

St. Elias Orthodox Church

Patriarchal Parishes of the Russian Orthodox Church in the USA

A Monthly Newsletter

St. Elias Orthodox Church
5066 "B" Drive South
Battle Creek, MI 49015
269.979.2146
Fax: 269.665.9548

www.StEliasOrthodoxChurch.org

E-MAIL:
Church1@StEliasOrthodoxChurch.org

NEWSLETTER CONTACT
John Schupra 616.243.6428
schupra@mac.com

PASTOR

Very Rev. Archpriest Lawrence Bacik
529 Cynthia, Galesburg, MI 49053
269.665.9313
Cell Phone (Emergencies
Only): 269.716.3752

ASSISTANT TO THE PASTOR

Rev. Protodeacon Samuel Beronja,
289 Thelma Drive,
Battle Creek, MI 49014
269.968.9883

Issue Number 4 - April 2009

3rd & 6th HOURS: 9:40 am
DIVINE LITURGY 10:00 am

CHURCH SCHOOL:
Sundays Following Services

GREAT VESPERS:
Saturdays & Eves of Feasts 6:00 pm

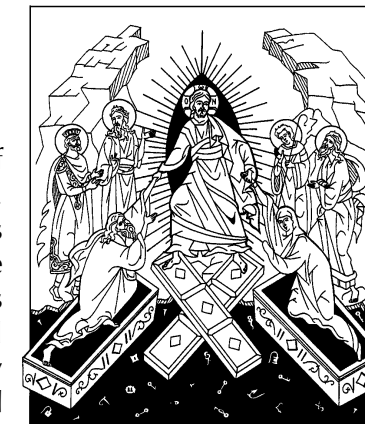
HOLY MYSTERY OF CONFESSION
(PENANCE):

Following Great Vespers,
Preceding Divine Liturgy, or
By Appointment

From the Pastor's Desk

Dearest Brethren:
Christ is Risen!
He is Risen Indeed!

The angel cried to the Lady full of grace: rejoice, O pure Virgin. Again I say: rejoice. Your Son is risen from His three days in the tomb. With Himself He has raised all the dead. Rejoice, all ye people. Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem. The glory of the Lord has shone on you. Exult now and be glad, O Zion. Be radiant, O pure Theotokos, in the resurrection of your Son.



--Hymn to the Theotokos

Today is truly the most radiant and brightest day of the year! Holy Pascha is indeed an awesome and "Great Day" for us! In the 4th

Century and likewise today, St. John Chrysostom's powerful and eloquent words have a profound message for all of us: O Death, where is thy sting? O Hell, where is thy victory? Christ is risen, and thou art overthrown. Christ is risen, and the demons are fallen. Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice. Christ is risen, and life reigns. Christ is risen, and not one dead remains in the grave. For Christ, being risen from the dead, is become the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep. To Him be glory and dominion unto ages of ages. Amen.

Wishing all of you, my dear brothers and sisters, our Risen Savior's choicest blessings!

With sincere love in our Lord Jesus,

ARCHPRIEST LAWRENCE BACIK

Saint Elias
Eastern Orthodox Church
5066 "B" Drive South, Battle Creek, MI 49015



FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

"Longing for God is love...this love is too deep for words."

--St. John Chrysostom +407

"We see the water of a river flowing uninterruptedly and passing away, and all that floats on its surface, rubbish or beams of trees, all pass by. Christian! So does our life...I was an infant, and that time has gone. I was an adolescent, and that too has passed. I was a young man, and that too is far behind me. The strong and mature man that I was is no more. My hair turns white, I succumb to age, but that too passes; I approach the end and will go the way of all flesh. I was born in order to die. I die that I may live. Remember me, O Lord, in Thy Kingdom!"

--St. Tikhon of Voronezh +1783

CHURCH NEWS

His Grace Bishop Mercurius Appointed as Chairman of the Synodal Department for Religious Education and Catechism

The Office of the Administrator of the Patriarchal Parishes in the United States reports the following information to the clergy and laymen of the Patriarchal Parishes from a quotation from Journal No. 18 of the Conference of the Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church of the Moscow Patriarchate dated March 31, 2009: "NOTICE: Proposal of the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, Kirill, regarding the workings of the Synodal institutions: 11. Satisfying the application of Archimandrite John (Ekonomtsev) regarding his dismissal from the post of Chairman of the Synodal Department for Religious Education and Catechism of the Moscow Patriarchate, and to convey thanks for his work, as well as reserving for him the post as rector of the

Russian Orthodox Institute of the Holy Apostle John the Theologian. His Grace Mercurius, Bishop of Zaraisk, has been appointed Chairman of the Synodal Department of Religious Education and Catechism, as well as being relieved of his duties as Administrator of the Patriarchal Parishes in the United States. The temporary administration of the Patriarchal Parishes in the United States has been entrusted to His Grace Job, Bishop of Kashir, and Administrator of the Patriarchal Parishes in Canada.



