



St. Xenia Parish News

170 North Lowell Street, Methuen, MA 01844

June-July 2003

The Holy Spirit, River of Grace

by St. Ambrose of Milan

So, then, the Holy Spirit is the River, and the abundant River, which according to the Hebrews flowed from Jesus in the lands, as we have received it prophesied by the mouth of Isaiah. This is the great River which flows always and never fails. And not only a river, but also one of copious stream and overflowing greatness, as also David said: "The stream of the river makes glad the city of God."

For neither is that city, the heavenly Jerusalem, watered by the channel of any earthly river, but that Holy Spirit, proceeding from the Fount of Life, by a short draught of Whom we are satiated, seems to flow more abundantly among those celestial Thrones, Dominions and Powers, Angels and Archangels, rushing in the full course of the seven virtues of the Spirit. For if a river rising above its banks overflows, how much more does the Spirit, rising above every creature, when He touches the as it were low-lying fields of our minds, make glad that heavenly nature of the creatures with the larger fertility of His sanctification.

And let it not trouble you that either here it is said "rivers," or elsewhere "seven Spirits," for by the sanctification of these seven gifts of the Spirit, as Isaiah said, is signified the fulness of all virtue; the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and strength, the Spirit of knowledge and godliness, and the Spirit of the fear of God. One, then, is the River, but many the channels of the gifts of the Spirit. This River, then, goes forth from the Fount of Life.

And here, again, you must not turn aside your thoughts to lower things, because there seems to be

some difference between a Fount and a River, and yet the divine Scripture has provided that the weakness of human understanding should not be injured by the lowliness of the language. Set before yourself any river, it springs from its fount, but is of one nature, of one brightness and beauty. And do you assert rightly that the Holy Spirit is of one substance, brightness, and glory with the Son of God and with God the Father. I will sum up all in the oneness of the qualities, and shall not be afraid of any question as to difference of greatness. For in this point also Scripture has provided for us; for the Son of God says: "He that shall drink of the water which I will give him, it shall become in him a well of water springing up unto everlasting life." This well is clearly the grace of the Spirit, a stream proceeding from the living Fount. The Holy Spirit, then, is also the Fount of eternal life. . . .

Good, then, is this water, even the grace of the Spirit. Who will give this Fount to my breast? Let it spring up in me, let that which gives eternal life flow upon me. Let that Fount overflow upon us, and not flow away. For Wisdom says: "Drink water out of thine own vessels, and from the fountains of thine own wells, and let thy waters flow abroad in thy streets." How shall I keep this water that it flow not forth, that it glide not away? How shall I preserve my vessel, lest any crack of sin penetrating it, should let the water of eternal life exude? Teach us, Lord Jesus, teach us as Thou didst teach Thine apostles, saying: "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon the earth, where rust and moth destroy, and where thieves break through and steal."

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 bimonthly 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@ttlc.net, or to Father Michael at tcrowley@maine.rr.com. Thank you.

Rector:

Rev. Michael Crowley
 16 Channel Road, South Portland, ME
 (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 (978) 204-0428
- Starosta: Rdr. Constantine Desrosiers (603) 775-0320
- Secretary: Natalie Pishenin (978) 658-5564
- Treasurer: Tony Sarantakis (978) 263-2016
- Sisterhood: Matushka Nancy Crowley (207) 767-1889
- Property: David Lavoie (603) 880-7978
- Youth: Amy McLellan (978) 499-6822
- Outreach: Rdr. Maelrubha Donley (603) 882-5570
- Cemetery: Rdr. Andrew Bargoot (617) 471-0538
- Michael Johnson (978) 691-0045
- John Rush (603) 898-4315

Non-Council Ministries:

- Sunday School: Michael Lang (603) 465-9754
- Youth Choir: Patricia Crowley (207) 767-1889

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.

June

- 1 Xenia Rush and Kyriaki Lavoie
- 8 Tanya Sciaudone and Mireille Lang
- 15 Janet Donley and Amy McLellan

June 22-September: Volunteers are needed to provide Trapeza during the summer months. Please share your time and resources as you are able. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the parish hall.



