

St. Elias Orthodox Church

Patriarchal Parishes of the Russian Orthodox Church in the USA

A Monthly Newsletter

St. Elias Orthodox Church
5066 "B" Drive South
Battle Creek, MI 49015
269.979.2146
Fax: 269.665.9548

www.StEliasOrthodoxChurch.org
E-MAIL:
Church1@StEliasOrthodoxChurch.org

NEWSLETTER CONTACT
John Schupra 616.243.6428
schupra@mac.com

PASTOR

Very Rev. Archpriest Lawrence Bacik
529 Cynthia, Galesburg, MI 49053
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 5 - May 2011

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*

Dear Brothers & Sisters:

Christ is Risen! He is Risen, indeed!

Welcome to St. Elias Church of Battle Creek, Michigan. We pray that your visit will be a source of blessing for you. Though our manner of Christian worship is centuries old, most Americans find it a bit different at first, but watch and listen, and the timeless beauty of heavenly, eternal worship will begin to reveal itself to you. Please don't worry about "doing the right thing;" we count it a sin to judge others while we pray (Luke 18:10-14). While the worship of the Holy Trinity is the very heart and foundation of our community and faith, we also find encouragement in fellowship with one another through our various parish organizations for youth, men, and women.

St. Elias Church is an Eastern Orthodox Christian parish community serving Calhoun, Kalamazoo, Barry, Branch, and St. Joseph Counties. Our parish is under the omophorion of His Eminence the Most Rev.

Justinian, Archbishop of Naro-Fominsk and Administrator of the Patriarchal Parishes of the Russian Orthodox Church in the USA (Moscow Patriarchate).

We warmly welcome all who are searching for a church that is in unchanging continuity with the Church of the Apostles and where they may find the purity of the Apostolic Faith. We are a church for those of all ages, ethnicities, and races, for both families and singles who are searching for an anchor of a Christian community in our rootless society. Above all, we are a Eucharistic community worshipping the Holy Trinity in spirit and truth as we seek to know God, to be conformed to Christ's example of true humanity, and to be transformed to become partakers of the Divine Nature (2 Peter 1:4). Come and worship with us and with the Saints of all ages!

Archpriest Lawrence Bacik, Pastor

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

From the Fathers:

Only yesterday I was in anguish with Christ on the Cross; today I am glorified with Him. Yesterday I died with Him; today I receive new life in Him. Yesterday I was buried with Him; today I arise together with Him.

Let us bring gifts to Him who has suffered and risen for us. But not gifts of gold or silver, or even glistening jewels costing a king's ransom! No, it is ourselves that we ought to offer; That is the gift that's right for God. And that's the gift He wants!... So, with the greatest care let us imitate our exemplar. Let us understand the power of this mystery, and for whom it was that Christ suffered death. Let us be like Christ, for He became like us. Let us become divine because of Him, since He became man for our sake.

--St. Gregory the Theologian (+389), Archbishop of Constantinople

Parish News:

Parish Youth Graduate:

Commencement marks the culmination of our students' experiences and challenging academics, but even more so it commemorates the beginning of their very promising futures. Congratulations and God's richest blessings to the following students and their respective family members: Josh Busch graduated 30 April from the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor); Angela Hanchar graduated 30 April from the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor); Christina Pietrariu is graduating 13 May from Glen Oaks Community College in Centerville, Michigan. Tina will be a Certified Medical Assistant; David Oliphant is graduating from Kalamazoo College on 12 June; and joining his older brother is Stephen Oliphant. Steve is graduating from Comstock High School on 3 June. May God grant them many, many years!

Dedicated Workers:

Following Divine Liturgy on Lazarus Saturday, a hard working team of parishioners thoroughly

cleaned both the temple and fellowship hall during the course of many hours; several even remained for the lengthy evening service too! An abundance of thanks and God's blessings to: Alex Bacik, Gerasimos Brandow, Gary Busch, Anastasia Diamantis, Steve & Alex Hanchar, Tonya Haynes, Slava & Elena Karpov, George "Vello" Nickolaou, Sophia Palmer, Chris & Olga Popovich, Terri Sookhai, and Nada Yosifovsky.

An abundance of thanks to...Steve & Peggy Hanchar for setting up the grave and decorating it beautifully on Good Friday...Alex Hanchar for cleaning liturgical vessels, candle votive lamps, and changing the curtain, analogian, and lecturn covers for both Great Lent and Holy Pascha...Tomka Nickolich & Olga Popovich for baking prosthora for Lenten services... Chris & Olga Popovich for cleaning the church and hall so well following Holy Pascha... Visnu & Terri Sookhai for donating all of the materials needed for Terri to create and sew new liturgical covers for the altar, analogian, lecturn, and grave tomb. May our Risen Savior richly bless these dedicated parishioners for their untiring assistance!

