jane Hall, Josiah Michaels, Rick Ally, the infant Liam Hepplewhite, the infant Nora Benner, John Hormovitis, and for our *Catechumens: Dana, Hannah, Wesley, Jonathan, Grace, Elizabeth & Samuel Pope; Timothy Herman; Criss & Wade Kerkendall; & Laura Ritchey.*

Prayers for the newly Departed: Memory Eternal!

Archbishop PETER (11/19), Teddy Chronister (+11/19), Mary Dorohow (+11/11), Helen Obertyshew (+10/29)