

Visit [www.nynjoca.org](http://www.nynjoca.org) and click **LESSONS IN OUR FAITH** to see video segments on Saint Nicholas and the Nativity of Christ.

**PASTORAL CARE – GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Emergency Sick Calls** can be made at any time. Please call Fr. David's cell phone, 1-(570) 878-5074, when a family member is admitted to the hospital.

**Anointing In Sickness:** The Sacrament of Anointing is available in Church, in the hospital, or in your home, for anyone who is sick, no matter how 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 those being cremated.**

**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](http://www.nynjoca.org/vision_for_future_2012.html) ... and scroll down to VIDEO HIGHLIGHTS. Questions? See Fr. David.



# HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

## Yonkers, New York



**Sunday, December 14, 2014**

**27<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

**The Forefathers of Our Lord, Jesus Christ**

**A.S.P. PIE SALE at Coffee Hour Today!**

We have 25 apple & pumpkin pies, at \$10 each ... let's make them disappear!  
Help fund our teens' trip South next summer,  
as they again make the homes of families in need "Safer, Warmer, and Drier!"



## HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

Trinity Plaza ✦ 46 Seymour Street ✦ Yonkers, New York 10701

Rector: 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

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**Sunday, December 14, 2014 ~ 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

**Sunday of the Forefathers of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ**

Epistle: Colossians 3:4-11; Gospel: Luke 14:16-24

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### SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

#### Today

9:30 AM *Divine Liturgy* with *Panikhida* for Maria Skalski and Stefan Didyk, requested by the Skalski Family; and for John Kowalczyk, by Mr. & Mrs. Michael Kocyr

At Coffee Hour: ASP Pie Sale. There are 25 pies to sell, at \$10 each ... move 'em!

12:30 PM Parish Council Meeting – in the Education Building

#### Wednesday, December 17

7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal – in the Church

#### Saturday, December 20

5:30 PM Private Confession Available

6:00 PM *Great Vespers*

#### Sunday, December 21 – The Sunday Before the Nativity of Christ

9:30 AM *Divine Liturgy*

#### Wednesday, December 24 – Eve of the Nativity / Christmas Eve

##### (Strict Fast Until Sunset)

8:00 AM *Royal Hours*

6:00 PM Holy Supper at the Rectory – *All Are Welcome... Please Call Ahead to Matushka Tamara, (914) 965-6815 if you plan to come!*

8:00 PM *Vigil Service* for the Nativity of Christ

#### Thursday, December 25 – The Nativity of Our Lord / Christmas

10:00 AM *Divine Liturgy*

After Liturgy: Christmas Concert by the Children's Choir of

Holy Trinity Russian Orthodox Church, Brooklyn

Followed by Agape Meal

#### Friday, December 26 – The Synaxis of the Mother of God

9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy*, with His Grace, Bishop MICHAEL

#### Saturday, December 27 – Saturday After the Nativity

5:30 PM Private Confession Available

6:00 PM *Great Vespers*

## ***The Truth of Christmas – by Fr. Daniel Kovalak***

Since October, we've been incited, with considerable help from corporate America, to think about Christmas. Store aisles of decorations appeared overnight, urging us to consider how we can create just the right ambiance to adorn and enhance our celebration. Countless colorful product catalogs and advertising circulars have been filling our physical and virtual mailboxes and newspapers for weeks, encouraging us to think about those "perfect gifts" for those special people in our lives. Grocery stores have been prodding us to plan impeccable party platters for our holiday entertaining. And no matter where we go, the sounds of Christmas fill the air; stirring us to persevere in our determined efforts to make this "the best Christmas ever."

Then, the day arrives: "It's Christmas!" It's now time to experience all the happiness and merriment for which we've been preparing for so long, to see our myriad plans come to fruition, to savor the fulfillment of our considerable investments, and to taste the fruits of our labors while feeling the joy we've been envisioning for months.

