



HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX Parish Church Newsletter

Future Site: Potomac View Road (behind NoVa).

January 2011

FROM THE BANKS OF THE JORDAN RIVER TO THE SHORES OF THE RIVERS OF BABYLON

Having reflected on the Divine Manifestations of the Lord Jesus Christ: Life from God (December 25), Life with God (January 6), Encountered in the Sacramental Life of the Church (February 2), the mood in the Church will gradually change—to something inspired by her reflection on the 40 days the Lord Jesus spent in the desert after his baptism and his encounter with the evil one.

JANUARY 2011—DAY 10 HOURS, NIGHT 14

- 2 Sun **SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY**
10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy—**Coffee Hour: Morrow**
- 6 Thu **THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST** (Mark 1.1–11)
We will keep the feast on the 9th.
- 9 Sun **SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY**
10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy—**Coffee Hour: Smith**
- 15 Sat *Food Pantry Leesburg—10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.*
- 16 Sun 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy—**Coffee Hour: Wayland**
- 23 Sun 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy—**Coffee Hour: Visos**
- 30 Sun 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy—**Coffee Hour: Adams**
Annual Parish Meeting will follow the Liturgy—weather permitting.

FEBRUARY—DAY 11 HOURS, NIGHT 13

- 2 Wed **↑MEETING OR ENCOUNTER OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST** (Luke 2.22+)
- 6 Sun 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy—**Coffee Hour: Belinsky**
Alternate date for our Annual Parish Meeting.
- 13 Sun **BEGINS THE TRIODION**—Gospel: Publican and Pharisee (Luke 18.9+)
10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy—**Coffee Hour: Briggs**
In churches where it is served, Matins introduces the theme of exile chanting a dark and doleful psalm: On the banks of the rivers of Babylon—Alleluia—we used to sit and weep at the thought of Sion. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia... It was there that our captors urged us to sing; our oppressors, to be happy: «Sing for us the songs of Sion.» Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. But how could we sing the Lord's songs in a foreign land? Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia... [Psalm 136] Any idea what gives?
- 19 Sat *Food Pantry Leesburg—10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.*
- 20 Sun Gospel: Wayward Sons, Loving Father (Luke 15.11+)
10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy—**Coffee Hour: Busenberg**
- 27 Sun Gospel: Judgment (Matthew 25.31+)
10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy—**Coffee Hour: Doyle**

MARCH—DAY 12 HOURS, NIGHT 12

- 6 Sun Gospel: Forgiveness (Matthew 6.14+)
10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy—**Coffee Hour: Ellmore**
5:00 p.m. Penitential Vespers (at St. Luke's Serbian) followed by a Bliny Supper.
- 7 Mon **BEGIN THE GREAT FORTY DAYS**—ΜΕΓΑΛΗ ΤΕΣΣΑΡΑΚΟΣΤΗ

For us, our homeland is heaven, and from heaven comes the Saviour we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ (Philip. 4.20). If you are acknowledging as your Father one who has no favorites and judges everyone according to what he has done, you must be scrupulously careful as long as you are living away from your home (1Peter 1.17).

Diocesan Day Report

On Saturday, December 11, 2010, after a hierarchical liturgy including the ordination of a deacon, the newly incorporated Archdiocese of Washington assembled at St. Luke's Church to see to the business of the diocese. Our diocese is made up of twelve parishes and missions, including a newly formed unnamed mission in Annapolis, serving the college community there. Shepherded by His Beatitude, Metropolitan Jonah, our diocese is in the midst of re-establishing our smaller diocese through incorporation, bylaws, and insurance, as well as establishing a feasible program that fits into the national church's Strategic Plan.

His Beatitude opened the assembly reiterating the goal to re-locate the chancery to Washington, D.C. over the next year and a half. He sees our commission as developing programs for youth and missions, as well as increased understanding and participation in liturgical services. The Metropolitan stressed the inefficient and at times deceptive practice of

The Busenbergs invite:

A Winter Parish Get-Together
at their place
1286 Quail Ridge Court, Reston
5:00 p.m., Saturday, February 5

Bring an appetizer/finger food,
something to drink.

