



# CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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## BULLETIN OF DECEMBER 4, 2011

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup>**  
**25<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost**  
**St. Alexander Hotovitsky**  
 8:40a.m. Hours  
 9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy  
 Coffee Hour

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>**  
**St. Nicholas the Wonderworker**  
 9:00a.m. Molieben

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>**  
 5:00p.m. Bible Study  
 6:00p.m. Great Vespers

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>**  
**26<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost**  
 8:40a.m. Hours  
 9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy  
 Coffee Hour

<p><b>READER SCHEDULE</b></p> <p><b>Sunday, Dec. 11<sup>th</sup></b>          Gabriela Jones</p> <p><b>Sunday, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup></b>          Jodi McElwee</p>	
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*O Everlasting King, Thy will for our salvation is full of power. Thy right arm controls the whole course of human life. We give Thee thanks for all Thy mercies, seen and unseen. For eternal life, for the heavenly Joys of the Kingdom which is to be. Grant mercy to us who sing Thy praise, both now and in the time to come. Glory to Thee, O God, from age to age!*

- Akathist of Thanksgiving

### Welcome Visitors

We warmly welcome all those who are visiting us today. It is good to have you all with us!

### Blessing of New Church Property

This past Friday, we closed on our new church property, located at 10315 Carey Road, Berlin, MD 21811! Today, following the coffee hour, we will have a blessing of the new parish center. Directions are available in the back of the church. Everyone is invited to attend!



### St. Nicholas Day

On Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am we will have a molieben in honor of the Saint, and then on Sunday, Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> we will have a special church school focusing on St. Nicholas.

### Repose of Melvin Nicholas Woodell

On Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> we prayerfully remember Melvin Nicholas Woodell, we departed one year ago. May his memory be eternal!

### Two New Matching Donations!

\$5,000 will be donated to the "Building Fund" if by 12/15/11, this amount can be raised by Friends of the Mission, not residing locally.

\$5,000 will be donated to the "Building Fund" if by December 15, 2011, this amount can be raised by Local Members of the Mission.

### Prayer Lists

If you would like to submit names for our prayer lists: either in the bulletin, the litanies during the service, the commemoration in the Divine Liturgy, or private prayers, please speak with Fr. John. Also, if you have already submitted names, please be sure to follow-up, letting Fr. John know when that person should be removed from the list. Thank you!



### Your Input is Requested

Please consider the following and let Fr. John know how you feel about the proposed schedule:

### Proposed schedule of services for Christmas

Saturday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>, 11:00pm – 1:15am:

- o Midnight Service (Matins / Divine Liturgy)

Sunday, Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>, 12:00 noon:

- o Vespers

**Prayer List:** Fr. Michael Mihalick, Fr. Alexander Atty, Fr. Christian, Mat. Dunia, Kelly Elizabeth & child, Bill Parrish, Fazealle, Hayley, Tyler Pelesh, Jerrie Rife, Wallace & Michelle, Ryan & Kayla, Maleah Morsey, Victoria Kokkinos, Ed Tucker, Karen Nichols, Denise Royal, Simeon, Scott & Maryann, Roman Szwec, Garrett Cuppels, Jane Koshutko, Nicholas & Linda, Nina Gordon, Mirela & Chris, Troy Duker, Mary Miranda, Bruce, Stella, Lilly Barnett, Amy F., Nedelina, Henrietta Stack, & John Nakajima (departed)

OPERATING THRU 10/31/11			NOVEMBER OPERATING			BUILDING FUND MATCHING DONATIONS		
Income	Expense	Net	Income	Expense	Difference	20K (Everyone)	5K (Parish)	5K (Friends)
46,671	58,414	-11,743	3,743	4,160	-417	20,000!	1,106	11,895!