Sisterhood News: The various fundraisers we undertook in April have been a great success! Our cookout, bulb sale and bake sale netted over \$800.⁰⁰.

Our shipment of books to Russia cost \$300.⁰⁰ in postage.

We will again collect canned goods for the local food pantries beginning in September.

With donations given to our parish for this purpose, we have purchased three bells, which will be used to summon the faithful to prayer and at various points during the Liturgy as directed in the Bell Ringer's Typicon. Our thanks to those who have made possible this addition to our liturgical life.

Our card ministry has been renewed, and will focus on shut-ins, wedding and new-baby congratulations, and welcomes to the parish. Margaret Lark has agreed to handle this ministry, and would welcome suggestions for expanding this ministry, as well as names of people who need to be remembered.

Sisterhood dues are \$5 per year, and membership is open to all women of the parish. Our meetings take place, with rare exceptions, on the last Sunday of the month.

Thank You...Спасибо...Ευχαριστο...

...special thanks to the Reed family and Minuteman Press for very generously donating their time, as well as all the costs associated with the printing of our newsletters.
...to the Sisterhood for the beautiful landscaping job they did on our grounds. The flowers and other fauna certainly enhance the beauty of our temple.
...to Natalie Pishenin for her donation of green and gold trim to refurbish the vestments and paraments, as well as for all the time she has donated to sewing new items for our liturgical use. They were badly needed, and are much appreciated!
...to Anna and Michael Johnson for getting the clothing donations mailed off to Russia.

Please remember in your prayers... Nicholas, Paul, Bart, Alice, Dimitri, and Apostolos.

Also please keep in mind all who will be traveling this summer, for their safe journeying and return. Among these is Lilly Dombrowski, who will be leaving for Moscow in mid-June and returning in mid-July, and who exhorts the choir to sing their very best while she is gone! Please also remember Margaret Lark, who

will be conducting her final exam at Jordanville and hopes to be certified as a choir director.

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

Choir News: Many thanks to all who participated in this year's Holy Week and Pascha services! Thanks be to God, we had another great cycle of services this year. Pascha next year is on April 11th, so mark your calendars now!

Due to various meeting and vacation schedules, choir rehearsals are suspended through Pentecost. Rehearsals do take place during the summer, and will resume on the Sunday of All Saints (June 22nd).

Rehearsals are on Sundays, following trapeza, and last about an hour to an hour and a half. This summer's primary theme for the choir is "The Octoechos, it's your friend." Every few years we need to get back to the basics for clean up and review of our fundamental, weekly music. This year is one of those years. As well, the choir will begin working on new music for the Divine Liturgy and for the major feasts.

Congratulations:

...to Brigid Crowley on her graduation from Portland High School. Brigid plans to attend Pace University in New York City.

...to Mary DiMatteo on her graduation from Belmont Hills High School. Mary plans to attend the University of Rochester in New York.

Financial Update: As of May 2003, the balance on the church mortgage stands at \$93,239.80. Beginning in June, we will be able to pay down an additional \$100 or so on the principal of our mortgage since we have increased our payment amount, and our interest rate has fallen. If you have any questions, please see Reader Constantine Desrosiers.

Moving Help Needed: We will be moving everything out of the church after trapeza on Sunday, June 29th to prepare for the refinishing of the marble floor. Since there is a Parish Council meeting on the same day, we will need some other "strong backed" help to make the preparation. See David Lavoie for details.

Can You Help Us With Trapeza?

Our parish is happy to be able to offer Trapeza (coffee hour) every week. Sharing in the fellowship of our parishioners brings us together as a parish family. We are blessed to be having many more people in church these days. However, those who are preparing Trapeza are finding that they have to prepare more food; it is expensive, and they are spending most of Liturgy setting up. If we had more people join our coffee hour list, the responsibility would be spread out more, and the burden would not fall on the few so often. Please see Matushka if you can help out.

