

*A Mission Parish of the  
Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania  
The Orthodox Church in America*

# The Apostles' Joy

Issue # 31

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

Winter 2008



Dear Family & Friends in Christ:

***Christ is Born! Glorify Him!***

In some of our Nativity carols we sing: "There is great rejoicing on this Christmas morning!" In the Orthodox Church in America, this is all the more felt at our recent joy with the election of our new Metropolitan Jonah.

I think the theme of Christmas is very appropriate in how his elevation took place. When our Lord came to be born of the Theotokos, God in His infinite wisdom chose the means that no one saw coming. Being born in a cave, in a manger, and in Bethlehem is probably the last thing many at that time had expected. In a similar way, those who gathered at the recent 15th All-American Council experienced this same kind of event. The last thing that most people expected was for a bishop of only 11 days (!!!) to be elected and elevated to the rank of first hierarch of the Orthodox Church in America. But this is exactly what happened!

While this is a (pleasant) surprise, it should not come as a complete shock to us. Our Lord tells us that the first shall be last, and the last shall be first. In the person of our new Metropolitan, we see this scriptural instruction taking place. We offer our prayers and support for him as he begins his difficult ministry as the primate of the Church in America. Many Years Metropolitan Jonah!

On a personal note, I greet you all in this great festal season, and pray that all the joy of the Lord's Nativity be with you and your loved ones!

With love and the blessing of the Newborn Savior,



**His Beatitude, the Most Blessed**

**+JONAH**

**Archbishop of Washington & New York,  
Metropolitan of All-America & Canada**

**Εἰς Πόλα Ἐτι Δεσποτά!**

**Christ is Born! Glorify Him! + Христос Рождается! Славите Его!**

## *Our Mission @ a glance:*

**3rd Annual Dinner Dance:** On Sunday, October 19, Holy Apostles Mission held our 3rd Annual Dinner Dance & Silent Auction at the Penn-Harris Radisson in Camp Hill. Over 125 people gathered to support Holy Apostles Building Program and over \$13,000 was raised! Special thanks to Mary & Steve Sak for all their work in coordinating this wonderful event. To all who participated and donated towards this worthy cause - THANK YOU!

**Mission Planting Grant 2009:** This fall, the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America approved our third and final year of the Mission Planting Grant. This year the assistance has been increased from \$15,000 to \$20,000. We thank God for this additional financial support, and pray to be good stewards of this gift to build up the body of Christ here in South Central Pennsylvania.

**Annual Meeting/New Council:** On Sunday, October 26, Holy Apostles held its annual All-Parish meeting. At this meeting a new Mission Council was elected. Congratulations to the 2009 Council and many thanks to the 2008 Council for all their good work! With the blessing of His Grace, Bishop TIKHON, the new council was installed on Sunday, November 16, following the Divine Liturgy.

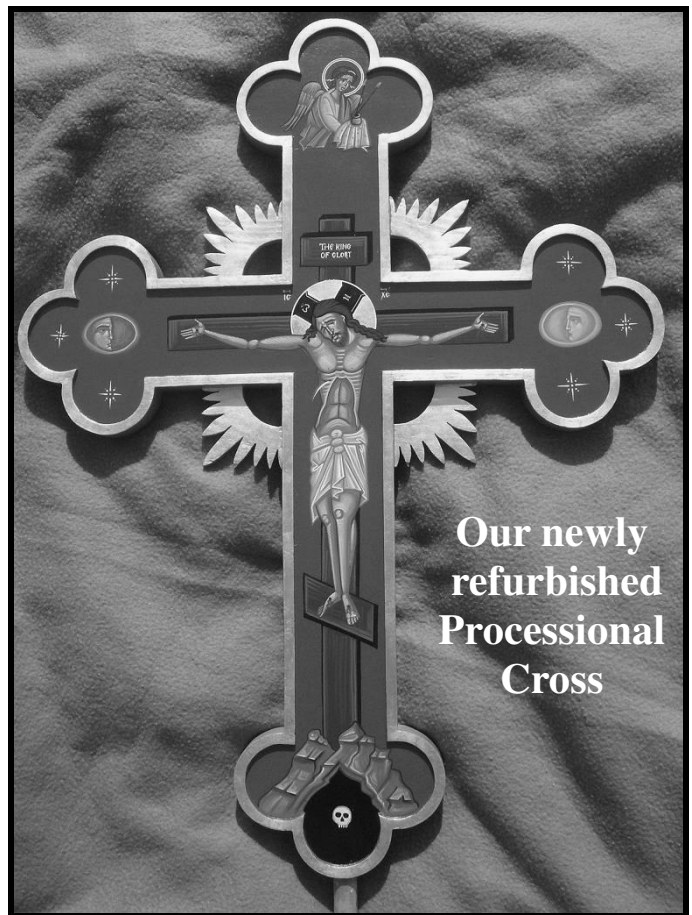
**Youth Charity Luncheon:** On Sunday, November 9, the youth of Holy Apostles put on their 3rd Annual "St. John the Almsgiver Charity Luncheon." The youth of the parish prepared and served a luncheon. The proceeds from this event will be sent to the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) for their Support a Mission Priest Program.

