

# The Apostles' Joy

Issue # 32 - Great Lent/Pascha 2009

[www.holyapostleschurch.org](http://www.holyapostleschurch.org)

A Quarterly Publication of Holy Apostles Orthodox Mission, Mechanicsburg, PA  
A Mission Parish of the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania (O.C.A.)



Dear Family & Friends in Christ:

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

During the first four days of Great Lent the Orthodox Church reads the Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete. I like to call this classic and beautiful service an aerobic Orthodox Bible Study on repentance...set to music. In this service we see the fundamental belief that we are all sick with sin, and are in need to be made whole. We can strive to be made whole through a development of a genuine relationship in communion with Jesus Christ found through real repentance. The Great Canon begins that first intense week of the Great Fast with the expressed intent to get us on the right track towards Holy Pascha.

*"Where shall I begin to weep for the actions of my wretched life? What first-fruits shall I offer Thee, O Christ, in this my present lamentation? But in Thy compassion grant me forgiveness of my transgressions."*

Ode 1, Troparion 2

The Church as a loving Mother, thinks of everything! She knows that in our weakness we can forget the lessons that we are taught that first week, and so on the fifth Thursday of Lent we serve the Canon in its entirety (or close to it), just before we enter into Holy Week and Pascha. We are taught from the get-go lessons of repentance, then we are given a refresher course in case the cares and temptations of the world have gotten us off base. If we fail to embrace these lessons we have no one to blame but ourselves - the Church abundantly gives these profound teachings to us throughout the whole of Great Lent!

My prayer is that we can all offer "fruits worthy of repentance" in our individual and collective journeys towards Holy Pascha. May our merciful Lord grant us the grace to sustain us on this journey that we might all behold and worship His Holy Resurrection.

With much love and God's blessing,

## *Our Mission @ a glance:*

**Memory Eternal:** As a parish community we are saddened by the loss of our dear parishioner, Lillian (Lubova) Husted. May the Kingdom of Heaven be open unto her, and may her *Memory be Eternal!*

**Special Visitor:** On the weekend of December 6-7, His Grace Bishop Tikhon made a visit to Holy Apostles. This visit was extra special as he brought with him the miraculous copy of the Ikon of the Theotokos "She Who Is Quick To Hear". What a blessing it was to have the Mother of God's ikon with us!

**Blessing the Susquehanna:** On Sunday, January 11, over 100 faithful from the Greater Harrisburg area Orthodox Churches gathered at City Island Park in Harrisburg, for the Great Blessing of Water over the Susquehanna River. This wonderful ancient tradition was resurrected in this area as it had not been done in 40 years! The local papers and news stations covered the story. We plan on making this an annual event. Also, see the link from the local CBS 21's New coverage of the event: [www.whptv.com/search/videosearch.aspx?search=Orthodox](http://www.whptv.com/search/videosearch.aspx?search=Orthodox)

**Charity donations:** The 2009 Mission Council has decided that in the spirit of giving, every second Sunday of the Month a special Charity Collection will be held and go towards a worthy cause. This will be done in an effort to instill the importance of charity and the necessity of alms-giving in the Christian life. We as a parish community, will make this not just something special that we do—but what we do as the norm. Requests for special charities will be heard by the Council at our monthly meetings, and then will be posted for the following

month's collection.

**Maddox Wedding:** We wish God's blessing to Brady & Jacquelyn Maddox who were united in Holy Matrimony on Saturday, February 7, at Christ the Saviour Church in Harrisburg. May He who by His presence at the marriage in Cana of Galilee declared marriage to be honorable bless and confirm them for *Many Years!*

**Chrissi Hart Reading:** On Sunday, March 1, Holy Apostles welcomed Orthodox Author Chrissi Hart of York, PA to our parish to present and read her newly published Children's book: "*The Hermit, the Icon, and the Emperor.*" Anyone interested in this book, please see her website: [www.chrissihart.com](http://www.chrissihart.com) for more information.