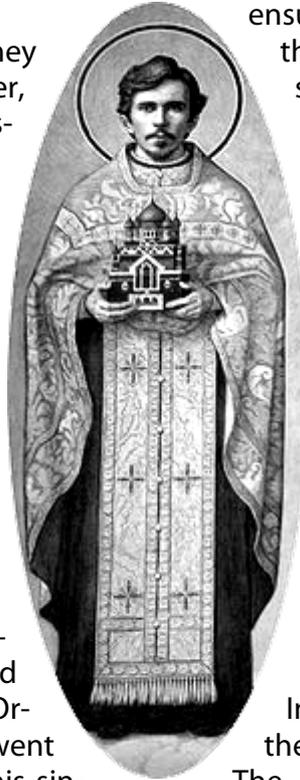
**THE LIFE OF ST. ALEXANDER HOTOVITSKY**  
*Celebrated December 4<sup>th</sup> / From Antiochian.org*



Alexander Alexandrovich Hotovitsky was born on February 11, 1872, in Kremenetz, Russia, the son of a priest. He attended the Volynia Theological Seminary, which his father headed, and went on for graduate studies at the St. Petersburg Theological Academy. Upon graduation in 1895, he applied for a position with the North American mission and was accepted. He accompanied Bishop Nicholas to America that year.

In America, Alexander met Maria, and they were married the next year. A month later, Alexander was ordained a priest and assigned to the newly founded St. Nicholas parish in New York City, which was to become the Russian Orthodox Cathedral in Manhattan. At first, the parish rented a house: services were conducted on the first floor and Father Alexander's family lived on the second level. In 1901, Father Alexander traveled to Russia to raise funds to build the cathedral. St. Tikhon consecrated the magnificent, new cathedral on East 97th Street the very next year.

Father Alexander traveled up and down the east coast and Canada, as well, helping to establish new parishes. He worked also to bring the Uniates back into the Orthodox Communion. Everywhere he went people flocked to hear him speak, for his sincerity and conviction clearly shone through. He published the American Orthodox Messenger in English and Russian; and he assisted his friend, Bp. Raphael, in publishing The Word in Arabic.



From 1914 to 1917, Father Alexander served as a priest in Helsinki, Finland. He returned to Russia in 1917 and participated in the All-Russian Church Council of 1917-18, where he was a major proponent of the reestablishment of the Moscow Patriarchate. He thereafter served as a close advisor to the sainted Patriarch Tikhon.

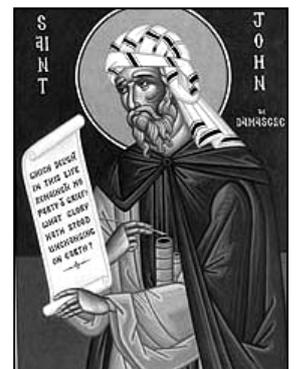
Fr. Alexander served in a number of parishes in the ensuing years, including at the famous Cathedral of Christ the Savior in Moscow. He spoke boldly, encouraging his flock, ravaged by the terrors of the Bolsheviks, to stand firm in the Faith and to protect the churches. He helped the needy and fed the starving. Because he was a leader and organizer, the communists made Fr. Alexander one of their chief targets. They exiled him to concentration camps numerous times for his pastoral activities, for refusing to surrender the sacred vessels to be melted down, and, especially, for disobeying the law by teaching children and holding church school classes. He disappeared following his final arrest, in 1937, suffering as a martyr for the Christian Faith at the hands of the Soviets.

In 1994, the bicentennial of the arrival of the first Orthodox missionaries to America, The Orthodox Church in America and the Church of Russia canonized Father Alexander jointly. He was glorified as the "New Hieromartyr of Russia and Missionary to America." His feast day is commemorated on December 4.

**ST. JOHN OF DAMASCUS**

*From the Prologue of Ochrid / Celebrated December 4<sup>th</sup>*

John was first the chief minister to Caliph Abdul-Malik and later a monk in the Monastery of St. Sava the Sanctified. Because of his ardent defense of the veneration of icons during the reign of the iconoclastic Emperor Leo the Isaurian, John was maligned by the emperor to the Caliph, who cut off his right hand. John fell down in prayer before the icon of the Most-holy Theotokos, and his hand was rejoined and miraculously healed. Seeing this miracle the Caliph repented, but John no longer desired to remain with him as a nobleman. Instead, he withdrew to a monastery, where, from the beginning, he was a model to the monks in humility, obedience and all the prescribed rules of monastic asceticism. John composed the Funeral Hymns and compiled the Octoechos (The Book of Eight Tones), the Irmologion, the Menologion and the Paschal Canon, and he wrote many theological works of inspiration and profundity. A great monk, hymnographer, theologian and soldier for the truth of Christ, Damascene is numbered among the great Fathers of the Church. He entered peacefully into rest in about the year 776 at the age of 104.



