



Protection of the Holy Mother of God Orthodox Church

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SAME OLD, SAME OLD – OR IS EVERYTHING NEW?

By Protodeacon Peter Danilchick

A complaint that clergy sometimes hear is: “Why are Orthodox services always the same? What don’t we change things about?” However, the truth is that they are always different in a very special way. They are different because we are different each and every time we pray and participate in the church services. Of course, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” (Heb 13:8) But He is doing different things to us and through us. In the Prophecy of Isaiah (43:19), the Lord said: “Behold, I am doing a new thing; don’t you see it?” Divine life is dynamic: “Let there be light, let the dry land appear, let the earth put forth vegetation and fruit, let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures; let us make man in our image and likeness.... And behold, it was very good.” (Genesis 1) To be “not new” or to be “old” is to fail to participate in God’s dynamic and ever-renewing life – for the aim of the Christian Life is union with God. St Tikhon of Zadonsk declared, “The human soul is a spirit created by God, and only in God, who has created it in His own image and likeness, can it find contentment and rest, peace, consolation and joy.” According to so many passages from the Holy Scriptures, the Lord continuously strives to renew us and our life in Him:

- “I will make you hear new things that you have never heard before.” (Isaiah 48:6)
- “A new heart I will give you and a new spirit I will put within you.” (Ezekiel 36:26)
- “The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning.” (Lamentations of Jeremiah 3:22)
- “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another.” (John 13:34)

Changes sometimes wait for some special occasion in our life, like the New Year or a new job or a new school. But in fact there is no need to wait for any of these events; renewal can take place each and every day. St. Herman of Alaska emphasized the importance of NOW: “From this day forth, from this hour, from this minute,

continued on next page

***An English Speaking Parish Community of the Orthodox Church in America
Most Rev. Archbishop NATHANIEL of Detroit & the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America
Office of Parish Priest, Currently Vacant
Protodeacon Peter Danilchick, Parish Deacon
Jeffrey M. Beranek, Parish Council President***

Continued from first page

let us love God above all!" Upon waking from sleep, our first words of prayer are "In the Name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit." – rededicating each day anew to God. We renew our Christian vows each time we pray the Lord's Prayer "Thy will be done" and when we make the Sign of the Cross -- obedient to the words of Jesus Christ: "Take up your cross and follow me."

A few thoughts or practical advice on renewal:

- Say your prayers – just as you need to eat to stay alive in your body, you must pray to stay alive in your spirit – and remember God throughout the day.
- Greet each person and each encounter with him or her as a new experience; say inwardly "this is a child of God"; forget the old times, create the new times of love.
- Learn each day something about God – through reading the Gospels and other Scriptures, the lives of the Saints and other spiritual writings.
- Practice virtue each day – an act of unexpected kindness or mercy, a giving of alms, a contribution to a charity, an expression of warm hospitality to someone who needs you.
- Reconcile yourself to those whom you may have offended and who have offended you.... especially those in your family. Forgive. Pardon. Forget.
- Participate with your whole heart in the church services, become an active part of the community, pray together with others for the peace and salvation of the world.
- Prepare to receive Holy Communion whenever it is offered – in the fear of God, faith and love – with confidence in the forgiveness of sins and for life everlasting.

Take the trouble to spend a single day according to God's commandments, and you will see and feel for yourself how good it is to fulfill God's will, which for us is life, eternal blessedness.

+ St John of Kronstadt (1829-1908)

"This is the day which the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it!" (Psalm 118:24)
--Protodeacon Peter Danilchick

Letter from Jeff Beranek, Parish Council President

Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer is worthy of his wages."
-I Timothy 5:17-18

The 47 members of our parish who remained after Liturgy on Sunday, June 26, to consider a remuneration package for Father Alexander's successor as parish priest, did indeed work to offer a wage "worthy of his labor". After some discussion, the assembly voted unanimously in favor of the motion I offered, which had been developed by Protodeacon Peter, Council Vice-President Chris Thomas, Council Treasurer Joe Cox, Ladies' Guild President Elaine Papp, Reader Steven Miroy, and myself. In sum, we will be offering a remuneration of \$70,000 for the remainder of 2005 (this is the amount currently in our budget), while stipulating our desire to raise this amount steadily over the next five years to the level of median family income in Fairfax County, or about \$100,000. This may seem aggressive, but this increase of \$30,000 could be attained by an increase of only four percent a year in weekly contributions by existing members over the level of 2004. Of course, we also hope to continue to increase our membership, as we have done each year of our parish's existence. We will be counting on our new priest to work with us to achieve this, and other financial goals of our parish.

