



St. Xenia Parish News

170 North Lowell Street, Methuen, MA 01844

November/December 2008

The Son of God and the Son of Man

by Bp. Alexander (Mileant) +

Great is the mystery of godliness [piety]: God was manifest in the flesh (I Tim. 3:16). These words of the holy Apostle testify that the miracle of the incarnation of the Son of God exceeds the understanding of our limited mind. Indeed, we can believe, but cannot explain, the event that took place two thousand years ago in Bethlehem: that, in the one Person of Jesus Christ, two natures so different and contrary in essence were joined together: the superterrestrial, eternal and infinite divine nature with the material, limited and feeble human nature.

Nonetheless, the Gospels and the apostolic epistles reveal to us, to the extent of our abilities, certain aspects of the miracle of the incarnation of the Son of God. Saint John the Theologian, at the very beginning of his Gospel, elevates our thought to the pre-eternal existence of the Second Person of the Most Holy Trinity, Whom he calls the Word, saying: *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us* (John 1:1-3, 14).

The Son of God's name, the Word, indicates that one must not understand His birth from the Father in the sense of an ordinary birth: it occurred passionlessly and without separation. The Son of God is born from the Father like a word is born from a thought. A thought and a word are distinct from one another, and at the same time inseparable. There is no word without a thought, and a thought is without fail expressed in a word.

The subsequent apostolic preaching reveals all the more fully the truth of Christ's divine-human nature: He is the only begotten (the only) Son of God, Who was begotten of the Father before all ages, i.e., He is eternal, as God the Father is also eternal. The Son of God has the same divine nature that God the Father has, and is therefore omnipotent, omniscient and omnipresent. He is the Creator of the visible and invisible worlds, and of us men. In a word, He, being the

Second Person of the Most Holy Trinity, is true and perfect God. Faith in Jesus Christ as the incarnate Son of God represents the stronghold or rock upon which the Church is established, according to the word of the Lord: *Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it* (Matt. 16:18).

Being perfect God, Christ the Saviour is at the same time also perfect Man. He had a human body and soul with all its properties—reason, will and senses. As a man, He was born of the Virgin Mary. As the Son of Mary, He obeyed her and Joseph. As a man, He was baptized in the Jordan and went around the towns and villages with His salvific preaching. As a man, He experienced hunger, thirst, fatigue; He had a need for sleep and rest; He endured painful sensations and physical sufferings. Living the physical life inherent to a man, the Lord also lived a spiritual life as a man. He strengthened His spiritual powers by fasting and by prayer. He experienced human feelings—joy, wrath, sorrow; He shed tears. In this way, the Lord Jesus Christ, having taken on our human nature, was in all things like unto us, except for sin.

Having two natures, Jesus Christ also had two free wills. Jesus Christ's rational, conscious, human will invariably subordinates its human aspirations and desires to His divine will. But the human will in Christ is clearly visible during His difficult experiences in the garden of Gethsemane: *O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt* (Matt. 26:39).

Thus, by His obedience to God the Father, the Lord Jesus Christ corrected our disobedience and taught us to put God's will above our own desires.

St. Xenia of Petersburg Orthodox Church is a parish of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia, under the omophorion of Metropolitan HILARION of Eastern America & New York, First Hierarch. The parish newsletter is published bi-monthly under the direction of the Rev. Michael Crowley. In order to ensure timely delivery to our far-flung parish, please submit all notices by the 15th of the month prior to publication to Margaret Lark at (603) 332-9613, e-mail: woolfolk3@gmail.com, or to Father Michael at tcrowley@maine.rr.com. Thank you.

Rector:

Rev. Michael Crowley
 16 Channel Road
 South Portland, ME 04106
 (978) 204-0428 (cell phone with voice mail)

Confessions on Saturday during Vigil, on Sunday during the Hours, and by appointment

Parish Council

- President: Rev. Michael Crowley (207) 767-1889
- Starosta: Sdn. Constantine Desrosiers (603) 775-0320
- Secretary: Natalie Pishenin (978) 658-5564
- Treasurer: Anthony Sarantakis (978) 263-2016
- Sisterhood: Matushka Nancy Crowley (207) 767-1889
- Cemetery: to be determined by search committee.
 Interim, Rev. Michael Crowley
- Peter Danas (978) 459-9541
- John Danas (978) 454-0315
- Laryssa Doohovskoy (978) 841-5960
- Roberto Gonzalez (978) 692-1229
- Michael Johnson (603) 893-4593
- John Kekis (978) 456-9865
- Choir Director: Michael Lang (603) 465-9754

