

St. Elias Orthodox Church

Patriarchal Parishes of the Russian Orthodox Church in the USA

A Monthly Newsletter

Issue Number 2 - February 2010

St. Elias Orthodox Church
5066 "B" Drive South
Battle Creek, MI 49015
269.979.2146
Fax: 269.665.9548

www.StEliasOrthodoxChurch.org

E-MAIL:
Church1@StEliasOrthodoxChurch.org

NEWSLETTER CONTACT
John Schupra 616.243.6428
schupra@mac.com

PASTOR

Very Rev. Archpriest Lawrence Bacik
529 Cynthia, Galesburg, MI 49053
269.665.9313
Cell Phone (Emergencies
Only): 269.716.3752

ASSISTANT TO THE PASTOR

Rev. Protodeacon Samuel Beronja,
289 Thelma Drive,
Battle Creek, MI 49014
269.968.9883

3rd & 6th HOURS: 9:40 am
DIVINE LITURGY 10:00 am

CHURCH SCHOOL:

Sundays Following Services

GREAT VESPERS:

Saturdays & Eves of Feasts 6:00 pm

HOLY MYSTERY OF CONFESSION (PENANCE):

Following Great Vespers,
Preceding Divine Liturgy, or
By Appointment

Saint Elias
Eastern Orthodox Church
5066 "B" Drive South, Battle Creek, MI 49015



From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Brothers & Sisters:

Christ is in our midst! He is and ever shall be!

"Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift" (2 Corinthians 9:15). In just a few days we will begin together the Great Lenten spiritual journey towards Holy Pascha. Come and worship with us during this period of preparation for the feast of feasts, the bright and radiant day of our Lord and Savior's glorious Resurrection! St. Isaac of Syria states that we should thirst for Jesus, that He may inebriate us with His love!

"... The true aim of our Christian life consists in the acquisition of the Holy Spirit of God. As for fasts, and vigils, and prayer, and almsgiving, and every good deed done for Christ's sake, they are only means of acquiring the Holy Spirit of God. But mark, my son, only the good deed done for Christ's sake brings us the fruits of the Holy Spirit..." (from conversation of St. Seraphim with N.A.Motovilov). Be certain to make a personal effort during the great and holy fast to attend the various and beautiful liturgical services. The great penitential canon of St. Andrew of Crete, the Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts, the Paraklis, Soul Saturdays, etc. will help make this necessary journey towards Holy Pascha more meaningful and beneficial!

May God richly bless you and your respective families!

With love in Christ our Savior,

ARCHPRIEST LAWRENCE BACIK

GLOBAL NEWS:

Patriarch Kirill extends condolences to quake victims

Moscow, January 15, [Interfax](#) - Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia has extended condolences to those hurt by the recent quake in Haiti, which has led to multiple deaths and large-scale destruction. "On these sad days, all Russian Orthodox believers and I condole with you and all residents of the island who have lost their relatives and loved ones," the Patriarch said in a wire sent to Haitian President Rene Preval published by the Patriarch's press service on Friday. The Patriarch said in the wire he is "praying for the prompt healing of the wounded and spiritual assistance to all those who have lost their housing, and also the strengthening of those who are now working on dealing with the aftermath of this natural disaster."



Sister Parish Releases First Recording:

The choir of St. John Chrysostom RO Church in Grand Rapids, MI has produced its new CD (28 minutes; 10 tracks). "Glorify Him" features Christmas hymns and is available immediately. If you have any questions, please e-mail: atasteofrussia@yahoo.com Rev. Andrew Lowe, rector. This CD is available at at cost of \$9.99 plus \$3.00 shipping and handling. To purchase this CD and to listen to segments of the singing, please visit http://web.me.com/icsthorp/stjohnroc/CD_Project.html

Orders can also be place at the church or by calling the Presbytery at (616) 575 0605.

IN MEMORIAM:

Anna (nee Kluba) Szuhaj

+Anna (nee Kluba) Szuhaj, age 90, fell asleep in the Lord 27 December 2009 in Sturgis, MI. Anna, affectionately called, "Honey," was born 27 October 1919 in Snowshoe, PA and lived most of her life in Altoona, PA. Some of Anna's beloved family members worship at St. Elias Church: daughter Barbara Dinsmore (son-in-law Ed), granddaughter Kristen and great-grandchildren Clare and Joseph. May our Lord God give a blessed repose to the newly-departed servant of God, +Anna, and may her memory be eternal, vecnaja pamjat!