Important Announcement: Father Lawrence will be out-of-town 20 - 27 April visiting his family and the required attending of the Bishop's Paschal celebration in NYC. In the event of an pastoral emergency, please contact Father Joshua Frigerio, pastor of Holy Ascension (Albion). Home: (517) 629 - 4873 Cell: (517) 554 - 0105 or Father Michael Carney, pastor of St. Herman's (Lake Odessa). Home: (616) 374 - 8596.

Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. - The Orthodox Christian Network (OCN) announced two new additions to its growing line of products and programs that seek to share the Orthodox Christian faith with viewers and listeners throughout the world. For more info go to: www.receive.org

Orthodox Pilgrimage Site in Italy:

The Russian Church is to be given perpetual use of a basilica in Italy. The Basilica of St.

REMEMBER WITH PRAYERS, CARDS, VISITS

- ♥ *Archpriest Roman Star*
- ♥ *Protodeacon Sam Beronja*
- ♥ *Matushka Marilyn Beronja*
- ♥ *Zachary Beronja*
- ♥ *Tyler Beronja*
- ♥ *Jeanie Hanchar*
- ♥ *Olympia & Aurelia Pietrariu*
- ♥ *Mary McCarthy*
- ♥ *Michelle Slone*
- ♥ *Judi Yost*
- ♥ *Peggy Hanchar*
- ♥ *George & Mary Nickolaou*
- ♥ *Carina Gunnerson*
- ♥ *Anne Bowden*
- ♥ *Louis Adamov*
- ♥ *Anna Gagye*
- ♥ *Nora Keathley*
- ♥ *George Spriggs*
- ♥ *Shimasse Vivian Miles*
- ♥ *Mike Ignatuk*



PHONE DIRECTORY

Chris Popovich Parish Executive Board President (269) 963-0358

Paul Meloff Parish Executive Board Treasurer (269) 963-4748

Judi Yost St. Mary's Sisterhood President and Sunshine Girl (269) 962-9680

Peggy Hanchar St. Mary's Sisterhood Publicity Chairman (269) 623-5079



FINANCIAL UPDATE

Summary of Operating Fund

-by Paul Meloff, Treasurer, Parish Executive Board

February Summary:

Please see the printed edition for this valuable information.

April Newsletter Sponsored By:

George & Mary Nickolaou
Louie & Lisbeth Nickolaou

Hall Rental:

Parish Members may make Hall Rentals only. For reservations for use of the hall: Call Paul Meloff @ 269.963.4748.

Meijer's Report:

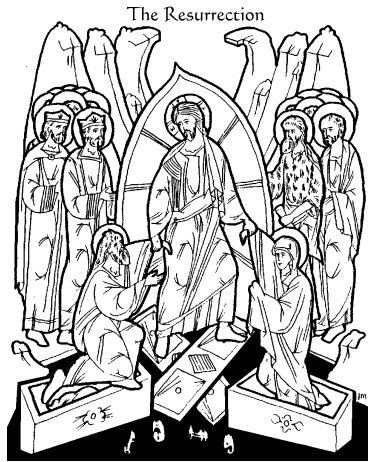
No report

Crafting Event:

April 25th - Home Grange Hall-Battle Creek
Charity Craft-In!!

\$25-proceeds to National Kidney Foundation
Have a day away from the family with
spinning, knitting, crocheting, scrapbooking!
All while raising money for a good cause! Free
lunch, snacks, and drinks (family style drinks)
will be provided.

Hourly drawings for sweet prizes!



UPCOMING MEETINGS

4/9

Sisterhood Meeting at Luey's Calabash 6PM

4/9

OCF at WMU 8PM

4/11

Vespers following Spring Clean-up

4/14

Council Meeting 7PM

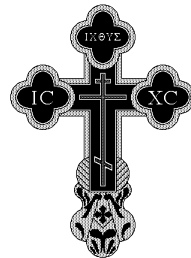
APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Vera Krtsev's Happy "Belated"
Birthday 22 March!

- 1 Michelle Slone
Nicholas Bell
- 6 Nicholas Rambow
Piku Pazik
Tricia Schupra
- 8 John Yosifivski
Adrian Pietrariu
- 9 Biljana Spasenovski
- 10 Biljana Popovich
Christoffer Sookhai
Carina Gunnerson
- 11 Elena Karpov
- 15 Candice Hanchar
- 18 Claire Domanick
- 19 Kathy Samson
- 25 Leni Nicoloch
- 30 Andrea Meloff

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- 24 Chris & Olga Popovich



Nicholas in Bari and its compound will pass into "unpaid, indefinite, in effect perpetual, use by the Russian Orthodox Church," when the Italian government implements its plan to hand over its ownership to Russia. The compound's planned handover is based on a decision made by the Italian government in 2007.

