

THE ANNUAL ALTAR SERVERS RETREAT

The Annual Diocesan Altar Servers retreat is scheduled for **February 12-14, 2016 at Saint Basil's Academy, 79 St. Basil's Road, Garrison NY**. Saint Basil's Academy has beautiful grounds offering dormitory style rooms, an indoor basketball court and an Olympic-size indoor swimming pool which will be available for use.

Saint Basil's Academy dormitory space has been reserved for the Diocese of New York and New Jersey. The arrival of the altar servers will be on Friday evening, February 12. The retreat will conclude on Sunday, February 14, following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy.

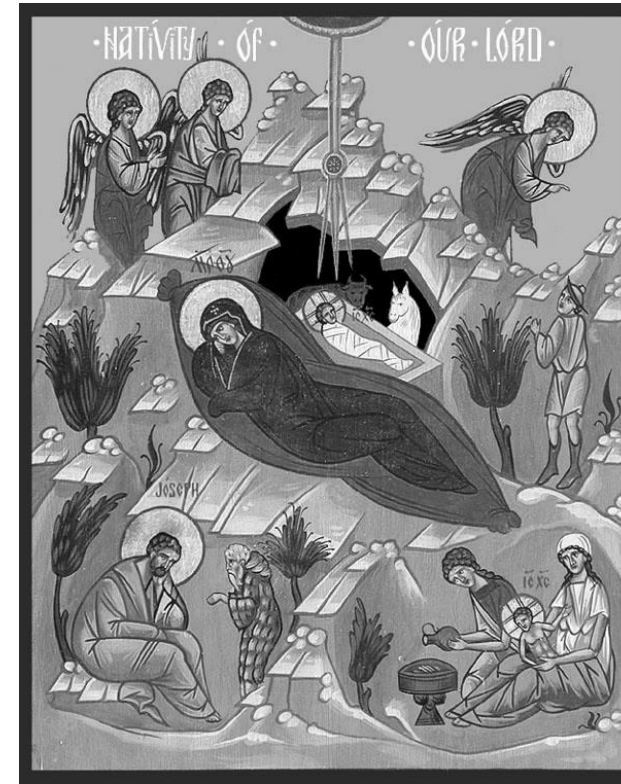
Last year we had over 50 participants attending the retreat where they enjoyed fellowship, education, and spiritual enrichment under the guidance of His Eminence Archbishop MICHAEL. We look forward to another successful retreat where we learn the basics and fundamentals of serving the Divine Services. A special feature at this year's retreat will be learning how to serve a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy along with how to read and chant in church. Those servers who are interested in attending the retreat should contact their parish priest for information and registration forms. Clergy of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey should report the number of altar servers that will attend the retreat to Priest Jason Vansuch (as soon as possible). Adult supervision will also be sought to accompany the servers.



See Father David to sign up!

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

Yonkers, New York



Sunday, December 27, 2015

30th Sunday After Pentecost ~ Tone 5

The Sunday After the Nativity of Our Lord

Ss. Joseph, David, and James

St. Stephen, the First Deacon and Martyr of the Church

MEMORY ETERNAL ~ SOPHIE TURKO

Sophie fell asleep in the Lord on December 20. Her services were held Dec. 22-23 and she was laid to rest in Oakland Cemetery on Dec. 23.

Our prayerful sympathies are with her son Ted and his family.

May Sophie's memory be eternal! "Vechnaya Pamyat!"



HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

Trinity Plaza ♦ 46 Seymour Street ♦ Yonkers, New York 10701
 Rector: V. Rev. David Cowan ♦ Protodeacon John Eby
 Attached: V. Rev. John Tkachuk ♦ Rev. Vitaly Bahanovich
 Rector Emeritus: V. Rev. Yaroslav Sudick, Ph.D., D.D.
 Rectory Phone 914-965-6815 ♦ Email: frdavidcowan@gmail.com
 Web: www.holytrinityyonkers.org
 Facebook: www.facebook.com/holytrinityorthodox
 Diocese of New York & New Jersey: www.nynjoca.org

Sunday, December 27, 2015 ~ 30th Sunday After Pentecost ~ Tone 5
 The Sunday After the Nativity of Our Lord ~ Ss. Joseph, David, and James
 St. Stephen, the First Deacon and Martyr of the Church
 Epistle: Acts 6:8-15; 7:1-5, 47-60; Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23

SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

Today – Sunday After the Nativity of Our Lord

9:30 AM *Divine Liturgy*, Followed by Coffee Hour & Christmas Caroling Visits
 to Homebound Parishioners: All Are Welcome to Come Sing!

Thursday, December 31 – New Year's Eve

6:00 PM *Vesperal Divine Liturgy* – Circumcision of Our Lord; Feast of St. Basil the
 Great. Before Communion, please Fast as best you can from 12 Noon on.

Saturday, January 2 – Saturday Before Theophany

5:30 PM Private Confession Available
 6:00 PM *Great Vespers*

Sunday, January 3 – Sunday Before Theophany

9:30 AM *Divine Liturgy*

Tuesday, January 5 – Eve of Theophany (Strict Fast Until Sunset)

7:00 PM *Compline and the Great Blessing of Water*

Wednesday, Jan. 6 – Theophany (Epiphany): The Baptism of Christ

9:30 AM *Divine Liturgy* with *Blessing of Water*

Blessing of Homes Begins January 6 – Contact Fr. David if you would like him to visit
 and bless your home, (914) 965-6815 or email frdavidcowan@gmail.com

Thursday, January 7 – Afterfeast of Theophany; Synaxis of John the Baptist (Nativity of Our Lord on the Julian Calendar)

10:00 AM *Divine Liturgy / Божественная литургия*

Saturday, January 9 – Saturday After Theophany

5:30 PM Private Confession Available
 6:00 PM *Great Vespers*

Sunday, January 10 – Sunday After Theophany

9:30 AM *Divine Liturgy*; Followed by the Christmas Yolka and Luncheon –
 Suggested Donation \$20 for Adults



*From Nativity
 to Theophany*

*“All creation sings praises to You Who have revealed Yourself.
 For You, our God, have appeared upon earth and have
 dwelled among men. You have sanctified the Jordan streams...”*

EVENTS IN OUR PARISH COMMUNITY ...

- **Today: Welcome The Honore Family** – Our “adopted Seminary family” for Christmas, the Honores, will be with us today. Please make welcome Seminarian Andrew, his wife Mary, and sons Edward and Peter. Thank you for your generosity toward them with the Gift-Card Christmas Tree the last few weeks!
- **Today: Christmas Caroling to Homebound Parishioners:** After Coffee Hour we will visit several of our people in nursing homes and their own homes, singing Christmas carols and bringing smiles!
- **Starting Wed 1/6, Home Blessings:** Contact Fr. David to schedule your home blessing, (914) 965-6815 or frdavidcowan@gmail.com
- **Sun 1/10 Christmas Yolka, After the Liturgy:** This year's Yolka features a Parish Talent Spotlight! Everyone – of all ages – is invited to share your talents. Sign up with Matushka Tamara, (914) 965-6815; or email her at tamarancowan@hotmail.com

The ANNUAL PARISH MEETING is SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 2016.
 In order to have a voice and vote at the Annual Meeting, take any needed
 steps to fulfill all the following requirements. Thank you!

- partake in the Sacraments of private Confession,
 and Holy Communion at least once a year,
- fulfill all financial obligations, as established by the parish, by
 the end of the year [currently, this is the \$145/year Diocesan Assessment]

Voting isn't everything ... Communion with Christ is! Still, your voice is valuable.
 So please, work on meeting these criteria so that you can participate both
 spiritually and materially in the care and growth of your family in Christ!

The Ladies' Guild Gift Shop
has new items in stock for your Christmas Shopping!
Please stop there on your way to Coffee Hour!

