

St. Elias Orthodox Church

Patriarchal Parishes of the Russian Orthodox Church in the USA

A Monthly Newsletter

St. Elias Orthodox Church
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PASTOR

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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 7 - July 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

An open letter from **Jesse Brandow**, parish acolyte and college student

Dear friends,

Christ is in our midst! I am writing this exactly two weeks from when I will leave for my mission trip, and I can't believe that the time has nearly come! I wanted to thank you all again for the support you have given me in this common effort for Christ. Thank you!

As I am preparing myself for this journey, I am actually a little nervous to soon find myself in a completely foreign place with all new people. However, I am also remembering the words of our Lord when he prayed in



Gethsemane for all of us: "that they may all be one: even as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be in us" (John 17:20-21). And so I am reminded that our Lord, who called me to go on this mission trip, is the one who has called all of separated and fragmented humanity into a new unity. We are no longer strangers, but all are children of Abraham, and the people I go to in order that I may serve and love them are also called into this same communion of love by Christ our God. No distance, no racial difference, and no foreign land can ever darken this truth. Thanks be to God!

And so, in this modern time when it seems so hard to make peace and friendship among even next-door neighbors, much less people of other countries, I am so thankful to be able to spend two weeks being friends with these children in Guatemala, and being a witness to Christ's love for all people. Please continue to pray for me that I will have courage and love, and will trust in Christ and never be afraid. It is

really prayer that makes a mission. I am also remembering you and praying for all of you too. Thank you again for your support. I can't wait to share my experience with all of you. God bless!

Yours in Christ,
Jesse

LESSON: The Unbreakable Spiritual Law

The venerable St. Seraphim of Sarov (+1834) was once asked what is lacking in a person that he fails in his spiritual efforts. The Saint responded, "Just one thing," he said, "a firm resolve". Yet, another great saint of the land of Rus', St. Theophan the Recluse (+1894) when asked the same question said, "In every aspect of the spiritual life: prayer, fasting, reading the Scriptures, the keeping of the Commandments, the discovering of the will of God, and all else, you will achieve nothing by your own effort alone; yet God will not give you anything unless you work with all your strength. This is the unbreakable spiritual law".

SPIRITUAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

It is better to eat meat and drink wine and not to eat the flesh of one's brethren through slander.

--Abba Hyperechius

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Battle Creek Field of Flight: Air Show & Balloon Festival

Five full days of family fun and entertainment 1 - 5 July 2009! All activities are at the W. K. Kellogg Airport at North Helmer Road. Information: (269) 962 - 0592 or on the Internet: www.bcballoons.com

Annual Cabbage Roll Dinner:

Our parish will be hosting this renown annual event on Saturday 7 November 2009. Mark your calendars to help support this important fundraiser!

Church Festival in Flint:

St. Nicholas Church is hosting their Annual Festival on Sunday 19 July from noon till dark. This event is Michigan's largest lamb, chicken and rib barbecue featuring ethnic pastries, Eastern European and Balkan home-cooking. Kids' games and bounce house. Live music by Skimos. The parish is located at 2143 S. Center Rd. in Burton. Info: (810) 744 - 0070 and on-line: www.saintnicholasburton.org

Mark Your Calendars: St. Elias Church to Observe Patronal Feast

The feast of St. Elias is approaching soon! On Monday 20 July we will observe our patronal feast with a 10:00AM Divine Liturgy. Area clergy and faithful will be joining us for our 43rd customary gathering. Central States Dean, Very Rev. Archpriest Roman Star, will be the chief celebrant. Following services, a tasty meal along with fellowship will be held in our church hall. All parishioners and friends of the parish are kindly asked to bring a dish-to-pass for this special event. The main beef and chicken dishes, however, will be prepared by a local caterer. On the eve (19 July), Great Vespers will be served following Sunday's Divine Liturgy. Your participation is greatly appreciated on St. Elias Day! Come and worship with us!

Words of Wisdom
 "The best things in life...are not things!"

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
- ♥ George Spriggs
- ♥ Shimasse Vivian Miles
- ♥ Domnica Mito
- ♥ Rocky McCarthy
- ♥ Deacon John Wesner

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Summary of Operating Fund

-by Paul Meloff, Treasurer, Parish Executive Board

May Summary	
Receipts	\$14540.67
Disbursements	\$10645.58
Increase in Funds	\$ 3895.09

July Newsletter Sponsored By:

Chris & Olga Popovich / Greg & Susanne Gusching

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



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



Congratulations:

To Andrea Meloff on graduating from Rochester Adams High School and going on to Tennessee Tech University on a soccer scholarship!

Academic Achievements:

Congrats to Katie Nickolaou for achieving 6th Grade Honor Roll with straight A's all four marking periods and for her "NUMATS" talent search participation!

Congrats to John Nickolaou for achieving 4th Grade Honor Roll all four marking periods and being a finalist for the Gateway Art Project sponsored by the Arts & Industry Council!

Attention: Student's Parents

If you would like to include your child's graduation, academic achievements, etc. please notify Father Lawrence of your intentions.

