

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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ASSISTANT TO THE PASTOR

Rev. Protodeacon Samuel Beronja,
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Issue Number 6 - June 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

Dear Brethren:
Christ is in our midst!
He is and ever shall be!

"In all your ways
acknowledge Him, and He
will direct your paths."

--Proverbs 3:6



I sincerely pray that you and your families are well. Spring is certainly beautiful in SW Michigan, but I think the summer season is just about here! Please be reminded that we gather for Divine Liturgy every Sunday and for various feasts during the warm Summer months. On behalf of St. Elias Church I am humbly asking you for your fervent prayers and continued support for our ministry and Orthodox Christian witness. May our good

and merciful Lord Jesus reward you a hundred fold for your dedicated efforts!

I wish to also honor and express my deepest gratitude to our Sunday School teachers and staff. From September through June, our remarkable teachers faithfully give of their time and talents preparing and instructing the children of our parish. Parents are well aware that our youth's religious education and Christian upbringing is of utmost importance. The meaningful lessons and moral values learned by our children will help be an invaluable tool for their Christian formation in their daily lives. An abundance of thanks and appreciation is extended to our gifted teachers: Gail Brandow, Ramona Busch, Carina Gunnerson, Peggy Hanchar, Nora Keathley, Charissa and David Oliphant, and Michelle Sloane!

May God richly bless you for caring!
With love in our Savior,

ARCHPRIEST LAWRENCE BACIK

PENTECOST:

Fifty days after the Resurrection, on the exciting Jewish feast of Pentecost, while the disciples and many other followers of Jesus Christ were gathered together to pray, the Holy Spirit descended upon them in the form of "cloven tongues of fire," with the sound of a mighty rushing wind, and they began to speak in languages that they did not know. There were many visitors from the Jewish diaspora to Jerusalem at that time for the Jewish observance of the feast, and they were astonished to hear these untaught fisherman speaking praises to God in their respective native tongues. This account is detailed in the Acts of the Apostles, chapter 2.

The number fifty, as in the fiftieth day after Pascha, stands for eternal and heavenly fulfillment, seven times seven, plus one.

The Orthodox Church sees Pentecost as the final fulfillment of the mission of Jesus Christ and the first beginning of the messianic age of the Kingdom of God, mystically present in His Church. It is traditionally called the beginning of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church.

Besides celebrating the coming of the Holy Spirit, the feast also celebrates the full revelation of the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Church hymns celebrate the sign of the final act of God's self-disclosure to the world of His creation.

To Orthodox Christians, the feast of Pentecost is not just a celebration of an event in history. It is also a celebration of their membership in the Church. They have lived Pentecost and

received "the seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit" in the sacrament of chrismation.

SPIRITUAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

He who has received a gift from God and is ungrateful for it, is already on the way to losing it.

--St. Peter of Damascus

When anyone is disturbed or saddened under the pretext of a good and soul-profiting matter, and is angered against his neighbor, it is evident that this is not according to God: for everything that is of God is peaceful and useful and leads a man to humility and to judging himself.

--St. Barsanuphius the Great

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Student Gains Recognition at Ceremony:

Congratulations to Alex Bacik for earning "Outstanding Achievement Awards" in both English and Band 14 May! May our Lord bless him as he completes his freshman year at Galesburg Augusta High School!

Milestone Marriage Blessing:

It was indeed a tremendous joy for the members of the Adamov family to gather at St. Elias to observe the auspicious occasion of Lou and his lovely wife Bethel's 66th Wedding Anniversary 23 May 2009! During the Divine Liturgy a special prayer was invoked and a blessing was given to this dedicated couple. May God grant them many, many years!

Newly-Illumined Servant-of-God:

Congratulation and God's choicest blessings to Ellery Grace Rambow on the occasion of her Baptism/Chrismation 23 May. The beautiful infant received the name, "Zoe" during the

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*

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Summary of Operating Fund

-by Paul Meloff, Treasurer, Parish Executive Board

April Summary:

See the print edition of our newsletter for the financial update.