--Interfax 26 February

Special Lenten Menu for Russian Travelers:

The press service of the Russian Railways Company reports that during Great Lent all train and airplane passengers observing the Fast are traditionally offered a broad range of dishes which exclude foods of animal origin (meat, milk, fish and eggs). Dining cars and business class compartments serve various vegetable salads, stuffed pepper with vegetable filling, boiled and fried potatoes with mushrooms, and cooked cereals. Dessert menu includes broad choice of fruits and juices.

--Interfax 3 March

Orthodox Parishes Established in Thailand:

Preparatory works have started in the Thai city of Pattaya, where the Russian Orthodox Church of All Saints is to be erected, the official website of Moscow Patriarchate reports. It is also planned to open the Russian cultural center and a school at the Orthodox Church of the Holy Trinity in the Thai resort island of Phuket. The Russian Orthodox Church has recently received state registration in Thailand. Today there are three acting parishes in Thailand: in Bangkok, Pattaya and Phuket.

--Interfax 17 March

Orthodox service in Notre Dame de Paris:

Orthodox vespers was conducted in Notre Dame de Paris following the tradition of Lent. Over 500 pilgrims from various cities of France and neighboring European countries venerated the Savior's crown of thorns. Rector of the Three Holy Hierarchs Church, Hegumen Nestor (Sirotenko), conducted Vespers, the Korsun Diocese website has reported. A male choir of parishioners from various local Orthodox Churches chanted during the evening service. During Lent, the crown of thorns is open for believers to venerate in the Notre Dame de Paris each Friday.

--Interfax 25 March

Disturbing College Student Information:

Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF), ministry to college students recently discussed the issue about "the 60%." This term derives from a recent study revealing that 60% of college students never return to church after college. Unfortunately, this sad data applies to Orthodox Christians as well.

Elkhart Museum Features Russian Exhibit:

Ruthmere Museum is proud to present an exhibition of more than five dozen Imperial Russian porcelain Easter eggs. These stunning treasures represent over 100 years of Romanov family history, from Nicholas I through Nicholas II and Alexandra. Each egg is unique and the majority are hand-painted. Some feature delicate floral motifs, others show bold ciphers emblazoned on dramatically glazed backgrounds. Some portray intricate religious icons of Christ, the Saints, and the Madonna and Child. Russian porcelain Easter eggs offer insights into Russian Orthodox Easter traditions and the life of the imperial families. The Easter egg symbolizes the resurrection of

life that is the central theme of the Christian Easter celebration. The custom of exchanging eggs at Easter was brought from Byzantium to Russia with the introduction of Christianity.

Ruthmere Museum
302 E. Beardsley Ave.
Elkhart, Indiana 46514
Phone: 574-264-0330
Toll Free: 888-287-7696

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Members:

Let us welcome our new parishioners, Mike and Carol Ignatuk as well as Dr. Vyacheslav & Dr. Elena Karpov. May our Lord bless and grant them many, many years!

Oath Administered to Church Council:

Congratulations and God's blessings to the members of our dedicated parish council who were sworn-in recently during the Divine Liturgy: Gary Busch, Carina Gunnerson, Steve Hanchar, Leonora Keathley, Fred Martin, Paul Meloff, Chris Popovich, and Helen Repair.

Appreciated Donor:

St. Elias wishes to sincerely express its gratitude to Juliann Keller of Harper Woods, MI for her generous donation in loving memory of +Nada Williams. May God richly bless Juliann for considering helping our small parish some 125 miles away!

Pussy Willows:

Many thanks to our parishioners who have been bringing the traditional pussy willow branches for Palm Sunday; God bless you!

Sunday of the Holy Cross:

An abundance of gratitude is expressed to George and Mary Nickolaou for absorbing the cost associated with the beautiful floral decorating of the altar hand cross for the third Sunday of Lent. May God bless them for their generosity!

St. Elias Parish Library:

Many thanks to the following individuals for cleaning the library recently: Father Lawrence Bacik, Gary Busch, Alex Hanchar, Steve & Peggy Hanchar, Nora Keathley, Paul Meloff and Chris & Olga Popovich. May God bless you!

Altar Breads:

An abundance of thanks to Tomka Nicolich, Olga Popovich, Spasenije Spasenovsky and Nada Yosifovsky for baking prosphora for our parish's liturgical needs. May God bless you for your kind dedication! Many thanks to Tomka Nicolich for purchasing the Easter candy too!

Flower Donations for Passion Week:

Many thanks and God's blessings to everyone contributing to the flower fund, established for Great and Holy Friday and Saturday and for the feast of feasts: Holy Pascha! Paul Meloff, treasurer, is still accepting monies to help defray this costly expense!