Call Tina at 703.435.3563

collecting dues from parishes using the “head tax.” He promoted, instead, the idea of tithing: from individuals to parishes, parishes to diocese, and diocese to national church. Finally, His Beatitude briefly addressed the current question of the OCA’s autocephaly. He reiterated that we live by the *Tomos* of Patriarch Alexei (1970), and that the roots and foundations of the OCA are in North America. To this end, at the invitation of His Eminence, Metropolitan Hilarion, ROCOR First Hierarch, Metropolitan Jonah met with hierarchs from the ROCOR church where he reported fruitful talks. It seems that our petition for “an end to jurisdictional divisions” may be heard.

The business of the diocese included passing a budget of \$76,348.00, which included funding a request for \$5,000.00 to the newly formed mission in Annapolis, and a raise in the per-person assessment from \$55.00 to \$85.00. The Metropolitan reported that there is a small community of nuns from Greece which is looking to establish a monastery here. Currently they are staying in the building adjacent to the Cathedral downtown, but are looking for a place to establish a monastery.

Father John Vitko, a member of the Metropolitan Council’s Strategic Planning Committee, presented the working draft of the plan. The committee’s task is to “capture the vision, goals, culture, and structure of the church for the foreseeable future.” To encourage grass-roots participation, representatives from the committee are soliciting input from each diocese through their presentations at diocesan assemblies. The general theme of the Strategic Plan is to witness to the Kingdom in the local community, witness to the “greater church,” and witness to the world. After discussion and suggestions from various participants, the diocese agreed to support a program presented by Kitty Vitko and Donna Karabin called, “Compassionate Care.”

This program facilitates local parishes’ efforts to develop and provide programs, whether to the elderly, the youth, or the poor, in an efficient and effective manner. It was suggested that they hold a diocesan-wide workshop during Great Lent to kick off the program. The assembly ended with a celebration of Great Vespers.

It is always good to see familiar faces, and make new connections in our small diocese. At the national level, representatives from parishes across the country will be gathering in Washington state in November 2011 for the All-American Council.

—Susan Matyuf

Water Update

The Potomac View waterline construction project has been completed. What remains are some final analysis/inspections as well as the bond releases—the larger one (~70K with Loudoun Water) dependent on the contractor vacating his construction lien, and the smaller one (10K) on, among other things, VDOT’s satisfaction with the roadway repair on the far side of Potomac View Road. Due to a backlog of VDOT inspections, as well as holiday/vacation interruptions, all remaining inspections are anticipated to be completed by February/March.

—Matthew Lepnew

Work on boring under the roadway began in earnest in the beginning of October. No sooner had a 12-foot trench been dug for the augur when heavy rains came and filled it with more than a foot of water. This eventuality added nothing to our fixed-price contract (72K), but a boulder in the augur’s path on the far side of the roadbed did. It had to be removed topside, adding 6 grand to our tab. Test borings did not anticipate an obstruction; and speculation is landfill brought in years back for the widening of Potomac View was responsible.

During the two-months of work Matthew Lepnew was on site every

workday. So he was able to monitor work, observe any difficulties that arose—and there were several—in interface with VDOT inspectors, and facilitate decisions.

—Editor

KEEPING UP.—At the request of the Parish Council, the Treasurer, Matthew Matyuf, updated the paperwork supporting our **Charles Schwab** investment account. In future we will be able to write checks against the account and have access to it *via* the internet.

We have renewed our **rental contract** for Glade Room use. Monthly rent is a tad lower than last year (\$555) because we will be paying for a clutch of additional hours separately. In 2011 Christmas falls on a Sunday; and what would be Holy Thursday the space is not available to us. We will have the space for Holy Friday evening and Holy Saturday from 9:30 p.m. Interestingly enough, even though we are a long-time user, the Reston Association makes us pay the last month’s rent as a security deposit.

At our **Annual Business Meeting** we will be reviewing our finances and approving a new budget (we have to find money for a new computer), discussing the next step in our site development—a sewer solution—and funding the approval process (actual construction will be done only after the County approves our Site Plan, which is an engineering document). There will be a report on the water project and the sequence of steps we have to take before we actually build, and on our new beefed-up website. Finally we will elect three to the Parish Council—the terms of Matthew Lepnew, Daniel Homyk and Donna Ellmore are expiring.

Finally we say **well done** to all who responded to the call for contributions to the Loudoun Interfaith Food Pantry. It remains something for us to keep in mind in a way that will allow us to keep making contributions.