

St. Elias Orthodox Church

Patriarchal Parishes of the Russian Orthodox Church in the USA

A Monthly Newsletter Issue Number 3 - March 2010

St. Elias Orthodox Church
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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

"Thirst for Jesus that He may inebriate you with His love"

--St. Isaac of Syria

Dear Brothers and Sisters,
Christ is in our midst! He is and ever shall be!
It is a very special time of the year for us Orthodox believers and countless Christians worldwide. This sacred period is definitely familiar to us and is commonly known as, "Great and Holy Lent." This time of preparation is most important to us because it directs our attention to the greatest Christian festival, the Feast above all celebrated feasts, "Holy Pascha."

Recently, some local individuals commented to me that they are giving-up a couple of different things for Lent: beef liver with onions, traveling to some of the area's casinos and booze! Yes, many of us observe the fast, some more stricter than others, and make some huge sacrifices prior to Pascha. We always have to be vigilant and do things for the right reasons. How will we spiritually benefit from Lent? Besides not consuming various foods, have we increased our prayer life? Do we guard what we say? Liturgically, are we attending some of the ancient worship services? Have we increased our stewardship, enabling charitable works to profit? Do we demonstrate love for our neighbor, etc.?

May our good and merciful Lord richly bless you as you journey towards Holy Pascha, the glorious Resurrection of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ!

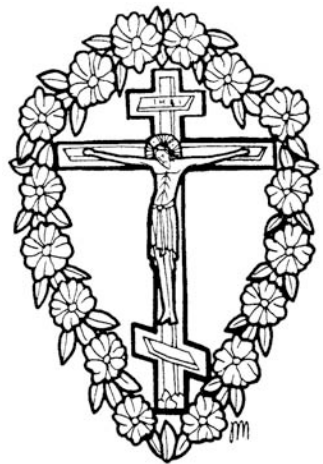
With love in Christ Jesus,

archpriest lawrence bacik

Wisdom from the Church Fathers:

Even if we have thousands of acts of great virtue to our credit, our confidence in being heard must be based on God's mercy and His love for men. Even if we stand at the very summit of virtue, it is by mercy that we shall be saved. --St. John Chrysostom (+407)

St. Cyril of Jerusalem in the 4th century had this to say on fasting in general: "For we fast by abstaining from wine and flesh, not because we abhor them as abominations, but because we look for our reward; that having scorned things sensible, we may enjoy a spiritual and intellectual feast; and that having now sown in tears we may reap in joy in the world to come. (Catechetical Lectures, IV, 27)"



PARISH NEWS:

Teen Lenten Retreat:

Holy Dormition Monastery (Rives Junction, MI) will host a Lenten retreat 5 - 7 March for teens (ages 13 -17). Speakers include Bishop Melchisedek, Deacon Joseph Matusiak, Mother Gabriella and Father Roman Braga. The total cost from Friday night arrival and

introduction at 7:00PM through Sunday is \$60.00. For teens attending only on Saturday, \$25.00. For information contact Basil Frenchek (734) 495 - 3602.

Spring Clean-up:

Volunteers are needed on Lazarus Saturday 27 March. Immediately following the 10:00AM Divine Liturgy and refreshments, volunteers will begin cleaning the church temple and hall. Sprucing-up outdoors and around the premises is also needed. Prior to Holy Pascha, our church and parish facilities should sparkle and be clean as a whistle! May our good Lord reward you for your dedicated efforts!



Ordination Anniversary:

Father Lawrence will be observing his 22nd priestly ordination anniversary 6 March 2010. The Right Reverend Clement (Kapalin), Bishop of Serpukhov and Administrator of the Patriarchal Parishes performed the Apostolic "laying-on-of-hands" during the Hierarchal Divine Liturgy being celebrated at The Russian Orthodox Church of Three Saints in Garfield, NJ. Vladika Clement is now Metropolitan of Kaluga and Borovsk and Chancellor of the Moscow Patriarchate. Axios! Axios! Axios!

Church Council:

The next monthly meeting will be held on Tuesday 3/9 at 7:00PM.

Sisterhood Meeting:

St. Mary's Sisterhood will gather for their next meeting on 3/11 at Captain Luey's Calabash Seafood (181 E. Columbia Ave.) 6:00PM.

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
- ♥ Vladimir St. Andrew
- ♥ Anne Bowden
- ♥ Anna Gagye
- ♥ George Spriggs
- ♥ Shimasse Vivian Miles
- ♥ Margaret Amato
- ♥ Ana Olarean
- ♥ Jackie Councill
- ♥ Pando Nanos

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.

March Newsletter Sponsored By:

Louis & Bethel Adamov / Tomka Nicolich

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.