In Memoriam:

Travis Lee Keathley, age 17, died in an automobile accident 1b April 2011 in Battle Creek. He was born 5 October 1993 and was a senior at Lakeview High School, scheduled to graduate in June. Travis is survived by many members of his loving family: his parents, David and Wendi Keathley; and sister, Megan. Travis is the grandson of devoted parishioner and council member, Leonora Keathley. With His divine and eternal love, may our Lord Jesus comfort Nora and her family during this most difficult time: may Christ God give +Travis a blessed repose and may his memory be eternal! Bog da go prosti!



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
- ♥ Eugenia Golubov
- ♥ Michelle Slone
- ♥ Peggy Hanchar
- ♥ George & Mary Nickolaou
- ♥ Elizabeth St. Andrew
- ♥ Anne Bowden
- ♥ Anna Gagye
- ♥ George & Julia Spriggs
- ♥ Shimasse Vivian Miles
- ♥ Margaret Amato
- ♥ Jackie Councell
- ♥ Pando Nanos
- ♥ Wesley Goomas
- ♥ Appolinaria & Andrey
- ♥ Barbara Dinsmore
- ♥ Danny Meloff
- ♥ Eunice Slavoff
- ♥ John Tricovich
- ♥ Kathy Frye
- ♥ Tomka Nicholich
- ♥ Elena Karpov
- ♥ Betty Byrd
- ♥ Nancy Munson

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Summary of Operating Fund
-by Steve Hanchar, Treasurer, Parish Executive Board

March Summary:
Please see our printed newsletter for the financial report.

May Newsletter Sponsored By:
Deacon Samuel & Matushka Marilyn Beronja and Paul Meloff

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.

The Lord nurses them when they are sick and eases their pain and discomfort"

--Psalm 41:3

PHONE DIRECTORY

- Chris Popovich Parish Executive Board President (269) 963-0358
- Steve Hanchar Parish Executive Board Treasurer (269) 623-5079
- Peggy Hanchar St. Mary's Sisterhood Publicity Chairman (269) 623-5079



American Cancer Society: Blessed Are The Merciful

May God bless and reward those parishioners and friends who recently offered financial support for the American Cancer Society's "Relay for Life!" Father Lawrence is proud to be a "Captain" for this important annual fund-drive and expresses his sincere gratitude for this year's donors! He is also collecting personal care items for patients staying at Hope Lodge. This outstanding facility in Grand Rapids is "a home away from home" for cancer patients and their caregivers and is offered free of charge! Father Lawrence is collecting trial or travel size bottles of shampoo, conditioner, lotion, mouthwash, and other toiletry items for Hope Lodge. Other items are also needed: coffee, laundry soap (fragrance and dye free), dryer sheets, and Cascade dishwasher soap. Deadline is 13 June 2011. Visit on the Internet at: www.cancer.org/hopelodge

East Lansing Church to Host Pig Roast:

The St. Helen Sisterhood invites you to the First Annual Pig Roast at St. Andrew Orthodox Church (E. Lansing). This event is a fund-raiser to remodel the parish kitchen. The "All You Can Eat" Pig Roast will be held on Sunday, 22 May from 11:00AM through 2:00PM. Adults \$7.00 and Senior Citizens (over 60) and Children under 11 are only \$5.00; tickets will be sold at the door. Dinner includes pulled pork, mashed potatoes & gravy, vegetable, stuffing, rolls & butter, apple sauce, sweet table, and beverages! Rev. Priest Christopher Rozdilski, Host Pastor.

Orthodox World News:

DECR - On 6 April 2011, His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia met with H. E. Masaharu Kono, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Russia. They were joined in the meeting, which took place at the Patriarch's residence in Christy side-street, by Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk,

chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate's Department for External Church Relations (DECR); Mr. Dmitry Petrovsky, a staff member of the DECR secretariat for inter-Orthodox relations; Hideki Uyama, minister plenipotentiary of the Embassy of Japan to Russia; and Mr. Kodzi Hirohata, third secretary of the Embassy.

His Holiness greeted the guests, saying: "First of all I would like to express my condolences and solidarity with the Japanese people who have suffered from the terrible earthquake that has greatly worried people here who express their sympathies in various ways, including condolences. Many people, including the workers of art, have begun to raise funds for helping victims. You may have heard about charity concerts performed for this purpose. This shows that the Japanese people's pain has echoes in our hearts. I have sent a letter to the Prime Minister of Japan Naoto Kan and to Metropolitan Daniel of Tokyo, Primate of the Autonomous Orthodox Church of Japan."

His Holiness told the guests that several church buildings of the Orthodox Church of Japan had been seriously damaged or even destroyed, particularly in the Diocese of Sendai. He added that Russian people have been helping victims of the natural disaster. "Our Church is raising money to help the Orthodox Church of Japan to rebuild the ruined buildings. I would like to say that I admire the courage of Japanese people they are displaying in the time of trial. We pray for the soonest healing of all the wounds," His Holiness said.