It is also the policy that a simple coffee hour is more than acceptable - doughnuts or bagels are fine. Should anyone wish to do more, they are welcome to, but no one should feel under pressure to prepare full meals.

The Etiquette of Prospora

It has come to our attention that on most Sunday's following Divine Liturgy, there are fewer prospora available for those who have offered it for commemoration than there should be. So, please, if you have not sent a prospora to the altar for commemoration, do not take one of the wrapped ones from the candle stand. They are not "extra" but are simply waiting to be picked up.

Sewing Guild

Matushka Nancy and Natalie Pishenin continue their repair of acolyte robes, and the creation of analog cloths and altar linens. They welcome Margaret Lark to the guild, and would welcome anyone else who is handy with needle and thread, or who might like to consider knitting or crocheting lace for our church linens.

Events

St. Seraphim's Camp

It's not too late to register for the St. Seraphim Camp, which will take place from the final Sunday in July to the first Sunday in August. On-line registrations are still possible, but please let Father Michael know if you plan to attend. Adult counselors are also needed.

The price will remain \$150.⁰⁰ per child and registration deadline will be June 15th. The dates for camp are July 27-August 3. No early arrivals will be permitted by the camp owners. Only essential staff may arrive Saturday. All campers must arrive Sunday afternoon. Ages range from 3rd grade through high school. For further information, see the website: www.orthodox-info.biz

St. Herman of Alaska Youth Retreat: Memorial Day Weekend

College-age members of ROCOR recently gathered in Ann Arbor, Michigan for the first summertime retreat of the St. Herman of Alaska Youth, and were joined by John Sarantakis, son of Tony and Vera, and Chris Lark, son of Jim and Margaret. The retreat was jointly sponsored by St. Vladimir Orthodox Church of Ann Arbor, MI, and St. Sergius Cathedral of Cleveland, OH, and was held at the Emrich Retreat Center near Ann Arbor. John and Chris enjoyed a bonfire on Friday night and dancing on Sunday evening, and in between heard from Reader Joseph McLellan, Chair of the Slavic Languages Dept. at the University of Missouri at Columbia (and brother to Dan McLellan!), as well as Archimandrite Peter (soon to be Bishop of Cleveland!). Fr. Peter spoke to the group about the two years he spent in Israel, and the political and religious climate for Orthodox Christians, while Dr. McLellan spoke about the difficulties of living an Orthodox life in the modern world, and offered suggestions to the young people about how to do so effectively.]

The Russian Corner

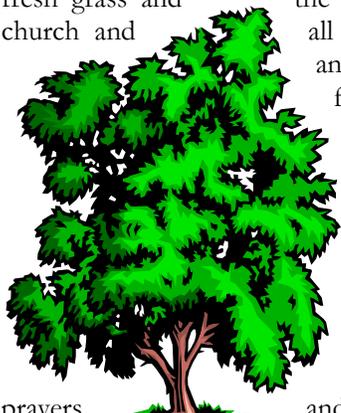
MEMORIES OF YOUTH.....

Tatyana Pishenina

With the approach of spring and radiant days that we anticipated for so long, this winter, I find myself sitting on my balcony inhaling slightly moist and warm earth and against my will my thoughts are carried away into the long gone time and one of the sweet memories and the celebration of Pentecost, before World War II.

My family lived in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, near the king's summer palace. I remember how our family dressed in our best and is going to the Serbian convent for Liturgy. As we enter the monastery's gates there was a manger filled with fresh grass. We took some for later when we would make small wreaths and bring them home and hang them by our Icons.

The whole church was decorated with fresh green branches and spring flowers. The floor was covered with fresh grass and the sun illuminated the whole church and all is in gold. It is very clear



and bright and our souls are filled with joy. People are smiling and one can feel the joy among the people. After the Liturgy, the kneeling vespers are served and then wreaths are made. After the services, we are physically tired but fulfilled and warmed by the prayers and the majesty of the services. Then, we are on the road to the wooded Topchider Park, where we have a light snack with lemonade. We rest for a while and head home, carrying in our souls Grace and Joy that remain with us for the rest of our lives.

