

St. Elias Orthodox Church

Patriarchal Parishes of the Russian Orthodox Church in the USA

A Monthly Newsletter

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Issue Number 5 - May 2010

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



On Friday morning, May 28, the Divine Liturgy was celebrated in the Greek Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New York, thereby bringing to a close the meeting of the Episcopal Assembly of North and Central America. The Assembly of bishops of North and Central America was conducted according to the decisions of the Fourth Pre-Conciliar Pan-Orthodox Conference in Chambésy,

Switzerland, held June 7-13, 2009. There the decision was made to create regional Episcopal Assemblies of every canonical Orthodox bishop. The region of North and Central America includes Orthodox Church structures in the United States, Canada, Mexico, and the countries of Central America.

As reported by the official website of the Representation of the Moscow Patriarchate in the USA, "The stated goal of creating the Episcopal Assemblies was care for the unity of Orthodoxy and development of mutual cooperation between representatives of the various Orthodox Church jurisdictions active in the territories of one or another region, in the areas of pastoral care of the faithful, missionary work, the development of theological education, and Orthodox witness in the face of heterodoxy. All of these issues were discussed in New York at the meeting of the Episcopal Assembly of North and Central America."

FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

No one is hopeless whose hope is in God!

On "God's judgments": He who does not understand God's judgments walks on a ridge like a knife-edge and is easily unbalanced by every puff of wind. When praised, he exults; when criticized, he feels bitter. When he feasts, he makes a pig of himself; and when he suffers hardship, he moans and groans. When he understands, he shows off; and when he does not understand, he pretends that he does. When rich, he is boastful; and when in poverty, he plays the hypocrite. Gorged, he grows brazen; and when he fasts, he becomes arrogant. He quarrels with those who reprove him; and those who forgive him he regards as fools.

--Saint Kosmas Aitolos +1779

On Prayer:

At times prayer seems over-slow in bringing results, and life is so short. Instinctively we cry, "Make haste unto me." But He does not always respond at once. Like fruit on a tree, our soul is left to scorch in the sun, to endure the cold wind, the scorching wind, to die of thirst or be drowned in the rain. but if we do not let go of the hem of His garment, all will end well.

--By the Elder Sophrony

CHURCH NEWS

We'll be celebrating our upcoming patronal feast on St. Elias Day, Tuesday 20 July! After Divine Liturgy a reception will be held in the hall; please bring a delicious dish to pass. The parish, however, will be serving two hot entrees. Area clergy and faithful will join us for this wonderful event!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy Father's Day:

On behalf of St. Elias Church I would like to express our best wishes and God's choicest blessings to all of our dedicated Fathers on their special day 20 June! And to all of our Fathers who have fallen asleep in the Lord, may their memory be from generation to generation, vecnaja pamjat!

Attention: Church Council & Sisterhood:

Members of these two organizations are reminded that there are no scheduled meetings during the months of June and July. We will gather, however, if a need arises and determine when and where the emergency gathering is to take place. In August a meeting will be scheduled to discuss the Annual Cabbage Roll Dinner.

Academic Achievements:

Clarification: Jesse Brandow, son of Doug and Gail Brandow, was awarded a Bachelor of Art degree in Philosophy from Thomas More College in Merrimac, NH 16 May 2010. Jesse has been accepted into the Master of Divinity program at St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary in Crestwood, NY and will begin his Theological studies this fall.

Alexander Bacik, son of Father Lawrence and Matushka Marie received awards for excellence in Algebra, History, and Band! Alex is a sophomore at Galesburg Augusta High School.

Chris Yosifovski son of Mike & Nada graduated from Officer Training School at Fort Benning Georgia May 20, 2010 to the rank of First Lieutenant.

REMEMBER WITH PRAYERS, CARDS, VISITS

- ♥ Archpriest Roman Star
- ♥ Protodeacon Sam Beronja
- ♥ Matushka Marilyn Beronja
- ♥ Zachary Beronja
- ♥ Gabriel Beronja
- ♥ Louis Adamov
- ♥ Jean Hanchar
- ♥ Olympia & Aurelia Pietrariu
- ♥ Angelina Borzkowski
- ♥ Michelle Slone
- ♥ Judi Yost
- ♥ Peggy Hanchar
- ♥ George & Mary Nickolaou
- ♥ Vladimir St. Andrew
- ♥ Anne Bowden
- ♥ Anna Gagye
- ♥ George Spriggs
- ♥ Shimasse Vivian Miles
- ♥ Margaret Amato
- ♥ Ana Olarean
- ♥ Jackie Councill
- ♥ Pando Nanos
- ♥ Wesley Goomas
- ♥ Appolinaria & Andrey
- ♥ Barbara Dinsmore
- ♥ Danny Meloff
- ♥ Eunice Slavoff

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Summary of Operating Fund

-by Steve Hanchar, Treasurer, Parish Executive Board

April Summary:

Please see the print version for the financial report.

June Newsletter Sponsored By:

Suzanne Pifer / John & Milica 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

"These things I write to you, though I hope to come to you shortly; but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth."

