



Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

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IMPORTANT NOTES & DATES

PASTORAL MESSAGE

Dear Holy Trinity Faithful,

Fr. Thomas Hopko, in a lecture on the subject of the Cross, said, *"I believe it would be better to be an atheist than to believe in a God Who would not become Incarnate."* His jolting remarks would open our hearts to the radical meaning of Christmas, the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In celebrating the Nativity, we proclaim that, in His Word made flesh, God became man. Fr. Tom goes on to say, *"Given the suffering all around us in the world, a god who would simply remain in the safety of heaven and not enter into this suffering, would be for us Christians totally unacceptable, and even a monster."*

What an amazing thing is Christmas, the joyous celebration of a God who understands our suffering because He has chosen to live it! And we are witnesses of the Incarnation of God in Christ: we proclaim *"Christ is born!"* and *"Glorify Him!"* whenever by the Holy Spirit we turn over our burdens to God in Christ and find rest in His Church, in His Mysteries, in His Mother, in His Saints (in this world and in heaven). We proclaim the Nativity whenever we allow another to bear our burdens. We celebrate Christmas whenever we bear the burden of another who is suffering. Thank you for bearing some of our burdens this year and forgive us any time we have neglected to help you bear yours. Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Yours in Christ,

Fr. David and the Fox Family

***Please Note for House Blessings, see home blessing sign up sheet in the narthex of the Church.**

FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL:

• FROM THE OUTGOING SENIOR WARDEN, GENE BOHENSKY

I want to thank you all for the opportunity to serve you these past two years as Senior Warden. I am very happy with the progress we have made, with Father David as our new Pastor. From the standpoint of the Council, I believe we have laid a good foundation for the future: new committees established to improve the way the church operates, and a good approach to updating our infrastructure. With the guidance of Father David, my wish has been to get as many people as possible involved in the process of building a stronger and more involved community -- I think it is happening. I am very happy to have been involved in this effort. It was a great honor, and I learned a lot. I thank everyone for their hard work and patience with me during this time. Please forgive me for all the things I forgot or failed to do as well as I could have, and for anything I may have done that offended you!

Now it is time to pass the baton to the next in line. I am certain Jeanne Connerat will be a great Senior Warden.

• FROM THE FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

THANK YOU to

- All who supported the Honey Baked Ham Gift Certificate Sale Nov. 6th & 13th. December 18th will be our next Honey Baked Ham Gift Certificate Sale.

- All who supported the Clothing Drive. A portion of the Church's proceeds will be donated to the Interfaith Food Pantry serving Morris County.

SAVE THE DATE: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10th will be our *"Taste of Spring"* -- a "new take" on the former annual wine-tasting event. Details will be announced as the date nears.

SAVE THE DATE: MONDAY JUNE 4th - Golf Outing at a Long Valley golf course (again, a portion of our proceeds will be donated to the Interfaith Food Pantry).

DECEMBER 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUES.	WEDNESDAY	THU.	FRI.	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4 9:30 a.m. Third Hour 9:45 a.m. St Xenia 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy <i>Oath-taking of New Parish Council</i>	5	6	7	8	9	10 6:00 p.m. Great Vespers
11 <i>Holy Forefathers</i> 9:30 a.m. Third Hour 9:45 a.m. Gen. Confession 10:00 am. Divine Liturgy	12	13	14 7:00 p.m. Parish Council Meeting	15	16	17 9:00 a.m. Nativity Pageant Rehearsal
18 <i>Sunday before Nativity</i> 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal 9:45 a.m. Third Hour 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy <i>Nativity Pageant</i>	19	20	21	22	23	24 <i>Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord</i> 6:00 p.m. Vigil with Litya
25 <i>Nativity of Our Lord and Savior</i> 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy	26	27	28	29	30	31

IMPORTANT NOTES & DATES CONTINUED

- FROM THE CARE COMMITTEE**

What exactly is the CARE committee? -We are a group of parishioners who are here to support our Holy Trinity Church Family.

What kinds of things do you do? -We send cards to those whom we haven't seen for a while to let them know they are thought of; we check on those who may not be able to get to Church; we call those in need; we make meals for anyone who is in need, either short term or long term; we make visits to those who may want them; we send baked goods and cards to our college students.

Who can join? -Anyone is welcome to join our group at any time

Do you have to join the group to help out? -NO, if you would like to help out on an occasional basis that is welcome and wonderful. Please simply let Matushka Kerri know you would like to be on our "As Needed" call list. If we need an extra hand or other help we will call you. If it is convenient for you, then, great! If not we will try you again.

How can the congregation as a whole be helpful? -Not many of us want to ask for help or want to say we could use something --a meal, a phone call etc., but all of us know someone who might need these things, and we can look out for one another. If anyone does know someone who could use a helping hand or an extra smile, please email Matushka Kerri at matkerri@gmail.com or call the rectory at 973-366-2246. Otherwise let any of our members know.

