



Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania † Orthodox Church in America

The Apostles' Joy

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www.holyapostleschurch.org

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A Quarterly Publication of Holy Apostles Orthodox Mission, Mechanicsburg, PA



Dear Family & Friends in Christ:

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

I love the Fall! Autumn is such a beautiful time of year. The weather begins to get cooler making outdoor events more pleasant (unless you suffer from allergies!) Things begin to settle back into a comfortable routine.

It is now my 5th Autumn in beautiful Mechanicsburg, and when I look back on the last 4 years of my ministry here, and the 5 years of the parish, I marvel at all that God has blessed and challenged us with in this time. By His Grace, we celebrate this 5th Anniversary year. While it may not be that impressive by most standards, as we usually think of celebrating 75th or 100th Anniversaries, for those in a Mission Community, 5 years is an huge amount of time beset with many challenges and accomplishments!

From "Mission Central," to our present facility, there is so much that has taken place. Fr. Dan Ressetar advised me early on to keep a journal, and I have! As in any parish that starts out you have your tense meetings and critical moments of stressful decision. These difficult moments are almost forgotten in the present wake of Fellowship Hours where I need a fire hose to get people to go home and parish council meetings where we spend more time laughing and enjoying one another's company than anything else. Even the parish itself has almost totally physically changed. When I arrived in 2005, we had 41 parishioners. Now we just submitted our census to be 74! And no matter if you were here from day one (I wasn't!) or if you joined this summer (we had 2 new families!) all are part of this great blessing that we have come to know and love as Holy Apostles - all while growing in the love of Christ.

Personally, I thank God for giving my growing family and I the opportunity to be here and know the love of this Christian Community. Next to my priesthood and my family, it is the greatest blessing I have, and I cherish it as such.

As we look forward to the decades to come, we ask the prayers of our Heavenly Patrons that Christ our God would continue to bless our community, and give us the strength to fulfill our high calling of people who bear His name.

With much love and God's blessing,



Our Mission @ a glance:

5th Anniversary year: June 2009– June 2010, is our 5th Anniversary year. Stay tuned for some special events scheduled throughout the year. Especially poignant will be our November 1, Fall Dinner Dance and Silent Auction in which His Grace our Bishop Tikhon will lead us in worship that morning. Plan to join us!

Parish Picnic: On Saturday, July 18, we had our annual Picnic and Vespers in the Park at Soldiers and Sailors Park in Mechanicsburg. We had 65 people from our parish and guests join us for a wonderful afternoon and evening of prayer and fellowship.

Church School: On Sunday, September 20, we had the opening of our Church School for the new year. Fr. Timothy served Proskomedie in the center of the Church explaining the service to the Children. We have 3 classes this year with over 30 Students. To mark the event, the evening before, we had a cook-out after Vespers.

The Seal of the Gift of the Holy Spirit: Amen! Holy Apostles welcomed its newest member into the Family of Christ on Saturday, September 12. Luke Joshua Potteiger was baptized - the first baby baptized - in our new font (no more plastic Wal-Mart tub for us!). Luke was born on July 28, at 8.3 lbs and 19.25 inches long! We congratulate Luke's parents and his sponsors Father Thomas & Mat. Joni Soroka, who traveled from the Pittsburgh area to be with us. May God continue to bless them and grant them all **MANY YEARS!**

Orthodoxy 101, our parish catechism will resume this fall on Saturday evenings at 5:00 pm prior to Great Vespers. Come to learn, stay to worship! We'll be looking at the Ecumenical Councils of the Church, their history, and their lasting importance on the Universal Church.

*We Welcome New Parishioners
to Holy Apostles:*

**Andrzej & Amanda Kulik
Christopher & Jennifer Sremanak**

God Grant them Many Years!

Our Parish Vision Task Force has been meeting every other week since Pascha. Recent growth issues (READ: growing out of the present location!) have lead us to have a Task Force look at the next possible step for our community in our development. We have compiled a survey to be completed by our parishioners to determine the consensus of the group and to take the opinions of the faithful when weighing our options for our next potential step. Please keep this process and the well being of our community in your prayers! Thank you to Mark Linnehan the Task Force Chairman, and the dedicated individuals who have come regularly and participated.

Orthodox School is a go! The Orthodox Academy has found a home at the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral and has opened with Kindergarten and First Grade. The Academy is a private Orthodox School registered with the Department of Education. For more information please contact Father Dan Ressetar at 545-5054 or e-mail him at frdanhbg@aol.com. They have recently posted a new website:

www.orthodoxchristianacademy.org

Important Note: Over 80,000 people are waiting nationwide for kidney transplants. One of them is in our congregation, Carole Fair. Carole has battled kidney disease for many years, and her kidney function is now declining. She is hopeful she would be able to receive a kidney transplant before needing to start dialysis. If interested, please contact Jeri Goldman, R.N., CCTC, Living donor Coordinator, at 717-231-8751 for more information.



Baptism of Luke Potteiger: 9/12/09





On Sunday, June 21, we welcomed His Grace, Bishop Tikhon for an Archpastoral visit, and the kick off of our 5th Anniversary year.



