

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

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December 25, 2011

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

The Nativity According to the Flesh of Our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ.

He came into the world whose coming had been foretold by the prophets and Who was born in the way that they had prophesied: of the most Holy Virgin, in the city of Bethlehem, of the lineage of David according to the flesh, at the time when there was no longer in Jerusalem a king of the tribe of Judah, but Herod the stranger was on the throne. After many types and pre-figurings, messengers and heralds, prophets and righteous men, wise men and kings, finally appeared, the Lord of the world and King of kings, to perform the work of the salvation of mankind that could not be performed by His servants.

This Morning's Entrance Hymns

Festal Troparion – Tone 3

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, has shone to the world the light of wisdom! For by it, those who worshipped the stars, were taught by a star to adore Thee, the Sun of righteousness, and to know Thee, the Orient from on high.// O Lord, glory to Thee!

GNE: Festal Kontakion – Tone 3

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One, and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable One. Angels with shepherds glorify Him; the Wise Men journey with the star, // since for our sake the eternal God was born as a little Child.

CHRISTMAS DAY EPISTLE READING:

The Birth of Our Lord.

Christ was born of a woman that we might become sons of God.

PROKEIMENON VERSES – Tone 8

a) Let all the earth worship Thee and praise Thee / let us praise Thy Name, O Most High.

b) Make a joyful noise to the Lord all the earth. Sing of his name, give to him glorious praise.

The Reading is from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Galatians (4:4-7).

Brethren: [4] But when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law,

[5] to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might

receive adoption as sons.

[6] And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

[7] So through God you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son then an heir.

ALLELUIA VERSES – Tone 1

a) The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

b) Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

CHRISTMAS DAY GOSPEL READING:

Gentiles Worship the Christ Child.

Jesus is born in Bethlehem and honored by the wise men.

The Reading is from the Gospel According to St Matthew (2:1-12).

Let us Attend: [1] Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying,

[2] "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him."

[3] When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him;

[4] and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

[5] They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet:

[6] 'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler

who will govern my people Israel.'"

[7] Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared;

[8] and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him bring me word, that I too may come and worship him."

[9] When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was.

[10] When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy;

[11] and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

[12] And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

+WORSHIP+

January 1, 2012 Forefeast of the THEOPHANY.

9:30a Divine Liturgy / Circumcision of our Lord.

Sanctoral Commem: St Basil the Great (+379).

Gospel: St Mark 1:1-8 (Sunday Before Theophany).

January 8, 2012 Parish Celebration of FEAST OF THEOPHANY.

9:30am Divine Liturgy followed by Great Blessing of Water.

Sanctoral Commemoration: Ven. George the Chozebite (6th c.)

Gospel: St Mark 4:12-17 (Christ Begins Public Ministry).

The People of God:
December 18, 2011 – 35.

Holy Trinity's 2011 'Adopt a Family':

Last Sunday Christmas gifts were delivered to **Jeanine Zack**, her husband, **Jose**, and Jeanine's five children by members of Holy Trinity Orthodox Church. It was a memorable and moving experience. Jeanine and her family was truly happy to receive us. Jeanine's children were very engaged with one another, and with their mother. It was a loving environment to be in, and to see children so connected and respectful of their mother was quite unique. The 11 parishioners from Holy Trinity who attended were blessed to be in the midst of a family that was so grateful. Usually we stay and sing three of four Christmas Carols, but last Sunday the children wanted us to stay longer and sing. Approximately 8-10 songs were sung. As we left, hugs and Christmas wishes were exchanged; and the children asked if we could return again one day soon. Thanks to **Dot & Nick Sinchuk** for purchasing gifts, to all those who donated gifts and monetary assistance, and those who stayed after Liturgy last Sunday to wrap presents (Go to web site for pictures). Holy Trinity has participated in the "Adopt a Family" Program the past three years now, and it really is one of the better ministries we undertake at Holy Trinity. We will continue to participate in the years ahead – and for those who have delivered the gifts can confirm, the very best part is seeing the gratitude of the family we have adopted. This year's family was so appreciative in fact that Jose, an electrician, has offered his services to us – pro bono – should we ever need them, which, no doubt, we will. Please plan ahead and join us in 2012.