Domnica "Donna" Mito

+Domnica "Donna" Mito, 81, of Battle Creek fell asleep in the Lord 7 January 2010 at her home. She was born 20 July 1928 in Skopia, Florinis, Greece, the daughter of Chris and Pandora (Papatheodoru) Djicou. Donna was a devoted member of St. Elias Church and St. Mary's Sisterhood. Surviving are her daughters, Helen (Kenneth) Repair of Battle Creek, Sophie Tilley of Battle Creek; son-in-law, John Wiesner; grandchildren, John and Catherine Wiesner, Christopher (Lisa) Repair, Nicole (Joseph) Britten, Ashleigh and Danielle Tilley; great-grandchildren, Seth and Sarah Repair. May +Domnica's memory be eternal, Bog da prosti!



"The bee is more honored than other animals, not because she labors, but because she labors for others"

-- St John Chrysostom (+407)

REMEMBER WITH PRAYERS, CARDS, VISITS

- ♥ Archpriest Roman Star
- ♥ Protodeacon Sam Beronja
- ♥ Matushka Marilyn Beronja
- ♥ Zachary Beronja
- ♥ Gabriel Beronja
- ♥ Louis Adamov
- ♥ Jeanie Hanchar
- ♥ Olympia & Aurelia Pietrariu
- ♥ Mary McCarthy
- ♥ Michelle Slone
- ♥ Judi Yost
- ♥ Peggy Hanchar
- ♥ George & Mary Nickolaou
- ♥ Carina Hilbert
- ♥ Anne Bowden
- ♥ Anna Gagye
- ♥ George Spriggs
- ♥ Shimasse Vivian Miles
- ♥ Margaret Amato
- ♥ Ana Olarean
- ♥ Jackie Councill
- ♥ Pando Nanos



PHONE DIRECTORY

Chris Popovich Parish Executive Board President (269) 963-0358

Steve Hanchar Parish Executive Board Treasurer (269) 623-5079

Judi Yost St. Mary's Sisterhood President and Sunshine Girl (269) 962-9680

Peggy Hanchar St. Mary's Sisterhood Publicity Chairman (269) 623-5079



FINANCIAL UPDATE

Summary of Operating Fund
-by Steve Hanchar, Treasurer, Parish Executive Board

Please see the printed version of our Newsletter for the Financial details.

February Newsletter Sponsored By:
The Oliphant Family/ Slava & Elena Karpov

Hall Rental:

Parish Members may make Hall Rentals only. For reservations for use of the hall: Call Paul Meloff @ 269.963.4748.

Meijer's Report:

No Report.

PARISH NEWS:

Executive Board:

Congratulations and God's choicest blessings to the elected members of the Executive Board last November: Chris Popovich, President; Gary Busch, Vice-President; Steve Hanchar, Treasurer; and Helen Repair, Recording Secretary. Many years!

Haiti Disaster Relief:

Many thanks to everyone who helped support our recent fund drive to collect monies for disaster relief in Haiti. If you haven't participated in this worthy cause and would like to assist with a donation, please see Steve Hanchar, Treasurer. May our Lord reward you for your caring efforts!

Mother & Daughter Embrace Orthodox Faith:

Lilly Baldwin (Chrismated "Elizabeth") and her daughter Jamie DeBold (Chrismated "Nika") entered the Holy Eastern Orthodox Church through Chrismation on Christmas Eve. Doug and Gail Brandow were honored to serve as their sponsors. May our Lord Jesus bless and guide them in their new life in Christ! God grant them many years!

Newly-Illumined Servant of Christ:

God's choicest blessings to the newly-baptised infant, Sarah Nicole Repair of Massachusetts. Her Godparents are Aunt Nicole "Nikki" and Uncle Joe Britten. Sarah's big brother is Seth, parents are Chris and Lisa and proud grandparents are Helen and Ken Repair. God grant them many years! Chestito!

Volunteers Commended:

An abundance of thanks to: Chris Popovich, parish president, for the varied maintainance projects he performs around the church...Protodeacon Sam and Matushka

Marilyn Beronja for their faithful service...Gary Busch, VP, fire suppression compliance...Paul Meloff for dutifully watching every penny as our former treasurer...Steve Hanchar for skillfully directing the Sunday choir...Alex Hanchar for keeping everything clean and shiny in the altar...Tomka Nicolich and Olga Popovich for baking prosphora...Sunday School's Charissa Oliphant, Ramona Busch, & Carina Hilbert...Judi Yost & the devoted members of the Sisterhood...Bethel Adamov & Suzanne Pifer for Christmas decorating and all of our dedicated parishioners who recently helped take down the festive holiday decorations. May God grant them many years!