JANUARY 2012

SUNDAY	MON.	TUE.	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 <i>Circumcision of Christ</i> <i>St Basil the Great</i> 9:30 a.m. Third Hour 9:45 a.m. St Xenia 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy	2	3	4	5 <i>Eve of Theophany</i> 7:00 p.m. Compline & Blessing of Waters	6 <i>Theophany of our Lord and Savior</i> 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy	7
8 <i>Sunday after Theophany</i> 9:30 a.m. Third Hour 9:45 a.m. Gen. Confession 10:00 am. Divine Liturgy	9	10	11 7:00 p.m. Parish Council Meeting	12	13	14 6:00 p.m. Great Vespers
15 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal 9:45 a.m. Third Hour 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 9:30 a.m. Third Hour 9:45 a.m. Gen. Confession 10:00 am. Divine Liturgy	23	24	25	26	27	28 6:00 p.m. Great Vespers
29 <i>Zacchaeus Sunday</i> 9:45 a.m. Third Hour 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy	30	31				

IMPORTANT NOTES & DATES CONTINUED

• **ALL AMERICAN COUNCIL IN BRIEF** – Jeanne Plaskon Connerat

The emphasis of the AAC was how, no matter where we come from or how long our journey, we as Orthodox Christians, live in the same “Household of Faith.” We must learn to live together and support each other in all ways. We are a family that must support each other spiritually, emotionally, financially. Clergy, delegates, and observers came from all corners of North America: United States (including a substantial contingent from Alaska), Canada, and Mexico. Chaplains from various branches of the US military were in attendance. Services were held in the languages of the various participants.

A 10-year Strategic Plan was adopted which included, among other things, parish growth; improved relationships among the parish, the diocese, the Central Church Administration; and transition to a sounder way of funding the Church. Workshops were charged with discussing the merits and ways of implementing each of the 10 goals. Many ideas were discussed, debated, argued. The most hotly debated resolutions concerned outreach to the African-American community (adopted as written) and changing the current funding of the Central Church Administration (amended and adopted). Details of the strategic plan, all the presented resolutions, and all reports given can be found at OCA.org.

All in all it was a very interesting week. Interacting with such a diverse group of Orthodox Christians was enlightening. Whether we are cradle Orthodox or converts, whether we worship in English or Spanish, whether we are black, white, yellow, or a blend, we are all Orthodox Christians who share a common love of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We want and need to share our faith and love for Him with others. We are a Household of Faith.

FEBRUARY 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUE.	WEDNESDAY	THU.	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 7:00 p.m. Vespers & Litya <i>Meeting of the Lord</i>	2 <i>Meeting of the Lord in the Temple</i> 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy	3	4 6:00 p.m. Great Vespers
5 <i>Publican and Pharisee</i> 9:30 a.m. Third Hour 9:45 a.m. St Xenia 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy <i>Jr O Club Souper Sunday</i>	6	7	8 7:00 p.m. Parish Council Meeting	9	10 <u>HOLD THE DATE:</u> <i>"A Taste of Spring"</i>	11
12 <i>Sunday of the Prodigal Son</i> 9:30 a.m. Third Hour 9:45 a.m. Gen. Confession 10:00 am. Divine Liturgy	13	14	15	16	17	18 <i>Memorial Saturday</i> 5:30 p.m. Panikhida 6:00 p.m. Great Vespers
19 <i>Sunday of Last Judgment - Meatfare</i> 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal 9:45 a.m. Third Hour 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 <i>Forgiveness Sunday - Cheesefare</i> 9:30 a.m. Third Hour 9:45 a.m. Gen. Confession 10:00 am. Divine Liturgy <i>Rite of Forgiveness</i>	27 <i>Great Lent Begins</i> 7:00 p.m. Canon of St. Andrew	28 7:00 p.m. Canon of St. Andrew	29 7:00 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy	MEMORIAL SATURDAY On February 18, 2012 we remember departed loved ones at a 5:30pm Panikhida. Memorial remembrance forms are available at the church website http://www.holytrinityrandolph.com/latest-news , Summer Newsletter - 2011. Extra copies will also be available in the narthex.		

IMPORTANT NOTES & DATES CONTINUED

CHURCH SCHOOL UPDATE

This year's traditional Christmas Pageant will be held on Sun., Dec. 18th following the Liturgy. We will be holding a dress rehearsal at church on Sat. Dec. 17th in the AM, so parents, please mark your calendars. There will be speaking and non-speaking parts available. Please advise church school director Ludmila Battista Luggnut0@optonline.net (973-252-1224) if your child will NOT be able to participate in the pageant. We are starting to assign roles to the children and want to be sure everyone assigned is able to attend!

Also, parents, we would greatly appreciate your assistance in maintaining children's focus during church school lessons by asking you to refrain from congregating in the church basement during church school. Please return to the service after dropping off your children, or if you must stay downstairs, please congregate away from the classes and try to keep conversations quiet. We have a very limited amount of time with your children and try very hard to complete our lessons in this brief time. We really appreciate your support!

FROM FOCA (*Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America*) CHAPTER #222

Christmas Project - Again this year, Holy Trinity parishioners, under the leadership of our "O" Club #222, are invited to provide Christmas gifts for three seminarian families from St. Tikhon's. Please support this project by donating items identified on the Christmas tree tags in the narthex.

75th Diamond Anniversary Celebration of the Novo Godny Ball Sponsored by St. Stephen OCF (Orthodox Christian Fellowship) Sunday, January 15, 2012 – Crowne Plaza, Hotel, Cherry Hill, NJ. Dinner Option 4:00 p.m. – Dancing & Entertainment 6:30 to 11:30 p.m. A semi-formal event for the benefit of the IOCC and Orthodox Christian Theological Education. For information email novogodnyball@verizon.net, or call 610-328-6911, or contact Sonia Kraftician.