



St. Xenia Parish News

170 North Lowell Street, Methuen, MA 01844

March-April 2007

Paschal Sermon *of St. John Chrysostom*

If any man be devout and loveth God,
Let him enjoy this fair and radiant triumphal feast!
If any man be a wise servant,
Let him rejoicing enter into the joy of his Lord.

If any have laboured long in fasting,
Let him today receive his recompense.
If any have wrought from the first hour,
Let him today receive his just reward.
If any have come at the third hour,
Let him with thankfulness keep the feast.
If any have arrived at the sixth hour,
Let him have no misgivings;
Because he shall in nowise be deprived therefore.
If any have delayed until the ninth hour,
Let him draw near, fearing nothing.
And if any have tarried even until the eleventh hour,
Let him, also, be not alarmed at his tardiness.

For the Lord, who is jealous of His honour,
Will accept the last even as the first.
He giveth rest unto him who cometh at the eleventh
hour,
Even as unto him who hath wrought from the first
hour.
And He showeth mercy upon the last,
And careth for the first;
And to the one He giveth,
And upon the other He bestoweth gifts.
And He both accepteth the deeds,
And welcometh the intention,
And honoureth the acts and praiseth the offering.

Wherefore, enter ye all into the joy of your Lord;
Receive your reward,
Both the first, and likewise the second.
Ye rich and poor together, hold high festival!
Ye sober and ye heedless, honour the day!
Rejoice today, both you who have fasted
And you who have disregarded the fast.
The table is full-laden; feast ye all sumptuously.
The calf is fatted; let no one go hungry away.

Enjoy ye all the feast of faith:
Receive ye all the riches of loving-kindness.

Let no one bewail his poverty,
For the universal Kingdom has been revealed.
Let no one weep for his iniquities,
For pardon has shown forth from the grave.
Let no one fear death,
For the Saviour's death has set us free.
He that was held prisoner of it has annihilated it.

By descending into Hell, He made Hell captive.
He embittered it when it tasted of His flesh.
And Isaiah, foretelling this, did cry:
Hell, said he, was embittered
When it encountered Thee in the lower regions.

It was embittered, for it was abolished.
It was embittered, for it was mocked.
It was embittered, for it was slain.
It was embittered, for it was overthrown.
It was embittered, for it was fettered in chains.
It took a body, and met God face to face.
It took earth, and encountered Heaven.
It took that which was seen, and fell upon the unseen.

O Death, where is thy sting?
O Hell, where is thy victory?

Christ is risen, and thou art overthrown!
Christ is risen, and the demons are fallen!
Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice!
Christ is risen, and life reigns!
Christ is risen, and not one dead remains in the grave.
For Christ, being risen from the dead,
Is become the first-fruits of those who have fallen
asleep.

To Him be glory and dominion
Unto ages of ages.

Amen.

St. Xenia of Petersburg Orthodox Church is a parish of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad, under the omophorion of Metropolitan LAURUS, First Hierarch, and Bishop GABRIEL of Manhattan. 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: skovranok@verizon.net, 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
- Alexei Doohovskoy (978) 897-1734
- 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 40 people anything is appreciated. Donuts, fruit and pastries are as acceptable as soup and sandwiches. Thank you in advance for your contribution.

March

- *4 Carolyn, Pamela, and Diane Sarantakis
- *11 Nicholas Kronauer, Vera Sarantakis
- *18 Tanya Sciaudone, Amy McLellan
- *25 Anna Kekis, Mareille Lang

April

- *1 Palm Sunday (Pot Luck)
- 8 PASCHA
- 15 Mariana Haven, Josephine Kniazuk
- 22 Anna Johnson, Nina Yakuboff, Kasarda's
- 29 Matushka Nancy, Megan Crowley, Katya Fredette

Sisterhood News:

Check out the new Sisterhood bulletin board near the Trapeza table. During the Lenten season, a recipe exchange will be posted on it. Bring a recipe to share and take one off the board to add to your delicious collection!

Sisterhood dues are \$5 per year, and membership is open to all women of the parish. Our next meeting will take place on March 4th.

Thank You...

...from the Gonzalez family to all who joined them in celebrating the baptism of their new son, Esteban Roberto.

... to Nicholas Kronauer, our "parish photographer," who took the wonderful pictures of the Yolka that appear elsewhere in this issue.

Please remember in your prayers...Nicholas, Lilly, Nina, Josephine, David, Vassilisa, Lilly Anne, Josephine, Margaret, Fr. Roman & Matushka Irina Lukianov.

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

Financial Update: As of February 28, 2007 the balance on the church mortgage stands at \$57,335. If you have any questions, please see Subdeacon Constantine Desrosiers.

Sunday School: The class schedule for the advanced class during the month of March is:

March 4: Images of the Theotokos in the Old Testament:
Reader Robert

March 11: Last Days and the Coming of the Antichrist:
Danny McLellen

March 18: Question and Answer Symposium: Sub deacon
Constantine

March 25: Pilgrimages to the Holy Land: Meghan Crowley

A cemetery reminder: Burning candles and vigil lights are a fire hazard! Please extinguish all flames after visiting the cemetery. Thank you for your cooperation.