Congratulations to **Michael Dolan & Nik Hutnik** who both received acceptance letters last week from the University of Connecticut. Nik is pretty well locked in to attending UConn – tuition-free will help with that decision – whereas Mike will make a decision later on.

HTOC Website Updates:

1. The Recent Events web page has taken on an entirely new level of prominence and importance. Here is how it works. Each event is inked to its own additional information page, so the ability to write something about a particular event, but not have it take up much

space on the home page, is what has been set up. For example, if a reader goes to the home page, scrolls down to the image of Patrick Dolan wrapping gifts last Sunday and clicks on "more info ...", then the reader gets bounced to a web page that has all the details regarding the 'Adopt a Family' event itself. Another example will be posted this week. Pictures from Vigil this evening will be posted in the next few days. Go to the picture under Recent Events , click on "more info ... : and a brief synopsis can be read. Very cool.

2. Average number of daily visits this month is 19.5/day compared with 7.5/day in November. On average daily visits have more than doubled. Total for the month is 377 (thru 12/20). Unique visitor ratio is down but the number of unique visitors is still higher than last month, too. All is means is a high number of visits are from repeat traffic, which is a great.

The decorated candles on the altar offered today were offered by **Bob & Carol Hruby** IMO of **+John & Julia Hruby**; and the decorated festal icon is offered in loving memory of **+John Eugene Hruby**.

An attempt to a different approach to Adult Education for the next fourth months will be outlined in next Sunday's bulletin. The presentations will be once per month from January-April, and should be no more than 15-20 minutes. Thank you to **Christina Carmon** for this suggestion.

Memory Eternal:

From the Parish Metrics

(Week of December 25 – 31):

+**Wm. Garmalinsky** (64), 12/27/1984; +**Orina Baronosky** (66), 12/28/1953; +**Anna Laptik** (82), 12/31/1995; +**Edward Zukowski** (70), 12/31/1987: *Father of Karen Pearse.*

Our Family & Friends:

+**Very Rev. Mitred Archbishop Stephen Burdikoff**, 12/27/1979, *Great Grandfather of Stephanie Zak.*

Happy Birthday & Many Years:

Diane Krot & Christine Sadow, December 25.

Date	YTD	OCA & DNE 'Fair Share'	Weekly Offering	Candle Sales	Fr Adamov Scholarship Fund	Coffee Hour	Prosp.	Rent	Other
Budget –	\$40,015.00	\$5,265.00	\$20,000.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,000.00	\$300.00	\$200.00	\$7,200.00	\$ 200.00
YTD - Totals	\$37,647.79	\$2,460.00	\$19,623.66	\$1,198.32	\$ 710.00	\$250.00	\$234.00	\$7,200.00	\$2,696.33
% of Budget	94.1%	46.7%	98.1%	79.9%	71.0%	83.3%	117.0%	100.0%	1348.2%
51/52wks	98.0%	98.0%	98.0%	98.0%	98.0%	98.0%	98.0%	100.0%	98.0%
04 – Dec.	\$ 464.00	x	\$270.00	\$32.00	\$20.00	\$13.00	\$4.00	x	x
11 – Dec.	\$ 1,172.00	x	\$797.00	\$36.00	\$10.00	\$ 8.00	\$6.00	x	x
18- Dec.	\$1,208.50	x	\$446.00	\$21.50	\$31.00	\$ 6.00	\$9.00	\$600.00	x

a. *Nativity Flower Offering (YTD) - \$235.00 (67.1%); Dec. 18- \$45; Budgeted Amount - \$350.*

b. *Flower Donation - IMO +John Hruby from Dolan Family.*

c. *Nativity Offering (YTD) - \$300.00 (30%); Dec. 18 - \$50.00; Budgeted Amount - \$1,000.*