**New Metropolitan:** The Orthodox Church in America rejoices with its new Metropolitan! His Beatitude, Metropolitan Jonah was elected on Wednesday, November 12, at the recent 15th All-American Council. The speeches from the council, and especially those of the new Metropolitan can be found on ancient faith radio at: [www.ancientfaith.com/specials/oca15aac](http://www.ancientfaith.com/specials/oca15aac)

**Processional Cross:** Recently a donor who wishes to remain anonymous donated the funds to have a processional cross restored. When the Mission was founded in 2004, an old Processional Cross was given to the parish, but was in rough shape. It was warped, scratched, and chipped and the ikons needed work. David Mastroberte was commissioned to restore the cross. On Saturday, November 15, the new Cross was blessed and installed behind the Altar. We thank God for this recent gift and liturgical addition to our Altar.

**St. Nicholas Day:** The youth (and young at heart) of Holy Apostles are invited to a St. Nicholas Celebration on Saturday, December 6, at 3:30 pm. We will decorate the Christmas tree, and have some special treats in honor of the Great Wonderworker of Myra!

**Visit of Bishop Tikhon:** On the weekend of December 6-7, His Grace our Bishop TIKHON of Philadelphia will be present at our Mission and will



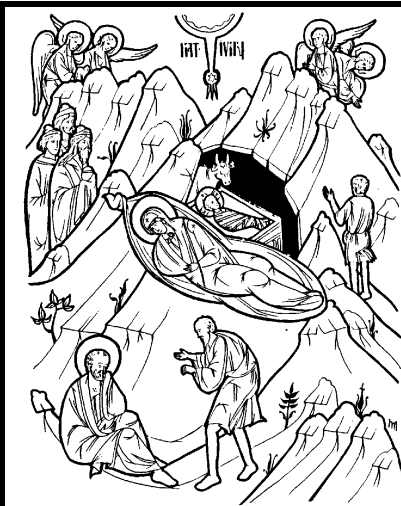
bring with him the Wonderworking copy of the Ikon "She Who is Quick to Hear" from St. Tikhon's Monastery. On Sunday, December 4, His Grace will take the ikon to Christ the Saviour Church, Harrisburg, and serve an Akathist to the Theotokos, the "Healer of Cancer" with an anointing of the faithful at 4:00 pm. All are welcome to attend!

**Nativity Donations:** Thank you to everyone who has been so kind and generous to our parish in the recent months. We ask that you again please consider the needs of our community in your charitable giving this holiday 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!

### **GIANT GIFT CARDS**

***Giant Gift Cards are available for purchase from Elizabeth Gaither after Liturgies at Fellowship Hour. These gift cards can be purchased in denominations of \$50 and \$100, and can be used at all Giant Supermarkets to purchase groceries or gas. The proceeds of this program (10%) benefit our Mission! Our goal is to sell \$1,000 a week to allow our parish to get greater discounts in shopping. Please note: Giant gas stations now accept these cards, and usually offer cheaper gas! Please see Elizabeth for more details.***