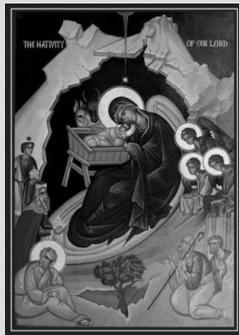
But, to borrow a line from the classic, *Twas the Night Before Christmas*, "and what to our wondering eyes should appear?" The inflatable Santa in the front yard has succumbed to the elements and deflated, symbolic of how many will feel in coming days. The recycling bins and trash cans already overflow with the remnants of a season just beginning. That perfect gift of a power screwdriver, alas, has no power, and if we hear the song, "Grandma got run over by a reindeer" one more time, we'll sue the radio station for harassment! Yep, "it's the most wonderful time of the year!"

In the midst of all the commercialism, relativism—and dare I say paganism—that surrounds us these days, our Holy Church calls us to celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in worship, as our living witness to the Truth. What *IS* the Truth from which all things "Christmassy" flow, the Truth that has become so obscured as to be dissolved amidst the "holiday" wrappings and trappings, the Truth that historically hit the world with such force that it literally split time in two?

The Truth lies in our simple three-word greeting: "Christ is Born." Though we say this a thousand times, we still fall short in comprehending this profound mystery. We know what it means to be born. The greeting also assumes we know Who Christ is. **Is this a fair assumption?**

Read the rest of Fr. Daniel's reflection at

<http://oca.org/reflections/fr.-daniel-c.-kovalak/the-truth-of-christmas>



## SERVICES AND EVENTS FOR ADVENT AND THE NATIVITY SEASON

•**Wed 12/24 6:00 PM: Holy Supper** at the Rectory.... Sign up with Matushka Tamara! A traditional lenten meal on Christmas Eve, it is the last meal of the Advent fast. The fasting foods served can include barley, honey, stewed prunes, pierogi, sauerkraut, potatoes, lima beans, garlic, Lenten bread, mushroom soup and salt. A lit candle symbolizes the star of Bethlehem. The bread broken and shared symbolizes Christ at the Last Supper. The foods range from bitter to sweet to remind us of the bitterness of life before Christ was born and the sweetness of life after He came. After supper, all attend the Christmas Eve vigil. Hay placed under the tablecloth recalls the manger in which baby Jesus was placed by His Mother. An extra place is always set -- for Jesus, either in Spirit, or in the form of a traveler or stranger, for none are turned away on this day without a warm invitation to partake!

•**Wed-Thu 12/24-25 Christmas Eve & Christmas Day: SPECIAL COLLECTION for Project Mexico, during Vigil and Divine Liturgy.**

•**Thu 12/25 CHRISTMAS DAY After the Liturgy – The Children’s Choir of Holy Trinity Russian Orthodox Church, Brooklyn,** will sing a brief concert for us before we enjoy Christmas Coffee Hour together.

•**Sun 12/28 After Liturgy: Christmas Caroling Visits** to Homebound Parishioners. Sign up in the hall today!

•**Sun 1/11 The Nativity Yolka – NEW DATE.** By popular request, we have moved the Yolka a week later, to Jan. 11. Please note the change.

**TODAY’S EPISTLE Colossians 3:4-11** Brethren: When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.<sup>5</sup>Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.<sup>6</sup>Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience,<sup>7</sup>in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.<sup>8</sup>But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth.<sup>9</sup>Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds,<sup>10</sup>and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,<sup>11</sup>where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

**TODAY’S GOSPEL Luke 14:16-24** The Lord said, “A certain man gave a great supper and invited many,<sup>17</sup>and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, ‘Come, for all things are now ready.’<sup>18</sup>But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.’<sup>19</sup>And another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.’<sup>20</sup>Still another said, ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’<sup>21</sup>So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.’<sup>22</sup>And the servant said, ‘Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.’<sup>23</sup>Then the master said to the servant, ‘Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.’<sup>24</sup>For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.’ “

**THANK YOU** to all who made last Sunday's St. Nicholas celebration, and First (Annual?!) Gingerbread Church Contest, so special!!