My gratitude and appreciation to those who attended the assembly, voted, and thus expressed their confidence in the future of our parish. I share your confidence and trust it will, with God's help, be justified.

During this interim period, for matters of non-emergency pastoral care, such as memorial services, hospital visits, and the like, contact Protodeacon Peter, by email at dnpeter22@yahoo.com, or phone at 703-938-0280. If you are unable to reach him, contact either me (stmaryprez@aol.com; 703-875-3090) or Chris Thomas

(thomasonline@earthlink.net; 703-978-6330). As I am writing this we do not have the name of a priest to contact in event of emergencies, but I anticipate we will shortly, and I will inform you as soon as I know.

Lori Jacobson, layout editor of the monthly newsletter, will be assuming the copy editing responsibilities as well. Email her at lori.herold@verizon.net with articles or news. I will prepare the weekly bulletin in the interim period until our new pastor arrives.

I remind you that we will be honoring Father Alexander's 17 years of service to St. Mary's at a lunch at St. Philip's Roman Catholic Church after Liturgy on Sunday, July 10. A sign up sheet for side dishes, drinks, and so on is in the Fellowship Hall. Members of the Ladies Guild will make preparations at St. Mary's on Saturday, July 9; contact Elaine Papp (email seashine@cox.net) to help. We also need people to set up the hall on Sunday morning at 8:00 am; see me (or I will see you!) This is the last opportunity we will have to see Father Alexander for some time, and I know you all will want to attend and make this occasion a memorable one.

A fellow council member recently kidded me that God must have chosen me as Council President during this time "for my sins" – if so, I suppose I should be grateful that I got off so lightly! Though I suspect I would have refused the council presidency back in February could I have foreseen the events of the past few months, still I feel that we have a real opportunity for renewal and recommitment in our parish. A new priest, a new, permanent choir director, an extensive iconography project that is getting underway (see the related article in this newsletter) – these are exciting times! And great gifts are coming to our parish. For sure, things will be unsettled for awhile, and we will all of us have to depend on each other to a great extent these next few months of transition – but that, itself, is yet another gift.

Finally, to paraphrase Robert Service, "Thanks delayed is a debt unpaid". I would like to thank the members of the St. Juliana Ladies' Guild for their very thoughtful gift of a camellia bush on the occasion of my mother's death in March. It was some comfort to see it in front of the iconostasis during Holy Week, and to see it and tend it now in my garden.

Jeff Beranek
Parish Council President

Highlights of June 9th Parish Council Meeting

- Called to order at 7:39 pm; adjourned at 10:12 pm. Present were Fr. Alexander Webster [ex officio], Protodeacon Peter Danilchick [ex officio], Jeff Beranek, Anna Caraveli, Perry Cherpes, Joe Cox, Nick Dujmovic, Marie Ficken, Jon Jacobson, Stephanie Kozemchak, Joe Kumbera, Nicholas Masick, Elaine Papp, Kristin Parkinson, Marshall Standifer, Chris Thomas and Sarah Zimmerli. Steve Miroy and Winston Miroy were also present.
- Joe Cox explained that we are approximately \$4,000 YTD off pace for weekly contributions, compared to last year. Moreover, the many recent repairs to both rental properties and the church have caused us to spend more than we budgeted for building maintenance. He also continues to investigate the possible tax liability on the parish rental properties.
- Sarah Zimmerli detailed estimates on additional repairs to the rental properties. The council voted to authorize funds not to exceed \$11,000 to perform these repairs.
- Fr. Alexander discussed the arrangements he has made for his departure. Fr. Patrick Viscuso will serve on July 3 and 17. Fr. Joseph Woodill will serve on July 10, 24, and 31. Fr Joseph may also be available beyond the end of July. Fr. Alexander's pastoral duties in our parish end on June 12.
- Council voted to donate \$600 to the OCMC "Support a Mission Priest" program – this amount pays the expenses of a priest for one year. Council also voted to disperse \$1,000 to both the Lindermans and the Goodwins missions in Albania and Romania, respectively.
- The Parish Council donated dogwood trees to be planted on the church grounds, in honor of Protodeacon Peter's 30 years in the Deaconate, and Fr. Alexander's 17 years of service to the parish. Elaine Papp presented certificates to Fr Alexander and Protodeacon Peter.
- Ryan Graham was accepted as a new member, pending his chrismation on June 12.
- The special assembly will be on June 26. The only item of discussion will be the remuneration package to be offered to the new priest.
- Council discussed the details of the farewell dinner for Fr Alexander. Dinner will be on July 10.

