

The Apostles' Joy

Issue # 33

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Summer 2009

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



Dear Family & Friends in Christ:

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

In June of 2004, 38 brave souls assembled for the celebration of the Divine Liturgy in the lobby of Mission Central, a United Methodist disaster relief center, in Mechanicsburg. On that day, Holy Apostles Mission was born through the celebration of the Mystery, and the *mission* of the Mission began - to preach the Gospel in an Orthodox fashion to the greater Mechanicsburg community. Five years later, Holy Apostles has gone through many changes. From 38 members we now have 72 official members, however with children and catechumens, we have well over 100 souls in our community. A year after that first liturgy, I was blessed to be assigned by His Beatitude Metropolitan HERMAN to be the first resident rector of the parish. In 2006, we acquired our own 2,700 square foot office space and converted it into a really beautiful and prayerful chapel (I'm biased...) which also includes a kitchen, hall area, classrooms and an office. We are thankful that the mortgage on our present facility is being paid off at an encouraging rate. Now plans are in the beginning stages to determine what the next step is for the community.

This past Spring, our local Pan-Orthodox Bible Study began studying the book of the Acts of the Holy Apostles. And what we have found so striking in our in depth study is that their story is *our story*; humble beginnings, God-given growth, dedication and faith, internal struggles, external struggles, faith, hope...and love. Our 5 years as a parish community have been grace-filled, and full of joy. Every day has not been a picnic, and we have also genuinely had our "growing pains". However, it is completely evident with anyone with the eyes of faith that the hand of Almighty God has guided us, and will continue to guide us for many years to come.

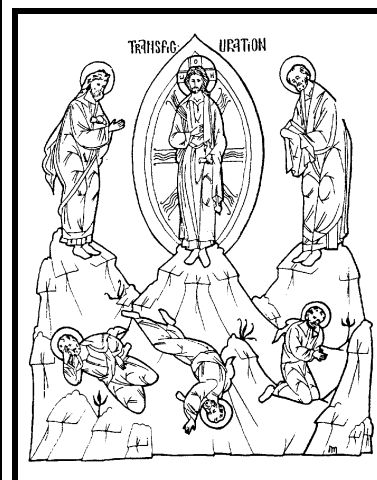
May the Grace of the Holy Spirit which has assembled us in this place and in this time come and abide in us, cleanse us from every sin, and save our souls.

Wishing you all a safe and relaxing summer.

With much love and God's blessing,

Summer Great Feasts:

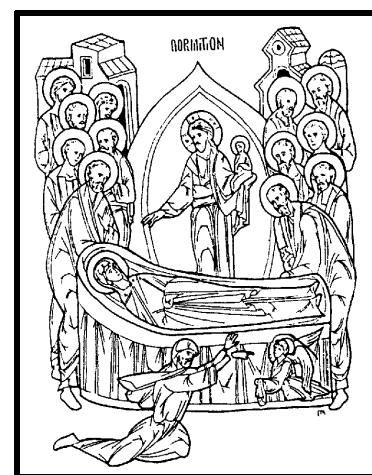
Mark your calendars now!



Holy Transfiguration

8/5: Vespers & Litiya: 7:00 pm

8/6: Divine Liturgy: 7:30 am



Holy Dormition

8/14: Vigil: 7:00 pm

8/15: Divine Liturgy: 9:00 am



Our Mission @ a glance:

The Seal of the Gift of the Holy Spirit: Amen! On Saturday, April 11, prior to Great Vespers, Elizabeth (Cindi) Tomes was received into the Orthodox Church through the rite of Chrismation. We rejoice at another member in our parish family, and wish Elizabeth and her sponsor Barbara Williams, MANY YEARS!

Pan-Orthodox Liturgy: This Great Lent we celebrated a Pan-Orthodox Presanctified Liturgy with the local Orthodox communities in the greater Harrisburg area at our Mission. An added blessing was the presence of His Grace our Bishop TIKHON who joined us and led us in worship.

Pascha 2009: We had a wonderful Great Lent and Pascha at Holy Apostles with excellent attendance and participation in the services. We had a record attendance for Pascha - 109! May God grant the joy of His Resurrection in our hearts as we strive to proclaim His name all throughout the year!

THANK YOU to those who were so generous to our Mission at Pascha. Your kindness and generosity make what we are doing possible! May

our Lord richly bless you all for all the goodness you have shown to us!

Our Annual Paska Bread Baking was a success as we completely sold out! Thank you to Terrenetti's Bakery in Mechanicsburg for allowing us to bake our breads on their premises.

