

The Apostles' Joy

Volume 1, Issue 5

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February, 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*

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**HOLY APOSTLES
ORTHODOX MISSION**

WELCOME
SAT. VESPERS 6 PM
SUN. LITURGY 9:30 AM

“For all these things we give thanks to Thee, and to Thy Only-Begotten Son, and to Thy Holy Spirit. For all things of which we know and of which we know not, whether manifest or unseen...”

My dear friends in Christ:

The words cited above from the Anaphora of the Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom echo not only my personal sentiments, but that of our entire Mission parish! First and foremost, on behalf of Holy Apostles Mission, I would like to thank all of our friends and benefactors who gave us so many wonderful Christmas offerings, gifts, and prayers. May our beneficent Lord reward your stewardship with His abundant blessings!

On a personal note, I would like to thank everyone for the great kindness and love that you have shown to my family upon the birth of our firstborn son, Nicholas. The kindness of the people of our parish as well as others, has touched our hearts. Matushka and I look forward to having our family grow together with our parish family.

Keeping with this theme of giving thanks, it is appropriate that during this month we celebrate the Great Feast of the Meeting of the Lord into the Temple. It is indeed a feast of thanksgiving! This feast marks the blessed event in which the righteous Joseph and the Most-Holy Theotokos brought their young child Jesus to the Temple. There they gave an offering in thanksgiving to God for the birth of their firstborn Son. The Elder St. Simeon the God-bearer gave thanks to God for being able to see, and even hold, the long awaited and promised Messiah. We too, the faithful of God, give thanks at the great act of love toward mankind, of the Lord Himself truly becoming God with us!

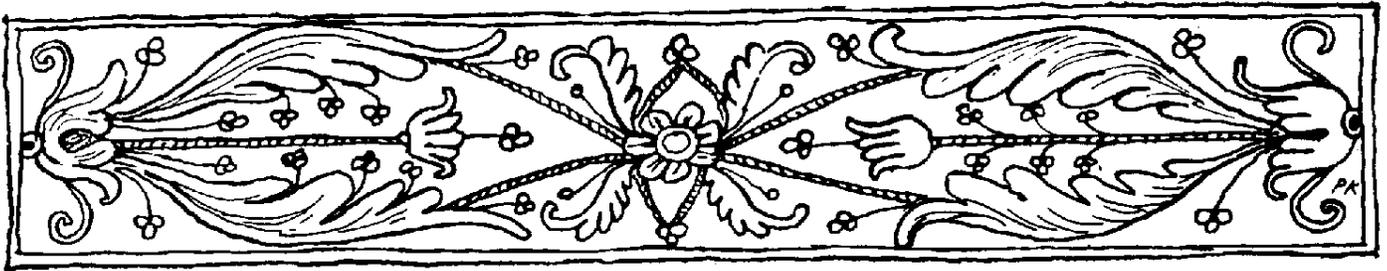
As the Christmas and Theophany seasons have come to an end we move forward towards Great Lent and Pascha with a thankful heart, eagerly awaiting the great mercy that comes from our Loving Creator.

Again, for all these things, we thank you, we pray for you, and we sincerely ask for your prayers as well.

With love and God’s blessing,



THE MEETING OF THE LORD



Our Mission @ a glance:

Orthodoxy 101 Class: Our very popular and well attended "Orthodoxy 101" classes will continue to meet Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm at "Mission Central". We will continue to discuss the "Mysteries of the Church," and then proceed into other informative and exciting topics of our Faith. This month we will meet on the 7th, 14th, 21st, & 28th. Come and join us as we learn about Orthodoxy together!

Welcome to the world! Nicholas Edward Hojnicky, the firstborn son of Father Timothy and Matushka Anastasia was (finally!) born Saturday, January 7, at 12:07 am. At birth he weighed 9 lbs 5 oz. and measured 21.25 inches long! May God grant baby Nicholas Many Years!

Congratulations to Vincent and Jen (Nina) Carson on their great news of expecting a child! We pray for them as they prepare to bring a child into this world, and as a parish we rejoice at our growing numbers!

Boxes of Assorted Greeting Cards are available for purchase, or to sell in an effort to raise some money for our parish. Already this project has proved to be very successful! Each decorative, reusable card organizer box includes 24 various greeting cards and sells for \$20 per box. For more details please contact Fr. Timothy.