Balance Sheet Through June 9, 2005

	<u>Jan 01 - Jun 09</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Operating Income/Expense					
Operating Income					
Candles	2,835.77	5,400.00	-2,564.23	52.51%	
Bookstore Income	841.30	750.00	91.30	112.17%	
Miscellaneous Income	633.00	0.00	633.00	100.0%	
Special Donations	500.00	1,500.00	-1,000.00	33.33%	A
Rental Income--House	15,050.00	33,000.00	-17,950.00	45.61%	B
Weekly Contributions	63,606.50	155,000.00	-91,393.50	41.04%	C
Total Operating Income	<u>83,466.57</u>	<u>195,650.00</u>	<u>-112,183.43</u>	<u>42.66%</u>	
Operating Expense					
Advertising	2,102.34	3,800.00	-1,697.66	55.33%	
Bookstore Expense (Inventory)	724.17	250.00	474.17	289.67%	
Buildings & Grounds Maintenance	2,158.76	20,000.00	-17,841.24	10.79%	
Choir	3,653.61	10,000.00	-6,346.39	36.54%	D
Church School	150.99	1,500.00	-1,349.01	10.07%	
Church Supplies	1,195.30	2,600.00	-1,404.70	45.97%	
Computer/Office Equipment	0.00	500.00	-500.00	0.0%	
Diocese Travel	0.00	1,500.00	-1,500.00	0.0%	
Humanitarian Aid	1,200.00	5,000.00	-3,800.00	24.0%	E
Insurance	2,952.84	6,400.00	-3,447.16	46.14%	
Miscellaneous Expense	1,689.92	1,355.00	334.92	124.72%	F
Mortgage	17,201.50	41,745.00	-24,543.50	41.21%	
Office Supplies	220.45	700.00	-479.55	31.49%	
Orthodox Summer Camp	0.00	1,000.00	-1,000.00	0.0%	
Postage	371.50	1,300.00	-928.50	28.58%	
Priest Compensation	29,166.65	70,000.00	-40,833.35	41.67%	
Printing/Copying	904.78	1,600.00	-695.22	56.55%	
Rental House Maintenance	8,788.94	5,000.00	3,788.94	175.78%	G
ROEA Assessments	12,210.00	11,880.00	330.00	102.78%	H
Telecommunications	1,159.16	2,500.00	-1,340.84	46.37%	
Utilities	3,504.21	6,500.00	-2,995.79	53.91%	
Visiting/Substitute Priest	0.00	800.00	-800.00	0.0%	
Youth Group Activities Expense	0.00	1,000.00	-1,000.00	0.0%	
Total Operating Expense	<u>89,355.12</u>	<u>196,930.00</u>	<u>-107,574.88</u>	<u>45.37%</u>	
Net Operating Income	<u>-5,888.55</u>	<u>-1,280.00</u>	<u>-4,608.55</u>	<u>460.04%</u>	
Other Income/Expense					
Other Income					
Donations to Building/Beautification Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	
Donations for Purchase of Liturgical Items	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	100.0%	I
Donations for Humanitarian Purposes	1,986.55	0.00	1,986.55	100.0%	J, M
Donations for Purchase of Property	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	
Donations for Other Restricted Purposes	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	
Interest Earned	609.10	1,280.00	-670.90	47.59%	
Total Other Income	<u>3,595.65</u>	<u>1,280.00</u>	<u>2,315.65</u>	<u>280.91%</u>	
Other Expense					
Disbursement of Beautification Donations	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	
Disbursement of Humanitarian Donations	2,126.55	0.00	2,126.55	100.0%	K, M
Disbursement of Other Restricted Donations	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	
Paydown of Mortgage	6,738.17	0.00	6,738.17	100.0%	L
Total Other Expense	<u>8,864.72</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>8,864.72</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	
Net Other Income	<u>-5,269.07</u>	<u>1,280.00</u>	<u>-6,549.07</u>	<u>-411.65%</u>	
Net Income	<u>-11,157.62</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>-11,157.62</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	