Yost Family Announce Engagement:

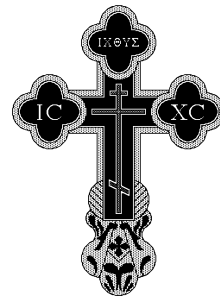
Rudy and Judi Yost are pleased to announce the engagement of their son, Tony, to Elissa Dwyer of Rockford, MI. Their wedding will take place in Grand Rapids 30 May 2010. Tony has begun an internship at the State Capitol - working in the Policies Division. He will graduate in December with a Masters Degree in Political Science from Central Michigan University. Elissa completed her Masters Degree in May from CMU and is now a speech pathologist for Montcalm County. Congratulations to Tony and Elissa (& their respective families too!) on their engagement and their academic achievements! May our Lord God abundantly bless the Yost and Dwyer families!

Fall Foliage Amish Dinner Field Trip Scheduled:

We've been invited to the Wickey's homestead, a local Amish family residing in nearby Leonidas, for a delicious supper on Thursday 8 October. Rosie Wickey and her dedicated family staff sincerely look forward to your visit and will be preparing a traditional Amish supper for your delight. Adults \$16.00 & Children ages 5 - 12 only \$7.00. Please make your reservation with Father Lawrence. This outing is just a short hop (scenic too!) from our church. On the day of the event, we will leave the church premises "caravan" style, simply following one another. Last year we didn't get lost, arriving and returning safely; glory to God! The Wickey's are located west of Athens off of Route M-60 on Correll Road.

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

**Summer Institute 2009**

Hellenic College - Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology (www.hchc.edu) is hosting the Summer Institute 30 July - 2 August 2009 in Brookline, Massachusetts. There are two tracks. One is designed for Sunday School teachers and anyone interested in teaching the faith. The second track, however, is designed for choir directors, singers or anyone interested in creating opportunities for young people to learn the musical heritage of the Orthodox Church. Topics include: Living on the Logosphere, Understanding Byzantine Liturgy, Teenagers and the Internet: What Teachers and Parents Should Know, Building Faith + Summer Fun = Vacation Church School, Ortho-Crafts, Desert Wisdom for City Dwellers, Storytelling through Art, St. Maximos the Confessor and the Role of the Teacher, and Organizing for Youth Involvement in Church Music. Early registration is \$100.00 and regular registration is \$150.00; this fee covers meals, breaks and all program materials. Information regarding program and registration is available at: www.religioused.goarch.org

Russian Orthodox Consecrate Parish in Rome:

The Vatican described a solemn ceremony for the consecration of the first parish of the Moscow Patriarchate in Rome as a sign of further thawing of relations with the Russian Orthodox Church. "We are happy that the Russian Orthodox community has a new church in the center of Rome. It is a sign that we are nearer to each other," said Cardinal Walter Kasper, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, who attended the three-hour dedication of the Church of the Great Martyr Saint Catherine on the grounds of the Russian Embassy. The idea

for an official Orthodox church in the Italian capital dates from the 19th century, but revolution and 70 years of communism intervened. A building fund was established in 2004

Pastor Receives Recognition:

The City Commission along with the citizens of the City of Battle Creek awarded Father Lawrence with the distinguished "Mayor Frederick R. Brydges" Award. Current Mayor, Mark A. Behnke, presented the appreciation award 2 June and remarked that he and his colleagues on the Battle Creek City Commission commend Very Rev. Lawrence Bacik for his devotion to St. Elias Eastern Orthodox Church and the Battle Creek community. "We are pleased to recognize citizens such as Very Rev. Lawrence Bacik, who give of their time freely to make Battle Creek a great place to live!"

Pastor Achieves Degree:

Christ the Saviour Seminary (Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople) of Johnstown, Pennsylvania and by virtue of the authority granted through Documents of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania granted Archpriest Lawrence Bacik the Degree of Sacred Theology with all honors, rights and privileges thereto appertained for having satisfactorily completed the required Theological Studies 31 May 2009. May God richly bless our pastor, Father Lawrence Bacik, for his dedicated achievements and continued success! Many years!

July 2009

St. Elias Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 Happy 4th of July! Independence Day!
5 Divine Liturgy 10 am Fellowship to follow Prospora/Donuts by Helen Repair	6	7	8	9	10	11 Great Vespers 6:00PM
12 Divine Liturgy 10 am Fellowship to follow Prospora/Donuts by Peggy Hanchar	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 Divine Liturgy 10 am Vespers & Beronja Twins Baptism & Fellowship to follow Prospora/Donuts by Barb Repack	20 Feast of St. Elias; Divine Liturgy 10 am (meal to follow: bring a dish-to-pass)	21	22	23	24	27 Great Vespers 6:00PM
26 Divine Liturgy 10 am Fellowship to follow Prospora/Donuts by Mat Marilyn Beronja	27	28	29	30	31	

 **JULY BIRTHDAYS** 

- 1 Chris Nicastro
- 1 Daniel Nicastro
- 2 Greta Meloff
- 3 David Borzkowski
- 4 Stephanie Gusching
- 5 Stephen Gunnerson
- 10 Lenora Keathley
- 10 Pando Nanos
- 10 Mike Yosifivoski
- 12 Nicki Britten
- 13 Stephanie Hanchar
- 13 Jake Beronja
- 15 Greg Slone
- 15 Jennifer Hanchar
- 20 Donna Mito
- 20 Mat. Marie Bacik
- 22 Timothy Oliphant
- 23 Marc Meloff
- 27 James S Hanchar
- 28 Christopher Nicastro
- 30 Johnny Wiesner

 **JULY ANNIVERSARIES** 

- 3 Jordan & Chana Spasenovski
- 15 Joe & Niki Britten
- 24 Chris & Linda Nicastro
- 28 Chris & Lisa Repair