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PASTORAL CARE – GENERAL INFORMATION

Emergency Sick Calls can be made at any time. Please call Fr. David at (914) 965-6815, when a family member is admitted to the hospital.

Anointing In Sickness: The Sacrament of Unction is available in Church, the hospital, or your home, for anyone who is sick, however severe. It doesn't mean "Last Rites!"

Marriages and Baptisms require early planning, scheduling, and selection of sponsors (crown bearers or godparents). See Father before booking dates and reception halls!

Funerals are celebrated for practicing Orthodox Christians. Please see Father for details.

The Church opposes cremation; we cannot celebrate funerals for cremations.

WANT TO HELP A STRUGGLING PARISH, MISSION, OR SEMINARIAN WITHIN OUR DIOCESAN FAMILY?

Become a **DISTINGUISHED DIOCESAN BENEFACTOR!**

To see a video "slice of life" of our Diocesan churches, visit www.nynjoca.org/vision_for_future_2012.html ... and scroll down to VIDEO HIGHLIGHTS. **Questions? See Fr. David.**



TODAY'S EPISTLE Acts 6:8-15; 7:1-5, 47-60 In those days, Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and signs among the people.⁹Then there arose some from what is called the Synagogue of the Freedmen (Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and those from Cilicia and Asia), disputing with Stephen.¹⁰And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the Spirit by which he spoke.¹¹Then they secretly induced men to say, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God."¹²And they stirred up the people, the elders, and the scribes; and they came upon him, seized him, and brought him to the council.¹³They also set up false witnesses who said, "This man does not cease to speak blasphemous words against this holy place and the law;¹⁴for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs which Moses delivered to us.¹⁵And all who sat in the council, looking steadfastly at him, saw his face as the face of an angel.¹Then the high priest said, "Are these things so?"²And he said, "Brethren and fathers, listen: The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Haran,³and said to him, 'Get out of your country and from your relatives, and come to a land that I will show you.'⁴Then he came out of the land of the Chaldeans and dwelt in Haran. And from there, when his father was dead, He moved him to this land in which you now dwell.⁵And God gave him no inheritance in it, not even enough to set his foot on. But even when Abraham had no child, He promised to give it to him for a possession, and to his descendants after him.⁷But Solomon built Him a house.⁸However, the Most High does not dwell in temples made with hands, as the prophet says:⁹Heaven is My throne, And earth is My footstool. What house will you build for Me? says the LORD, Or what is the place of My rest?¹⁰Has My hand not made all these things?¹¹You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you.¹²Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers,¹³who have received the law by the direction of angels and have not kept it."¹⁴When they heard these things they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed at him with their teeth.¹⁵But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God,¹⁶and said, "Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!"¹⁷Then they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord;¹⁸and they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul.¹⁹And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."²⁰Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not charge them with this sin." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

TODAY'S GOSPEL Matthew 2:13-23 At that time, when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him."14When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt,15and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son."16Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had17Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying:18A voice was heard in Ramah, Lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, Refusing to be comforted, Because they are no more."19Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt,20saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead."21Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel.22But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee.23And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

OUR LOCAL CHARITY FUND NEEDS REPLENISHING ... THANK YOU!

Thanks to your generosity the last time we ran a "Local Charity Fund Appeal," our parish was able to provide meals and necessities over the holidays for several local families. Now ... your generosity is sought to replenish the Local Charity fund! Anyone able to donate, please see Fr. David or Financial Secretary Joel Statkevicius. **Many thanks to those who have contributed in recent weeks!**

PRAY FOR OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS – our parish sons & daughters, OCF chapter members, AND those at nearby colleges who make HTO their spiritual home away from home!

