

Holy Apostles Orthodox Church

Priest George Johnson, Rector

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JULY 2007 Parish Bulletin

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

*The next part of a reflective report of my pilgrimage to Moscow will be put out separately from the monthly bulletin. Please obtain a copy of the July **Beltsville News** at the candle stand wherein is a brief report for the general public.*

Father George

The Synaxis of the Holy Apostles - Our Parish Feast

Our 6th anniversary feast is upon us. The actual feast-day is on Friday, 7/13. God willing, Fr. Athanasi will visit us and bring the Myrrh-Streaming Icon of St. Anna for the Vigil on July 12th and the Liturgy on the 13th. There will likely be multiple short prayer services before the icon, so please spread the word.

In addition to Father Athanasi, we look forward with joy to other guest clergy joining us. Father John Vass, rector of Holy Trinity Cathedral in Baltimore (MP) plans to be with us for the Vigil. Also at vigil we hope to see from St. John the Baptist Cathedral in D.C. Deacons Father John Cavin and Father Alexander Resnikoff. Father John Moses from All Saints of North America in Middlebrook, VA plans to be with us for Vigil and Liturgy of the feast day. Father Michael Carney from our mission of St. Herman of Alaska in Michigan plans to come Friday night and stay through the first few days of the following week. Father Panteleimon, a monastic from Holy Cross Monastery in Wayne, WV, will be with us from Sts Peter and Paul through the following week. We recall Father Panteleimon during our 2006 St. Romanos Music Seminar introducing us to his Znamenny Chant settings of English versions of the communion verses. During the time of their visit, Father Michael, Father Panteleimon and some others will gather to help record the Pannikhida according to a recent St. Romanos Society edition for purposes of instruction and edification. With God's help, we also hope to produce a recording which will help people to learn the 8 tones for sticheri and troparia. Please keep these efforts in your prayers, that the work will be pleasing to God.

On Friday the feast day itself, we plan to have a meal at the church. If you would like to help out with the meal please call my matushka Deborah at 301-572-5738. On Sunday July 15th, our weekend celebration of the feast, we will host a potluck meal at the rectory. Please plan a dish and enter your name and what you're bringing on the potluck sign-up sheet at church.

We give thanks to God for these past 6 years at Holy Apostles. We pray that one day He will build us a church to His glory, in which our children and children's children can work out their salvation.

In Christ's love,
Father George

Service Schedule for July & the Beginning of August 2007

6/30 – Saturday 5:00 PM All-Night Vigil

7/1 – Sunday 9:40 AM Hours & Divine Liturgy, the Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, Holy Martyr Leontius and those with him

There will be no moleben on the evening of Wednesday, July 4th, Independence Day.

6:30 PM Friday, 7/6, Vigil will be served, and 8:40 AM Saturday, 7/7, Divine Liturgy will be served at our sister parish of the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist to commemorate his Nativity. Let us join with our brothers and sisters on this great feast of their heavenly patron.

7/7 – Saturday 5:00 PM All-Night Vigil

7/8 – Sunday 9:40 AM Hours & Divine Liturgy, the Sixth Sunday after Pentecost, After-feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, Holy Virgin-Martyr Febronia.

The Apostles' Fast continues through Wednesday, July 11, the eve of the feast of Holy Apostles Peter and Paul.

7/11 – Wednesday 6:30 PM All-Night Vigil

7/12 – Thursday 8:40 AM Hours & Divine Liturgy, Holy Apostles Peter & Paul

7/12 – Thursday 6:00 PM meeting of the Myrrh-Streaming Icon of St. Anna, and moleben to St. Anna. After the moleben, the All-Night Vigil for the Feast of the Synaxis of the 12 Holy, Glorious, and All-Praised Apostles

7/12 – Thursday 6:30 PM All-Night Vigil for our parish feast, the Feast of the Synaxis of the 12 Apostles. *The Myrrh-Streaming Icon of St. Anna will be with us for the Vigil and the Liturgy in the morning.*

7/13 – Friday 9:40 AM Hours & Divine Liturgy, the Synaxis of the Holy Apostles – *our Parish Feast – The Myrrh-Streaming Icon of St. Anna, the mother of the Theotokos, will be with us for the Vigil and Liturgy*