**HELP NEEDED – NEWLY WIDOWED MOTHER OF A TEEN**

There is a newly widowed mother in our neighborhood who just lost her husband to a sudden illness. She has a teenage son. If you would like to provide them with some financial help for Christmas, please contact Fr. David. *Thank you!*

**BAKING COOKIES? BAKE EXTRA!**

If you are baking Christmas cookies, consider baking another dozen and bringing them to one of our homebound parishioners – or contact Olga Ptach, 914-262-1061 or [olgaptach@gmail.com](mailto:olgaptach@gmail.com), to arrange for their delivery. *Thank you!*

**30<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT, TODAY, 3:00 PM  
AT MOST HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH –  
OUR NEIGHBORS**

The choir and orchestra concert is followed by a reception at their Parish Hall. A free will donation of \$10 for the concert is appreciated; tickets for the Dinner are \$35. Dinner Reservations: Call 963-0720

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday from 10 AM – 12 noon.

As you may know, Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church is among those slated to be closed next summer. Whether by attending this concert or in some other way, please show your opposition to this decision to close the parish ... a pillar of our neighborhood!

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS:**

•**Sun., Feb. 15, 5:00 PM: Bishop Michael Hosts the Annual Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors Appreciation Dinner, Here!** All parishioners are invited ... and anyone who could help serve this dinner (which will be catered) would be greatly appreciated! See Matushka Tamara to offer your assistance.

•**Sat., March 21: Lenten Retreat with Abbot Sergius of St. Tikhon's Monastery.** Details to come after the New Year.

**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:**

Newly Baptized Anastasia VanLare; newly received Catechumen Mary Ann Paprocki; Adriana Szynda, recovering from surgery; the newly Chrismated Vincent & Mary Macagnone; Paul "PJ" Sulich; Christina McDonald; Fr. John Tkachuk; the child David; newborn Elena King, Luke Kraus, Isabelle Paprocki Ludmila Branzow; Katherine & newborn Gabriel Brasowski; Natasha Harris; Mat. Alexandra Kishkovsky; Nathan Orsini; Olga Ptach; Suzanne Gee; Peter Tymus, Jr.; Stephen Vagianos; Matthew & Malek, traveling in the Middle East; Dorothy Vernak; Nikolette Katechis; John Loving; Mat. Leanne Parrott and the child to be born to her; Nicholas Washenko; Maryanne Nolan; His Eminence, Archbishop Seraphim; George Miroshnikov & Madeline Loving, Jason Vitale & Kimberly Ovsag, Paul Stewart & Natalia Maidenco, and all those preparing for marriage; Kevin Kuzmenko; Shawn Malone; Metropolitan Paul and Bishop Gregorios, Vera Bullock; John & Julia Wislocki; Schuyler Perry; Doris Morin; Kelly Ray; Justin Solak; Carmen Fesh; Deborah Chaiko; Anne Kakos, Kay Baker (Anne's sister); Vitaliy Khutko; Malcolm Kirkpatrick; Inga Serniak; Nikolai & Nadezhda Solidnov; Kathleen Nolan; the priests Frs. Leonid Kishkovsky, John Pawelchak, Herman Schick, Ken James Stavrevsky, Daniel Degyansky, Michael Koblosh, Stephen Mack; PDns. Peter Skoog & Michael Sochka; Alvin; Ann Belchyk; Aleksandra Borzova; Helen Delandri; Helen Dempsey; Olga Jaworski; Olga Juck; Mary Kalakuka; Mary Kantor; Daria Krawchuk; Olga Pavelchak; Stephanie Phillips; Tekla Rzyzyk; Mat. Juliana Schmemann; Zena Weshta; all those confined to hospitals, nursing homes, and their own homes due to illness; for all soldiers, especially Jorge; 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 and their families; all Orthodox monks, nuns and all those considering the monastic life; all Orthodox missionaries and their families. Birthdays: George and Steve Wislocki (today).

**For blessed repose for the souls of:** Newly departed Charles Brown (+12/6); Melinda Butler; Constance Tarasar (+11/7); the ever-memorable Maria Skalski, Stefan Didyk and John Kowalczyk; Vladimir & Vira; and all 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.**

**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!**

Michael Bouteneff	Madeline Loving	Peter Rzyzyk
Joe Ciamarra	George Miroshnikov	Matt Skalski
Megan Jones	Kamille Perry	Alexandra Solak
Kaydee Kowalczyk	Schuyler Perry	Nick Thanasias
Dan Kozak	Roman Piwinski	Monika Wislocki
Peter Kreatsoulas	Amanda Rzyzyk	

**Please tell Fr. David if there are any errors or omissions on this list.**