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## STOLEN HOLY GOSPEL BOOK RETURNED

From buffalonews.com / By Michelle Kearns

The Rev. Volodymyr Zablotskyy had given up on getting back a stolen Holy Gospel book, with saint portraits embedded on its red velvet cover, treasured by the members of SS. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church, but a stranger handed it to a stunned parishioner as he walked the Lovejoy neighborhood over the weekend.

"To me it was very emotional," said Zablotskyy, the acting rector of the church who got the book back on Saturday and read from its pages during today's service at the Ideal Street church. "I can't express how happy I am to have it back. It was the best news I have received in the last few weeks."

He noticed the ornate Holy Gospel book was missing about two weeks ago. He glanced over just before hearing confessions one Sunday and its stand by the altar was empty. Copper thieves have been suspected because two days before the book came up missing, about \$5,000 to \$6,000 worth of metal was stolen from the roof.

The congregation offered a \$1,000 reward for the book's return, but the man who gave it to church member Steven Camp is still a stranger. That stranger knew Camp was a parishioner, and told him, "I need to do the right thing," handed over the book, and walked away.

It was about 8 p.m. Saturday when a stunned Camp went directly to the rectory next to the church where Zablotskyy lives.

"He said, 'Father you couldn't believe what happened' and he handed me the Gospel and began to tell the story," said Zablotskyy.

The priest isn't focused on finding the thief. "We don't even have a name to give it to the police." Instead, he has been delighted that the holy book with its connection to past congregations is back where it belongs.

"The person who did turn the Gospel in, evidently had some change of heart," said Zablotskyy, a native of Ukraine. "I asked my congregation today to pray for him because that might be the

beginning of work that God needs to do in his heart."

SS. Peter and Paul was founded by Russian and Austro-Hungarian immigrants in 1894. During the Great Depression, the congregation replaced its small wooden church with the current yellow brick church and domed roof in terra cotta and copper.

The book — Gospels by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John — dates at least to the church's 1933 opening, said Zablotskyy, who moved here from New Jersey in August to take over as acting rector.

In the Orthodox church, it is traditional to read from the Gospels for occasions such as weddings, baptisms and confessions. The words in Old Church Slavonic — similar to Latin — are old-fashioned, yet speakers of Slavic languages, such as Russian and Ukrainian, can understand it.



Zablotskyy read a passage this Sunday about the hand of Jesus healing a woman. He added how a hand seemed to have touched the man who returned the book.

The congregation that once numbered 700 has dwindled to about 30. They are a mix of new immigrants from Russia

and Eastern Europe and those who have lived longer in the Buffalo area. Some grew up in the Orthodox tradition. Some are new to it.

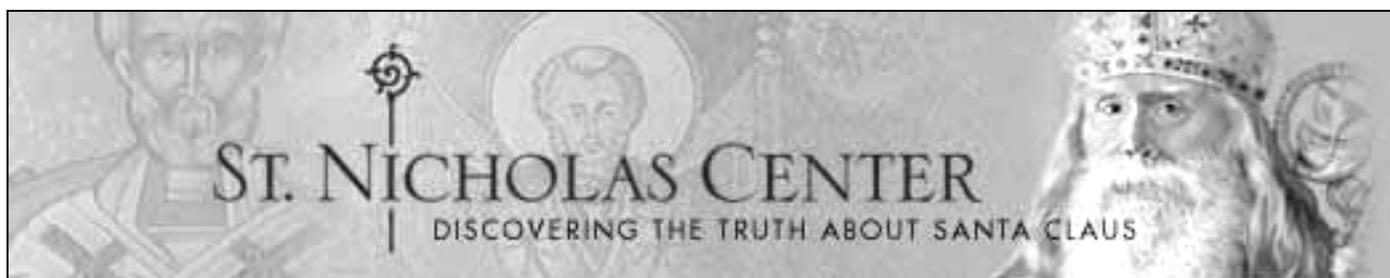
In a welcome turn, the public attention on the missing Gospels and copper seems to be a help to the small, low-key church that some in the neighborhood have told Zablotskyy they thought was closed.