Do you buy your groceries at Giant? If so, please consider participating in our parish's new fundraiser. We are able to buy Giant Gift Cards at a discount and sell them to you at face value, painlessly raising money for the work of the Church! The gift cards come in various denominations and have a declining balance. Just use them like a credit or debit card. If you are interested in buying one or have questions about the program, please see Elizabeth Gaither.

Upcoming Mission Events:

- **Sunday, February 12:** We will celebrate the Baptism of Nicholas Edward Hojnicky at 9:00 am, followed by the Divine Liturgy (*note the time change!*). Many guests, both clergy and friends, will be with us that day - mark your calendars as we officially welcome Nicholas into our Parish Family!
- **Thursday, February 16:** The monthly meeting of the Mission Council will be held at the Sak residence at 7:00 pm. Everyone in the parish community is invited to attend and to participate in this administrative ministry of the Church
- **The weekend of February 18-19:** We are excited to welcome His Grace our Bishop TIKHON on his second Archpastoral visit to our Mission. We will welcome His Grace at the service of Great Vespers on Saturday, February 18, at 6:00 pm. The Hierarchical Divine Liturgy will then be celebrated on Sunday morning with the greeting of the Bishop at 9:15 am. Following Divine Liturgy there will be a parish Potluck to welcome our bishop and to have an opportunity to get to know him better. Please make every effort to be present and to welcome our Vladyka!



St. Valentine: the Man the Myth, the Martyr

Every February 14, much of the world celebrates St. Valentine's day. For many people this day invokes a lot of different images and pictures in our minds; cute cards with hearts and little poems written on them, candy and flowers given to someone you love, and images of little cupids flying around to and fro shooting their arrows of love into unsuspecting people.

February 14, for many simply means cards, candy, flowers, cupids, and boxes of chocolates. Not that there is anything wrong with that, these are beautiful things...but it is important to know the reason WHY this day was chosen, and just HOW St. Valentine's legacy has been maligned through the ages.

The historical St. Valentine was a priest in the Roman empire under the rule of the Emperor Claudius Flavius. While imprisoned for his faith in Christ (and for disobeying the command of the Emperor to not perform marriage services!) he would write letters and send them to young people preparing to be married encouraging them to love each other. He would sign each letter: "Your Valentine." The impact of such a loving character not caring for himself amidst such trial, but for those he loved is a witness to what true Christian love is all about. It is not a coincidence that we wear red vestments for the martyrs and red is the color of St. Valentine's Day...think about it.

This is what we as Orthodox Christians should celebrate. The love that understands sacrifice, honor, respect, and fidelity...fleeting ideals in our present society. We cannot just stand by and let the world take OUR saint, OUR feast, and OUR legacy, and turn it into something commercial (let's not even mention Christmas lest I get REALLY riled up...) and something almost silly. This is serious stuff. A holy memory should be kept in its true and pure context within the Church of Christ, of which St. Valentine served to the point of laying down his own life. Where do cupids fit into this?!

For Orthodox Christians, in imitation of our Lord, death is not defeat, but triumph. On the 14th of February we celebrate and commemorate the day of St. Valentine's martyric death. We celebrate the death of a man who knew of no greater love than to lay down his own life for his friends (John 15:13). In a world where "love" can be abused, misused and cheapened, remember whose memory we celebrate on this feast, and just what kind of love he was expressing. Ultimately, it is the love of Christ Jesus. Unconditional, pure, and holy love which our God so abundantly pours out on mankind. *NOT* on just a certain day in February, but every single day of our lives... And there is no better box of chocolates than that. ☺



O HOLY PRIEST-MARTYR VALENTINE, PRAY UNTO GOD FOR US!



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

Metropolitan PHILIP, Archbishop GREGORY, Archpriest Victor Sokolov, Archpriest John Perich, Priest Andrew Anderson, Matushka Anastasia Hojnicky & the infant Nicholas, Presbytera Pearl Veronis, Pauline Fetsko, Margaret Balog, Lubov Husted, Melania Kosty, Amelia Kuzmiak, Theophan Koziar, Margorite Puthorosky, Nina Dacko, Mary Burke, Nona Carey, George Khalifa, Daniel Medill, the infant Christopher Elliot, Marian Harris & the child to be born of her, Ana Wennberg & the child to be born of her, Nina Carson & the child to be born of her, Hannah Gordon, Harry Sysak, Rdr. Paul Sidebottom, Sharon Hanna, Carrie Kurtz (serving in Iraq), & *our Catechumens*, Christopher and Derek Givler, and Gillian Laughlin

Prayers for the Departed: MEMORY ETERNAL! ВЕСИНА РАМНАЯ!

