



# CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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## BULLETIN OF DECEMBER 16, 2012

### Archpastoral Visit of Metropolitan Tikhon – December 29-30

We are very pleased to welcome His Beatitude, Met. Tikhon, for his first visit to our mission on Saturday and Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. There will be a meeting of the parish council following the coffee hour next Sunday to discuss the preparations. Choir practice will also be held today as well as next Sunday. A sign-up sheet is in the back of the church for our festive meal. Please help get the word out and offer your assistance as we make preparations.

### Helping a Needy Family

For the next two Sundays, you are invited to make a donation to help buy Christmas presents for the family we have adopted this year. If you would like to make a donation, please do so via the special collection envelopes in the back of the church or earmarking your check "Gifts for Family".



### Christmas Meal

In the back of the church is a sign-up sheet for the Christmas meal, which will follow the midnight service. Absolutely everyone is invited to stay for the meal, even if you cannot bring a dish!

### Additional Christmas Service

We have added an additional service to the Christmas schedule for those who are unable to attend the Midnight service. There will be a festive Vespers on Christmas day at 12:00 noon. This service has been added so that everyone who wants to worship God on Christmas will have the opportunity to do so.

### "Thank You!"

To the donors of the new altar cross and set of processional fans, to be installed behind the altar table for Christmas. A little more than the \$1000 needed for the cross and fans has already been donated and received. May the Lord bless your generosity and care for the beauty of His holy House!



### About Scheduling Confession Before Christmas

With all the hustle and bustle that revolves around Christmas preparations, let's not forget to make room for Christ.

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup>

#### Sunday of the Forefathers

8:40a.m. Hours  
 9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy  
 Coffee Hour

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup>

7:00p.m. Great Vespers

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup>

5:00p.m. No Class  
 6:00p.m. Great Vespers

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23<sup>RD</sup>

#### Sunday Before the Nativity

8:40a.m. Hours  
 9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy  
 Coffee Hour



### READER SCHEDULE

#### Sunday, Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>

Gabriela Jones

#### Sunday, Dec. 30<sup>th</sup>

Kathy Parrish



**Living:** Fr. Alexander Atty, Fr. Christian, Mat. Dunia, Hayley, Tyler Pelesh, Wallace & Michelle, John Trax, Maleah Morsey, Victoria Kokkinos, Karen Nichols, Denise Royal, Jane Koshutko, Nina Gordon, Mirela & Chris, Bruce Eckerd, Stella, Ari, Nedelina, Liliana, Nada and child, Jess and child, Irene Clenney, **Departed:** Fr. Michael Mihalick, Kathryn, Avramia.

CASH FLOWS									FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT		
OPERATING THRU 11/30			RENOVATION THRU 11/30			DECEMBER OPERATING			ASSETS & LIABILITIES – 12/16/12		
Income	Expense	Net	Income	Expense	Net	Income	Goal	Difference	Checking	Overdue	Due 2/2014
59,001	46,421	+12,580	68,496	89,502	-21,006	4,842	4,858	-16	+1,153	-1,756	-29,820

## **METROPOLITAN TIKHON PRESIDES AT ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON ASSEMBLY**

*From OCA.org / December 8, 2012*

On Saturday morning, December 8, 2012, the annual Assembly of the Archdiocese of Washington, DC was held at Saint Luke Church, McLean, VA.

The gathering opened with the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, at which His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, presided. Concelebrating were Priest John Vitko, host pastor; Protopresbyter Daniel Hubiak and Archpriest John Jillions, former and current chancellors of the OCA respectively; Protodeacon Blagoje Siljegovic; and Deacon Patrick Gariano.

Metropolitan Tikhon chaired the plenary sessions, assisted by Archpriest Gregory Safchuk, archdiocesan chancellor; Father Vitko, secretary; Archpriest Dennis Buck, clergy chair; and Lisa Mikhalevsky, lay chair. Reports were given by members of the Auditing Committee, Mission Board, Financial Committee and Credentials. The proposed 2013 budget was presented by Mr. Michael Hydock, treasurer.

The day closed with the celebration of Great Vespers, after which Metropolitan Tikhon thanked Father Vitko and the faithful of St. Luke's for their hospitality in hosting the Assembly.



### **IN MEMORIAM: ARCHPRIEST MICHAEL MIHALICK**

*From OCA.org / December 10, 2012*

JOHNSTOWN, PA [OCA] - Archpriest Michael Mihalick, 63, fell asleep in the Lord peacefully at home on the morning of Monday, December 10, 2012. For many years, Fr. Michael had fought a valiant battle against progressive Multiple Sclerosis.

Born in Johnstown, PA December 1, 1949, Father Michael was a 1975 graduate of Saint Vladimir's Seminary. He married the former Janet Maksimoff on September 10, 1978. He was ordained to the diaconate and priesthood respectively on September 29 and November 5 of the same year, after which he was assigned rector of

Saint Michael Church, Irvona, PA and Saint Mary Church, Madera, PA. In 1983, he was assigned to Holy Transfiguration Church, Pearl River. In December 1984, he was reassigned to Saint Andrew Church, Dix Hills, NY, which he faithfully served until his retirement on July 1, 2001.

