



St. Xenia Parish News

170 North Lowell Street, Methuen, MA 01844

July-August 2011

Major Feasts of the Month of August

August 1/14 -- Procession of the Precious Wood of the Life-giving Cross of the Lord (1164)

First of the three "Feasts of the Saviour" in August. Beginning of the Dormition Fast.

The Procession was established in the time of the Emperor Manuel Paleologos. In Constantinople, the wood of the Cross was brought forth from the Imperial Treasury on July 31 and placed on the altar of the Great Church, where it remained until the Dormition feast, being carried in procession every day for the people's veneration.

August 6/19 -- The Holy Transfiguration of Our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ

Second "Feast of the Saviour" in August.

Read the account of Christ's holy Transfiguration (Metamorphosis in Greek) in Matthew ch. 17, Mark ch. 9, and Luke ch. 9. Appearing clothed in Light on Mt Tabor, the Savior fulfilled his promise to His disciples that "there are some standing here who shall not taste death, till they see the Son of man coming in His Kingdom" (Mt 16:28).

Christ's Transfiguration is the image of the future state of the righteous, of which He spoke when He said "Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun" (Mt 13:43). According to the Church's tradition, the Transfiguration occurred forty days before His Crucifixion; for this reason the Transfiguration is celebrated forty days before the Exaltation of the Cross.

August 15/28 -- The Dormition of Our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary.

On the Cross, the Lord charged the Apostle John to care for His holy Mother. The Apostle settled her in a house in Jerusalem, where she lived for the rest of her days on earth, praying and offering counsel and encouragement to the Apostles. In her old age, the Archangel Gabriel appeared to her and told her that in three days' time she would enter into her rest. Giving thanks to God, she hastened to the Mount of Olives where she prayed continually, preparing herself to meet the Lord. Meanwhile, the Apostles, scattered in various parts of the earth, were caught up in clouds and miraculously brought by the holy Angels to Jerusalem, so that they might all be with the Theotokos at her repose. After she had blessed them, she gave up her soul to God. The Apostles buried her with all

honor, solemnity and joy at Gethsemane. The Apostle Thomas, who was delayed (again!) by God's providence, arrived on the third day and went to her tomb, intending to honor her. But when the Apostles opened her grave, they found her holy body gone and only the winding-sheet remaining. That evening the Theotokos appeared to them surrounded by angels, and said to them, 'Rejoice: I will be with you always!'. Thus they learned that she had been bodily translated to heaven, anticipating the general resurrection of all. Her age at her repose is not known, but many say that she was about sixty years old.

August 16/29 -- Translation of the Image Not-Made-By-Hands of our Lord Jesus Christ from Edessa to Constantinople (944)

The Third "Feast of the Savior" in August

While the Lord was preaching in Palestine, his fame reached a king Avgar of Edessa, who suffered from leprosy. Avgar sent a messenger named Ananias to ask whether the Lord could heal his illness. The king also charged Ananias, if he was unable to bring back Jesus Himself, to bring back a likeness of Him. When Ananias found Jesus, the Lord told him that he could not come to Edessa since the time of His passion was at hand. But he took a cloth and washed His face, miraculously leaving a perfect image of His face on the cloth. Ananias brought the holy image back to the king, who reverently kissed it. Immediately his leprosy was healed, save for a small lesion that remained on his forehead. Later the Apostle Thaddeus came to Edessa, preaching the gospel, and Avgar and his household were baptized, at which time his remaining leprosy vanished. The king had the holy likeness mounted on wood and displayed above the city gate for all to revere. But Avgar's grandson returned to idolatry, and the Bishop of Edessa had the image hidden in the city wall to prevent it from being defiled. Many years later, when the Persian king Chosroes besieged Edessa, the Bishop Eulabius was told in a vision to find the sealed chamber, whose location had been forgotten. The holy icon was found, completely incorrupt, and by its power the Persian army was driven off. In the year 944 the image was brought to Constantinople and enshrined in the Church of the Theotokos called the Pharos. This is the event commemorated today.

St. Xenia of Petersburg Orthodox Church is a parish of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia, under the omophorion of Met. HILARION of Eastern America & New York. 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) 948-1619, e-mail: woolfolk3@gmail.com, or to Father Michael at frmichael@stxenia.org. Thank you.