**Akathist to St. Raphael of Brooklyn:** On Friday, February 28, Holy Apostles welcomed the clergy and faithful of Christ the Saviour in Harrisburg to an Akathist to St. Raphael of Brooklyn in the presence of his Holy relics. Fr. Stephen Vernak, the rector of Christ the Saviour, offered a reflection on the life and legacy of St. Raphael.

**St. Tikhon's Seminary Choir visit:** On Saturday, March 29, the Mission Choir of St. Tikhon's Seminary visited and sang the beautiful responses to Great Vespers. A Cheesefare Potluck was held in honor of their visit. Fr. Michael Dahulich, Dean of St. Tikhon's Seminary, offered an inspirational and challenging sermon at the end of Vespers. What a treat to have them with us!

**Sunday of Orthodoxy:** This year's Sunday of Orthodoxy Pan-Orthodox Vespers was celebrated at Holy Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in York, PA. Peter Polychronis of the International Orthodox Christian Charities (I.O.C.C.) was the

guest speaker. This annual event has been a long standing tradition in the South Central Pennsylvania area rotating to different parishes every year.

**Mission Service:** As is the tradition in our Diocese, on the evenings of each Sunday of Lent, a different Church hosts a Lenten service. Holy Apostles Mission will welcome the clergy and faithful of the Frackville Deanery to a Lenten Vespers on Sunday, March 15, at 5:00 pm. A Lenten Supper will be served following the service.

**Vision Task Force:** A special committee was formed in February to begin to address issues of our parish's future. This committee was intended to be a passive group to look at iconography and architecture as a means by which to prepare for the future. However, considering that we have not had less than 90 people on a Sunday since November, it has accelerated the need to plan for our ever growing community. Our first meeting will be held Monday, March 16, at 7:00 pm.

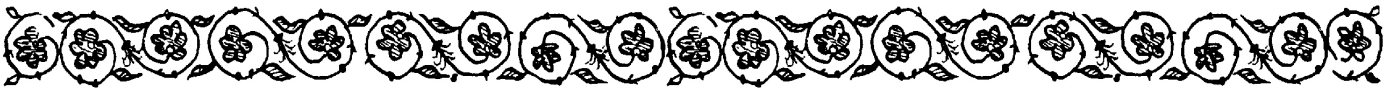
*Our Annual Paska Bread Baking* will be

Saturday, March 28, at 9:00 am at Terrenetti's. Bread orders are available. Orders should be placed BEFORE March 28, to guarantee availability. Any questions please contact Mary Sak at: marysak@comcast.net or (717) 691-7261. Be sure to look for our ads in the West Shore Shopper in the coming weeks!

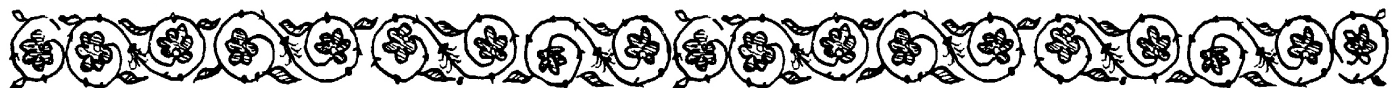
**THANK YOU** to those who were so generous to our Mission this past Christmas. Your kindness and generosity make what we are doing possible! We ask that you again please consider the needs of our community in your charitable giving this Paschal season. A small offering envelope is enclosed in this newsletter for your convenience. May our Lord richly bless you all for all the goodness you have shown to us!

**ADDRESS CHANGE:** Please make sure that you have updated our address. We recently closed our post office box (P.O. Box 1531 Mechanicsburg, 17055) and are now receiving all mail at the following address:

**5006 E. Trindle Road - Suite 101  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050**



**Ⲗ LENTEN REMINDER FOR Ⲗ ALL ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS:** *We are called to prepare for the celebration of Pascha during this Lenten Fast in a special way. In addition to increased prayer, fasting, and charitable deeds, we are also called to come to Holy Confession. We should take the time to prepare and make a Confession of our sins in preparation for the Paschal celebration in a spirit of genuine repentance, not just as some obligation because we were told to do it. Father will be available for Confession before and after every service during Great Lent. Please make every effort to take advantage of this! Also, for those preparing to receive Holy Communion for the Presanctified Liturgy, please begin your fast after the noon hour, as well as saying your usual pre-communion prayers.*



