

St. Elias Orthodox Church

Patriarchal Parishes of the Russian Orthodox Church in the USA

A Monthly Newsletter

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PASTOR

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Issue Number 1 - January 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


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

From the Pastor's Desk



"Be sure of this: that I am with you always..."
--St. John 16:22

Dearest Brethren:

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory forever!

I pray that you had a most blessed Christmas. It is indeed a holy and joyous time of the year to ever increase our humble prayers and fervent supplications to our Lord, God and

Savior! I sincerely pray that the New Year will bring forth excellent health, goodness and happiness to you and all of God's faithful people. Let us be mindful and also exhort our youth in particular to give heed to God's Commandments and Christian spiritual values!

May each of you live this New Year in the virtue of Christ with your families and friends "in all godliness and reverence" (1 Timothy 2:2), in all progress towards every virtuous deed, and in mystical communion through prayer with God Almighty, the Source of every good gift and in dialogue of love for one another!

May the grace and infinite mercy of our Great God, the Lover of mankind, be with you always!

With love in Christ Jesus,

Archpriest Lawrence Bacik

ORTHODOX NEWS: Holy Synod



The Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church at its session on 10 December 2008 took decision on the dates of the Bishops' Council and the Local Council of the Russian Orthodox Church to elect the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia.

The Holy Synod resolved that The Bishops' Council will be held on 25-26 January 2009, and the Local Council on 27-29 January 2009.

The Holy Synod set up a commission for preparation of the Local Council of the Russian Orthodox Church. The commission consists of twenty-nine bishops, clerics, and laymen.

The Moscow Synod advises to elect the new Patriarch by secret ballot - Moscow, Interfax - The Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church at its last meeting in Moscow suggested electing the next Patriarch by secret ballot. It also advised the Bishops Council to choose by secret ballot three candidates to the post from among hierarchs aged over 40, having a degree in theology and experience of governing a diocese, the official website of the Moscow Patriarchate says. Under the ruling of the Holy Synod the candidates can also be nominated by the Local Council and also by secret ballot. The recommendations of the Holy Synod require approval by the Bishops Council that will meet on January 25-26 ahead of the Local Council due on January 27-29. The enthronement of the new Patriarch is scheduled for February 1.

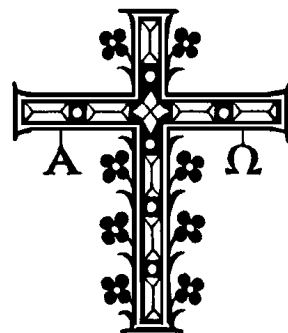
In Memoriam:

Having battled throat cancer, +Branko "Miko" Tomanovic, age 67 of Kragujevac, Serbia (Chana's brother), fell asleep in the Lord 10 December 2008. May our Lord Jesus comfort Jordan, Spasenije and the Spasenovski family during this trying time in their lives and may He give a blessed repose to +Branko! Bog da go prosti!

Having battled a lengthy illness, +Michael Graf, age 84 fell asleep in the Lord 28 December 2008 in Phoenix, Arizona. May our Lord and Savior comfort +Michael's son Mark and his family (wife Marty and their son Walter) during this difficult time. May +Michael's memory be eternal, vecnaja pamjat!

Prayers for the Unborn:

A special prayer service will be celebrated on Sunday 18 January at 3:00PM for aborted children and their mothers at the Memorial Monument of the Unborn located in Beckley Cemetery (Helmer Rd. just south of I - 94). Dress warm and bring your friends for prayer!



REMEMBER WITH PRAYERS, CARDS, VISITS

- ♥ *Archpriest Roman Star*
- ♥ *Archpriest Paul Waters*
- ♥ *Protodeacon Sam Beronja*
- ♥ *Zachary Beronja*
- ♥ *Tyler Beronja*
- ♥ *Jeanie Hanchar*
- ♥ *Olympia & Aurelia Pietrariu*
- ♥ *Paul Meloff*
- ♥ *Mary McCarthy*
- ♥ *Michelle Slone*
- ♥ *Judi Yost*
- ♥ *Peggy Hanchar*
- ♥ *Donna Mito*
- ♥ *George & Mary Nickolaou*
- ♥ *Carina Gunnerson*
- ♥ *Anne Bowden*
- ♥ *Chris Slavoff*
- ♥ *Louis Adamov*
- ♥ *Anna Gagye*
- ♥ *Nora Keathley*
- ♥ *George Spriggs*
- ♥ *Shimasse Vivian Miles*
- ♥ *Stephanie Gushing*
- ♥ *Tasha Federinko*

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Summary of Operating Fund

-by Paul Meloff, Treasurer, Parish Executive Board

November Summary:

Please see our printed newsletter for the latest financial update.

January Newsletter Sponsored By:
Mike & Nada Yosifovski/ Rudy & Judi Yost

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

Cabbage Roll Dinner:

We cleared a total of \$ # dollars. This is the best year we ever had. Thanks for all your work and your donations.

PHONE DIRECTORY

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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



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Traditional Blessing of Homes:

Father Lawrence will be contacting our parishioners for scheduling home blessings. He is honored to pray and visit with you and humbly asks for your patience, especially during the months of January and February!