Our Vision Task Force has begun to meet every other week. The Task Force has been charged by the Mission Council to form a survey to poll the parish of their desires and aspirations as a community. They plan to compile the findings and put together a special presentation for our Anniversary celebration in November. Stay tuned for more information as the group progresses.

Fr. Peter Gillquist came to the Harrisburg area on Friday, May 1. Fr. Peter met with area clergy for lunch, and then gave an open lecture to the public at Christ the Saviour Church in Harrisburg that evening. You may listen to his lecture at: www.christthesaviourhbg.org/audio.html

Salute to our Graduates! Holy Apostles recently honored our five parish graduates: ***John Constantine***, (Duquesne University), ***Alexios Givler*** (Northern York County), ***Levi Jekel*** (Trinity High School), ***Wesley Pope*** (Big Spring High School), and ***Hannah Pope*** (NHS Autism



Holy Pascha 2009



Chrismation of Elizabeth Tomes - 4/11/09

School). We offer our prayers and best wishes, and God's continued blessings for the future.

Many Years to our Graduates!

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!

Traveling this Summer? Be sure to visit the "Orthodoxy in America" website to find an Orthodox Church wherever you are heading, be it in the United States, Canada, or Mexico. All the canonical Orthodox jurisdictions (OCA, Greek, Antiochian, Serbian, etc.) are listed together on this one helpful site: **www.orthodoxyinamerica.org** - Check it out!

On Saturday, July 18, Holy Apostles Mission will have our annual Picnic & Vespers in the Park. Join us at Soldiers and Sailors Park in Mechanicsburg for a late afternoon picnic and the service of Vespers outside in the park.

Orthodox School is a go! The Orthodox Academy has found a home at the Holy Trinity



Pan-Orthodox Hierarchical Presanctified Divine Liturgy with His Grace Bishop Tikhon and the Harrisburg area Orthodox communities: 3/27/09

Greek Orthodox Cathedral and will open with Kindergarten and 1st grade in September. The Academy is a private Orthodox School registered with the Department of Education. We need your help to spread the good news to families with young children. For more information or to register call Father Dan Ressetar at 545-5054 or e-mail Father Dan at frdanhbg@aol.com.

Holy Trinity G.O. Cathedral Vacation Church School: August 3rd-7th, 6:30 - 8 :00 pm. \$10 registration fee is due by July 14. For more information please see: www.holytrinityhbg.org

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 Joseph Chupeck, Archpriest John Perich, Archpriest Michael Mihalick, Archpriest Neal Carrigan, Priest Anthony Demetri, Priest Innokentios Byakatonda, Priest Samuel Adjei Kumi, Priest Gabriel Rehatta, Presbytera Pearl Veronis, Mat. Mary Geeza, Mat. Theodora Ressetar, Mat. Olga Kovach, Mat. Alla Wheeler, Elaine Potteiger & the Child to be born of her, Mary Pletnikoff & the Child to be born of her, the newly Illumined Child of God Jacob Vernak, Sbdn. Richard Hathaway, Pauline Fetsko, Margaret Balog, Marlene Washburn, Michael & Margot Katchur, Ludmilla Kern, Clare Brown, Timothy Herman, Elena Kurylo, Lauren Kneiss, 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, Anna Pron-Zwick, 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, Spiro Costas, Dirk Klinger, Gregory Bretz, Jeremy Fetsko serving in Iraq & our Catechumens Ory Bower, Christine Kelly, Yetlin Pope, Colin Tomes, & John Davis.

Prayers for the newly Departed: Memory Eternal!

Archpriest Nicholas Yuschak (+5/12), Dorothy Red (+5/8), Barry Hair (+5/21), Jonathan Quiley (+6/6), Emily Trump (+6/6).



**HOLY APOSTLES
ORTHODOX MISSION**
MECHANICSBURG, PA

Holy Apostles Orthodox Mission

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Summer 2009

Address service requested

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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!



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

Music Performed by Sviraj 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. www.sviraj.com

*Doors open 1:30 p.m. Lunch Served 2:30 p.m.
Radisson Penn-Harris Hotel in Camp Hill, PA*

Annual Dinner Dance and Silent Auction

Hierarchical Divine Liturgy: 9:15 am

Sunday, November 1, 2009

With His Grace, Bishop TIKHON of Philadelphia

5TH ANNIVERSARY!

***CELEBRATING
HOLY APOSTLES***

MECHANICSBURG, PA

**ORTHODOX MISSION
HOLY APOSTLES**