7/14 – Saturday 5:00 PM All-Night Vigil

7/15 – Sunday 9:40 AM Hours & Divine Liturgy, the Seventh Sunday after Pentecost, the Deposition of the Robe of the Theotokos

7/17 – Tuesday 7:00 PM Moleben (prayer service) to the Holy Royal Martyrs of Russia, Czar Nicholas, Czarina Alexandra, Crown Prince Alexis and Grand Duchesses Olga, Maria, Tatiana and Anastasia and those martyred with them

7/18 – Wednesday 7:00 PM Pannikhida (Memorial Service) for the 1st anniversary of the repose of John Garvey, matushka Deborah’s father. After the service, there will be a memorial reception, with light refreshments. Please join us to pray for the repose of John’s soul, and to hear the story of his wondrous and miraculous conversion to the Orthodox Faith, at age 81, 4 years before he reposed in the Lord.

7/21 – Saturday 5:00 PM All-Night Vigil

7/22 – Sunday 9:40 AM Hours and Divine Liturgy, the Eighth Sunday after Pentecost, Hieromartyr Pancratius, Bishop of Taormina in Sicily

7/25 – Wednesday 7:00 PM Moleben & Akathist to the Mother of God, Healer of Cancer for those afflicted with cancer & other serious illness

7/28 – Saturday 5:00 PM All-Night Vigil

7/29 – Sunday 9:40 AM Hours and Divine Liturgy , the Ninth Sunday after Pentecost, Holy Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils

8/1 – Wednesday 7:00 PM Moleben & Akathist to the Mother of God, Healer of Cancer for those afflicted with cancer & other serious illness

8/4 – Saturday 5:00 PM All-Night Vigil

8/5 – Sunday 9:40 AM Hours & Divine Liturgy, the Tenth Sunday after Pentecost, Holy Martyrs Trophimus, Theophilus and thirteen others with them

Events for July & the Beginning of August 2007

7/5 – Thursday 7-9 PM Choir Rehearsal – *The last rehearsal prior to the parish feast – all choir members please attend*

7/8 – Sunday after Trapeza Parish Council Meeting

7/9 – Monday 7:00 PM – Study of the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians led by Father Daniel Byantoro of Indonesia. Fr. Daniel was the first person in Indonesia to become an Orthodox Christian. He converted to Orthodoxy from the faith of Islam. Since then he has baptized about 2000 people and started 10 churches in Indonesia. Come hear this fisherman of souls and contribute to his missionary work in Indonesia. His work is our work too, as we are all one family in Christ.

7/12 – 7/13 Divine Services (see the Service Schedule) – The Myrrh-Streaming Icon of St. Anna will be with us. Please spread the word! Please bring your names to be read during a moleben before the icon.

7/13 – Friday – Our Parish Feast – After the Divine Liturgy, an agape meal. Please call matushka Deborah at the rectory if you can help with the meal.

7/15 – Sunday, after the Divine Liturgy, at the rectory around noon or a little after – a Pot-Luck Festal Meal at the Rectory – Please join those on the sign-up sheet at church who are contributing a dish, or call matushka Deborah at the rectory if you would like to help out.

7/18 – Wednesday 7:00 PM Pannikhida (Memorial Service) for the 1st anniversary of the repose of John Garvey, matushka Deborah's father. After the service, there will be a memorial reception, with light refreshments. Please join us to pray for the repose of John's soul, and to hear the story of his wondrous and miraculous conversion to the Orthodox Faith, at age 81, 4 years before he reposed in the Lord.

7/19 – Thursday 7-9 PM Choir Rehearsal

7/23 – Monday 7:00 PM – Study of the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians continued under the leadership of Father Daniel Byantoro of Indonesia. . Fr. Daniel was the first person in Indonesia to become an Orthodox Christian. He converted to Orthodoxy from the faith of Islam. Since then he has baptized about 2000 people and started 10 churches in Indonesia. Come hear this fisherman of souls and contribute to his missionary work in Indonesia. His work is our work too, as we are all one family in Christ.

