

The Apostles' Joy

Issue # 16

www.holyapostleschurch.org

January, 2007



Dear Friends and Family in Christ,

Christ is in our Midst! He is and shall be!

It is with great joy that I greet you all and announce that we have our own Church facility! After a long and exhaustive search, by God's grace we have purchased, blessed, and moved into our new building located at 5006-Suite 101 E. Trindle Road, Mechanicsburg, PA 17050.

I can't express the joy of seeing a full church of 67 souls (with room to grow!) at our first service the evening of December 30. We gathered and prayed together asking God to bless our new building to be able to celebrate the Divine Liturgy. Our prayer is to establish our community in this new place in peace, harmony, and in strength to continue to spread the message of the Gospel in Mechanicsburg.

We are thankful for the blessings of our Lord towards us, and we as a community echo the words of the Psalmist, the Prophet King David when he said: "I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go into the house of the Lord..." (Psalm 122:1)

We welcome and invite you all to visit us in our new Church facility, and pray that God will continue to bless you all in the coming New Year!

With much love and God's blessing



HOLY APOSTLES
ORTHODOX MISSION

Now Worshipping at:

5006 - Suite 101
E. Trindle Rd.
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

Mailing Address:

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Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

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Pastor & Acting Rector
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***A Mission Parish of the
Diocese of Eastern PA***
www.doepa.org

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



Our Mission @ a glance:

Welcome Williams Family! This past December 10, the Williams family: Steven, Barbara, Anna and Aaron were all received into the Catechumenate of the Holy Orthodox Church. We rejoice that they have taken this step towards Holy Orthodoxy and pray for their spiritual journey.

We purchased property! On the afternoon of December 15, with the blessing of His Grace, our Bishop TIKHON, several members of the Mission Council gathered with Fr. Timothy for a prayer before signing papers securing our parish with a temporary, yet stable place of worship. Our first services were held on Saturday evening, December 30. We had over 67 people present for the initial blessing and first Great Vespers service. Pictures of these events can be seen on our parish website: www.holyapostleschurch.org

Mission Planting Grant: The O.C.A. Mission Planting Grant will begin to be administered this month to our Mission. We are thankful for such financial support and pray to be good stewards of this gift!

"Orthodoxy 101" Class: We will resume our Adult Class after the Christmas holiday break beginning on Wednesday, January, 10, 2007 at 7:00 pm. We will be focusing our classes this winter on Church History. Join us as we learn how the Holy Spirit has inspired and guided the Church through the ages.

Mission Council Meeting: The monthly meeting of the Mission Council will be held Thursday, January 18, 2007 at 7:00 pm at the Church. All parish members are

invited to participate in this administrative ministry of the Church.

Theophany House Blessings: Fr. Timothy will be blessing homes in the month of January. If anyone has not spoken to Father, and would like their home blessed, please contact Father, as he is preparing a schedule for the month.

OCMC Donation: At our December Mission Council meeting it was decided to have our parish participate in the Orthodox Christian Mission Center "Support a Mission Priest Project." A \$600 donation will support a Mission priest in the Church of Africa or Asia for an entire year! If anyone is interested in supporting this individually, please see Fr. Timothy for more information.

Orthodox Bible Study: Our Orthodox Bible Study will be taking the month of January off due to Fr. Tim and Fr. Yanni blessing homes. We will resume our class in February. For more information, please contact Fr. Timothy.

At our most recent Mission Council Meeting in December it was decided to focus our efforts on paying off the mortgage of the new facility before building up the general building fund. Anyone interested in making a special \$350 mortgage payment as a donation please contact Fr. Timothy. Every little bit helps! It is our hope that in a short time this will be paid off and we can focus our efforts on building a more traditional place of worship.

Thank you! We would like to thank all of our friends and benefactors who gave our Mission so many wonderful Christmas offerings, gifts, and prayers during the nativity season. May our beneficent Lord reward all of you with His abundant blessings for your generosity towards us.

Parish January Birthdays

Metro Petrosky 1/4

Nicholas Hojnicky 1/7

Melissa Washburn 1/24

Stephanie Larson 1/27

God grant them Many Years!

"A life without persecution means that the devil does not take you too seriously... I used to try to defend myself and give responses for all the attacks against me. But the grace of God gives freedom to us even in the face of physical, mental or emotional pain. Through prayer we can overcome pain... we must face difficulties with love and peace. Always try to make peace with others."

- Archbishop Anastasios of Albania



Special Feast Day Services for the Month:

THEOPHANY:

Friday, January 5: Vigil for Theophany 7:00 pm

Saturday, January 6: Divine Liturgy 9:00 am

THREE HIERARCHS:

Monday, January 29: Vespers & Litiya 7:00 pm

Tuesday, January 30: Divine Liturgy 9:00 am



The following article from the January 2006 "Apostles' Joy" is being reprinted by request to help us prepare for this Theophany season's house blessings.