Bassim Abbasi	Andrew Nolan	Matt Skalski
Michael Bouteneff	Kamille Perry	Alexandra Solak
Joe Ciamarra	Schuyler Perry	Justyna Skalski
Kaydee Kowalczyk	Roman Piwinski	Monika Wislocki
Dan Kozak	Amanda Rzyk	
Madeline Miroshnikov	Peter Rzyk	

"Sending our kids to college without a connection to the Church is like sending children to play in traffic." -- Archbishop Michael
Please tell Fr. David if there are any errors or omissions on this list.

PRAYER LIST

Above all, we are a praying community. Keep this list in your prayer corner, and in your daily prayers, remember our Brothers & Sisters in Christ:

His Eminence Archbishop Nikon; Daniel Paprocki; Andrew, Julia & Dmitriy Galkin; Nataliya Kaufova; Zoya Levankovskaya; Alexandra, Roman & Valeriy Spechev; the survivors of the terrorist attack in California; Adnan Abbasi; newborn Amelia; newborn Courtney Lyzak; Anatole Honczarenko; Tekla Rzyk; Timothy; Mat. Anastasia Harris; Jennifer Drake; Elias Kachur; Mat. Olga Meerson; Elena Herman; Eleanor Wasilko; Adriana Szpynda; baby Alena King; Ludmila Branzow; Suzanne Gee; Evan; Nicholas; Dorothy Vernak; Nikolette Katechis; expecting parents Victoria & Joel Statkevicius, Juliana & Mark Federoff, Mat. Anastasia & Fr. Timothy Hojnicky, Mat. Viktoria & Fr. Adrian Budica and their unborn children; Nicholas Washenko; Maryanne Nolan; Stan & Victoria, and all those preparing for marriage; Kevin Kuzmenko; Shawn Malone; Metropolitan Paul and Bishop Gregorios, Vera Bullock; Julia Wislocki; Schuyler Perry; Doris Morin; Kelly Ray; Justin Solak; Carmen Fesh; Anne Kakos, Kay Baker; Vitaliy Khutko; Malcolm Kirkpatrick; Nikolai & Nadezhda Solidnov; Kathleen Nolan; the priests Frs. Vitaly Bahanovich, John Tkachuk, John Udics; Joseph Chupeck, Jonathan Ivanoff, Leonid Kishkovsky, Joseph Kreshik; John Nehrebecki, Herman Schick, David Shewczyk, Ken James Stavrevsky, Daniel Degyansky, Stephen Mack, PDn. Peter Skoog; Klara Borzova; Helen Delandri; Helen Dempsey; Irene Homa; Olga Juck; Mary Kalakuka; Mary Kantor; Daria Krawchuk; Vincent & Mary Macagnone; Olga Pavelchak; Stephanie Phillips; Mat. Juliana Schmemann; Martha Slivka; Zena Weshta; all those confined to hospitals, nursing homes, and their own homes due to illness; for all soldiers, especially Jorge, Bryan & Mykola; widows, orphans, prisoners, victims of violence, and refugees, especially in Iraq, Syria, Egypt, and the Ukraine; all those suffering chronic illness, financial hardship, loneliness, addiction, abuse, abandonment and despair; all Orthodox seminarians & families, especially John & Brenda Mikitish; all Orthodox monks and nuns, and all those considering the monastic life; all Orthodox missionaries and their families; all those named Joseph, David, James, and Stephen, and those celebrating their Name Day today.

For blessed repose for the souls of: Newly departed Sophie Turko (12/20); the victims of the terrorist attacks in California (+12/2); Fr. Gabriel Seamore & Mat. Barbara Stashkevetch (+12/2); Betty Israel (+12/1); Nathan Orsini (+11/30); Olya Pyrih (+11/25); Yuri Maslov (+11/01); the ever-memorable Tatiana & Peter Simonov; William Moskwa; all those departed named Joseph, David, James, and Stephen; and all those departed this life in hope of the Resurrection.

Please give prayer requests to Fr. David, to Protodeacon John, or to an Altar Server. Typically, names remain on this list for 40 days, unless requested otherwise. Those confined to hospitals or homes, or suffering chronic illnesses, remain on the list.