After the return of the Gospels, he went to bed praying that the copper find its way home, too.

Instead, people have been turning up — about 10 he's never seen before at services. Others have been calling to offer financial and moral support.

"I learned my lesson not to give up hope," he said. "I'm very optimistic about the future. ... Generally, when the tragedy like that strikes, people tend bind together."

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## WHO IS ST. NICHOLAS?

From *The St. Nicholas Center*, [stnicholascenter.org](http://stnicholascenter.org)

The true story of Santa Claus begins with Nicholas, who was born during the third century in the village of Patara. At the time the area was Greek and is now on the southern coast of Turkey. His wealthy parents, who raised him to be a devout Christian, died in an epidemic while Nicholas was still young. Obeying Jesus' words to "sell what you own and give the money to the poor," Nicholas used his whole inheritance to assist the needy, the sick, and the suffering. He dedicated his life to serving God and was made Bishop of Myra while still a young man. Bishop Nicholas became known throughout the land for his generosity to those in need, his love for children, and his concern for sailors and ships.

Under the Roman Emperor Diocletian, who ruthlessly persecuted Christians, Bishop Nicholas suffered for his faith, was exiled and imprisoned. The prisons were so full of bishops, priests, and deacons, there was no room for the real criminals—murderers, thieves and robbers. After his release, Nicholas attended the Council of Nicaea in AD 325. He died December 6, AD 343 in Myra and was buried in his cathedral church, where a unique relic, called manna, formed in his grave. This liquid substance, said to have healing powers, fostered the growth of devotion to Nicholas. The anniversary of his death became a day of celebration, St. Nicholas Day, December 6th (December 19 on the Julian Calendar).

Through the centuries many stories and legends have been told of St. Nicholas' life and deeds. These accounts help us understand his extraordinary character and why he is so beloved and revered as protector and helper of those in need.

One story tells of a poor man with three daughters. In those days a young woman's father had to offer prospective husbands something of value—a dowry. The larger the dowry, the better the chance that a young woman would find a good husband. Without a dowry, a woman was unlikely to marry. This poor man's daughters, without dowries, were therefore destined to be sold into slavery. Mysteriously, on three different occasions, a bag of gold appeared in their home—providing the needed dowries. The bags of gold, tossed through an open window, are said to have landed in stockings or shoes left before the fire to dry. This led to the custom of children hanging stockings or putting out shoes, eagerly awaiting gifts from Saint Nicholas. Sometimes the story is told with gold balls instead of bags of gold. That is why three gold balls, sometimes represented as oranges, are one of the symbols for St. Nicholas. And so St. Nicholas is a gift-giver.

Through the centuries St. Nicholas has continued to be venerated by Catholics and Orthodox and honored by Protestants. By his example of generosity to those in need, especially children, St. Nicholas continues to be a model for the compassionate life.

### DECEMBER CONGRATULATIONS!

#### Birthdays:

12/2	Isabella Georgiana Milite
12/4	Karen Nichols
12/6	Camelia Milite
12/6	Gabriela Vlahovici-Jones
12/11	Darrell Wilson
12/12	Alexander Parsells
12/29	Fr. Daniel Hubiak

#### Namesdays:

12/4	<i>St. Alexander Hotovitsky</i> Alexander Parsells
12/5	<i>St. Sava the Sanctified</i> Sava Cook
12/6	<i>St. Nicholas</i> Nicholas Evanusa Nicolae Vezeteu
12/17	<i>Prophet Daniel</i> Fr. Daniel Hubiak <i>St. Jacob the Patriarch</i> Jacob McFarland <i>St. Deborah</i> Deborah Royal
12/20	<i>St. Ignatius of Antioch</i> Oscar Ignatius Hageman
12/24	<i>St. Eugenia</i> Jane Koshutko
12/27	<i>St. Stephen</i> Bill Parrish Steven Parrish