--1 Timothy 3:14-15

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**LESSON FOR TODAY: Church Etiquette
(continued)**

1. When you go to church, think that you are going to the Home of the Heavenly King, where you should stand with faith, reverence and joy, just like you would stand in Heaven before the Heavenly King. Church hymns instruct us to do this also when they say, "When you stand in the temple, think that you are standing in Heaven!"
2. If you want your prayer to be of any benefit, forgive each one who offended you so that you could also say, "Our Father, Who art in Heaven, forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those we trespass against us!" Know that if you don't forgive your neighbor for his offenses, neither will God forgive your sins. (Matthew 6:15)
3. When you stand in church, don't look to the left or right; don't look at how others are standing and praying because you will be condemned like the Pharisee, since it is not up to you but up to God to judge these things; you only need watch yourself before God. Look at the altar where the Most Holy Sacrifice of the Holy Eucharist is being offered, and repeat within yourself like the publican, "God, be merciful to me a sinner!"
4. Beware of laughter and talking in the church, as of burning fire, because this offends God. By so doing you show not only that you don't respect the Church as the most holy place, but you also lead others into sin and don't allow them to pray. Listen carefully to what is sung and read,

and savor it. If your mind wanders off somewhere else, strive to bring it back and make it listen to the hymns and prayers which glorify God in Christ through the Holy Spirit.

5. When coming to church, remember the dead and think of the day when you will go bodily into the arms of mother earth and up before God with your soul. Pray for the dead, that God would have mercy on them, and light candles for the repose of their souls. This will be beneficial not just for them but for you also, because you will thus be showing your love for your dear ones. Thinking of your death, you will pray to God more earnestly, but you will also lead your life more decently. Remember also, when you are in church, your loved ones are alive. Remember your parents, children, relatives, friends, the suffering ones, the poor, the sick and light candles for their health and salvation.
6. When hearing the Word of God being read, sung, or preached in church, strive to fulfill it, and always ponder how you might be able to do so. Otherwise, you will be condemned for knowing what to do but not doing it. Blessed are those who hear God's word and keep it (Luke 11:28). Teach also your children and members of your household to do so, and you will be rewarded by God.

--From the Serbian Orthodox Prayer Book

*"Never lose hope in the mercy of God."
--Saint Benedict of Nursia (+543)*

Matt Busch, son of Gary and Ramona graduated from Lakeview High School with a overall GPA of 4.00 and was recently recognized for being in the top 5% of his class . He is an Eagle Scout, member of several athletic groups, Marching Band, First Division solo and ensemble ratings, and Post Band. This fall, Matt is hoping to be marching on the football field with his trombone. Matt will be attending the University of Michigan majoring in aerospace engineering.

Congratulations and God's blessings to Michael Borzkowski, son of Vic and Jeanne, for graduating from Kalamazoo Central HS along with a special visit by President Barack Obama 7 June 2010.

MEMORY ETERNAL

Mladica Ivanovic, age 93, of Belgrade, Serbia, fell asleep in the Lord 12 May 2010. The deceased is the beloved sister of Jordan Spasenovski. May our Lord God give a blessed repose to the newly-departed servant of God, +Mladica, and may her memory be eternal! Bog da ja prosti!

Michael Lazarevski, age 37 died suddenly 16 May 2010. Predeceased by his father, Jovan. Beloved husband of Courtney (Bellenger). Loving son of Zora. Brother of Sue (Stefan) Ilievski. Grandson of Mita and Luba. Son-in-law of Boyd and Dorothy. Uncle of Phillip and Nicholas. Nephew of Vlado and Alicia, Mike and Shirley, Lena and Boris, Vera and Jove. Brother-in-law of Chris and Kelly, many cousins and friends. Funeral arrangements were handled by Dierna Funeral Home and the burial service was celebrated at St. Dimitria Macedonian Orthodox Church. Interment, Mt. Hope Cemetery. May

+Michael's memory be from generation to generation and may his memory be eternal! Vecnaja pamjat!

Grand Duchess Leonida Georgievna Will Be Buried in SS Peter and Paul Cathedral in St Petersburg:

The mother of the Head of the Russian Imperial House of Romanov, Grand Duchess Leonida Georgievna, will be buried in SS Peter and Paul Cathedral in St Petersburg, Russia. The funeral is tentatively scheduled for June 3, 2010.

The Grand Duchess will be laid to rest in the Grand Ducal crypt, as reported to Interfax on Tuesday by Mr Aleksandr Zakatov, Director of the Chancery of the House of Romanovs.

The Imperial Family does not look favorably on pompous funerals. It is important that the funeral be held in strict accordance with the rules of the Russian Orthodox Church and the traditions of the Romanov Dynasty," said Mr Zakatov.

The Head of the Russian Imperial House, Grand Duke Vladimir Kirillovich, died in 1992. Grand Duchess Leonida Georgievna was the last member of the Russian Imperial House born before the 1917 Revolution.

*"I will wash my hands in innocence:
So I will go about Your altar. O Lord.
That I may proclaim with the voice of
thanksgiving.
And tell of all Your wondrous works.
Lord. I have loved the habitation of Your house.
And the place where Your glory dwells".
--Psalm 26:6-8*

June 2010

St. Elias Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Divine Liturgy 10 am Fellowship & School to follow Prospora/Donuts by Olga Popovich	7	8	9	10	11	12 Great Vespers 6PM
13 Divine Liturgy 10 am Fellowship & School to follow Prospora/Donuts by Terrie Sookhai	14 Flag Day	15 Central States Deanery Meeting Lansing, MI	16 Central States Deanery Meeting Lansing, MI	17	18	19
20 Father's Day Divine Liturgy 10 am Fellowship & School to follow Prospora/Donuts by Michelle Stone	21 Summer Begins	22	23 Great Vespers 6PM	24 Birth St. John the Baptist No Service	25	26 Great Vespers 6PM
27 Divine Liturgy 10 am Fellowship & School to follow Prospora/Donuts by Helen Repair	28	29 Feast Sts. Peter & Paul Divine Liturgy 10AM	30 Synaxis 12 Holy Apostles			

Holy Apostles' Fast June 1st through June 28th

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 Vratsidis
- 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