Trapeza Schedule

*** =Strict Fast (no meats, fish or dairy)**

If you cannot be at church on your assigned Sunday please call and switch with someone. If you have any questions contact Karen Schidlovsky at (603) 868-6410. Trapeza can be whatever you would like to prepare on your day. Some parishioners prefer to make a big lunch but this isn't necessary. As long as there is enough food for about 50 people, anything is appreciated. Donuts, fruit and pastries are as acceptable as soup and sandwiches. Thank you in advance for your contribution.

November

- 2 Nina Yakuboff, Maria Kasarda
- 9 Matushka Nancy, Megan Nettleton, Natasha Kirichok
- 16 Karen Schidlovsky, Nancy Harris
- 23 Masha Harris, Kot Engalichev

*30 Sarantakis Ladies

December

- * 7 Natalie Botchkov, Tania Sciaudone
- *14 Helena Doohovskoy, Marianne DiMatteo, Laryssa Doohovskoy
- *21 Nick Kronauer, Vera Sarantakis
- *28 Anna Johnson, Mireille Lang, Alexandra Gonzalez

Sisterhood News:

The Sisterhood is open to all women of the parish. Dues are \$5 per year.

Thank You

... ..to the Sisterhood, members and friends who helped to make our altar feast, and its festal weekend, a very special and blessed event.

...to the choir for the wonderful, spiritual singing during the Hierarchical services. The choir, as well as the children's voices, enhanced tremendously the services officiated by Bishop Gabriel.

Please remember in your prayers

Nicholas, Lilly, Josephine, David, Vassilisa, Lilly Anne, Margaret, Alexander (Gil).

Please remember to inform the Myrrhbearers Sisterhood if someone is in the hospital or shut in at home.

Financial Update: As of October 31, 2008, the balance on the church mortgage stands at \$37,335. If you have any questions, please see Subdeacon Constantine Desrosiers.

Congratulations: To Mr. & Mrs. David Nettleton, on the occasion of their marriage early in September, and to the Crowley family on this latest addition to the family: Meghan Nettleton is the former Meghan Crowley. Many years to all!

Altar Feast: We were blessed with the attendance of Bishop Gabriel at our altar feast celebration on Sept. 27/28. He has been our Vladyka for several years, and we were delighted to be able to celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of St. Xenia's glorification, as well as the after-feast of the Exaltation of the Cross, with him. We wish him well in Montreal and hope he will come back to visit and serve in our parish many times in the future.

Member Information Update/Renewal: Did you move within the last year? Get married? Have a baby?

Did someone in your household move to another address? Did you get a new cell number or email address? If so, please let us know by completing an updated Renewal Membership Form. We would like to make sure that you are kept "in the loop"!

Annual Parish Meeting: Sunday, October 26. The election and financial outcomes are posted on the bulletin board in our hall. Thanks to all council members, parish members, attendees and participants.

Available in our Bookstore: A VHS of the 1978 canonization of St. Xenia, which took place in New York City and was presided over by Metropolitan Philaret (Voznesensky), has been transferred to DVD and is for

sale in our bookstore. Though of less than perfect quality due to its age, it is, nevertheless, a welcome addition to your spiritual recorded library.

Sunday School News: Classes are now in session. Please commit yourselves to the spiritual upbringing of your children and come to church each Sunday for Divine Liturgy and instruction. As always, keep your calendars marked for October 31 and our St. John of Kronstadt Party.

As a gentle reminder, attending Church School is such an important part of our children's Church Life, and one that will stand them in good stead throughout all their lives. Please do your best to help your child attend on a regular basis.

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please feel free to share them with Laryssa Doohovskoy or Father Michael. Also please remember to check the parish website (www.stxenia.org) for updates on the Sunday-School classes and schedule.