Pastor Observes Anniversary:

Father Lawrence and Matushka Marie are not only celebrating their 24th Wedding Anniversary 8 February, but also Father's "official" appointment as St. Elias' pastor 9 February; it's been 5 wonderful years! Alex also agrees that it's been wonderful! Many years!

Church Council:

The next monthly meeting will be held Tuesday 9 February at 7:00PM.

Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers:

The Mid-Michigan Orthodox Clergy Association has announced that the Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers will be hosted by St. Herman of Alaska Russian Orthodox Church (Lake Odessa) this year. The service is scheduled for 4:00 P.M. on Sunday 21 February, the first Sunday of Great Lent.

Sisterhood Meeting:

St. Mary's Sisterhood will gather for their next meeting on Thursday 11 February at 6:00PM.

"All Scripture is given by
inspiration of God"
(2 Tim. 3:16)

Annual Talent Show:

Annual St. Elias Talent Show immediately following refreshments Sunday 31 January 2010! Please support our parish youth (adults too?) and join us for an entertaining program!

Schedule for Traditional Home Blessings:

At the present time Father Lawrence has completed the majority of home blessings. If you haven't received and/or completed a schedule request form, and would like your home blessed, please contact Father Lawrence as soon as possible. He will be honored to visit and pray with you and your family members.

St. Thomas Music Guild:

This season's next musical lineup, "The Black Diamond", will be held 14 February 2010 in the main sanctuary of St. Thomas Episcopal Church at 3:00PM. As usual the concert is open to the public and is free of charge. Following the concert a reception is held in the adjacent parish hall. The church is located downtown at the corner of Capital Avenue at Van Buren Street. All welcome!

Newly Elected Serbian Orthodox Patriarch:

Bishop Irinej of Nis, Serbia's third-largest city was chosen for the role in a secret ballot late on Friday. The 80-year-old beat two more hardline candidates to the post. Seen as a moderate and a moderniser, Gavrilovica has hinted at improving relations with the Roman Catholic Church, which have been strained for

years. He takes over the late Patriarch Pavle, who died in November at the age of 95. Irinej officially took up the position on Saturday. The Serbian Orthodox Church has around 11 million members worldwide, seven million of which live in Serbia. Courtesy of www.euronews.net.

Cell Phone vs. Bible:

I wonder what would happen if we treated our Bible like we treat our Cell Phones? What if we carried it around in our purses or pockets? What if we turned back to get it if we forgot it? What if we flipped through it several times a day? What if we used it to receive messages from the test? What if we treated it like we couldn't live without it? What if we gave it to the kids as gifts? What if we used it as we traveled? What if we used it in case of an emergency? What if we upgraded it to get the latest version? This is something to make you go.....HMM....Where is my Bible? Oh, and one more thing. Unlike our Cell Phone, we don't ever have to worry about our Bible being disconnected because our Lord Jesus Christ already paid the price!!!!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Great Vespers 6PM	2 Divine Liturgy 10AM Meeting of the Lord (Blessing of Candles)	3	4	5	6 Divine Liturgy 10AM (Soul Saturday)
7 Meatfare Sunday/ Last Judgement Divine Liturgy 10 am Fellowship & Sunday School to follow Prospora/Donuts by Helen Repair	8	9	10	11	12	13 Great Vespers 6:00 PM
14 Cheesefare Sunday/Forgiveness Divine Liturgy 10 am Fellowship & Sunday School to follow Prospora/Donuts by Matushka Marie	15 Great Lent Begins Great Penitential Canon of St. Andrew of Crete 6PM	16 Great Penitential Canon of St. Andrew of Crete 6PM	17 Great Penitential Canon of St. Andrew of Crete 6PM	18 Great Penitential Canon of St. Andrew of Crete 6PM	19	20 Great Vespers 6:00 PM
21 Divine Liturgy 10 am Fellowship & Sunday School to follow Prospora/Donuts by Carina Hilbert	22	23	24 Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts 6PM (Lenten Potluck)	25	26 Paraklis 6PM	27 Divine Liturgy 10AM (Soul Saturday)
Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers 4PM @ St. Herman's (Lake Odessa)						
28 Divine Liturgy 10 am Fellowship & Sunday School to follow Prospora/Donuts by Linda Martin						



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Angela Hanchar
- 4 AJ Ledford
- 7 Joe Britten
- 12 Philomena Graf
- 17 Addison Nicholich
- 22 Michael Borzkowski
- 24 Ashleigh Tilley
- 26 Ana Olarean
- 26 Derek Bell
- 27 Vyacheslav Karpov
- 28 Thomas Oliphant

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 8 Fr & Mat Lawrence Bacik
- 19 Jon & Stephanie Rambow