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



COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS:

Office of Senior Services:

Periodically seniors in Calhoun County have questions regarding their Senior Millage funded services: what is available this year, who do they call, are they eligible, and how do I get there? And at any time, seniors living alone, newly widowed individuals, and those being released from hospital stays have a variety of health supporting and mobility needs. Call 2-1-1 as the County's information and referral source or contact the Office of Senior Services in Marshall: (269) 781 - 0846. On the Internet @ www.calhouncountymi.gov

Inasmuch House "New Beginnings" Benefit Dinner:

Haven of Rest Ministries "Inasmuch House" to host its 5th Annual Benefit Dinner at Bedford Valley Golf Course 17 April 2010 at 6:00PM. Spring into fun with entertainment including: live & silent auction, live entertainment, four course dinner and a raffle for great prizes. Tickets are \$50 each, \$75 per couple and \$250 per table. All proceeds benefit the Inasmuch House, Calhoun County's only Emergency Shelter for women, children and families. Inasmuch House is a 501(c) (3) charitable organization, a division of the Haven of Rest Ministries. For details regarding sponsorship or tickets: (269) 965 - 1148 x17

Downtown Church Hosts Musical Performance:

St. Thomas Music Guild presents, "Gemini" at St. Thomas Episcopal Church 18 April. This concert is open to the public at no charge and will be held in the main sanctuary of St. Thomas at 3:00PM. Following the performance a reception

will be held in the adjacent church hall. The parish is located in Battle Creek at the corner of Capital Avenue at Van Buren Street. All welcome!

GLOBAL NEWS:

Requiem for Georgian luger served in Vancouver:

On February 16, 2010 a Panikhida for fallen Georgian luger Nodar Kumaritashvili was held in Canadian Vancouver, the capital of winter Olympic Games 2010. The service was conducted in the Russian church and attended by a small group of Georgian sportsmen, the Komsomolskaya Pravda daily said on Tuesday. As was reported, Kumaritashvili, 21, was killed in a luge training on the Olympic run in Whistler. He was knocked off the curve, flew across the track, smashed into the pole and died in the hospital unconscious.

Russian traveler Fedor Konyukhov to set Orthodox cross on the southernmost point of American continent:

(Bobruisk, February 17, Interfax) Renowned Russian traveler Fedor Konyukhov will set a worship cross at Cape Horn (Chili) to commemorate perished sailors. The cross was made and consecrated in Bobruisk. Students of Bobruisk Art College №15 gave it as a present to Konyukhov, the local Diocese reports. Cape Horn is southernmost tip of Tierra del Fuego archipelago located off South American mainland. Shipwrecks lie buried here.



Image courtesy of solzemli.wordpress.com

A Daily Lenten Prayer to Remember...

THE PENITENTIAL PRAYER OF ST. EPHRAIM THE SYRIAN

O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of sloth, faint-heartedness, lust of power, and idle talk.

But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience and love to your servant.

Yea, O Lord and King, grant me to see my own errors and not to judge my brother, for You are blessed from all ages to all ages.

Amen.

march 2010

St. Elias Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts 6:00PM (Lenten potluck supper to follow)	4	5 Paraklis 6:00PM	6 "Soul" Saturday Divine Liturgy 10:00AM Great Vespers 6:00 PM
7 Divine Liturgy 10 am Fellowship & Sunday School to follow Prophora/Donuts by Nada Yosifovski	8 Council Meeting 7:00 PM	9	10 Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts 6:00PM (Lenten potluck supper to follow)	11 Sisterhood Meeting Captain Luey's Calabash Seafood (181 E. Columbia Ave.) 6:00PM	12 Akathist for Holy Theotokos 7:00PM @ Holy Cross 1928 142nd Ave Dorr, MI 49323	13 "Soul" Saturday Divine Liturgy 10:00AM
14 Divine Liturgy 10 am Fellowship & Sunday School to follow Prophora/Donuts by Ramona Busch	15	16	17 Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts 6:00PM (Lenten potluck supper to follow)	18 G	19 Paraklis 6:00PM	20 Great Vespers 6:00 PM
21 Divine Liturgy 10 am Fellowship & Sunday School to follow Prophora/Donuts by Kristen Dinsmore	22	23	24 Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts 6:00 PM (Lenten potluck supper to follow)	25 Annunciation of the Holy Theotokos	26	27 Lazarus Saturday Divine Liturgy 10:00AM Volunteers Needed: Spring Clean-up following morning services. Great Vespers (blessings of palms & willow branches) will be served following the clean-up.
28 Divine Liturgy 10 am Fellowship & Sunday School to follow Prophora/Donuts by Paula Kaizer	29	30	31 Healing Service 6:00PM			

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 3/3 Christopher Nicolich
 - 3/3 Louis Adamov
 - 3/3 Gabrielle Kizer
 - 3/4 Barbara Repack
 - 3/5 Bethany Nicolich
 - 3/6 Olga Popovich
 - 3/9 Debbie Beronja
 - 3/11 Josh Busch
 - 3/12 Mary McCarthy
 - 3/15 Jesse Brandow
 - 3/16 Chris Popovich
 - 3/18 Paula Wofford
 - 3/22 Vera Krstev
 - 3/22 Victor Borzkowski
 - 3/29 Alex Bacik
 - 3/29 Don Kizer
 - 3/30 Suzanne Pifer
 - 3/31 Linda Martin
 - 3/31 Gabriel Beronja
- A belated Birthday wish is expressed to Grace Heckenlively for her special day last month on February 19. Many years!

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 3/6 Fr. Lawrence Ordination
- 3/7 Greg & Suzanne Gusching
- 3/8 Alex & Biljana Popovich
- 3/22 Vasile & Aurelia Pietrariu