Craft Fair: St. Nicholas Parish, 193 St. James Avenue, Chicopee, MA will hold its Second Annual Craft Fair on November 8 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Some of the hand-crafted items available for sale include: hand-painted glass ornaments, plaques, boxes and cards in Russian Folk Art style; jewelry; decoupage boxes, beautiful soaps and gift baskets, and baked goods. There will also be a good selection of shawls, scarves, books and prints, greeting cards and notes, candles, holiday decorations, baby and children's clothes, religious books, and icons. Come to the fair!

Fund for Assistance to Haiti: In July and August of this year, three devastating storms swept over Haiti, the poorest country of the Caribbean. The number of dead and missing after the hurricanes has reached into the hundreds. Food and fresh water remain inaccessible to many. The island is especially vulnerable to floods due to deforestation. Numerous faithful members of ROCOR live in Haiti, and they stand in desperate need of our help. The Primate of our Church, His Eminence Metropolitan Hilarion has given the Fund for Assistance of ROCOR his blessing to appeal to parish rectors and to urge the whole congregation to donate to the holy cause for the benefit of the suffering Orthodox in Haiti. Let us do all we can to help the suffering! Please make checks payable to **Fund for Assistance/Haiti**, and send them to: Fund for Assistance, 75 East 93rd Street, New York, New York 10128.

Christmas Gift Envelope: Your continued love and support for our parish is greatly appreciated. Enclosed in this newsletter is an envelope which can be used for making a Christmas donation to St. Xenia Orthodox Church. If you choose to, feel free to specify to which need you would like your donation to apply: church upkeep, cemetery upkeep, Sunday school, alms/charity, or whatever else is close to your heart. All gifts, no matter the size, are in support of the church's mission here on

earth and all gifts are truly and greatly appreciated. Please make all checks out to St. Xenia Orthodox Church. If you specify a particular use of the donation we will see that it goes into the correct account. Thank you!

January 2009 Yolka: The tentative date for the Yolka performances by our Sunday School members is Jan. 18. We are fortunate to have Mireille Lang direct the children's play once again. Parents, please contact Mireille to offer any help you can, and to notify her of your children's involvement.

Children's Loft Play Area: Dear parents, **PLEASE**, monitor your children when they are in this area. We have found that scissors and staplers are being brought into this space, as well as sharpened pencils and pens. The loft area has been designated a quiet and safe place for our toddlers and babies to play. We ask that you please make sure that your children are **NOT** bringing in items that may be hazardous to our youngsters, and that youngsters would be supervised. Thank you.

New parking area: St. Xenia's has grown and so has its parking area. If it's been a while since you've come, we've added some new spaces for convenient parking near the front of the church. Come early to take advantage of these prime spots!

Help St. Xenia's go green : Use a Commemoration Book! St. Xenia Parish encourages everyone to obtain a commemoration book. There are simple ones available on our candle table. Other styles may be found in our bookstore. The names of your loved ones and those for whom you would like to offer prayers at each Divine Liturgy, Pannikhida, etc. can be listed either for Health or for Repose. Your book would be easily accessible to make additions and changes, as needed. The booklets are kept in a candle table drawer. Right before each Divine Liturgy they are moved to the altar so names can be read at the Proskomide. They are returned to the candle table at the end of Divine Liturgy. These books are always available for you to take with you when you travel to different parishes and would like to bring your prayer needs along. Individual slips are still very appropriate for special needs and prayers, such as a period of travel, short term or sudden illness, recent birth or death before adding to the book, etc.

Icon Exhibit: Two Museums, One Culture: The International exhibition from the State Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow collection October 16, 2008 through May 1, 2009.

This extraordinary exhibition is organized exclusively by the Museum of Russian Icons and is the **only USA** venue to see these masterpieces from Russia's exceptional State Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow. This is a ground-breaking cultural exchange between a Russian and an American Museum. Concurrently, over 150 icons from the Museum of Russian Icons collection will be on view. The Museum of

Russian Icons, in Clinton, MA, is a non-profit educational museum. The collection includes about 340 Russian icons, the largest collection of its kind in North America. It is one of the largest private collections outside of Russia. The collection spans six centuries, and includes important historical icons dating from the earliest periods of icon painting up to the present. For times, admissions (Seniors are free), and directions, call 978-598-5000 or visit: www.museumofrussianicons.org

From Where the Cave of the Nativity?