Church Prospora Bakers:

Many thanks to all of the families that volunteer to help bake prospora for weekends, it's much appreciated. An abundance of gratitude is also expressed to both Tomka Nicolich and Olga Popovich for faithfully baking for our weekday services. May our Lord richly bless all of you for your dedicated kindness!

St. Thomas Music Guild:

"Just Add Water" performs music that appeals to everyone of all ages and backgrounds. "Just Add Water" is an award winning combo having recently achieved Kalamzoo's Bravo Competition, the Outstanding Combo Award at the 2008 Western Jazz Invitational and several other competitions. The concert is free and will be held at St. Thomas Church in downtown Battle Creek 1 February at 3:00PM. All welcome!

Orthodox Jobs:

Is a source for Orthodox Christians who are seeking employment in an Orthodox environment. It is a collaborative effort of the Information Technologies Commission of the Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in America (SCOBA), the Office of Vocations at Hellenic College, and St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary. For more information, surf on over to www.orthodoxjobs.com.

OCN Announces:

New podcast series on the Divine Liturgy [Source O.C.A.] FT. LAUDERDALE, FL [OCN] -- The Orthodox Christian Network [OCN] is pleased to announce its newest podcast, "Worship in Spirit & Truth," hosted by Demetrios Katos and now available at www.myocn.net. Worship in Spirit & Truth helps busy laypeople better understand - and celebrate! - the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom.

Approved Augmented Litany:

The Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church, which convened on December 24, 2008, approved and confirmed the text of a supplication proposed by the Preparatory Commission for the Local Council, to be intoned in all churches of the Russian Orthodox Church during the augmented litany of Divine Liturgy until the conclusion of the Council:



“Look down, O all-good Master, upon the forthcoming Council of Thine archpastors, pastors and faithful children, that in well-pleasing fashion they may undertake to set our Church in good order; grant them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of the fear of God, the spirit of piety and zeal for the glory of Thy holy name; and preserve them from all temptations, impediments and divisions, that in love and oneness of mind they may freely perform the election of the Primate of our Church: we beseech Thee, O most compassionate Lord: hearken and have mercy.”

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Peggy Hanchar
- 4 Michael Slavoff
- 5 David Oliphant
- 8 Travis Etrtridge
- 9 Chris Repair
- 10 Linda Nicastro
- 13 George Nickolaou
- 14 Fred Beronja
- 16 Jim Hanchar
Jordan Sposenovski
- 21 Nicholas Nicastro
- 23 Jessica Martin
- 23 Suzanne Gusching
- 24 Ed Dinsmore
- 26 Brandon Popovich
- 28 Ken Repair
- 30 Paula Kizer
- 31 Jacqueline Hanchar

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 14 Jim & Jean Hanchar
- 15 Sam & Marilyn Beronja
- 27 Ed & Barbara Dinsmore

UPCOMING FEASTS AND EVENTS

- ~ 2/2/09 Feast of the "Meeting" of the Lord in the Temple (Blessing of Candles)
- ~ 2/22/09 Meatfare Sunday: Following Services, Cabbage Roll Pot-luck Luncheon
- ~ 3/1/09 Beginning of Great Lent (at sundown)

DATES TO REMEMBER

1/1 Circumcision of our Lord;
Feast of St. Basil the Great (Civil New Year)



1/6 Holy Theophany: Divine Liturgy with the Great Blessing of Water 10:00AM

1/7 Nativity of our Lord (Old Julian Style Calendar Christmas): Divine Liturgy 10:00AM

1/8 Sisterhood Mtg. at Lux Cafe 6:00PM

1/11 Panikhida +Halina Yugas (1st Anniversary) by loving family

1/13 Memorial Service 6:30PM Newly-departed Servant of God, His Holiness Patriarch +Alexei

1/13 Council Mtg. 7:00PM

1/15 Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) @ WMU 7:00PM

1/20 Blessing at City Hall 7:00PM

January 2009

St. Elias Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Circumcision of our Lord; Feast of St. Basil the Great (Civil New Year)	2	3 Great Vespers 6 pm
4 Divine Liturgy 10 am Fellowship & School to follow Prosphora/Donuts by Gail Brandow	5 Great Compline 6:00PM	6 Holy Theophany: Divine Liturgy with the Great Blessing of Water 10:00AM	7 Nativity of our Lord (Old Julian Style Calendar Christmas): Divine Liturgy 10:00AM	8 Sisterhood Mtg. at Lux Cafe 6:00PM	9	10 Great Vespers 6 pm
11 Divine Liturgy 10 am Fellowship & School to follow Panikhida +Halina Yuhas (1st Anniversary) by loving family Prosphora/Donuts by Charissa Oliphant	12	13 Memorial Service 6:30PM Newly-departed Servant of God, His Holiness Patriarch +Alexei Council Mtg. 7:00PM	14	15 Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) @ WMU 7:00PM	16	17 Great Vespers 6 pm
18 Divine Liturgy 10 am Fellowship & School to follow Prosphora/Donuts by Velika Pazik	19	20 Blessing at City Hall 7:00PM	21	22	23	24 Great Vespers 6 pm
25 Divine Liturgy 10 am Fellowship & School to follow Prosphora/Donuts by Stephanie Rambow	26	27	28	29	30	31 Great Vespers 6 pm