Tekla Kuchta, Peter Rezanka Sr., Laury Lennon, Nadedjda Hadyniak, Nadedjda Wuysulko, Martha Wallin, John Hlinka, Irene Andreoli, Mia Diaz

If anyone has any additions to this list, please see Fr. Timothy.



Kitchen Corner: Mexican Delight



Brown: 2 lbs. Hamburger meat
1 large onion
1 clove garlic

Add: 1 can tomato sauce
1 small can sliced black olives
Salt and pepper to taste
A couple dashes of Worcestershire sauce

Mix: 1 pint sour cream
1 pint cottage cheese
2 cans green chilies

Brown Hamburger meat, onion and garlic. Add additional ingredients to hamburger mixture.

Generously butter bottom of 9 x 13 pan.

Crush 1 bag Doritos chips. Sprinkle all but 1/2 cup of crushed Doritos in bottom of pan.

Add hamburger mixture in a layer in the pan.

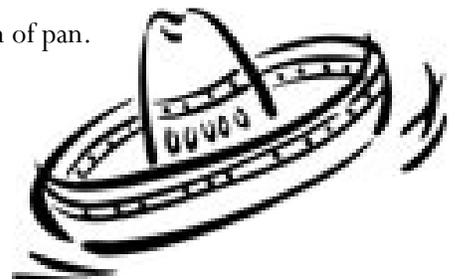
Mix sour cream/cottage cheese mixture separately.

Layer sour cream/cottage cheese mixture on top.

Sprinkle 1 bag of shredded cheese (cojack or cheddar).

Sprinkle remaining 1/2 cup of Doritos on top.

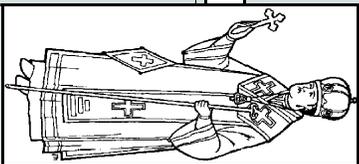
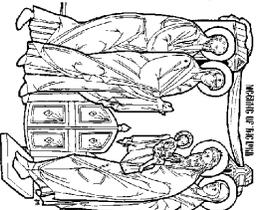
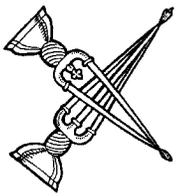
Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes.



February 2006

Holy Apostles Orthodox Mission — Mechanicsburg, PA

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>By Thy Nativity, Thou didst sanctify the Virgin's womb, And didst bless Simeon's hands, O Christ God. Now Thou hast come and saved us through love. Grant peace to all Orthodox Christians, O only Lover of man! - Kontakion of the Feast - Tone 1</p>						
5 Tone 8 Altar Server Team #2 Zachaeus Sunday Divine Liturgy 9:30am Fellowship & Church School	6	7 "Orthodoxy 101" @ Mission Central 7pm	8 Fast Day	9 Fast Day	10 Fast Day	11 Chapel Set up & Choir: 5pm Great Vespers, & Confessions: 6pm
12 Tone 1 Altar Server Team #1 Publican & Pharisee Baptism & Liturgy: 9:00 am Fellowship & Church School	13 Note the time change due to the Baptism BEFORE Liturgy!!!	14 St. Valentine the Martyr "Orthodoxy 101" @ Mission Central 7pm	15	16 Mission Council Mtg. 7pm @ the Sak Residence	17	18 Visit of Bishop TIKHON Chapel Set up: 4:30 pm Great Vespers, & Confessions: 6pm
19 Tone 2 Visit of Bishop TIKHON	20	21 "Orthodoxy 101" @ Mission Central 7pm	22 Fast Day	23	24	25 Memorial Saturday Chapel Set up & Choir: 5pm Great Vespers, Panachida & Confessions: 6pm
26 Tone 3 Altar Server Team #1 MeatFare Divine Liturgy 9:30am Fellowship & Church School	27 Meat Fast St. Raphael of Brooklyn	28 Meat Fast "Orthodoxy 101" @ Mission Central 7pm	1 Meat Fast	2 Meat Fast	3 Meat Fast	4 Meat Fast Chapel Set up & Choir: 5pm Great Vespers, & Confessions: 6pm





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