### **An Advent Reminder: Prepare O Bethlehem!**

***A reminder about the Advent/Nativity Fast: This fast prepares us for the celebration of our Lord's Nativity - Christmas! All Orthodox Christians are encouraged to prepare for the Lord's birth with increased prayer, fasting, almsgiving, and to make a confession of our sins. There will be some extra services and confession times in the coming weeks in preparation for Christmas. Please make every effort to take advantage of this! As we prepare our homes and get material things ready, most importantly we should prepare the manger of our souls to meet the Christ-Child on His Divine Birthday. See Father Timothy for more information and direction.***

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

Patriarch PAVLE of Serbia, Metropolitan SAWA of Poland, Metropolitan HERMAN, Metropolitan THEODOSIUS, Archimandrite Jerome (Newville), Priestmonk Ambrose (Young), Archpriest Eugene Pianovich, Archpriest Daniel Rentel, Archpriest John Perich, Archpriest Michael Mihalick, Archpriest Pavel Soucek, Archpriest Peter Pier, Priest Innokentios Byakatonda, Priest Samuel Adjei Kumi, Presbytera Pearl Veronis, Mat. Mary Geeza, Mat. Theodora Ressetar, Mat. Olga Kovach, Mat. Alla Wheeler, Mat. Anna Vernak & the Child to be born of her, Sbdn. Richard Hathaway, Pauline Fetsko, Margaret Balog, Marlene Washburn, Lubov (Lillian) Husted, Irene Suple, Michael & Margot Katchur, Ludmilla Kern, Clare Brown, Vasily Zvarich, Timothy Herman, 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, Charles Hier, 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 infant Lliam Hepplewhite, the infant Elenora Waisanen, John Hormovitis, Becky, Lauren, and Samantha Buddenbaum, Barbara Reynolds, Rachel Landeretta, Carol Zetterberg, Jesse Stovin, Mel Innamorato, Suzanne Demko, Lisa Gunter, Brian Keefer, Fredrick Salay, Eileen Onufer, Alicia & Suzannah Reynolds, Ann Innamorato, Robert Sell, & our Catechumens Cynthia Tomes & Ory Bower.

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

Archpriest Stephen Karaffa (+11/11),



**Holy Apostles Orthodox Mission**  
 5006 E. Trindle Rd. - Suite 101  
 Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

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Holy Apostles  
 Orthodox Mission

**Winter 2008**

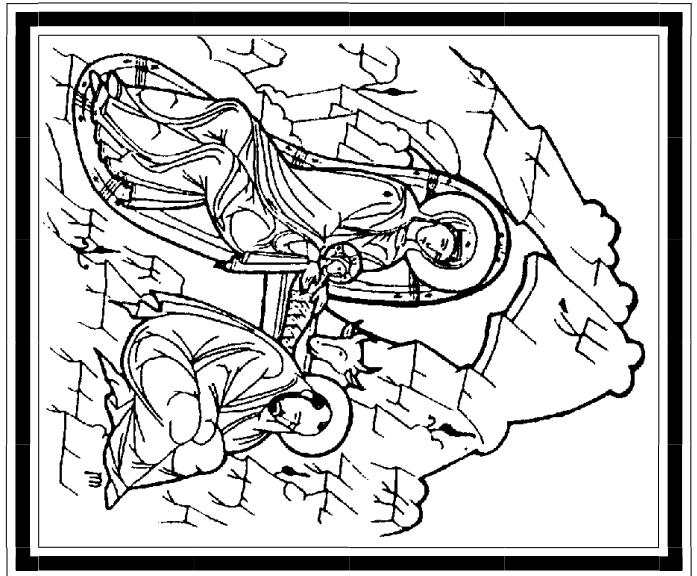
*Address service requested*

**Fr. Timothy Hojnicky, Rector**  
 thoj@hotmail.com (717) 645-5281

**Mary Sak, Parish Council President**  
 marysak@comcast.net (717) 691-7261



*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!*



**NATIVITY SERVICES 2008**

- Friday, December 19: Akathist to Jesus Christ Emmanuel 7:00 pm
- Monday, December 22: Small Compline & Confessions: 7:00 pm
- Tuesday, December 23: Small Compline & Confessions: 7:00 pm
- Wednesday, December 24: Holy Supper & Caroling 3:30 pm
- Wednesday, December 24: Nativity Vigil: 6:00 pm
- Thursday, December 25: Nativity Liturgy: 9:30 am

**CHRIST IS BORN!  
 GLORIFY HIM!**

