

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

Parish Newsletter

R E S T O N

New Parish Center: 20937 Ashburn Rd., #110, Ashburn, VA January 2020

THE FEASTS OF LIGHT—ΤΑ ΦΩΤΑ—THROUGH FEBRUARY 2

JANUARY—DAY 10 HOURS, NIGHT 14

- 11 Sat 5:00 p.m. Vespers
 12 Sun^{30•V•Lk17} 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy — **Coffee Hour: Hawkins**
 18 Sat 5:00 p.m. Vespers
 19 Sun^{31•VI•Lk18} 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy — **Coffee Hour: Krisa**
 25 Sat 5:00 p.m. Vespers
 26 Sun^{32•VII•Lk19} 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy — **Coffee Hour: Lynch**

Our Annual Parish Business Meeting follows. (Snow date: Feb. 2)

FEBRUARY—DAY 11 HOURS, NIGHT 13

- 1 Sat 5:00 p.m. Vespers
 2 Sun^{33•VIII•Lk20} **Feast of the Encounter of the Lord (Luke 2.22–40)**
(Feasts of Light 40th and Last Day—co-opting Zaccheus)
 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy — **Coffee Hour: Matyuf**

Who is this man—like us in everything but sin—whom we are following via Luke’s Gospel from Nazareth to Jericho and Jerusalem, to Mount Zion and the Cross?

The Church revisits, and contemplates, and celebrates past events ever present to the mind of God and Father, the Divine Manifestations [ΤΑ ΦΩΤΑ] of our Lord Jesus Christ:

- *Life from God—December 25*
- *Life with God—January 6*

• *Encountered in the Sacramental Life of the Church—February 2*

The Months Ahead as the Church Year Unfolds.

Things begin a tad early this time around. The **Triodion** begins on Sunday, February 9. (That’s when we read the gospel concerning the Publican and Pharisee.) **Forgiveness Sunday** falls on March 1, the **Great Forty Days** beginning on the 2nd. This year the **Holy Pasch** falls on April 17–19, a week after the Latin computation (April 10–12) which, this year, falls right at the start of the Jewish Pasch—the Pasch of the Law as the Paschalion calls it—beginning at sundown April 8 (=14 Nissan/Paschal full moon in the biblical calendar).

As everyone in our community should know by now, in the Orthodox Catholic East, the three-day

Pasch *must follow* the Pasch of the Law (the way that the Lord’s Day follows the Sabbath—Old Testament expectation followed by fulfillment in the Lord Jesus Christ).

To no one’s surprise, the Tables created by Dionysius Exiguus back in the time of the Emperor Justinian (VI century) keep track of the 14-Nissan Paschal moon which sometimes seems to trump the [325 A.D.] Council of Nikaia’s full moon following the Spring Equinox. On at least two occasions during the past 30 years, the entire Orthodox world marked the Pasch according to a 14-Nissan full moon that occurred *prior* to 21 March—and without a whimper from rigorists.

Finally, **our Parish Feast**—Holy Pentecost—falls on Sunday, June 7.

What then should Christian education be, if not the introduction into the life of the Church, an unfolding of its meaning, its contents and its purpose? And how can it introduce anyone into this life, if not by participation in the liturgical services on the one hand, and their explanation on the other hand? “Taste and see that the Lord is good”: first taste, then see—i.e., understand. The method of liturgical catechesis is truly the Orthodox method of religious education because it proceeds from the Church and because the Church is its goal.
—Liturgy and Life

Regarding our Annual Parish Business Meeting.

We will hold our Annual Business Meeting on the last Sunday of January. We will hear a financial report for 2019, and approve a new budget. Also we will need to approve an amendment to our land sale contract requested by the buyers. We will elect three to the Parish Council, and learn who will look after palms and flowering branches as well as flowers for the Holy Week, and red eggs for the Holy Pasch. And there will be opportunity for parishioner concerns. The snow date is February 2.

Celebrating My Mom

by Susan Matyuf

She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: ‘Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all.’

—Proverbs 31.25–30

My mother, Mildred Sturmer, was born 89 years ago on January 15th. She has lived to see her children’s children; olive shoots from the branch of our family tree. These last six years have been hard for Mom. On a sunny California day, Mom was out back painting her fence at her home in Tracy, California. She needed to refill the paint tin and on her way

to the deck, tripped and fell face first onto the ground. She did not know until a month later that she suffered a concussion which has since escalated her dementia. In a moment her life changed. We are so grateful to our church family for loving Mom, and I wanted you to know who my Mom is, as the dementia has robbed her not only of her memory, but also her essence.