Aid to Orthodox Christian Church in Japan:

Nearly two months after the fourth largest earthquake ever recorded struck the eastern coast of Japan and touched off a devastating tsunami, earthquakes continue to rattle the nerves of survivors and complicate relief efforts. More than thirty earthquakes measuring 6.0 and above on the Richter scale have been experienced in eastern Japan as efforts to assist survivors and rebuild continue. An abundance of thanks to St. Elias' parishioners for answering the painful and sorrowful cry of their Japanese brethren in Christ Jesus. Much work and restoration lies before the Japanese faithful. May God bless everyone for their prayers and generous contributions to help assist the Orthodox Church in Japan with its continued work and restoration, your kindness mean a great deal and your efforts do not go unnoticed! With the souls of the righteous departed, may Christ God give rest to all of the victims who perished and may their memory be eternal! Thank you again for contributing towards the Fund for Assistance with the Russian Church Abroad (ROCOR). On the Internet:

<http://fundforassistance.org/splash2/>

Mother's Day:

Wishing all of our loving Mothers a special Mother's Day celebration! May God grant our dear Mothers many, many years! If anyone's Mother is deceased, however, may our Lord God give them a most blessed repose and may their memory be eternal, vecnaja pamjat! "She is more precious than rubies, nothing you desire can compare with her" (Proverbs 3:15).

Prayers Needed: Serving in the Armed Forces

During this time of unrest and turmoil, let us pray for peace and offer fervent prayers for the personnel serving in the military around the globe, especially our St. Elias Church family and friends:

Chris Yosifovski - 2nd Lieutenant - US Army (Mike & Nada's son in Afghanistan)

Joseph Nossal - US Navy (Fr. Roman Star's parishioner & former altar server; combat duty in Afghanistan)

Community News:

Jackson Parish Hosts Open House:

We're invited to an open house and the blessing of a new Fellowship Hall at St. Demetrius Church on Friday 20 May at 6:00PM. Hor d'oeuvres, wine, and beer will be served from 7 - 11P.M. Free will offering. Please let Father Lawrence if you're interested in attending this event! Archpriest Dusan Koprivica, Host Pastor. For information: (517) 783 - 5494.

Prayer Breakfast:

The 2011 Community Prayer Breakfast will be held at Kellogg Arena (Battle Creek) 10 May at 7:25AM. The gathering's theme is "Nobody's Perfect: Share Your Faith Anyway with Father David Dwyer, CSP. Father Dwyer is director of Busted Halo, the Paulist Ministry and media outreach to individuals in their 20s and 30s. He is the publisher of BustedHalo.com, a web magazine for spiritual seekers, and hosts "The Busted Halo Show" on Sirius XM satellite radio. Father Dwyer speaks to audiences around the country about reconnecting young adults with their faith, and has offered commentary with CNN, The History Channel, NBC Nightly News, Fox & Friends, The Today Show, The NY Times, Newsweek, and others. Prior to his May 2000 ordination, he directed television for MTV and Comedy Central.

Tickets for this inspiring event is \$15.00 each. For additional information: (269) 969 - 2120. See you there!

May 2011

St. Elias Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Divine Liturgy 10 am Fellowship & School to follow Prosphora/Donuts by Bethel Adamov	2	3	4	5	6	7 Great Vespers 6PM
8 Divine Liturgy 10 am Fellowship & School to follow Prosphora/Donuts by Tasha Federinko	9	10 Council Mtg. 7PM	11	12 Sisterhood Mtg. 6PM	13	14
15 Divine Liturgy 10 am Fellowship & School to follow Prosphora/Donuts by Nada Yosifovski	16	17	18	19	20	21 Great Vespers 6PM
22 Divine Liturgy 10 am Fellowship & School to follow Prosphora/Donuts by Olga Popovich	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 Divine Liturgy 10 am Fellowship & School to follow Prosphora/Donuts by Michelle Slone	30	31				



MAY BIRTHDAYS



- 3 Luba Ilich
- 5 Louie Nickolaou
- 7 Beth St.Andrew
- 7 Keagan Nicolich
- 10 Rev. Samuel Beronja
- 10 Sean Rambow
- 11 Bethel Adamov
- 13 Ashley Beronja
- 14 Stella Sevas
- 14 Florin Olarean
- 16 Jim Hanchar
- 17 Matt Busch
- 20 Carolyn Keathley-Smith
- 20 Jeff Samson
- 21 Helen Repair
- 22 Barbara Dinsmore
- Natalya Smith
- 24 Nicholas Federinko
- 28 Nathan Beronja
- 30 Mat. Marilyn Beronja



MAY ANNIVERSARIES



- 2 George & Nancy Vratsidis
- 6 Chris & Beth Nicolich
- 11 Michelle & Greg Slone
- 13 Louie & Liz Nickolaou
- 15 Robert & Nancy Hanchar
- 17 Visnu & Terri Sookhai
- 21 John & Tricia Schupra
- 23 Louis & Bethel Adamov
- 30 David & Tasha Federinko
- 30 Alex & Robin Nicolich
- 30 Vyacheslav & Elena Karpov