Ornate Paschal Candles:

Thank you very much George and Mary Nickolaou (in memory of loving son +Mark), Tomka Nicolich (in memory of loving husband +Paul), and Barbara Repack (in memory of loving husband +Steve) for generously donating the traditional and decorative Paschal candles.

Gifts for the Church from Two Young Couples:

Sincere thanks to John and Tricia Schupra and Micah and Michelle Erwin for their generous offering of items for liturgical usage. A much needed large special flat sponge for the holy altar table's sacred antimens from Holy Transfiguration Monastery (Brookline, MA) and the finest quality hand crafted Athonite-style incense from Holy Cross Hermitage (Wayne, WV). May God bless these two handsome couples!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CLEAN-UP:

Following the 10:00AM Divine Liturgy on the feast of St. Lazarus (Saturday 11 April), we'll need your help sprucing-up our parish church and hall for the Holydays. We're asking that you bring cleaning supplies and/or gardening tools this day as well. We thank you in advance for your dedication and for considering our request.

Dedicated Altar Server:

Prior to the upcoming Lazarus Saturday clean-up, many sincere thanks is extended to Alex Hanchar for getting a huge "jump start" by meticulously polishing various liturgical items and church adornments. May God bless Alex for his untiring efforts!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sisterhood to Host Brunch:

The St. Mary's Sisterhood will host a delicious Brunch following Divine Liturgy on 3 May 2009. Please join us for this meal and fellowship to help raise much needed funds for future God-pleasing endeavors. Thank you in advance for your support of this important event!

National Kidney Foundation:

NKF Walk on May 31st in Portage at the Celery Flats. For general information on the internet: www.walk.kidney.org Here's our local SW Michigan info: http://walk.kidney.org/site/TR/Walk/MichiganInc?g=entry&fr_id=1791

St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary

(Crestwood, New York) will host a Summer Conference 18 -20 June entitled, "The Council and the Tomos: Twentieth-century Landmarks towards a Twenty-first-century Church." Conference speakers will focus on two watersheds that have shaped the Orthodox Church in America (OCA): the All-Russian Council (Sobor) of 1917-18 and the Tomos of Autocephaly granted in 1970 by the Russian Orthodox Church to its daughter church, the OCA, then known as the "North American Diocese." The conference will address the significance of the OCA's presence in North America, and future paths and possibilities open to it, including its interface with the multi-jurisdictional Orthodox Christian communities in the U.S. and Canada. For information visit www.svots.edu

Grief Recovery:

This gathering is a five week program for any adult who has experienced a loved one's death. Grief Recovery combines learning about the grieving process with the opportunity to discuss feelings of grief in a safe and open environment. This free program meets evenings from 5:15PM - 6:45PM on the following Thursdays: April 16, 23, 30 and May 7 and 14 2009. To register contact Lifespan Good Samaritan's Hospice Bereavement Dept. (269) 660-3621. Lifespan's Office is located at 166 E. Goodale Ave.

April 2009

St. Elias Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Presanctified Liturgy 6:00PM (Lenten pot-luck)	2	3 Paraklis 6 pm (Most Holy Theotokos)	4 Great Vespers 6 pm
5 Divine Liturgy 10 am Fellowship & School to follow Prospora/Donuts by Terri Sookhai	6	7	8 Presanctified Liturgy 6:00PM (Lenten pot-luck)	9 Sisterhood Mtg at Captain Luey's 6:00 pm OCF @ WMU 8pm	10 Paraklis 6 pm (Most Holy Theotokos)	11 Divine Liturgy 10am "Lazarus" Saturday followed by: Spring Clean Up & Great Vespers
12 Palm Sunday Divine Liturgy 10 am Fellowship & School to follow Prospora/Donuts by Barbra Dinsmore	13	14 Parish Council Mtg at 7:00 pm	15 Healing Service 6:00PM	16 Great & Holy Thursday Vesperal Liturgy 10AM Matins w/ 12 Passion Gospels 6PM	17 Great & Holy Friday Vespers 2PM Matins w/ Procession w/ Holy Shroud 6PM	18 Great & Holy Saturday Vesperal Liturgy 12 Noon Reading from the Acts of the Apostles 9PM Nocturn 11:25PM
19 PASCHA! Holy Pascha: Midnight Resurrectional Matins w/ procession 12AM Divine Liturgy 10 am w/ procession followed by the traditional blessing of Paschal foods. Prospora/Donuts by Zivka Nanos	20	21	22	23	24	25 Bright Saturday @ St. Nicholas Cathedral (NYC)
FAST FREE WEEK - Fr Lawrence Out of Town						
26 Divine Liturgy 10 am Fellowship & School to follow Prospora/Donuts by Suzie Gusching	27	28	29	30		