Also, please remember to keep the cemetery road clear, not only on Sundays, but also when visiting.

Winter Weather Parking: Snowy weather brings reduced parking areas. Please help us to keep all cars on our paved parking areas by parking carefully. Thank you!

Children's Play Loft: If your child has played (or eaten) in the loft area, please remember to pick up toys from the floor and discard food and plates. This will keep the area clean and safe for everyone's use and will help our hall cleaner to clean that area more thoroughly. Thanks!

Winter Outerwear: A large number of personal clothing items are hanging in our church hall on the limited

number of hooks we have. Please check to see if any of these items belong to you. If so, please take them home so that the hooks would be available for use for coats during these cold months. Thank you.

Lost and Found: A small red change purse, a pair of reading glasses, and several body crosses are some found items now on our parish hall bulletin board. We welcome you to claim them if they're yours.

Basement Renovation Update: We have completed the majority of our work down in the basement. We now have lots of enclosed storage for our current and future needs. Four large built-in closets have been constructed to store all our yard equipment and supplies, tools and paints, and Sunday School supplies. The area under our altar has been walled off to make a storage area for religious items. All the walls and exposed ceiling rafters have been painted a clean, bright white. The floor has been painted gray. New lighting has been installed throughout, which has done a great deal to brighten the space. The "stage" area has dimmable spot lights ready for use by our Sunday School students for presentations, plays and pageants. Work is still ongoing on a retractable room divider which will be used to divide the basement into two separate Sunday School or meeting areas.

Our basement improvement fund-raising drive is still ongoing. Our need remains at @ \$3,000.

We are fortunate to have this new and more inviting space in which our parishioners, especially our children and young adults, can meet and learn. Come see our new and improved basement and stay for the young-adult Sunday School lessons which resume in late January!

About the Sanctuary: The most important part of the church is the Altar or Sanctuary. The very word "Altar" means an elevated place of sacrifice. The Sanctuary is raised since it is the most holy part of the interior of the Church. Since it's the most holy part, entrance into it is only for those who have some part in the divine services of the Church. The Altar Table, which is in the middle of the Sanctuary, is made square in token that Christ's doctrine and sacrament are free to men of all four parts of the world. The very Lord Himself, as King and Master of the Church, is present there mysteriously and invisibly. This is where the most holy of sacraments is celebrated, the Holy Eucharist. In fact there is always a small portion of the Eucharist (the Body and Blood of Christ) on the Altar Table or Holy Throne, so we can say that Christ is actually in the Sanctuary. It is not just another area of the Church for us, and should always be looked upon reverently (as should all parts of God's house.) Therefore, we make a simple bow with the sign of the Cross whenever we cross in front of the Royal Doors.

Pictures from Our Yolka



An Important Note Concerning Financial Contributions:

Consistent with good financial practice, the parish has maintained records of all donations made to the church. Prior to 2007 the federal tax law required donors who were going to deduct contributions (including cash contributions) to keep canceled checks, receipts or other reliable written records showing the name of the organization and the date and amount given. For many of the contributions given to St Xenia the canceled check or the statement on payroll deductions was sufficient. For all single contributions of \$250 or more the federal tax code requires a written statement from the charitable organization. As required, the parish has been sending a yearend statement for tax purposes to parishioners showing only those contributions that were each \$250 or more. However, if anyone wished a statement of all their contributions for the year, they could ask for it.

For 2007 the tax code has changed, especially for people who are giving cash contributions. A donor who wants to itemize deductions cannot claim a tax deduction for any contribution of cash, a check or other monetary gift made on or after January 1, 2007, unless the donor maintains a record of the contribution in the form of either a bank record (such as a cancelled check) or a written communication from the charity (such as a receipt or a letter) showing the name of the charity, the date of the contribution, and the amount of the contribution.

To ensure tax compliance for 2007 contributions to our parish, if you are planning to itemize your deductions using Schedule A, the following donation methods are recommended:

1. If you plan to include deduction of your cash donations, please use the parish envelopes provided to you on the candle counter and write your name on the envelope.
2. For checks, if your name is not on the check (for instance, if it is the name of your business), please put the check in the donation envelope and write your name on the envelope.
3. Direct deposit from your bank account
4. Payroll deduction.

Our parish does track contributions made and will, upon request, produce a written statement of contributions made during 2007. This information will include the name of our parish, name of the parishioner, date of each individual contribution, and the dollar amount. Our parish cannot track cash contributions, regardless of amount, that are not properly identified by using the contribution envelope and writing in your name. Everyone who has given single contributions of \$250 or more will still receive a statement without needing to request it, as required by the tax code.

This is our best understanding of the current law; if you have additional questions, please consult with your tax advisor.

Some Suggestions on the Raising of Children from an Orthodox Priest:

1) When the child is yet young, begin to train him/her in sympathy and consideration for others and in unselfishness. By these means he/she will grow up to understand that the material things of this world are not the most important things for Orthodox Christians. Your life-style and example will be the greatest influence on your child in this matter.