The most basic confession of the Christian faith states that Jesus Christ is both Christ and Lord. The Birth of the Man Jesus occurs at a specific time and place in history, which is called the Incarnation, the taking on of human flesh – and should never been considered as an isolated event in the history of humankind. The Incarnation however, acts as the fulfillment of the promise of history. Beginning with the Incarnation, we see the unfurling of a chain of events which act as God's unfolding plan for the salvation of humanity, the reconciliation and restoration of humankind to the Kingdom of Heaven, which is seen most often as an eschatological (future) event, but in truth has actually already been inaugurated. Thus, humankind already lives in the final times. May the Birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ, fill each heart with goodness and guidance as we proceed to that final and ultimate encounter with him on the dread day of Judgment. - *Fr Marc Vranes, Feast of Nativity of our Lord, December 2011.*

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH PRAYER LIST

January 2012

Newest Addition to Prayer List:

Alyssa (5 years old, and a classmate of Juliana Carmon. Alyssa was diagnosed with leukemia on December 16. Depending on the results from her spinal tap and other tests, she may receive treatment in Boston).

Prayers Offered to Those Outside our Community:

Jackie (Daughter-in-law of one of our parishioners who is battling depression).

Deb Bauer (Mother of Dot Sinchuk's son's (John) friend; Deb has breast cancer which has spread. She is not doing well at all, according to Dot. Deb Bauer is the wife of Jay Bauer who is also on our Prayer List / see below).

Bauer Family (Jared, Jay, Melissa) – Children of Deb & Jay Bauer whose parents, Deb and Jay, both have cancer).

Jack D'Aguta (Brother-in-law of Jay Carmon who continues to recover after a serious boating accident in July).

'Rose' (10-yr old girl; a relative to one of our parishioners whose family situation is very unstable. **UPDATE:** Rose is doing much better).

Luba Baktis (Relative of Zlotnick & Sadow Families; Luba has Stage IV cancer).

Jay Bauer (Father of Dot Sinchuk's son's friend; Jay has aggressive Primary Peritoneal Cancer, a rare form of cancer in men. **UPDATE / NO CHANGE:** Jay's condition continues to deteriorate, and he is not expected to recover).

Our Home-Bound & Long-Term Cared For Parishioners:

Marcella "Marci" Tervides. (Westside Care Center, Manchester).

George & Zenia Zlotnick.

Our Parishioners Who Remain in Need of Our Prayers:

Karen Pearse . Evelyn Reynolds (91 years old) . Nick Kornilieff . Helen Sadow (91 years old)

The Following Members Have Requested Prayers for Family & Friends:

Requested by Stephanie & Jeff Zak:

a. **Deacon Michael Burdikoff** (Stephanie's brother who has Crohn's Disease)

b. **(Mathushka) Cecelia Burdikoff** (Stephanie's mother who has been diagnosed with early stage Alzheimer's Disease).

c. **Eugene Zak** (Aging).

Requested by Denise Geeza:

Leo & Jeanne Lavigne (Parents of Denise Geeza; Unwell and aging).

Requested by Mila Zadrozny:

Scotty Hammond (Cousin of Amadeo Ruii, and nephew of David & Mila, from northern Virginia. Scott has cancer).

Requested by Angie Bull:

Ben & Coy Bull (Angie's Father and Mother who are aging).

Requested by Mary Ellen Junda:

Peter & Florence Junda (Mary Ellen's Father and Mother who are aging and have recently relocated to North Carolina).

For Those Serving in the Armed Forces & For All Who Serve and All Victims of War:

Sgt. Adam Carmon – Wife: Nicole; (Sgt Carmon, Jay's brother, is currently stationed in Afghanistan).

Pray for victims of natural and man-made disasters.

Updated: 12.25.2011