June Newsletter Sponsored By:

Susan Pifer / John & Militza Nicolich

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

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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



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 online: www.saintnicholasburton.org

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

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

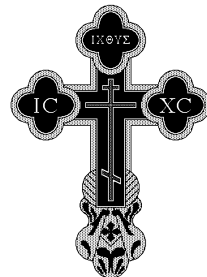
- 1 Laura Hanchar
- 2 Danielle Tilley
- 3 Jonah Brandow
- 4 Geoff Bowden
- 11 Chana Spasenovski
- 13 Cindy Beronja
- 14 David Keathley
- 18 Steven Vrantsidis
- 24 Anna Gunnerson
Melanie Kent
- 29 Alberta Mannan
- 30 Theo Kizer

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Fred & Linda Martin
- 14 Doug & Gail Brandow
- 16 Don & Paula Kizer
- 26 Patrick & Teresa Heckenlively

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The Feast of St Elias is coming up Monday July 20th, Divine Liturgy 10:00AM



inspiring service. She is the first born daughter of Nick and Bobby Jo, granddaughter of Jon and Stephanie, great-granddaughter of Barbara Repack and great grand niece of Rudy and Judi Yost. Many years!

Crown Them with Glory:

Although this handsome couple were married 19 years ago in a civil ceremony in Russia, we offer our heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Vyacheslav and Dr. Elena Karpov on the imparting of a marriage blessing 31 May 2009 May God grant them many, many years!

Traditional Blessing of Graves on "Soul"

Saturday:

Graves will be blessed at Oak Hill Cemetery (255 South Ave.) on Saturday 6 June at 9:00AM.

Graves will also be blessed at Memorial Park Association (2435 W. Territorial Rd.) on Saturday 6 June at 10:30AM

Please note: In case of rain, we will gather at the same times and locations on Monday 8 June ("Spirit" Day). All other cemeteries by appointment.

33rd Annual Greek Fest'

Spend three days in Greece without leaving Kalamazoo 4 - 6 June at Arcadia Creek Festival Place!

Thirty three years ago it all began with a small gathering of friends enjoying the Greek culture in the basement of



Dionysos Restaurant. Little did Theo and Stacy know that the people of Kalamazoo would embrace and accept their heritage with overwhelming enthusiasm. After the first year, people came and went and requested more Greek cultural events. Theo and Stacy decided to not only share the food and drink of Greece, but also the song and dance. Within a few years the festival grew in size and it could no longer be held in the restaurant. After much consideration it was decided to make the festival a one day outdoor event. The festival eventually grew in size to a three day event where musicians, singers, and dancers would come via Greece and share the authentic Greek experience. When joining us at the festival this year, in memory of Theo, remember him singing and dancing with his glass of Ouzo exclaiming OPA!

Cereal City's Cereal Fest:

Battle Creek will host the 2009 Cereal Fest' on Saturday 13 June. Breakfast will be served from 7:30AM - 10:30AM. For information: (269) 282 - 8082 or on the internet: www.worldslongestbreakfasttable.com

Father's Day:

Best wishes and God's choicest blessings are extended to all fathers on this special civil holiday 21 June. Attention Fathers: Have a happy and most blessed Father's Day! For all fathers, however, that have fallen asleep in the Lord, may God grant them rest with the righteous and may their memory be eternal, vecnaja pamjat!

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

June 2009

St. Elias Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6 "Soul" Saturday Graves will be blessed at Oak Hill Cemetery (255 South Ave.) @ 9 AM Memorial Park Association (2435 W. Territorial Rd.) @ 10:30 AM Great Vespers 6:00PM
7 Divine Liturgy 10 am Fellowship to follow Prospora/Donuts by Olga Popovich	8 Rain Date Today: Blessing of the Graves - In case of rain, we will gather at the same times ("Spirit" Day). All other cemeteries by appointment.	9 St. Michael's Church (Redford, MI) to Host Central States Deanery Meeting	10 St. Michael's Church (Redford, MI) to Host Central States Deanery Meeting	11	12	13 Father Lawrence & son Alex work experience education out-of-town
14 Divine Liturgy 10 am Fellowship to follow Prospora/Donuts by Terri Sookhai	15 Sts. Peter & Paul Fast Begins	16	17	18	19	20 Father Lawrence & son Alex work experience education out-of-town
21 Father's Day Divine Liturgy 10 am Fellowship to follow Prospora/Donuts by Michelle Sloan	22	23	24 Nativity of St John the Baptist	25	26	27 Great Vespers 6:00PM
28 Divine Liturgy 10 am Fellowship to follow Prospora/Donuts by Donna Mito	29 Feast of Sts. Peter & Paul Divine Liturgy 10 am	30				