Rector:

Rev. Michael Crowley
34 Elm Street
North Andover, MA 01845
(978) 204-0428

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

Parish Council

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| President: Rev. Michael Crowley | (978) 204-0428 |
| Fr. Constantine Desrosiers | (603) 775-0320 |
| Dcn. Alexander Doohovskoy | (978) 369-4486 |
| Starosta: Anthony Sarantakis | (978) 263-2016 |
| Secretary: Maria Kasarda | (978) 356-2180 |
| Treasurer: Reader Joseph Nucci | (617) 522-0456 |
| Sisterhood: Mireille Lang | (603) 465-9754 |
| Peter Danas | (978) 459-9541 |
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| Laryssa Doohovskoy | (978) 841-5960 |
| Roberto Gonzalez | (978) 692-1229 |
| Peter Reed | (781) 643-0070 |
| John Kekis | (978) 456-9865 |
| Choir Director: Michael Lang | (603) 465-9754 |
| Building Expansion: Aquila Choi | (603) 560-4425 |
| Cemetery: Natalie Pishenin | (978) 658-5564 |

Trapeza Schedule

* = strict fast

Trapeza can be whatever you would like to prepare. Some parishioners prefer to make a big lunch, but this isn't necessary, especially during the summer. As long as there is enough food for about 100 people, anything is appreciated. Donuts, fruit and pastries are as acceptable as soup and sandwiches. **Note: If you are preparing anything containing nuts or other allergens, please put a small label to that effect in front of your dish. Nut allergies are especially fatal to small children.** If you have any questions, please contact Karen Schidlovsky at (603) 868-6410.

Please note that beginning on June 12, Trapeza will be potluck, as it is every summer. The Sundays of the Fast for this year (given for the civil calendar) are:

Peter and Paul Fast: July 3, July 10

Dormition Fast: August 14, August 21

Sisterhood News:

Lilac Night was a smashing success, with close to 160 people in attendance. It was wonderful to see all the people who came, some as far as Miami and Canada, to enjoy a very nice evening of dining, dancing and fellowship, with swing tunes provided by the White Heat Swing Orchestra. Seeing all these people enjoy the evening was really worth all the work! It is really nice to see that Lilac Nights remains a must-attend event for many, and we can hardly wait for the next one. This was a most successful fundraiser for St. Seraphim Camp, and we should be able to send them a nice check.

Special Lilac Nights Thank You...

... to the Sisterhood for coordinating the publicity, decorating and cleanup for Lilac Nights

... special thanks to the Dessert Committee – those scrumptious desserts were just too good to pass up!

... to the committee of young men who handled the cleanup

...to Nick Chaplain for all the hard work and preparation he put into a wonderful meal

...to Matushka Miriam for all her work and effort to assure the evening would be a success

Other Thank You...

...to all who donated earrings to our drive for women undergoing chemotherapy

...to Reader Stefan Lukianov for the water-color workshop given on May 14, which allowed the attendees to discover their inner talent! It was a very nice and relaxing experience

Please remember in your prayers... Nicholas, Lilly, Nina, Josephine, David, Lilly Anne, John (Gil), the soldier Michael, the soldier Andrei, the sailor Daniel. Please remember to inform the Myrrhbearers Sisterhood if someone is in the hospital or shut in at home.

Financial Update: As of June 30, 2011, the balance on the church mortgage stands at approximately \$11,750. If you have any questions, or would like to know the exact amount, please see Fr. Constantine Desrosiers.

St. John of Damascus Church School News: Mark your calendars! Save the Date! The Second Annual Vacation Church School will take place July 12 -15 (Tuesday, 7/12, after Divine Liturgy until 3:00 pm and Wednesday-Friday, 7/13-15, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm). Students will make a presentation to the parish on Sunday, July 17. This year's theme: "Stepping Stones in the Divine Liturgy." Vacation Church School is fast approaching. The program will take place July 12-15, with a presentation to the parish on July 17. Children ages 5-18 are welcome to participate for all, or part of the program.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact Fr. Michael, or Laryssa Doohovskoy (978-841-5960, or LaryssaL@aol.com). We had an extremely successful VCS

last year and hope that, with your help, we will create another fabulous learning experience for our youngsters.

A special Yahoo Group exists for the church school. If you would like to join, please visit:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/stxeniachurchschool/>

and click on the "Join this Group" button.

Building Committee Update: The committee met on May 1 and discussed the following:

1. Church School Needs (Laryssa Doohovskoy):

- 4 separate classrooms with varying sizes
- floor and wall design to minimize noise in rooms
- storage space for Sunday school supplies
- small stage for our yearly Yolka play, concerts for the parish and receptions as well

2. Hiring an Architect:

- seek an architect through the Orthodox community with help of Fr. Michael
- look for a list of local architects from Judith Engalichev

3. Fundraising Issues:

- Obtain the mailing lists from the Orthodox Benevolent Fund and the Orthodox Fund for Assistance with help of David James
- Prepare a fundraising letter, including a design sketch of the proposed Church Hall
- Fr. Michael plans to hold Moliebens to St. Xenia for both the Building Expansion and the Roof Repair.