NOTES on Mid-Year Budget Report

Prepared by Treasurer Joseph Cox

- A. The \$500 figure is comprised of \$250 contributed toward Archbishop Nathaniel's rescheduled visit and \$250 contributed toward the purchase of parish computer hardware/software.
- B. The rental income includes \$1,300 for December 2004 rent that was not paid to the parish until January 2005.
- C. Weekly contributions are off by approximately \$4,000 over where we were last year at this same time.
- D. Of this amount, \$503.61 represents airfare paid for the two candidates interviewed by the parish. The remainder, \$3,150, represents amounts paid to John McKay for his services as interim choir director.
- E. This represents a \$100 contribution, voted at the February 2005, parish council meeting, to the Orthodox Brotherhood U.S.A.; a \$100 contribution, voted at the March 2005, parish council meeting, to the Monastery of St. Tikhon of Zadonsk; and a \$1,000 contribution, voted at the April 2005 parish council meeting, to the Archbishop's Charitable Endowment Fund.
- F. The miscellaneous amounts are inflated due to two commemorative gifts purchased by the church (\$350) and the rental of the hall at St. Katherine's for the Archbishop's visit (\$500).
- G. The amounts spent to date are related to water damage cleanup at the Roosevelt Avenue property, as well as roofing and electrical repair work at both properties. As can be seen, we have already expended our entire budget for the year; at this point in the year, on an annualized basis, we should have incurred only a little over \$2,000 in expenses. This is the primary cause of our current operating shortfall, though the fact that our weekly income is slightly depressed (see Note C) and our miscellaneous expenses have topped out so early in the year (see Note F) has also contributed to it.
- H. Of this amount, \$150 is for dues for Delegates to the Episcopate Congress. The remainder, \$12,060, is our annual assessment (calculated based on our official membership of 201 at \$60 apiece).
- I. This amount was donated for the purchase of a liturgical item, to be determined by Father Alexander.
- J. This figure represents humanitarian donations made in response to charitable appeals and that were made in the form of either checks made out to the parish or cash. The figure is composed of \$302.85 contributed toward the IOCC Souper Bowl, \$402 toward the OCA Mission Appeal, \$244.70 toward the OCMC Coin Box Drive, and \$1,037 toward ROEA Flood Relief for Romania.
- K. This represents the disbursement of collections discussed in Note I as well as \$140 in donations made to The Reading Connection in FY 2003 and 2004, but that were never disbursed.
- L. This figure represents the pay down of our two mortgages using the surplus of \$6,738.17 from FY 2004, as voted by the parish assembly on January 30, 2005.
- M. Neither of these figures include donations made by parishioners, in response to charitable appeals, in the form of checks made out directly to the benefiting humanitarian organization. Such checks amounted to \$390 (\$235 toward the IOCC Souper Bowl, \$135 toward the OCA Mission Appeal, and \$25 toward the OCMC Coin Box Drive).

From Idea to Reality: Our Iconography Project Now Ready to Launch

Before leaving his post as St. Mary's pastor, Father Alexander made sure that he shepherded the cherished vision of our church adorned with icons to its take-off point. Having obtained, just this past week-end, firm pledges exceeding the \$18,500 needed to begin the first phase, we are now ready to complete contractual agreements with the iconographers and get the project underway.

During his visit to our parish last April, His Eminence Archbishop Nathaniel requested several adjustments to the project plan we submitted to him. The iconography committee and parish council have worked diligently since that time to comply with His Eminence's requests.

Reflecting these adjustments, there will now be:

- o 12 icons of the Great Feasts and the Crucifixion
- o 26 icons of Church Fathers and standing saints
- o 38 arched icons of individual saints
- o 6 monumental scale icons for the *Exonarthex*
- o One icon (Christ *Pantokrator*) on the ceiling of the nave
- o In the prayer corner and *kiot* will be Christ the Teacher flanked by the four Evangelists.



Many parishioners contributed to the final list of the 38 arched icons that has been sent to the Archbishop. These individuals have promised, or expressed strong interest in, sponsorship of the icons they selected.