The Gospels say nothing of the cave: we know of it from Tradition. The oldest written evidences of it date from the second century: St. Justin the Philosopher, in his dialogue with Typho (about 155-160 AD), quoting from the Gospel of St. Matthew adds, "Since Joseph could find no room in which to stay in that village, he established himself in a cave not far from Bethlehem." (from "The Meaning of Icons," Ouspensky/Lossky)

What does it mean, God the Word ? Christ: The Manifestation of the Incarnate Logos

Logos means "the expression of thought", as a spoken word from a speaker's mind. The Logos was identified with the will of God, or with the ideas that are in the mind of God. Christ's incarnation was accordingly understood as the incarnation of these divine attributes. The conception that the Christ is the Logos (????, the Greek for "word," "wisdom," or "reason") has been important in establishing the doctrine of the divinity of Jesus Christ and his position as God the Son in the Trinity as set forth in the Chalcedonian Creed. The conception derives from the opening of the Gospel of John: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. . . . And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. . ." (John 1:1-3, 14). In the original Greek, *Logos* is used, and in theological discourse, this is often left untranslated. "Word" and related terms in earlier Jewish tradition prepared the way for its use here to denote Jesus as revealer of the unseen God (see *Wisdom 9:1-4, 9, 17-18; Ecclesiasticus 24:1-12*).

St John of Kronstadt Party





ST. XENIA ORTHODOX CHURCH

170 N. Lowell St. (Rt. 113)/PO Box 147 - Methuen, MA 01844
 (phone) Fr. Michael Crowley (978) 204-0428 -- Church (978) 688-1211



NOVEMBER 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Oct 26 (Oct 13) Pentecost 19 Tone 2 9:30 Hours and Divine Liturgy	Oct 27 (Oct 14) MM Nazarius & comp	Oct 28 (Oct 15) St. Euthymius the New	Oct 29 (Oct 16) M Longinus Fast	Oct 30 (Oct 17) Pr. Hosea	Oct 31 (Oct 18) Ap. Luke Fast	1 (Oct 19) Demetrius Saturday 4:00 Small Vespers 6:30 All-Night Vigil
2 (Oct 20) Pentecost 20 Tone3 9:30 Hours and Divine Liturgy	3 (Oct 21) St. Hilarion the Great	4 (Oct 22) Kazan Icon of the Theotokos	5 (Oct 23) Ap. James the Brother of the Lord Fast	6 (Oct 24) Icon of the Theotokos "Joy of All Who Sorrow"	7 (Oct 25) MM Marcian & Martyrius Fast	8 (Oct 26) GM Demetrius 6:30 All-Night Vigil
9 (Oct 27) Pentecost 21 Tone 4 9:30 Hours and Divine Liturgy	10 (Oct 28) GM Parasceva of Iconium	11 (Oct 29) VM Anastasia the Roman	12 (Oct 30) MM Zenobius & Zenobia Fast	13 (Oct 31) App Stachys, Amplias, Urban, Narcissus, Apellas and Aristobulos of the 70	14 (Nov 1) Wonderworkers & Unmercenaries Cosmas & Damian Fast	15 (Nov 2) MM Acindynus, Pegasus, Aphthonius, Elpidephorus and Anempodistus 4:00 Class 6:30 All-Night Vigil
16 (Nov 3) Pentecost 22 Tone 5 9:30 Hours and Divine Liturgy	17 (Nov 4) St Ioannicius the Great	18 (Nov 5) M Galacteon	19 (Nov 6) St Paul the Confessor Fast	20 (Nov 7) Holy 33 Martyrs of Militene	21 (Nov 8) Synaxis of the Archangel Michael Fast	22 (Nov 9) MM Onesiphorus & Porphyrius 6:30 All-Night Vigil
23 (Nov 10) Pentecost 23 Tone 6 9:30 Hours and Divine Liturgy	24 (Nov 11) M Menas	25 (Nov 12) St John the Merciful	26 (Nov 13) St John Chrysostom Fast	27 (Nov 14) Ap Philip American Thanksgiving Day	28 (Nov 15) MM Gurias, Samonas & Abibus Fast	29 (Nov 16) Ap Matthew 6:30 All-Night Vigil Fast: wine & oil
30 (Nov 17) Pentecost 24 Tone 7 9:30 Hours and Divine Liturgy Fast: wine & oil	Dec 1 (Nov 18) M Platon Fast	Dec 2 (Nov 19) Pr Obadiah Fast	Dec 3 (Nov 20) St Gregory Decapolites 6:30 Vigil of the Entrance of the Theotokos Fast	Dec 4 (Nov 21) ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS 9:30 Hours and Divine Liturgy Fast: fish, wine, & oil	Dec 5 (Nov 22) Ap Philemon & Archippus Fast	Dec 6 (Nov 23) St Amphilochius 6:30 All-Night Vigil Fast: wine & oil



