

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

Yonkers, New York



Sunday, December 23, 2018 ~ Tone 5

Forefeast of the Nativity of Our Lord, God and Savior, Jesus Christ

SEEKING A VOLUNTEER to drop off "Toys for Tots" to a local family...

This would involve a drive up to the Toys 4 Tots site on Saw Mill Road in Elmsford, then to a family here in Yonkers. Please speak with Fr. David if you can help. Thank you!

SECOND COLLECTION TODAY: This collection will go to the **Distinguished Diocesan Benefactor Fund**, which funds Seminary Scholarships, New Mission Parishes, Struggling Parishes, and other ministries of our Diocesan family.

COMING UP IN THE PARISH, THE DIOCESE, AND ELSEWHERE ...

- **Monday, Dec. 24, 5:00 PM: Holy Supper, at the Fellowship Hall.** See page 2 for details ... and please come!
- **Wednesday, Dec. 26, After Liturgy: Christmas Caroling Visits to Homebound Parishioners.**
- **Saturday, Dec. 29, 10:00 AM, Hierarchical Divine Liturgy with Tonsuring of Gabriel Cowan as Reader by Archbishop MICHAEL**
- **New Year's Eve, Monday, Dec. 31, 7:00 PM:** Service of Thanksgiving for the New Year, and New Year's Eve Celebration in the Fellowship Hall!

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH ✦ 46 Seymour Street ✦ Yonkers, New York 10701

Rector: V. Rev. David Cowan; Protodeacon John Eby; Attached: V. Rev. John Tkachuk; V. Rev. Vitaly Bahanovich
Rector Emeritus: V. Rev. Yaroslav Sudick, Ph.D., D.D.

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SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

~ The Nativity Fast, or Advent, continues until the Divine Liturgy on Christmas Day, the Nativity of Our Lord, on Tuesday, December 25. We strive to abstain from meat, to abstain from or limit our use of dairy products, and avoid spiritually unproductive entertainment and Internet activity. ~

Today

9:30 AM *Divine Liturgy* followed by Church School and Coffee Hour

Monday, December 24 ~ Christmas Eve

8:30 AM *Royal Hours* for the Nativity of Our Lord

5:00 PM Holy Supper at the Fellowship Hall

8:00 PM *Vigil Service* for the Nativity of Our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ – Come and be anointed with Blessed Oil from the Place of Our Lord's Nativity in Bethlehem; and receive your Red Christmas Candle!

Tuesday, December 25 ~ Christmas Day ~ The Nativity of Our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ

10:00 AM *Divine Liturgy* ~ CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!

Wednesday, December 26 ~ Synaxis of the Most-Holy Theotokos

10:00 AM *Divine Liturgy* and Brunch, followed by Caroling Visits to our Homebound Parishioners

Saturday, December 29

10:00 AM *Hierarchical Divine Liturgy* ~ Archbishop MICHAEL, Celebrant ~ *Tonsuring* of Gabriel Cowan as a Reader

5:30 PM Private Confession Available

6:00 PM *Great Vespers*

Sunday, December 30 ~ Saints David the King, Joseph the Betrothed, and James the Brother of the Lord

9:30 AM *Divine Liturgy* followed by Coffee Hour

Monday, December 31

7:00 PM *Service of Thanksgiving* for the New Year – Followed by New Year's Eve Celebration in the Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, January 1, 2019 ~ Feasts of St. Basil the Great and the Circumcision of the Lord ~ New Year's Day

10:00 AM *Divine Liturgy*

HOLY SUPPER

Monday, Dec. 24, 5:00 PM at the Fellowship Hall

Let Mat. Tamara know you would like to come!

A traditional lenten Christmas Eve meal, it is the last meal of the Advent fast. Fasting foods served can include barley, honey, stewed prunes, pierogi, sauerkraut, potatoes, lima beans, garlic, Lenten bread, or mushroom soup.

A lit candle symbolizes the star of Bethlehem. The bread broken and shared symbolizes Christ at the Last Supper. Foods range from bitter to sweet to remind us of the bitterness of life before Christ's birth and its sweetness after He came. After supper, all attend the Christmas Eve vigil. Hay under the tablecloth recalls the manger where Jesus' Mother placed Him. 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!



HERE WE GO, A - CAROLING!

Wed., Dec. 26, After 10AM Liturgy:

Caroling for Homebound Parishioners

Our Brothers and Sisters who are
Confined in Homes & Hospitals Need
Our Smiles, Our Songs, and Our Love.

You'll Open Your Gifts on Christmas Day ...

The Next Day, Give Back the Gift of Joy!