You want to bless my house?!



Yes I do! Traditionally in the Orthodox Church, on or around the feast of Theophany, the parish priest will come and visit each home blessing it with Holy Water- literally bringing the grace of the Feast with him by blessing the home. Now sometimes when people hear that it is house blessing time, there is a look of abject panic on their faces exclaiming: "You want to bless my house?" No doubt the possible mountain of clutter, the needle-less stick that was once the Christmas tree in the living room, and other holiday leftovers come to mind with the quick thought— "How can we hide all of this!?" The purpose of the visit is not, in the least, to cause unneeded anxiety to anyone (well maybe the demons...) The Church Fathers speak of the home as a small church, and we know from our experiences in life that the home *is* the first Church. We also see this in our parishes in which the structure is similar, with a father (the priest), a mother (Matushka), and a family of loving people. Therefore, it is only right and proper to have our homes sanctified each year as a renewal of this affirmation.

If you so desire to have me visit and bless your home, there are a few things that should be prepared to help the event go more smoothly.

- The house blessing is an actual Church service served in the home, so it helps to have the same kind of environment as we try to have in Church. Turn off the TV, radio, XBOX, whatever. Get the family together (and any friends if they would like to participate) around the ikon corner, or at a special place prepared, such as at the dining room table. Have an ikon of the Feast of Theophany, or another special family ikon placed on a table with a taper candle.
- Try to make a path for me. I really doubt that cassocks were made for walking up and down steps and other such obstacles, especially with hands full, so the less I have to dodge the better. Secure pets away from the area, (having the priest attacked by the family iguana is bad...☺) If it is dark, turn on the lights throughout the house, and make sure that the doors to all rooms are open.
- If possible, write out a list of the names of the family members in the household, as well as relatives and friends that you wish to have prayed for in this service. Also, make a list of departed family members and friends to be remembered at the small service.

Remember, this is your time with your priest. If you have any questions or concerns, this is the opportunity for you to express them, and to spend some fellowship with me. Through this, we can grow together in Christian love as members of the family of Christ! If anyone has any further questions, please feel free to contact me at any time. I encourage everyone to participate in this! I am really looking forward to sharing this ancient tradition in your home this Theophany season. Besides, this tradition instills a resolute spirit in our Orthodox people — who else can have water thrown in their face and no one even blinks an eye!?

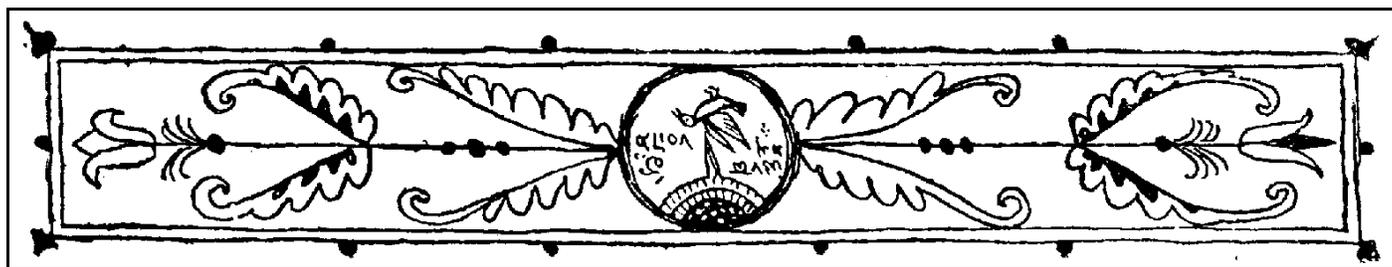


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Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

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17055
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January 2007



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, Presbytera Pearl Veronis, Matushka Karen Mahaffey, Matushka Katherine Kowalczyk, 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, , 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, the newly Illumined infant Luke Hillhouse, Hannah Gordon, Harry Sysak, Sharon Hanna, Mary Lou Grove, Dorthy Medill, Janice Fields, Joseph Basalayga, Mary Kneiss, Lorraine Brown, Eva Pron, Peter Melnik, Charles Hier, Julie Harb, Gloria Onufrak, Beth Arneson, Daria Diehl and our catechumens, Robert Larson, Autumn Carpenter, Steven, Barbara, Anna, & Aaron Williams.

Prayers for the newly Departed: Memory Eternal!

Deacon Joseph Kerns (+11/24), Anna Regenye (+11/23), Barbara Salthouse (+12/22), Joseph Kneiss (+12/24), Elias Mihalick (+12/30), & Charlotte Dorward (+1/3)

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