

St. Elias Orthodox Church

Patriarchal Parishes of the Russian Orthodox Church in the USA

A Monthly Newsletter

Issue Number 3 - March 2009

St. Elias Orthodox Church
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PASTOR

Very Rev. Archpriest Lawrence Bacik
529 Cynthia, Galesburg, MI 49053
269.665.9313
Cell Phone (Emergencies
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ASSISTANT TO THE PASTOR

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

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



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:
Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory forever!

"He is my Helper and Protector, and has become my salvation. This is my God and I will glorify Him. My father's God and I will exalt Him. For gloriously has He been glorified"

--Exodus 15:2; Psalms 117:14

We are about to embark on a long journey, a spiritual journey, known as Great and Holy Lent. Although this journey does not commence at a

railroad station or an airport, it begins with repentance. At times we're immersed in a life that lacks love, a real painful life that seems clearly hopeless, filled with despair and distant from Christ our Savior. Many individuals, however, truly think and equate the time of Great and Holy Lent with suffering, a total inconvenience, a waste of time and some sort of punishment. This is certainly the wrong attitude to have during this holy season. The 40 day fast is for our benefit and nourishment.

Come and worship with us during this important and most holy time of the liturgical year. Many services have been scheduled that will enable us to grow spiritually and draw nearer to the source of life: Christ our true God.

Wishing all of you a marvelous and rewarding journey towards Holy Pascha, the Resurrection of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ!

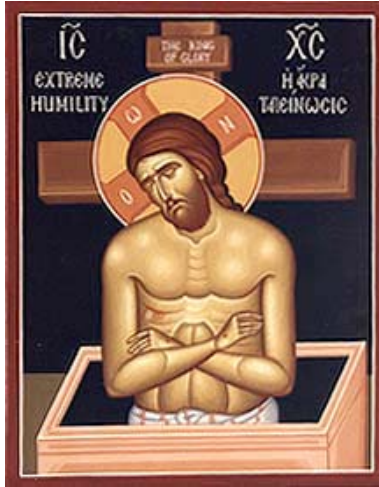
With love in Christ,

Archpriest Lawrence Bacik

LESSON:
For the Youth - What's Up with Lent?

It is just about midnight and you are surrounded by a quiet darkness. You look around, everyone is there; everyone always is on this night. The priest comes out of the sanctuary; he sings, "Come receive the light from the never ending light and Glorify Christ, who is risen from the dead." In his hand, he holds the only light in the church. Flame by flame the church is slowly lit. It goes from total darkness to a warm light. But it is not like most light...it is different.

Let's think about it for a minute, after all it is just a flame. It does not give off much heat. By itself, it does not give off too much light. It is not that strong; it can easily be blown out. But just as quickly as it can be blown out, it can grow from a flame to a fire. A fire can give off much heat and light. However, a fire is not easily blown out. At Pascha, we light our candles; many of us take them home with us lit. But when we blow out our candles when we get home are we also blowing out our spiritual candles? What have



we done to prepare so that the flame can grow into a burning fire?

We all know what comes of not preparing properly for things. If you do not prepare for a test, you will not do well. But what about spiritual preparation? I'm talking about more than being nice to your brother and going to church on Sunday (although both very good things to do). I am talking about getting ourselves prepared so that our flames can grow into strong fires.

Take for example the parable of the ten virgins. Ten virgins with their oil lamps lit waited for the bridegroom to arrive. Five of them brought extra oil, in case they ran out while they waited, the other five did not. When the five foolish women's lamps began to go out, they had no additional fuel to keep their flame lit. They left to get more oil. While they were gone, the bridegroom came and the women that were prepared went in with Him to the wedding. The unprepared women did not get to go.

We must prepare ourselves for the day when Christ comes. If we do not, we will be like the women without the oil... locked out of the feast. Are we lighting our spiritual candle at midnight and then blowing it out when we get home?

As we approach the Lenten season, there are things we can do to prepare ourselves for the Resurrection. The first place we should start is

Sacred Scripture Quote:
"The Lord has commanded us: I have set you as a light to the Nations, that you should be for salvation unto the ends of the earth."
 (Acts 13:47)

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

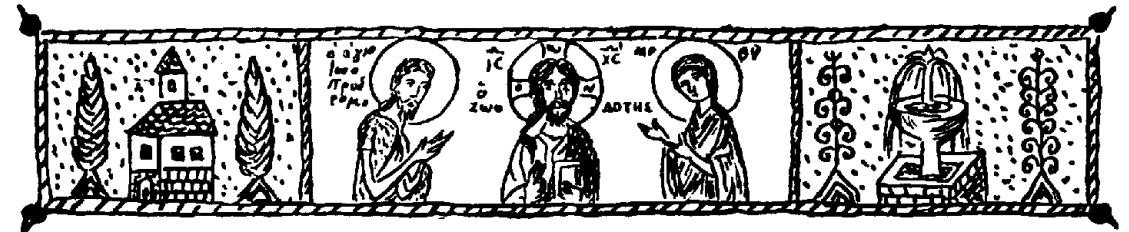
FINANCIAL UPDATE
Summary of Operating Fund
 -by Paul Meloff, Treasurer, Parish Executive Board

January Summary:
 Please see the printed newsletter for this report.