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:

Infant Quincy (Fred Miller's grandson); Luna Shin (Sohee Talley's sister); newly baptized Lukas Gogichaishvili; Child Lukas; Newly Chrismated Gail Mary & Jessica Joanna Bruno; Newly baptized Alexander Matthew Statkevicius; newborn Nestor Dube; Fr. Nicholas & Mat. Anastasia Molodyko-Harris and Fr. Alexis Vinogradov, Fr. Samuel & Mat. Photini Davis, Serge Schmemmann and Shaun McElray, recovering from surgery; Melania King & Victoria Miroshnikov and the children to be born of them; Michelle Brown; Alice Coyle; Aaron Hoskins; Michael Lucak; Emily Sarisky; Walter Shymansky, Stephanie Whiting; Vera Bullock; Gerald D'Inzillo; Matushka Lorissa Gregory; John Krawchuk; Martha Scigliano; Mat. Mary Shafran; Fr. Dennis Swencki; Fr. Joseph Lickwar; Fr. Steven Belonick; Fr. Daniel Skvir; Joseph Rao; Charlie Andonis; Barbara Garbinski; children Felicity Davis & Victoria Saraceno; Vera Bouteneff; Ted Chaiko; Earle & Sally Ausman; Rocco Mastronardi; Nancy Prusak; Pedro Rosario; Honorina Rodriguez; Christina Sceppaquercia & Regina Cataldo; Douglas Jenkins, Sara Haughton; Mary Braig; Marian Harris; Vincent Knarr; Luka & Elena Herman; Nicholas Macagnone; Tanya Balasenowich; the child Alena; Andrew Czuchta; Boris Lyzak; Douglas & Susan Hansen; Bill Bodack; Courtney Lyzak; Suzanne Gee; Kathleen & Maryanne Nolan; Shawn Malone; Metropolitan Paul and Bishop Gregorios; Nikolai & Nadezhda Solidnov; the priests Frs. Maryan Chaykivsky, Stephen Hoskins, Samuel Kedala, Leonid Kishkovsky, John Malcom, Josef Petranin, John Reeves, Basil Summer, John Tkachuk, John Zabinko; Matushki Ellen Chupeck, Rebekah Markewich, Priscilla Shipley, Katherine White; all those confined to hospitals, nursing homes, and their own homes due to illness, including Eugen Balasenowich, Sr.; Maria Chouplat; Helen Delandri; Olga Donski; Walter Donski; Irene Homa; Anatole Honczarenko; Olga Juck; Olga Pavelchak; Stephanie Phillips; Tekla Rzyzyk; for all soldiers, especially Mykola; widows, orphans, prisoners, victims of violence and natural disasters, and refugees; all those suffering chronic illness, financial hardship, loneliness, addiction, abuse, abandonment and despair; all Orthodox seminarians & families; all Orthodox monks and nuns, and all those considering monastic life; all Orthodox missionaries and their families. Those afflicted by the earthquakes in Alaska and the fires in California. Birthdays: Mary Ann Paprocki (today, 12/23), Michael Adamovich (12/26). Asking God's blessing on our labors renovating the Education Building and the Church building.

For blessed repose for the souls of: Newly departed Lorna Nelson (12/4) former President George Bush (+11/30); Fr. Athanasius Shaw (+11/29); Victor Makarov (+11/28); Eric Ford (+11/18); Dn. Paul Hilko (+11/12); 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.

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!

Elizabeth Bouteneff
Joe Ciamarra
Brandon Ferguson
Samantha Fricke
Kaydee Kowalczyk
Andrew Nolan

Peter Nolan
August Perry
Kamille Perry
Joshua Rzyzyk
Stephanie Rzyzyk
Matthew Skalski

Justyna Skalski
Adriana Szynda
Emily Szynda
Katherine Wislocki
Olivia Wislocki

"Sending our kids to college without a connection to the Church is like sending children to play in traffic." -- Abp. Michael

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

CANDLE SPONSORSHIPS FOR DECEMBER:

Vigil Candles, Icons of Christ and the Theotokos, Departed Members, Wirchansky Family: Janet, Peter, Christina, Anne, Helen & Anastasia. Living: Wirchansky, Seckerson & Carlucci Families.

SPIRITUAL ENCOURAGEMENT FOR TODAY (AND EVERY DAY)...

"The Feast of the Nativity invites us, beckons us, to seek Christ above all else. It calls us to unite ourselves to Him ... but it offers us only the invitation to this union. It does not ever force us. That would not be the way of love, because love can only be given where there is freedom - to accept or reject the beloved. What is our response to this gift of Christ - to be united with Him, to save our souls, to live with Him forever, to become more and more like Him unto eternity?"

- from Archbishop Michael's Archpastoral Letter for the Nativity of Christ

Read the whole Letter on our Facebook page ... or pick up your own copy here Christmas Day!

TODAY'S EPISTLE Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40 Brethren: By faith Abraham dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called," concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense. By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come. By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff. By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones. By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's command. And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented — of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

TODAY'S GOSPEL Matthew 1:1-25 The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham: Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers. Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram. Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon. Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David the king. David the king begot Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah. Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot Abijah, and Abijah begot Asa. Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, and Joram begot Uzziah. Uzziah begot Jotham, Jotham begot Ahaz, and Ahaz begot Hezekiah. Hezekiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot Amon, and Amon begot Josiah. Josiah begot Jeconiah and his brothers about the time they were carried away to Babylon. And after they were brought to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, and Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel. Zerubbabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, and Eliakim begot Azor. Azor begot Zadok, Zadok begot Achim, and Achim begot Eliud. Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Matthan, and Matthan begot Jacob. And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon are fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ are fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins. So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated, "God with us." Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.