4. Current Status of the Church Hall Roof Repairs:

The Church Hall Repair Plan has been moving along, but slower than expected. We decided in mid-May to go with the installation of two large ridge beams under the existing roof, and of two steel tube supporting columns as the long-term safest measures. These design components could be installed in a manner that would support and be part and parcel of a future proposed expansion of the Sanctuary or Nave.

We expect the Final Design for Construction and Permit application to be done at the end of June. Construction could begin in late July or early August after a permit period. Current Status of the Church Hall Roof Repairs: The Church Hall Repair Plan has been moving along, but slower than was expected. We decided in mid-May to go with the installation of two large ridge beams under the existing roof, and of two steel tube supporting columns as the long-term safest measures. These design components could be installed in a manner that would support and be part and parcel of a future proposed expansion of the Sanctuary or Nave. We expect the Final Design for Construction and Permit application to be done at the end of June.

A Prayer for Children

By Bishop Nikolai Velimirovich

All-plenteous Lord Jesus Christ, Who wast once even Thyself a child and Who used to love and bless children, have mercy upon the children of our time, and save them, so that unbaptized children may be baptized, and so that baptized children may be strengthened in their faith in Thee, Who art Truth eternal, and in their love for Thee, Who art Love ineffable.

Save, O Lord, those children whom unbelieving parents corrupt with atheism and turn away from Thee, their Savior and salvation.

Save, O All-meek Lord, also those children whom evil teachers, without God or soul, alienate from Thee, their Savior and salvation.

Save, O Lord, also those children whose pure soul is defiled by all the immorality in the streets, in the theater, and on television – save them from the impurity of the streets and the theater and from every impurity.

Save, O All-merciful Lord, also those children who are orphans and have fallen into the hands of cruel guardians, or bad stepfathers or stepmothers, or those who are supposed to rear them but do not – save them from hearing blasphemous words and from seeing malicious deeds.

Save, O Son of God, the sons of the sons of men, whom the world tugs here and there into many physical trainings and occupations, without giving them any training in Thy Holy Law, training in proper thoughts, in truth and mercy, and in all deeds of goodness and righteousness.

Help the children of this age, O Almighty One, so that they may grow up and mature to Divine sonship and heavenly citizenship, for their eternal salvation and for Thy glory and praise. Amen.

From *The Struggle for Faith* and other writings of Bishop Nikolai Velimirovich and Archimandrite Justin Popovich, Vol. IV of *A Treasury of Serbian Orthodox Spirituality*

The Parish School

Public schools are often unable to stand against the ungodly and corrupting influences in society or to prepare children to choose properly between right and wrong. There are many internal and external factors that push the family toward disintegration and society toward moral decline. Noteworthy among these factors are the media and the movie industry, which swamp children with low-grade movies saturated with scenes of violence and sex.

To counterbalance the materialistic and antichristian environment which surrounds children, the parish school should give the children religious knowledge, which strengthens their faith and teaches them a proper way of life, including the means to resist temptations and to become true Christians. The purpose of the parish school is to deepen and enhance the religious fundamentals acquired at home. During catechism lessons, children systematically receive important

knowledge: they memorize prayers, become familiarized with the sacred history of the Old and New Testament, and study the foundation of the Orthodox faith, the commandments of God and the content of the divine services. In the senior classes, we are obligated to familiarize the students with the particulars of heterodox denominations and with the proper approach to contemporary moral problems.

The parish school assists the family in the matter of religious upbringing, and the parent's care of course goes much further than the school's. The school gives theoretical religious knowledge, while the **application of this knowledge** is achieved within the family. Without a Christian atmosphere at home, all the information received at school will remain a theory that children will forget in the course of their years.

One must note that neither the family, nor the school, nor the Church, can independently bring up a child. This is feasible only by a **combined** effort of these institutions. That is why the more there is interaction and mutual assistance among them, the more successful the upbringing of the children will be in their care.

The Orthodox Church has always regarded the family as the main source of the Christian enlightenment of children. The Apostles used to call the family the "**domestic church**" and taught spouses to strive conjointly for a spiritual life.

To bring a Christian environment to the house, all members of the family should pray together. The best times for this are mornings and evenings. When possible, they should pray before and after meals. Combined prayer joins and strengthens the family. On Sundays all must attend church, observing the fourth commandment: "*Remember the Sabbath day [day of rest], to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the day of the Lord your God*" (Exod. 20:8). Giving us six days of the week, God kept one for Himself, but those Christians who devote the seventh day for themselves, "rob" the Lord of what belongs to Him and break their covenant with Him.