Русский Уголок

ВОСПОМИНАНИЯ ЮНЫХ ДНЕЙ.....

Татьяна Пишенина

С наступлением весны и лучезарных дней которых мы наконец дождались эту весну сижу у себя на балконе вдыхая теплый и слегка влажный воздух и поневоле мысли переносятся в далекое прошлое и в одно из милых воспоминаний молодости и праздника Троицы, до войны.

Живя в Белграде, не далеко от летнего королевского дома. Я помню как наша семья одета в праздничную одежду направляется в сербский монастырь на службу. Войдя в церковную ограду стоят ясли полные свежее кошеной травы и мы набираем себе в руки чтобы позже сплести веночки которые возьмем домой и повесим их на иконы в доме.

А весь храм украшен зелеными ветками и весенними цветами, на полу душистая трава и яркое солнышко озаряет весь храм и все в золоте, так ясно и радостно на душе, молящиеся в храме улыбаются и чувствуется духовная радость среди молящихся.



После литургии служится коленопреклонная вечерня и тогда плетутся венки. После служб утомленные физически, но согреты молитвой и красотой служб мы отправляемся в лесной парк Топчидер, где подбадриваемся легкими бутер-бродами и лимонадом и отдохнув слегка отправляемся обратно домой унося в душе благодать и радость духовную которая запечатлелась на долгие годы.



St Xenia of Petersburg Orthodox Church

June 2003

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30 AM Hours 10:00 AM Sunday of the Blind Man Divine Liturgy Tone 5	2	3	4 6:30 PM Vigil of Ascension Apodosis of Pascha Fish, wine & oil allowed	5 10:00 AM Ascension Divine Liturgy	6 Wine & oil allowed	7 6:30 PM Sunday Vigil
8 9:30 AM Hours 10:00 AM Frs. of the 1st Council Divine Liturgy Tone 6	9	10	11 Wine & oil allowed	12	13 Wine & oil allowed	14 6:30 PM Sunday Vigil
15 9:30 AM Hours 10:00 AM Pentecost Divine Liturgy	16 Day of the Holy Spirit	17	18	19	20	21 6:30 PM Sunday Vigil
22 9:30 AM Hours 10:00 AM All Saints Divine Liturgy Tone 8	23	24 Fish, wine & oil allowed	25	26 Wine & oil allowed	27	28 6:30 PM Sunday Vigil Fish, wine & oil allowed
Apostles Fast						
29 9:30 AM Hours 10:00 AM All Saints of Russia Divine Liturgy Tone 1 Fish, wine & oil allowed	30 <div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">Apostles Fast</div>					

St Xenia of Petersburg Orthodox Church

July 2003

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<i>1</i> Wine & oil allowed	<i>2</i> Wine & oil allowed	<i>3</i> Wine & oil allowed	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i> 6:30 PM Sunday Vigil St. John of Shang- hai & San Francisco
Apostles Fast						
<i>6</i> 9:30 AM Hours 10:00 AM Pente- cost 3 Divine Liturgy Tone 2	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i> Wine & oil allowed	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i> Wine & oil allowed	<i>11</i> 6:30 PM SS Peter & Paul Vigil	<i>12</i> 9:30 AM Hours 10:00 AM SS Peter & Paul Divine Liturgy 6:30 PM Sunday Vigil
Apostles Fast						
<i>13</i> 9:30 AM Hours 10:00 AM Pente- cost 4 Divine Liturgy Tone 3	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i> Wine & oil allowed	<i>19</i> 6:30 PM Sunday Vigil
<i>20</i> 9:30 AM Hours 10:00 AM Pente- cost 5 Divine Liturgy Tone 4	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i> 6:30 PM Sunday Vigil
<i>27</i> 9:30 AM Hours 10:00 AM Pente- cost 6 Divine Liturgy Tone 5	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i> Wine & oil allowed	<i>31</i>		
Fr. Michael at St. Seraphim Camp in PA.						

Fr. Michael Crowley, ph. 978-204-0428, email tcrowley@maine.rr.com

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