**Frackville Lenten Vespers Services:** This year's schedule for Deanery Mission Vespers is as follows - All services begin at 5:00 pm:

- Sunday, March 15:  
*Holy Apostles Mission, Mechanicsburg*
- Sunday, March 22:  
*St. Michael's Church, Mt. Carmel*
- Sunday, March 29:  
*Holy Ascension, Frackville*
- Sunday, April 5:  
*Sts. Peter & Paul, Minersville*



*Visit of His Grace, Bishop Tikhon & the Miraculous "She Who Is Quick To Hear" Ikon 12/6/08*



*Blessing of the Susquehanna River 1/11/09*



*Fr. Nicholas & Mat. Molodyko-Harris with us for Nativity*

### ***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 Daniel Rentel, Archpriest Joseph Chupeck, Archpriest John Perich, Archpriest Michael Mihalick, Archpriest Neal Carrigan, Archpriest Nicholas Yushchak, Priest Anthony Demetri, Priest Innokentios Byakatonda, Priest Samuel Adjei Kumi, Priest Gabriel Rehatta, Presbyter Pearl Veronis, Mat. Mary Geeza, Mat. Theodora Ressetar, Mat. Olga Kovach, Mat. Alla Wheeler, Mat. Anna Vernak & the Child to be born of her, Elaine Potteiger & the Child to be born of her, Mary Pletnikoff & the Child to be born of her, Sbdn. Richard Hathaway, Pauline Fetsko, Margaret Balog, Marlene Washburn, Michael & Margot Katchur, Ludmilla Kern, Clara Brown, Timothy Herman, Elena Kurylo, the child Gabriel Cowan, Melania Kosty, Amelia Kuzmiak, Claudia Mikulak, Anastasia Mazur, Mary Burke, the child Christopher Elliot, Joseph Hojnicky, 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 infant John Melnik, Barbara Reynolds, Rachel Landeretta, Carol Zetterberg, Mel Innamorato, Suzanne Demko, Lisa Gunter, Brian Keefer, Eileen Onufer, Alicia & Susannah Reynolds, Ann Innamorato, Robert Sell, Mary Themel, Macarius Stowe, Basil Peck, Nona Carey, Macarius Robbins, Megan Eslinger, Jatyn Ruth, Pamela Cordly, Jeremy Fetsko serving in Iraq & our Catechumens Cynthia Tomes, Ory Bower, Christine Kelly, & Yetlin Pope.

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

Anna Dutko (+2/7), Foma Bushallow (+2/7), Frederick Salay (+2/11), Helen Hartung (+2/26), Lubova Husted (+2/27), Faye Schauer (+3/28)



## *Christ is Risen! - Preparing A Traditional Pascha Basket - Indeed He is Risen!*

**PASKA:** - The Easter Bread symbolic of Christ Himself who is our True Bread. Usually a round loaf baked with a golden crust decorated with a Cross. Sometimes a cross of dough is placed on top encircled by a plait giving it a crowned effect.

**CHEESE:** A custard-type cheese shaped into a ball having a rather bland but sweet taste indicative of the moderation that Christians should have in all things.

**HAM:** The flesh meat popular with Slavs as the main dish because of its richness and symbolic of the great joy and abundance of Pascha. Some may prefer lamb or veal. This is usually well roasted or cooked as well as other meats prepared in advance so that the festivity of the day will not be burdened with preparation and all may enjoy the Feast.