2) Teach your child how to chant the psalms and the hymns of the Church. This will encourage him or her to learn to love the holy services, and to reject the foul language and immodest songs that are so widespread today in our society. Your example in this will have the greatest influence on your child.

3) Never cease from finding occasions to train your child in spiritual matters and in the love of God and others, and always bring them to the Church. When we were small, we were never asked "if" we were coming to church - or anywhere else, for that matter. The fact that we were going to church was a foregone conclusion. Your child must learn this from the very earliest years. If you wait until your child reaches adolescence, it will already be far too late.

4) Teach your child the meaning of the words "right" and "wrong," "sin" and "virtue," "truth" and "falsehood"; also teach your child to know the Church's Faith, and to recognize erroneous belief. In this manner, your child's understanding and spiritual discretion will grow as the years go by, and he/she will be prepared for the future, even if he/she has to endure hate and persecution for his/her convictions.

5) Give your child spiritual duties appropriate to his/her age and understanding. These could include such activities as reading the *Lives of the Saints* written for your child's level, or reciting some of the evening prayers together with the rest of the family, or fasting and making prostrations, or helping out in church if he or she is old enough.

6) Aside from providing your child with plenty of Orthodox spiritual literature appropriate for his/her age, make sure that material of an impure or inappropriate nature is not in your home. Unfortunately, today this includes most of television programming. Remember: whatever goes in, comes out. Your example in this matter will have the greatest influence on your child.

More to come in the next issue...

March 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 (16 Feb)	2 (17 Feb) 7:30 P.M. Akathist to the Theotokos	3 (18 Feb) 4:00 P.M. Class Bible Study 6:30 P.M. Sun- day Vigil
4 (19 Feb) 9:30 A.M. St. Gregory Palamas Hours & Divine Lit- urgy	5 (20 Feb)	6 (21 Feb)	7 (22 Feb) Fr. Michael at clergy retreat in D.C.	8 (23 Feb) Fr. Michael at clergy retreat in D.C.	9 (24 Feb) Fr. Michael at clergy retreat in D.C.	10 (25 Feb) 6:30 P.M. Sun- day Vigil
11 (26 Feb) 9:30 A.M. Ado- ration of the Cross Hours & Divine Liturgy	12 (27 Feb)	13 (28 Feb)	14 (1 Mar)	15 (2 Mar)	16 (3 Mar) 7:30 P.M. Akathist to the Theotokos	17 (4 Mar) 4:00 P.M. Class Principles of Orthodoxy 6:30 P.M. Sun- day Vigil
18 (5 Mar) 9:30 A.M. St. John Cli- macus Hours & Divine Liturgy	19 (6 Mar)	20 (7 Mar)	21 (8 Mar) 7:00 P.M. Great Com- pline w/ Canon of St. Andrew of Crete	22 (9 Mar)	23 (10 Mar) 7:00 P.M. Matins w/Akathist to the Theotokos	24 (11 Mar) 6:30 P.M. Sun- day Vigil
25 (12 Mar) 9:30 A.M. St. Mary of Egypt Hours & Divine Liturgy	26 (13 Mar)	27 (14 Mar)	28 (15 Mar)	29 (16 Mar)	30 (17 Mar) 6:30 Vigil of Lazarus Satur- day	31 (18 Mar) 9:30 A.M. Laza- rus Hours & Divine Liturgy 6:30 P.M. Sun- day Vigil

April 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 (19 Mar) 9:30 A.M. Palm Sunday Hours & Divine Liturgy	2 (20 Mar) 7:00 P.M. Bridegroom Matins	3 (21 Mar) 7:00 P.M. Bridegroom Matins	4 (22 Mar) 7:00 P.M. Service of Holy Unction	5 (23 Mar) 9:30 A.M. Vespers 7:00 P.M. Matins w/12 Gospels	6 (24 Mar) 10:00 A.M. Royal Hours 4:00 P.M. Taking Down from the Cross 6:30 P.M. Lamentations	7 (25 Mar) 9:00 A.M. Vespers 11:00 P.M. Midnight Office
8 (26 Mar) 12:00 A.M. Paschal Matins & Divine Liturgy 12:00 P.M. Agape Vespers	9 (27 Mar)	10 (28 Mar)	11 (29 Mar)	12 (30 Mar)	13 (31 Mar)	14 (1 Apr) 6:30 Sunday Vigil
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">Fast Free Week</div>						
15 (2 Apr) 9:30 Thomas Sunday Hours & Divine Liturgy 1:00 P.M. Blessing of Graves	16 (3 Apr)	17 (4 Apr)	18 (5 Apr)	19 (6 Apr)	20 (7 Apr)	21 (8 Apr) 6:30 Sunday Vigil
22 (9 Apr) 9:30 Sunday of Myrrh-bearers Hours & Divine Liturgy <i>Sisterhood Feast!</i>	23 (10 Apr)	24 (11 Apr)	25 (12 Apr)	26 (13 Apr)	27 (14 Apr)	28 (15 Apr) 6:30 P.M. Sunday Vigil
29 (16 Apr) 9:30 Sunday of the Paralytic Hours & Divine Liturgy	30 (17 Apr)					

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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.