March Newsletter Sponsored By:
 Louis & Bethel Adamov / Tomka Nicolich
 (In memory of Paul)

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:
 We received \$100.56 from our share plan from Meijer's. Thanks to those who participated in the program.



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



👑 **MARCH BIRTHDAYS** 👑

- 2 Christopher Nicolich
- 3 Louis Adamov
Gabrielle Kizer
- 4 Brabara Repack
- 5 Bethany Nicolich
- 6 Olga Popovich
- 9 Debbie Beronja
- 11 Josh Busch
- 12 Mary McCarthy
- 15 Jesse Brandow
- 16 Chris Popovich
- 22 Victor Borzkowski
- 29 Alex Bacik
Don Kizer
- 30 Suzanne Pifer
- 31 Linda Martin
Gabriel Beronja

👑 **MARCH ANNIVERSARIES** 👑

- 6 Ordination of Fr. Lawrence
- 7 Greg & Suzanne Gusching
- 8 Alex & Biljana Popovich
- 22 Vasile & Aurelia Pietrariu

with our priest. He can help to point us in the right direction. But here are some things we should begin considering in the mean time:

Prayer-All good things begin with prayer. Think about it this way; when we meet someone we like, we spend time talking with them. The more we talk with them the more we know them and the more we want to know. Prayer is a conversation with God. We should tell him our fears, ask him to guide us and thank him for our blessings. If you do not already have one, order an Orthodox prayer book to help you.

Go to Church-We know some of us may think that church only occurs on Sunday. Wrong! The Orthodox Church offers an entire cycle of worship throughout the year. No time is that more evident than during Lent. We should go to the Divine Liturgy on Sunday but we should also go to the other liturgical services (Vespers, Compline, Salutations & Akathist Hymn, Pre-Sanctified Liturgy). But here is the really important part, we should not just "go" to the services...we need to be active participants in the services. Ask your priest where you can get books for the services so that you can participate by reading, chanting and following along.

Repentance/Confession-We know it is hard, but confession is necessary for spiritual growth. Do not look at it as going in with your

shopping lists of sins and trying to rattle them off as quickly as possible. Instead look at it as an opportunity to fix your relationship with God through repentance. Repentance is accepting that we have done something wrong and (here's the hard part) committing to try very, very hard not fall into those sins again.

Read the Bible-If you don't have one, get one immediately! Ask your priest for the list of daily bible readings for the church calendar. This will help you in your journey through Lent and throughout the year.

Fast-We know what you are all thinking... beans, greens and rice how does that make me a better Christian? Fasting is really about discipline. We discipline ourselves in other areas of our life (athletics, academic). We should be disciplining ourselves spiritually in what we do as well as in what we eat.

Give-Take time during Lent to give to those in need. You do not need money to do this. Ask yourself how can I give of my time, talents and treasure to give Glory to God?

Through the guidance of our priest and teachers, we pray we can all count ourselves with the wise virgins... prepared. But after the Paschal liturgy has been celebrated and the candles have all been blown out, ask yourself this... is my spiritual candle still lit?

--Melissa K. Bazos and Anna Nicole Kyritsis



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

Children's Play Time:

Many thanks to Fred and Linda Martin for not only donating all of the necessary supplies and materials, but also for constructing a wonderful and inviting play table for the children of our parish! May God reward you for your thoughtful concern and talents!

Community Action's Annual Walk for Warmth:

This year marks the 24th Annual Walk for Warmth, and more than ever, Community Action needs your help to keep our neighbors warm. Consumers Energy predicts an 7% increase over last winter's heating bills. On Saturday, 28 February, the Walk aims to raise \$20,000 in Battle Creek with the help of donors and participants. The Walk starts at the United Methodist Church (111 E. Michigan Ave.). Walk registration begins at 9:00AM, opening ceremonies begin at approximately 9:30AM and one and three mile outdoor Walk events start at 10:00AM. Community Action's Annual Walk for Warmth, with your dedicated assistance, makes it possible every year for low income, elderly and disabled families and individuals to stay warm during Michigan's cold winter months. Of the families assisted in

Battle Creek: 3.6% were senior citizens (60 years and older); 71% had children under the age of 18 in the home; 43% are homeowners; 80% of adults (age 24 and older) that were assisted, have a high school diploma or higher education and the average household income was \$12,599. Please contact Lindsey Terbrack for additional information: (269) 441 - 1625 or on the internet: www.caasc.org

Parishioner Achieves Christian Counseling:

St. Elias Parishioner Tasha Federinko, LLPC, MA, has joined Desert Streams Christian Counseling, in Kalamazoo. She is now taking on new clients. Tasha did her Master's level training at Spring Arbor University, and interned and then worked at Hospice Care of Southwest Michigan as a bereavement support counselor. She is specializing in grief and loss issues, grief recovery, adjustment issues, working with parents of children with disabilities, and adults and children with disabilities. Tasha also works with individuals processing the loss of a child, parent, or spouse, women's issues, and spiritual issues. Tasha is on several insurance panels, and also has a sliding fee scale for individuals with no insurance or limited ability to pay. If you would like to speak with her confidentially about any counseling issues, or would like more information, please contact her at:

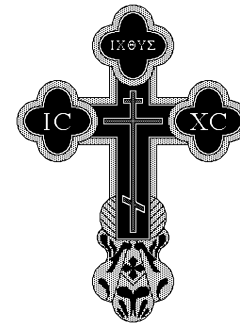
Tasha J. Federinko, LLPC, M.A.
Desert Streams Christian Counseling
2019 Rambling Road
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49008
269.345.0909

NATIONAL YOUNG ADULT PILGRIMAGE TO RUSSIA:

APRIL 24-MAY 2, 2009!
REGISTRATION IS NOW
OPEN - Feb 2, 2009 - Young



adults from across the country will experience a unique spiritual and educational journey as they will visit the historic cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg on an unbelievable pilgrimage of faith. This promises to be a memorable opportunity to stroll down timeless roads and explore ancient locales of Russia, land of striking beauty, diversity, and magnificent capitals. "Today, Russia is a country of diversity, tremendous vitality and important ecclesiastical significance. Cultural traditions of Russia have re-awakened with a newfound strength," stated Fr. Mark Leondis, National Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries. After reading of the historic visit of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America to Russia last May, young adults have been eager to visit this incredible country. Online registration is now open at www.youth.goarch.org. Registration will be limited to 35 young adults and will be on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information please contact the Department at 646.519.6180.



Ancient Lenten Prayer:

Prayer of Saint Ephrem the Syrian - 4th century

"O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of sloth, despondency, lust of power, and idle talk; But grant rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience, and love to thy servant.
Yea, O Lord and King, grant me to see my own transgressions, and not to judge my brother; for blessed art Thou unto the ages of ages."

UPCOMING FEASTS AND EVENTS

- ~ **3/1/09** Cheese Fare / Forgiveness Sunday
- ~ **3/25/09** Annunciation of the Theotokos
- ~ **4/12/09** Palm Sunday
- ~ **4/19/09** Pascha

UPCOMING MEETINGS

3/10/09 Parish Council Meeting:
St. Elias Parish Council will gather at 7:00PM

3/12/09 Sisterhood Meeting:
St. Mary's Sisterhood will gather for their monthly meeting at Captain Luey's Calabash (181 E. Columbia) at 6:00PM

3/15/09 Semi-Annual Parish Meeting after Divine Liturgy

March 2009

St. Elias Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Cheesefare / Forgiveness Sunday Divine Liturgy 10 am Fellowship & School to follow Prospora/Donuts by Linda Martin	2 Lent Begins The Great Penitential Canon of St. Andrew of Crete @ 6:00PM	3 The Great Penitential Canon of St. Andrew of Crete @ 6:00PM	4 The Great Penitential Canon of St. Andrew of Crete @ 6:00PM	5 The Great Penitential Canon of St. Andrew of Crete @ 6:00PM	6 Paraklis 6 pm (Most Holy Theotokos)	7 Great Vespers 6 pm
8 Divine Liturgy 10 am Fellowship & School to follow Prospora/Donuts by Aurelia Pietrariu Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers hosted by Holy Ascension Church (Albion) at 4:00PM followed by a Lenten meal and fellowship. Priest Joshua Frigerio, Host Pastor.	9	10 Parish Council Mtg at 7:00 pm	11 Presanctified Liturgy 6:00PM (Lenten pot-luck)	12 Sisterhood Mtg at Captain Luey's 6:00 pm	13 Paraklis 6 pm (Most Holy Theotokos)	14 Divine Liturgy 10am ("Soul" Saturday) Great Vespers 6 pm
15 Divine Liturgy 10 am Fellowship & School to follow Semi-Annual Parish Meeting Prospora/Donuts by Ramona Busch	16	17	18 Presanctified Liturgy 6:00PM (Lenten pot-luck)	19	20 Paraklis 6 pm (Most Holy Theotokos)	21 Divine Liturgy 10am ("Soul" Saturday) Great Vespers 6 pm
22 Divine Liturgy 10 am Fellowship & School to follow Prospora/Donuts by Kristen Dinsmore	23	24 Holy Annunciation Vigil 6:00PM	25 Annunciation of the Theotokos - Divine Liturgy 10:00AM	26	27 Paraklis 6 pm (Most Holy Theotokos)	28 Great Vespers 6 pm
29 Divine Liturgy 10 am Fellowship & School to follow Prospora/Donuts by Paula Kizer	30	31	April 1 Presanctified Liturgy 6:00PM (Lenten pot-luck)	2	3 Paraklis 6 pm (Most Holy Theotokos)	4 Great Vespers 6 pm