In 1931, Mom was born in an old one room school house which was now her parents' home in Keystone, Oklahoma. She is the first of five children, of whom only one other survived to adulthood. Mom has many memories of living a simple but full life, surrounded by her extended family and lots of love (and fried chicken). In 1941, my grandfather moved the family to California to work at the North American airplane factory. It was hard for Mom to move far from her extended family. I think the separation began a lifelong passion of keeping in touch with family wherever they were.

Mom was now a California girl. Some of that radical thinking must have rubbed off on my mom because she was independent. She started working in high school, bought a car before she learned to drive, hopped in the car after a few lessons and drove to Canada on vacation. Mom loved a man in uniform and got engaged several times before meeting and marrying my Dad. Theirs was a whirl-wind romance: met in February and married in May of 1954. Dad was a Marine, but also a "Russian" and my grandparents weren't too keen on Mom marrying America's enemy so they did not attend the wedding. Mom's introduction to the faith was the wedding ceremony, and she set her veil on fire during her dance of Isaiah (procession around the holy table). That did not deter her from learning to love the faith and embraced the many

Russian traditions so foreign to her. Years later her kids called her a Russian-Okie because she was the one who taught us the traditions.

Mom always had a huge heart and both parents would give the shirts off their backs to help others. In spite of having five children, my parents' door was always open. Many down-on-their-luck friends lived in our downstairs bedroom until they found their way. When my Dedushka (grandfather) was diagnosed with cancer, my parents moved both Babushka and Dedushka into our house and Mom cared for him until his death. He died in that downstairs bedroom. We hosted exchange students from France, Spain, and Japan. Mom is "Mamasan" to many who still keep in touch.

Mom worked at the Lawrence Livermore Lab for over 30 years (retired and went back) as a Print Room Operator. She loved that job. And people loved Mom. Once she retired, she used to drive her "old boss" to the Senior Center for lunch every week until she had her fall. She always thought of others and how to make them happy.

The best gift Mom gave the family was that she created the "Sturmer Memories" book, capturing all the stories of her life growing up, my father's and grandparents' lives, and her memories of each of her five kids. She even wrote about our pets growing up and the houses we lived in. There are pictures, birth certificates, death certificates, family trees, and newspaper articles. Since moving here, I have caught Mom reading stories aloud from this book, and then saying, "That happened to me, too!" Bittersweet.

God has granted Mom many happy years and we pray for many more. Happy birthday, Mom.



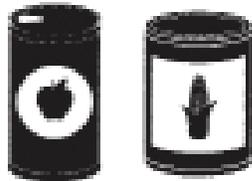


LOUDOUN HUNGER RELIEF

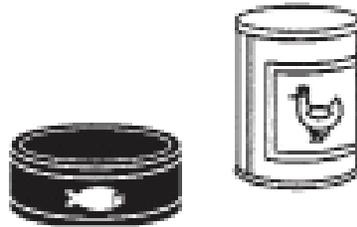
Food for today. Hope for tomorrow.

FOOD PANTRY MOST NEEDED ITEMS

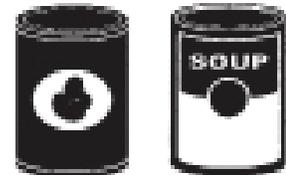
Canned Fruits & Veggies



Canned Meat



Canned Beans & Soup



Cereal



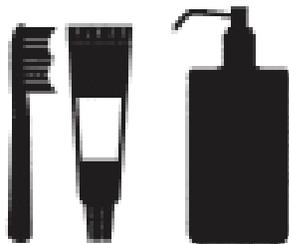
Whole Grain Pasta & Rice



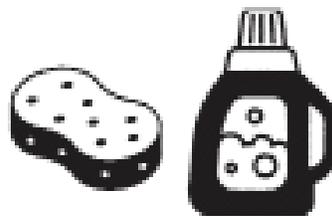
Peanut Butter



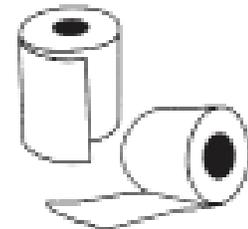
Hygiene Items



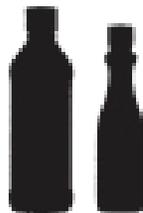
Household Items



Paper Products



Cooking Oil



Fresh Fruits & Vegetables



Other

Diapers	Fruit Cups
Wipes	Granola Bars
Formula	Popcorn
Infant Cereal	
Nutritional Shakes and Drinks	

PopTop Cans and Microwavable Cups Preferred
Low Sodium • Low Trans Fat • Sugar Free

750 Miller Drive, Suite A-1 • Leesburg, Virginia 20175 • Phone: (703) 777-5911 • Fax: (703) 777-5531