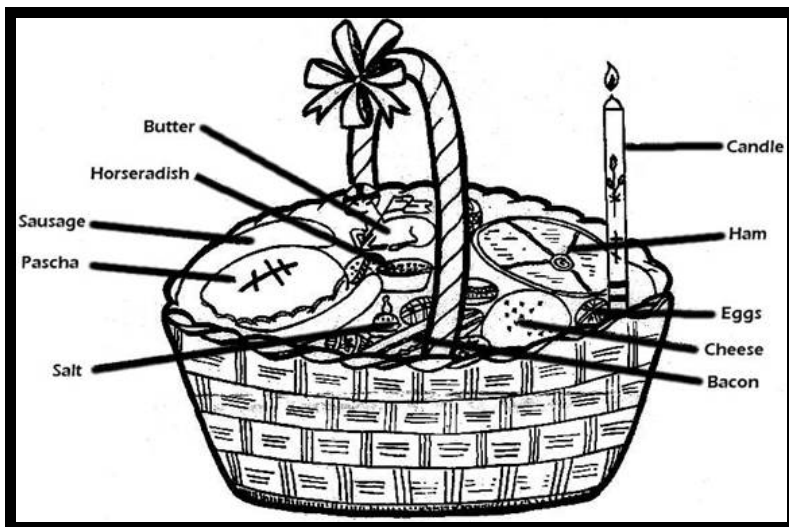
**BUTTER:** This favorite dairy product is shaped into the figure of a lamb or small cross and decorated as the cheese. This reminds us of the goodness of Christ that we should have toward all things.

**KEILBASI:** A spicy, garlic sausage of pork products, indicative of God's favor and generosity.

**EGGS:** Brightly decorated hard boiled eggs are indicative of new life and resurrection.

**SALT:** A condiment necessary for flavor reminding the Christian of his duty to others.

**HORSERADISH:** Horseradish mixed with grated red beets. Symbolic of the Passion of Christ still in our minds but sweetened with some sugar because of the Resurrection. A bitter -sweet red colored mixture reminds us of the sufferings of Christ.



These articles are placed in a wicker basket. A decorated candle is placed in the basket and is lit at the time of blessing. A linen cover usually embroidered with a picture of the Risen Christ or symbol with the words "Christ is Risen" is placed over the foods when brought to the church. A sweet wine may also be brought "for the Glory of God." In modern usage, all the things we abstained from during Great Lent are placed in the basket, and after the blessing are shared with the faithful at the Agape meal.



**Holy Apostles  
Orthodox Mission**

## Holy Apostles Orthodox Mission

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Fr. Timothy Hojnicky, Rector

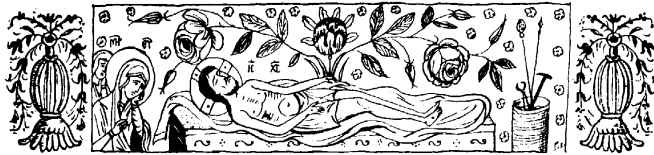
**Great Lent / Pascha 2009**

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*Come visit us on the web at our parish website: [www.holyapostleschurch.org](http://www.holyapostleschurch.org)*

*Also, check out [www.ancientfaith.com](http://www.ancientfaith.com) Orthodoxy on the web all the time!*



## Holy Week & Paschal Services 2009

- *Sunday, April 12 - Holy Tues. April 14:* *Bridegroom Matins: 7:00 pm*
- *Holy Wednesday, April 15:* *Holy Unction: Christ the Saviour Church, Harrisburg: 7:00 pm*
- *Holy Thursday, April 16:* *Vesperal Liturgy: 7:30 am*  
*Passion Gospels: 7:00 pm*
- *Holy Friday, April 17:* *Burial Vespers: 3:00 pm*  
*Matins with Lamentations: 7:00 pm*
- *Holy Saturday, April 18:* *Vesperal Liturgy with 15 Old. Testament Readings: 9:00 am*  
*Reading of the Book of Acts: 10:00 pm*  
*Nocturnes: 11:30 pm*
- *Pascha Sunday, April 19:* *Paschal Matins, Hours, and Festal Liturgy: 12:00 am*  
*Basket Blessing and Agape Fellowship Following*  
*Agape Vespers: 2:30 pm*
- *Bright Monday, April 20:* *Divine Liturgy at Christ the Saviour, Harrisburg: 9:30 am*
- *Bright Friday, April 24:* *Bright Vespers & Paschal Potluck: 7:00 pm*
- *Bright Saturday, April 25:* *Festal Liturgy at Christ the Saviour, Harrisburg: 9:30 am*