7/25 – Wednesday after the Moleben until 9 PM Continuation of our Study of the First General Epistle of the Holy Apostle Peter led by Father George

7/26 – Thursday 7-9 PM Choir Rehearsal

7/29 – Sunday after Trapeza Meeting during the meal of St. Joseph's Young Adults

7/30 – Monday 7:00 PM – A talk by Father Daniel Byantoro of Indonesia, on **The Great Mandate of Evangelism and the Holy Trinity**. Fr. Daniel was the first person in Indonesia to become an Orthodox Christian. He converted to Orthodoxy from the faith of Islam. Since then he has baptized about 2000 people and started 10 churches in Indonesia. Come hear this fisherman of souls and contribute to his missionary work in Indonesia. His work is our work too, as we are all one family in Christ.

8/1 – Wednesday after the Moleben until 9 PM Continuation of our Study of the First General Epistle of the Holy Apostle Peter led by Father George

8/2 – Thursday 7-9 PM Choir Rehearsal

Announcements for July & the Beginning of August 2007

Prayers for the Sick and the Traveling

Our sister, Elisabeth Chisholm, continues her recovery. Please keep her in your prayers. God willing, we plan to bring her to church once a month via medical transport. She and Don live at Riderwood Village. Betty is currently staying in the Renaissance Gardens nursing home of Riderwood. She would like to have visitors. You can call her at 301-572-6797.

Continue to remember in prayer Andrew, father of Elizabeth and father-in-law of Edmund Sweet. His recovery from his heart operation is positively progressing.

Also, continue to remember in prayer Dyonisia Ryan who has been battling cancer. We received a note from her that her latest reports have been very good. Father George heard her confession, administered Holy Unction and gave her Holy Communion before she started chemotherapy.

John Swenson has been traveling in Spain and Russia and we anticipate his return on the 10th right before the parish feast. Welcome home, John!

A Missionary Visitor – Archbishop Hilarion of Australia and New Zealand recently accepted under his mantle Indonesian converts to Orthodoxy. Archimandrite Father Daniel Byantoro, who can be viewed as an apostle to Indonesia, has been with us several times to tell his story and inspire us in our own work at Holy Apostles. So far, we have scheduled two Monday evenings when he will lead us in a study of St. Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians. He will also give a repeat of his talk that he gave at the rectory in June, **The Great Mandate of Evangelism and the Holy Trinity**. We look forward to continuing to help him as we can. Let us all respond to this great missionary work of his with generosity. We have also been able to help him to schedule a weekend in Atlanta at St. Mary of Egypt parish. If anyone knows of a church that would like to host Fr. Daniel to speak, please let him or Fr. George know.

Parish Groups and Activities – Holy Apostles welcomes participants in a number of groups and activities. Please see the leader or coordinator listed for more information.

Choir – Christopher Johnson, Director

Sunday School and other catechesis – Father George

Wednesday evening class – Father George

St. Joseph the All-Comely Young Adults – Christopher Johnson

In our Bookstore – How to Live a Holy Life, by Metropolitan Gregory of St. Petersburg (1784 – 1860). Here is a sample from this wonderful book. It is the first of 6 instructions on *How to Conduct Ourselves when People Praise Us*:

“When people praise you, be very circumspect, because then you are in a dangerous situation. Many people do not know the true value of things and of actions, and therefore they value and praise things that in the sight of the Lord God and of sensible people are worth nothing. And because praise is pleasing to our self-esteem and vainglory, and self-esteem and vainglory are gullible, we eagerly accept another’s false praise as true praise, put a halt to seeking perfection, become more imperfect, die unreformed, and perish. Therefore, consider as impartially as possible whether what others praise in you deserves praise from the Lord and from prudent people, because only that which is worthy of praise from the Lord God and from people devoted to Him should be important for us. What does praise from people matter, when we are unworthy of praise from the Lord God?”

Bishop’s Visit Delayed – Unfortunately, Bishop Gabriel of Manhattan, who planned to visit and serve with us the weekend of July 28th and 29th had to cancel. As can be seen from the ROCOR website, his good offices are required in South America. He hopes to be able to come sometime this fall.