Can you believe it? In spite of the many difficult transitions in our parish this past year, we have succeeded in translating an ambitious and complex idea into action.

We are deeply grateful to those who have made formal or informal pledges. They are the pioneers who broke new ground and put their faith in the future of our parish, paving the way for the rest of us.

We owe Father Alexander a deep debt of gratitude for guiding the planning, and making sure that the big idea could become reality as his last pastoral action before he left.

Stay tuned for the kick-off event and other news!

--Anna Caraveli, Chair of the Iconography Committee

Summer Institute of Iconography

The classes listed below will be held at St. Mary's church. Please support our guild. Part of the class tuition goes to St. Mary's. The forms for classes are in the Fellowship Hall. See other classes that are offered too. For more information, see or contact Nadine Thola at 703-660-6782 or Inkspots@cox.net.

SI0503	Kids Metal/Scratchboard Icon	Kalvesmaki/Thola	July 23, 10:00-noon	Ages 6 and up
SI0505	Glass Icon: Theotokos or St. Nicholas	Thola	Aug 6, 1:00-6:00	Ages 8 and up
SI0510	Fabric Icons: St. Katherine & Guardian Angel	Danilchick/Thola	Aug 12, 1:00-4:00	Ages 8 and up
	<i>There are 2 fabric projects: one outline and one cross-stitch/needlepoint. Please specify cross-stitch or needlepoint. For more info or to request a kit, contact Nadine Thola: (703) 660-6782 / Inkspots@cox.net</i>			
SI0508	Pysanki Eggs	Thola/Manley	Aug 23, 10:00-1:00	Ages Teen to Adult

Ladies Guild Rummage Sale

The Saint Juliana's Ladies Guild Rummage Sale was a win-win!! Everyone was a winner!

- the women of the church lost weight from the heat of the day, built muscles from the heavy lifting, got first crack at the terrific yard sale items and had a great time -- lots of laughs, fellowship;
- our customers got fabulous bargains;
- the parishioners cleaned out their houses, got rid of their trash and gave "other men treasures";
- the church will receive \$1295.75 for the icon project;
- other charities received our leftover goods;
- our youth group made a little bit of money selling pastries and coffee and had another opportunity to build fellowship and bonds.

Such
a Deal!!

Tanya Danilchick, Jeff Beranek and Lori Jacobson packed up their cars and carted the goods off to a variety of organizations, such as Goodwill, the Lupus Foundation and St. Cosmos and Damian Adult Home, run by the OCA on Staten Island. This last organization will receive the adult clothes. They are always in need of clothes, linens, and towels, and sheets for twin sized beds. Children's books went to the Reach Out and Read Program, a national program with a chapter at INOVA. The organization promotes reading by giving out free books to children when they come in to the clinic for their checkups. They always need gently used children's books. Tanya is willing to take donations of books for this organization at any time. The other books were donated to the Arlington Presbyterian Church for their August Book sale to benefit the homeless.

As President of the Ladies' Guild I want to thank all of the parishioners who donated wonderful items, so wonderful, in fact, that I spent \$70.00! I extend my gratitude and heartfelt thanks Sarah Zimmerli. The yeoman's share of the work fell to her! She worked tirelessly for many hours the week before the rummage sale the day of it and the next day cleaning up. Also, much gratitude to all those who volunteered their time to sort, price, sell and clean up, including Eva Beranek, Martha and George Codrea, Tanya and Deacon Peter Danilchick, Elaine Devine, Barbara Koltos, Lori Jacobson, Lisa Jones, Liseanne Migyanko, Kristen Parkinson, Carolyn Pritchuk, Lisa Robertson, Chris, Marilyn and Eleni Thomas, Kathleen Webster, Rada

Nikolic, and Greg Zimmerli. In addition, the Youth Group members helped us so much. They sold pastries, cookies and coffee and also carted items, helped with sales and were just all around guys and girls Friday! Thanks to Phillip, Ginger and Winston Miroy, Heathryn Berry, John Thomas and all the members of the Youth Group.

I extend my appreciation to all. It is truly delightful to be the president of an organization whose members work so well together, work so hard and accomplish so much while having fun. Women of the church - consider becoming active in your organization. It is a valuable experience! *-Elaine Papp*

Miracle Luminary

I thought that I would share with you a miracle our group experienced the night of the American Cancer Society Relay. St. Mary's Orthodox Youth Group collected money for luminaries at our church. Only one bag was paid for by our Sunday School Principal, Mrs. Stacy Gullette. Stacy found a lump on her breast 4 years ago and was diagnosed with cancer. She has fought hard through many surgeries, chemotherapy and many of the side effects of having cancer.