Discussions of spiritual topics and the reading of the Holy Scriptures, as well as the lives of the Saints and other edifying books, have a beneficial effect on the whole family and create a conciliatory atmosphere in the house. Neither can one disdain the fast-days, which are periods set by the Church for the development of self discipline and religious firmness.

In the absence of a parish school, or to augment it, the job of catechism instruction falls on the parents. It is certainly very helpful to this end that the children get used to reading a children's Bible and other religious books on their own. Later they retell to the parents what they have read and learn how to apply what they have learned. These readings and conversations should be carried out on a regular basis because without consistency it is difficult to achieve lasting results.

From the Website of Bishop Alexander Mileant:
<http://www.fatheralexander.org/booklets/english/child.htm#n10>

STEPPING STONES
IN THE DIVINE
LITURGY
*Vacation Church School
Program*

July 12-15, 2011

*Tuesday 9:30am – 3:30pm;
Wednesday-Friday 9:30am – 1pm*

Program Includes:

- Prayer*
- Instruction*
- Music*
- Crafts*
- Snacks/Lunch*
- Games/Recreation*



Living Chalice



Cost : \$20/child or \$40/family

Please Register by July 1, 2011

The success of our program depends on volunteers. Would you like to help?

St. Xenia Orthodox Church

170 N. Lowell St, Methuen



ST. XENIA ORTHODOX CHURCH
P.O. Box 147 - Methuen, MA 01844
(phone) Fr. Michael Crowley cell (978) 204-0428 -- Church (978)
688-1211



JULY 2011

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|---|
| Jun 26 (Jun 13) 2nd Sunday after Pentecost. Russian Saints. Tone 1 9:30 Hours and Divine Liturgy Fast: fish, wine & oil | Jun 27 (Jun 14) Pr Elisha Fast | Jun 28 (Jun 15) St. Jonah, met of Moscow Fast: fish, wine & oil | Jun 29 (Jun 16) St. Tychon, bp of Amathus in Cyprus Fast | Jun 30 (Jun 17) MM Manuel, Sabel, and Ismael of Persia Fast: wine & oil | 1 (Jun 18) M Leontius, and MM Hypatius and Theodulus, at Tripoli Fast | 2 (Jun 19) St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco 5:30 All-Night Vigil Fast: fish, wine & oil |
| 3 (Jun 20) 3rd Sunday after Pentecost. Tone 2 Saints of the Isles 9:30 Hours and Divine Liturgy Fast: fish, wine & oil | 4 (Jun 21) Martyr Julian of Tarsus Fast | 5 (Jun 22) HM Eusebius, bp of Samosata Fast: wine & oil | 6 (Jun 23) Meeting of the Vladimir Icon of the Theotokos Fast: fish, wine, & oil | 7 (Jun 24) Nativity of the Baptist Fast: fish, wine, & oil | 8 (Jun 25) VM Febronia of Nisibis Fast | 9 (Jun 26) Tikhvin Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos 5:30 All-Night Vigil Fast: fish, wine & oil |
| 10 (Jun 27) 4th Sunday after Pentecost, Tone 3 9:30 Hours and Divine Liturgy Fast: fish, wine & oil | 11 (Jun 28) Venerables Sergius and Herman of Valaam 6:30 Vigil of Sts. Peter & Paul Fast: fish, wine, & oil | 12 (Jun 29) Ss. Peter & Paul 9:30 Hours and Divine Liturgy Vacation Church Camp | 13 (Jun 30) Synaxis of the Holy, Glorious 12 Apostles Vacation Church Camp Fast: wine & oil | 14 (Jul 1) Holy Unmercenaries Cosmas and Damian Vacation Church Camp | 15 (Jul 2) Placing of the Robe of the Most Holy Theotokos Vacation Church Camp Fast | 16 (Jul 3) Martyr Hyacinth of Caesarea 5:30 All-Night Vigil |
| 17 (Jul 4) 5th Sunday after Pentecost. Tone 4 9:30 Hours and Divine Liturgy | 18 (Jul 5) Ven Athanasius of Mt. Athos & comp | 19 (Jul 6) Ven Sisoies the Great of Egypt | 20 (Jul 7) Ven Thomas of Mt. Maleon Fast | 21 (Jul 8) Holy GM Procopius of Caesarea | 22 (Jul 9) HM Pancratius, bp of Taormina Fast | 23 (Jul 10) Placing of the Precious Robe of the Lord at Moscow 5:30 All-Night Vigil |
| 24 (Jul 11) 6th Sunday after Pentecost. Tone 5 9:30 Hours and Divine Liturgy | 25 (Jul 12) MM Proclus and Hilary of Ancyra | 26 (Jul 13) Synaxis of the Holy Archangel Gabriel | 27 (Jul 14) Ap Aquila of the 70, and St. Priscilla Fast | 28 (Jul 15) St. Vladimir | 29 (Jul 16) HM Athenogenes, bp of Heracleopolis & comp Fast | 30 (Jul 17) GM Marina of Antioch 5:30 All-Night Vigil |
| 31 (Jul 18) 7th Sunday after Pentecost. Tone 6 Fathers of the First Six Councils 9:30 Hours and Divine Liturgy | Aug 1 (Jul 19) Ven Macrina, sister of St. Basil the Great | Aug 2 (Jul 20) Prophet Elijah | Aug 3 (Jul 21) Prophet Ezekiel Fast | Aug 4 (Jul 22) Holy Equal-to-the-Apostles Mary Magdalen | Aug 5 (Jul 23) "Pochaev" Icon of the Mother of God Fast: wine & oil | Aug 6 (Jul 24) M Christina of Tyre 5:30 All-Night Vigi |