Fasting – Wednesdays and Fridays are to be observed as fast days by Orthodox Christians in commemoration of our Lord’s suffering and death. A wall calendar with fasting indications can be gotten at the back of the church for \$3. Here is a brief indication of the meaning of the colors and symbols in the calendar.

Days shaded in pink with no other symbol indicate a vegan diet (no animal products permitted except shell fish) and no use of wine (any alcohol) as a beverage or in cooking, and no use of olive oil in cooking or as dressing.

Days shaded in pink with a grape cluster are the same as above regarding animal products, but the use of wine and olive oil is permitted.

Days shaded in pink with a fish are as above, except consumption of vertebrate fish is permitted, along with wine and olive oil.

On all other days, we abstain from vertebrate fish, wine and olive oil.

Confession – It is right and good that we should want to receive Holy Communion and prepare for it through repentance and confession. The best time for this is on Saturday evening, not only because there is plenty of time, but because attendance at Saturday evening Vigil is a traditional part of preparation. If, however, because of distance or other considerations (pre-arranged with Father George), it is necessary to confess on Sunday morning before the Liturgy, we should arrive at church for this purpose *no later than 9:15*. Also, it is necessary if one is unable to attend vigil, that Saturday evening be spent quietly

and prayerfully, preparing for confession and reading the pre-Communion prayers. We should do our best to preserve the traditions of our Church and to be considerate of others by not causing a delay in the beginning of Divine Liturgy.

Purchase of Candles, Prospora and Other Items – Please remember when buying anything from the church to record the item, quantity, and \$ amount on the columned paper at the candle stand. Also indicate on the check memo line, or on a slip of paper with your name attached to cash, what a donation is for. You will be helping our Treasurer immensely in his accounting.

Volunteer needed to run the Candlestand. *See above....* Please speak to Fr. George if you would like to help out with the candlestand.

Cleaning the church – We are trying a new method of asking folks to help clean every Sunday after the Liturgy. Please volunteer to help out with cleaning the church.

Flower volunteer needed – would you like to help with beautifying the church with flowers? Please let Fr. George know if you are interested.

St. Joseph the All-Comely Young Adults Group – Please contact Christopher Johnson if you would like to find out more about this group which was founded for young adult Orthodox Christians, approximately ages 18-35. The group meets during the agape meal on the last Sunday of each month, and plans other scheduled activities periodically. Recently they sponsored Fr. Daniel Byantoro's talk, **The Great Mandate of Evangelism, and the Holy Trinity.**

Good Stewards, Good Neighbors – Membership at Holy Apostles – A standard element of the Orthodox Christian life is membership in an Orthodox parish. Parish membership is the way to demonstrate the seriousness of our commitment to maintain not only our individual or household Orthodox life, but to maintain our mutual Orthodox life as a parish community, or, as the Holy Apostle puts it, to “bear... one another's burdens.” By committing to keeping the parish supplied and in place, we are instruments of God's providence. At the same time that we give of our substance, we provide the proper circumstances to supply each other's spiritual needs.

If you regularly attend services, please consider also that being one of the living stones that St. Peter speaks of entails material contribution. We read in the Acts of the Holy Apostles, that time when the spiritual temperature of the new-born Church was at its height, that the members gave very generously of their substance, in fact, they gave everything. While we do not live in their circumstances and are not now called upon to pool everything for the sake of physical survival, we do live in a time of great spiritual incoherence and hostility.

We each need, therefore, to do all we can to secure, maintain and grow our parish so that it may continue to serve as a harbor for those who seek spiritual peace and

refuge from the stormy sea of this life.

As has been repeatedly pointed out, a good foundation for giving is 10% of income. Some of us are doing this already. Those who so give can testify that God takes care of such benefactors. First of all, they are remembered in prayer at every Divine Service. Let all who read this be stimulated to become one among the choir of benefactors. To become a member of the parish, please see our Treasurer, Damian Dantine.

Our Building Fund – we have a building fund. We hope and pray, that one day with God's help, we will build a beautiful church dedicated to our patron saints, the Holy Apostles, to the glory of God. To this end, we ask that our parishioners and friends keep this prayer in their daily prayers. According to His will, may God grant us to see the day of the dedication of the new church.