On Sunday, July 19, the Sunday closest to the Feast of St. Elijah, Holy Apostles held our annual Blessing of Vehicles at the conclusion of Liturgy. All vehicles great and small were blessed: 7/19/09

An Orthodox Coffee House in Downtown Harrisburg

A group of dedicated Orthodox Christians from five parishes and several jurisdictions in the greater Harrisburg area (OCA, GOA, SER, & BUL) are attempting to organize a coffee house/bookstore as an outreach in our state's capitol. This outreach is a way of bringing the light of Orthodoxy to our entire state. In doing this we are being faithful to the instruction of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ:

"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

St. Matthew 5:14-16

Please review the information and promotional video from our inspiration, "Agia Sophia" Coffee Shop in Colorado Springs, CO (www.agiasophiacoffeeshop.com) and please consider a financial gift to:

**Orthodox Christian Cooperative
of Greater Harrisburg, Inc.
5501 Old Locust Lane, Harrisburg, PA 17109**

***For more information please contact
Fr. Stephen Vernak at
svernak@hotmail.com or 717-652-1825***



Prayers for the Health & Salvation of those who are in need: Many Years!

Patriarch PAVLE of Serbia, Metropolitan SAWA of Poland, Metropolitan THEODOSIUS, Archimandrite Jerome (Newville), Priestmonk Ambrose (Young), Archpriest Eugene Pianovich, Archpriest Nicholas Molodyko-Harris, Archpriest Daniel Rentel, Archpriest Joseph Chupeck, Archpriest John Perich, Archpriest Michael Mihalick, Archpriest Neal Carrigan, Archpriest John Zabinko, Priest Anthony Demetri, Priest Innokentios Byakatonda, Priest Samuel Adjei Kumi, Priest Gabriel Rehatta, Presbytera Pearl Veronis, Mat. Mary Geeza, Mat. Theodora Resselar, Mat. Olga Kovach, Mat. Alla Wheeler, Mat. Anastasia & the Child to be born of her, the Newly Illumined Infant Luke Potteiger, Sbdn. Richard Hathaway, Pauline Fetsko, Margaret Balog, Marlene Washburn, Michael & Margot Katchur, Ludmilla Kern, Clare Brown, Timothy Herman, Elena Kurylo, Lauren Kneiss, Stephen Rudawski, Vladimir Kerkendall, Metro Petrosky, Sally Ann Marasco, Carole Fair, Amelia Kuzniak, Claudia Mikulak, Anastasia Mazur, Mary Burke, the child Christopher Elliot, Joseph Hojnicky, William Wennberg, Hannah Gordon, Harry Sysak, Sharon Hanna, Mary Lou Grove, Mary Kneiss, Eva Pron, Ryan Matthew Pron, Larissa Pron, Peter Melnik, Julie Harb, Beth Arneson, John DellaMonica, Carol Allen, Gregory Geeza, Carol Durkish, Anne Merlina, Daniel, Pei, Lydia, Joshua, & Anna Medill, Francis Waldrop, the child JaNae, Kathleen Cavanaugh, Almaz Alemu, Klare Sunderland, Josiah Michaels, Rick Ally, the child Liam Hepplewhite, the child John Melnik, Barbara Reynolds, Rachel Landeretta, Carol Zetterberg, Mel Innamorato, Suzanne Demko, Lisa Gunter, Brian Keefer, Alicia & Susannah Reynolds, Ann Innamorato, Robert Sell, Mary Themel, Macarius Robbins, Megan Eslinger, Jatyn Ruth, Pamela Cordly, Bernard Pennock, John Holroyd, Manya Marich, George Costas, Dirk Klinger, Gregory Bretz, George Fields, Adam Kojian, Earle Simons, John Greenwood, Tiffany Wetzell, Bill Lukasovich, Angela Carlson, Troy Nelson, Michael Orlando, Jeremy Fetsko serving overseas & our Catechumens, Christine Kelly, Yetlin Pope, Colin Tomes, & John Davis.

Prayers for the newly Departed: Memory Eternal!

Archpriest Joseph Hirsch (+8/24), Dorothy Wirth (+8/25), Jeanne Holowach (+9/9), Philip Tomlinson (+9/15)



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Autumn 2009

Address service requested

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Permit No. 228

Come visit us on the web at our parish website: www.holyapostleschurch.org

Also, check out www.ancientfaith.com Orthodoxy on the web all the time!



*For more information on ticket sales, journal ads, and sponsorships,
please see our parish website: www.holyapostleschurch.org*

COME AND JOIN US FOR A DAY OF PRAYER AND FELLOWSHIP!

Music Performed by Svraj 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. www.svraj.com

Doors open 1:30 p.m. Meal Served 2:30 p.m.
Penn-Harris Radisson Hotel in Camp Hill, PA
Annual Dinner Dance and Silent Auction

Hierarchical Divine Liturgy: 9:15 am
With His Grace, Bishop TIKHON of Philadelphia
Sunday, November 1, 2009

Celebrating Holy Apostles 5th Anniversary!