ST. XENIA ORTHODOX CHURCH
 P.O. Box 147 - Methuen, MA 01844
 (phone) Fr. Michael Crowley cell (978) 204-0428 -- Church (978)
 688-1211



AUGUST 2011

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| Jul 31 (Jul 18) 7th Sunday after Pentecost. Tone 6 Fathers of the First Six Councils 9:30 Hours and Divine Liturgy | 1 (Jul 19) Ven Macrina, sister of St. Basil the Great | 2 (Jul 20) Prophet Elijah | 3 (Jul 21) Prophet Ezekiel Fast | 4 (Jul 22) Holy Equal-to-the-Apostles Mary Magdalen | 5 (Jul 23) "Pochaev" Icon of the Mother of God Fast: wine & oil | 6 (Jul 24) M Christina of Tyre 5:30 All-Night Vigil |
| 7 (Jul 25) 8th Sunday after Pentecost. Tone 7 9:30 Hours and Divine Liturgy | 8 (Jul 26) HMM Hermolaus, Hermippus, and Hermocrates at Nicomedia | 9 (Jul 27) Holy GM and Healer Panteleimon | 10 (Jul 28) Holy App of the 70 and Deacons: Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, and Parmenas Fast: wine & oil | 11 (Jul 29) M Callinic of Gangra | 12 (Jul 30) App Silas and Silvanus of the 70 & comp Fast | 13 (Jul 31) R Eudocimus of Cappadocia 5:30 All-Night Vigil |
| 14 (Aug 1) 9th Sunday after Pentecost. Tone 8 Procession of the Cross 9:30 Hours and Divine Liturgy Fast: wine & oil | 15 (Aug 2) Blessed Basil of Moscow, fool-for-Christ Fast | 16 (Aug 3) Ven Anthony the Roman Fast | 17 (Aug 4) Holy Seven Youths of Ephesus Fast | 18 (Aug 5) M Eusignius of Antioch 6:30 Vigil Fast | 19 (Aug 6) TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD 9:30 Hours & Divine Liturgy Fast: fish, wine, & oil | 20 (Aug 7) M Dometius of Persia 5:30 All-Night Vigil Fast: wine & oil |
| 21 (Aug 8) 10th Sunday after Pentecost. Tone 1 9:30 Hours and Divine Liturgy Fast: wine & oil | 22 (Aug 9) Apostle Matthias Fast: wine & oil | 23 (Aug 10) MM Archdeacon Laurence and Pope Sixtus, Felicissimus and Agapitus, deacons Fast | 24 (Aug 11) Martyr and Archdeacon Euplus of Catania Fast | 25 (Aug 12) MM Anicetus and Photius of Nicomedia Fast | 26 (Aug 13) Ven Maximus the Confessor Fast: wine & oil | 27 (Aug 14) Prophet Micah 5:30 All-Night Vigil Fast: wine & oil |
| 28 (Aug 15) DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS 9:30 Hours and Divine Liturgy | 29 (Aug 16) Trans. of the Image Not-Made-By-Hands of our Lord Jesus Christ | 30 (Aug 17) M Myron of Cyzicus | 31 (Aug 18) MM Florus and Laurus of Illyria Fast | Sep 1 (Aug 19) | Sep 2 (Aug 20) Fast | Sep 3 (Aug 21) 5:30 All-Night Vigil |

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

Forwarding Service Requested

Postmaster: Dated Material

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.