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DECEMBER 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Nov 30 (Nov 17) Pentecost 24 Tone 7 9:30 Hours and Divine Liturgy Fast: wine & oil	1 (Nov 18) M Platon Fast	2 (Nov 19) Pr Obadiah Fast	3 (Nov 20) St Gregory Decapolites 6:30 Vigil of the Entrance of the Theotokos Fast	4 (Nov 21) ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS 9:30 Hours and Divine Liturgy Fast: fish, wine, & oil	5 (Nov 22) Ap Philemon & Archippus Fast	6 (Nov 23) St Amphilochius 6:30 All-Night Vigil Fast: wine & oil
7 (Nov 24) Pentecost 25 Tone 8 GM Catherine 9:30 Hours and Divine Liturgy Fast: wine & oil	8 (Nov 25) HM Clement of Rome Fast	9 (Nov 26) St Alypius the Stylite Fast	10 (Nov 27) GM James the Persian Fast	11 (Nov 28) M Stephan the New Fast	12 (Nov 29) M Paramon & comp Fast	13 (Nov 30) Ap Andrew the First Called 6:30 All-Night Vigil Fast: wine & oil
14 (Dec 1) Pentecost 26 Tone 1 9:30 Hours and Divine Liturgy Fast: wine & oil	15 (Dec 2) Pr Habakkuk Fast	16 (Dec 3) Pr Zephaniah Fast	17 (Dec 4) GM Barbara Fast	18 (Dec 5) St Sabbas the Sanctified Fast	19 (Dec 6) St. Nicholas Fast: fish, wine, & oil	20 (Dec 7) St Ambrose of Milan 6:30 All-Night Vigil Fast: wine & oil
21 (Dec 8) Pentecost 27 Tone 2 9:30 Hours and Divine Liturgy Fast: wine & oil	22 (Dec 9) Conception of St Anna Fast	23 (Dec 10) St Iosasaph of Belgorad Fast	24 (Dec 11) St Daniel the Stylite Fast	25 (Dec 12) St Spyridon of Tremithon St Herman of Alaska Fast	26 (Dec 13) MM Eustratius, Auxentius, Eugene, Mardarius and Orestes Fast	27 (Dec 14) MM Thyrsus, Leucius & Callinicus 6:30 All-Night Vigil Fast: wine & oil
28 (Dec 15) Holy Forefathers Tone 3 9:30 Hours and Divine Liturgy Fast: wine & oil	29 (Dec 16) Pr Haggai Fast	30 (Dec 17) Pr Daniel Fast	31 (Dec 18) M Sebastian & comp Fast	Jan 1 (Dec 19) Fast	Jan 2 (Dec 20) Fast	Jan 3 (Dec 21) 4:00 Small Vespers 6:30 All-Night Vigil Fast: wine & oil

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St. Xenia Orthodox Church
170 North Lowell Street
P.O. Box 147
Methuen, MA 01844

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DIRECTIONS TO ST. XENIA CHURCH:

From I-93 North or South take Exit 46, Routes 110 and 113 Dracut and Lawrence. If you were travelling North on I-93, take the exit and go around the rotary and under the highway. Follow the signs and bear right off the rotary for Route 110/113 Dracut. **If you were travelling South on I-93,** bear right at the bottom of the exit ramp towards Route 110/113 Dracut.

Where Routes 110 and 113 split, bear right onto Route 113 towards Dracut. You will pass several cemeteries on your left, including the Polish National Catholic Cemetery. The very next gate on the left is the entrance to St. Xenia's. Please note that the church is on the left just before the Hickory Hill Golf course, so if you pass the golf course, you will have missed the church. Parking is available on church grounds.