Sunday morning of the Relay one of our group, Heathryn Berry, decided to pick up all the luminaries associated with our group. She came back with a handful of bags and called me over. "Miss Kathy, I have something to show you." I went over and she showed me three bags for Stacy Gullette and in one, the candle was still burning! I was impressed, what with the rain and wind of the previous night.

Now, I thought that was miracle enough. However, the real meaning of the bag was yet to come. While we were out walking the track, Stacy was home experiencing a mini-stroke that was caused by an effect of the cancer drug. That morning when I saw her at church a group of us told her about the bag. Tears came to her eyes and she told us that she really needed a miracle right when it came. Glory be to God! *-Kathy Miroy*



Parishioner Updates

- **Ryan Graham** was chrismated on June 12. His sponsor was **Eugene Huang**. Welcome, and Many Years!
- **Jack and Elaine Devine** welcome their new grandson, Spencer Gene who arrived on May 25 weighing 6 lbs., 9 oz. and 21 inches long. Carter is delighted with his new brother.
- **Kaitlyn Campbell** completed all the requirements for the St George's Medal through Girl Scouts. Her brother **Tommy** played in the All Star Soccer Tournament this past weekend. His team won 3 of the 4 games.
- **John Migyanko** earned the Chi-Rho Medal, a Boy Scout's religious award earned by Orthodox Christians. Father Alexander presented the award to John on June 12th. Also, John was named to the Principal's Honor Roll at Greenbriar East Elementary School. This honor goes to those students who earn all "A's" for their final grades of the year. John was one of only a handful of 5th graders who attained this level of academic achievement.
- **Daniel, Sarah, and Rachel Jacobson** were in the news, quite literally, with an article and photo in the Style section of the Washington Post on June 15th when they discovered a cicada that missed last year's swarm. To find the article on-line, type "Daniel Jacobson cicada" in www.google.com.
- **Tatyana Preiser** is looking for a job opportunity and would appreciate any referrals, ideas, or suggestions. She is an experienced technical translator and interpreter in the Russian-English pair of languages with recent experience in the aerospace, telecommunications, and missile defense areas. Contact her at 858-531-0331, or by email at tlpreiser@earthlink.net.

Anything interesting, exciting, or noteworthy happening in your life or your family's that you would like to share? Send an email to Lori Jacobson at lori.herold@verizon.net.

July Birthdays

- 1 Anna Caravelli
- 6 Sarah Zimmerli
- 6 Protodeacon Peter Danilchick
- 9 Stacy Gullette
- 10 Arthur Cherpes
- 15 Colleen Webster
- 18 Beverly Webster Denny
- 20 Nina Campbell
- 26 Alexander Beranek
- 27 Elizabeth Chaves
- 28 Viorel Poplacean
- 29 Stephanie Kozemchak
- 29 Daniel Athanasaw Jr.

July Anniversaries

- 1 Daniel & Yvonne Athanasaw
- 4 Nina & Chuck Campbell
- 13 Protodeacon Peter & Dsa. Tanya Danilchick
- 15 Asihel Betsuamlak & Mana Mussi
- 20 Mike & Stacy Gullette
- 24 David & Gemma Phelps
- 26 Stephanie Kozemchak
- 28 John & Janice Ivivic

July Saint's Name Days

- 5 St Elizabeth the New Martyr: Lisanne Migyanko
- 22 Holy Myrrhbearer and Equal of the Apostles Mary Magdalene: Rachel Marie Jacobson

RESULTS: FAST FREE FRIDAY POKER GAME

"Card Shark" Ransom Berry: 263
Heathryn "Bluff 'Em" Berry: 212
George "The Gambler" Woglom: 99
"Baccarat" Betsy Berry: 91
"Loaded with Loot" Lori Jacobson: 72
Gwyneth "The Rookie" Berry: 57
Jonathan & Daniel "Hard Knocks" Jacobson: 0

Trees to Honor the Clergy



At the Parish Council meeting on June 9, the Parish Council presented Protodeacon Peter and Father Alexander certificates of appreciation noting that dogwood trees (one white, one red) would be planted in the church yard in their honor. The trees were planted at the northwest corner of the church lot, and blessed by Fr Alexander after the Liturgy on June 19th.

One tree was planted in honor of Protodeacon Peter's 30 years of service to the Orthodox Church. His certificate read:

In appreciation of 30 years of love and service to the Eastern Orthodox Church. May the beauty of the dogwood tree planted in your honor shine in our church yard as the beauty of your faith has shown worldwide.

The other tree was planted in honor of Father Alexander's 17 years of service to Saint Mary's. His certificate read:

In appreciation of 17 years of dedicated service to the Protection of the Holy Mother of God Parish. May the branches of the dogwood tree planted in your honor grow and blossom the way our parish has flourished under your guidance.

We wish both of them Many Years!

The Military Wife ***(author unknown)***

The Good Lord was creating a military spouse. He was into his sixth day of overtime. An angel appeared and asked, "You're having a lot of trouble with this one. What's wrong with the standard model?"

The Lord replied, "Have you seen the regulations? It has to be completely independent, but must be sponsored to get on base, have the qualities of both parents during deployments, be a perfect hostess to 4 or 40, handle emergencies without military orders, cope with the flu and move around the world; have affection that cures anything from a child's torn valentine to a spouse's weary day; have the patience of a saint when waiting for the unit to return stateside; and have six pairs of hands.

"Besides, it's not the hands that are causing the problems, it's the heart. It must swell with pride, sustain the ache of separations, beat on soundly when it is too tired to do so, and be large enough to say, 'I understand,' when it doesn't; and say 'I love you,' regardless.

"I'm close to creating something unique," said the Lord. "Already, I have one who can heal itself when sick, feed unexpected guests who are stuck in the area due to bad weather, and wave good-bye to its spouse from the pier or runway and understands it's important to the country that the spouse must leave."

The angel circled the model. "It's too soft," she sighed. "But," cried the Lord excitedly, "You cannot imagine what this being can do or endure."

"Can it think?" asked the angel. "Can it think!" exclaimed the Lord. "Why it can convert 1400 hours to 2 p.m."

Finally, the angel bent over and ran her finger across the cheek. "There's a leak," she pronounced.

"It's not a leak," says the Lord. "It's a tear. It's for joy, sadness, pain, loneliness, and pride."

Can We Tithe?

Can we tithe? I hear this from many Christians in my circle of friends. My answer is always an affirmative yes. Tithing was not always easy



for me. In fact, a close friend had to point out what tithing was and why I should be doing it. I have found through the years that you truly cannot out-give God. When I was a student I worked three jobs to make ends meet, and still gave. It hurt. One day God really showed me that He would take care of me when I gave Him the money He was due. I got a bill from the bursar at my college for \$500. Something I could not afford to pay, but I offered it up to the Lord saying, "God you will have to take care of this one for me!" He was faithful. One week later the college wrote again and said that there had been extra grant money that had been applied to my account and I had an extra \$20 in my account. Then and there I knew that no matter how bad things would be I would always tithe. Now if only I could control my temper!
-Anonymous



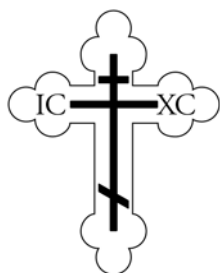
POTLUCK LUNCHEON TO HONOR FATHER ALEXANDER & PSA. KATHLEEN WEBSTER
Sunday, July 10Pth, immediately following Divine Liturgy

At St. Philip's Catholic Church, 7500 Saint Philips Ct, Falls Church, VA 22042. Directions from St Mary: South on Graham Rd across Route 50; right on Camp Alger Road, right on St. Philips Court.



Please join us in celebrating Father Alexander and Psa. Kathleen Webster's seventeen years of service to the Protection of the Holy Mother of God Orthodox Church parish. The luncheon is potluck, and we appreciate everyone's contribution. Sign up to bring a side dish, drink, or dessert on the sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall. Members of the Ladies' Guild will make preparations at St. Mary's on Saturday, July 9; contact Elaine Papp (e-mail seashine@cox.net or 703-893-3136) to help. We also need people to volunteer to set up the hall on Sunday morning at 8:00 am; contact Jeff Beranek (703-875-3090) for more information. We hope all will attend!

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