In addition to Matushka Janet, Father Michael is survived by their daughter, Alexandra [Benjamin] Gajewski. Funeral arrangements and related information will be posted as they are received. May Father Michael's memory be eternal!

### **OCN AIRS INTERVIEW WITH METROPOLITAN TIKHON**

*From OCA.org*



An interview with His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, is now available from the Orthodox Christian Network [OCN], an endorsed agency of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in North and Central America. Accessible at [www.myocn.net/index.php/201212064336/OCN-Now/Breaking-News-Interview-with-His-Beatitude-Metropolitan-Tikhon.html](http://www.myocn.net/index.php/201212064336/OCN-Now/Breaking-News-Interview-with-His-Beatitude-Metropolitan-Tikhon.html), the interview was conducted by OCN's executive director and CEO, Rev. Dr. Christopher T. Metropulos. In the interview, which was taped on November 28, 2012, Metropolitan Tikhon speaks of his personal spiritual "journey to Orthodoxy" and how it has impacted his ministry, explains the process by which hierarchs are elected, offers insights into the life of the Orthodox Church in America, and reflects on the centrality of the Nativity of Christ for Orthodox Christians, especially during this season of preparation.



**"OUR SAVIOR, BOTH GOD AND MAN"**  
*By Saint Ephraim the Syrian – 4<sup>th</sup> Century*



We confess one and the same individual as perfect God and perfect man. He is God the Word Which was flesh.

For if He was not man, why was Mary chosen? And if He is not God, whom does Gabriel call Lord?

If He was not man, who was laid in a manger? And if He is not God, whom did the angels who came down from heaven glorify?

If He was not man, who was wrapped in swaddling clothes, And if He is not God, in whose honor did the star appear?

If He was not man, whom did Simeon hold in his arms? And if He is God, to whom did Simeon say, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace?

If He was not man, whom did Joseph take when he fled into Egypt? And if He is not God, who fulfilled the prophecy: Out of Egypt have I called my Son?

If He was not man, whom did John baptize? And if He is not God, to whom did the Father say: This is my beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased?

If He was not man, who hungered in the desert? And if He is not God, unto whom did the angels come and minister?

If He was not man, who was invited to the marriage in Cana of Galilee? And if He is not God, who turned the water into wine?

If He was not man, who took the loaves in the desert? And if He is not God, who fed the five thousand men and their women and children with five loaves and two fish?

If He was not man, who slept in the ship? And if He is not God, who rebuked the waves and the sea?

If He was not man, with whom did Simon the Pharisee sit at meat? And if He is not God, who forgave the sins of the harlot?

If He was not man, who wore a man's garment? And if He is not God, who healed the woman with the issue of blood when she touched His garment?

If He was not man, who spat on the ground and made clay? And if He is not God, who gave sight to the eyes of the blind man with the clay?

If He was not man, who wept at Lazarus' grave? And if He is not God, who commanded him to

come forth out of the grave four days after his death?

If He was not man, whom did the Jews arrest in the garden? And if He is not God, who cast them to the ground with the words: I am He?

If He was not man, who was judged before Pilate? And if He is not God, who frightened Pilate's wife in a dream?

If He was not man, whose garments were stripped from Him and parted by the soldiers? And if He is not God, why was the sun darkened upon His crucifixion?

If He was not man, who was crucified on the cross? And if He is not God, who shook the foundation of the earth?

If He was not man, whose hands and feet were nailed to the cross? And if He is not God, how did it happen that the veil of the temple was rent in twain, the rocks were rent, and the graves were opened?

If He was not man, who hung on the cross between the two thieves? And if He is not God, how could He say to the thief: Today thou shalt be with me in paradise?

If He was not man, who cried out, and gave up the ghost? And if He is not God, whose cry caused many bodies of the saints which slept to arise?

If He was not man, whom did the women see laid in the grave? And if He is not God, about whom did the angel say to them: He is arisen, He is not here?

If He was not man, whom did Thomas touch when he put his hands into the prints of the nails? And if He is not God, who entered through the doors that were shut?

If He was not man, who ate at the sea of Tiberias? And if He is not God, on whose orders were the nets filled with fishes?

If He was not man, whom did the apostles see carried up into heaven? And if He is not God, who ascended to the joyful cries of the angels, and to whom did the Father proclaim: sit at My right hand?

If He is not God and man then, indeed, our salvation is false, and false are the pronouncements of the prophets.



## ASK FATHER: 1 QUESTIONS / 1 ANSWERS

### Q. Why is the Nativity of Christ celebrated on December 25<sup>th</sup>?

A. There are two main explanations as to why the Church chose to celebrate the Nativity of Christ on December 25<sup>th</sup>.

The first says that the day was chosen to oppose the great pagan feast of the sun god, which was celebrated near December 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Winter Solstice, the time of year when the days started to get longer again (at least in the northern hemisphere). It is believed that the Church chose December 25<sup>th</sup>, because it ensured that Christians would be fasting during the pagan celebration and would therefore not easily be tempted to participate. And also because it would help the pagan peoples to leave off worshiping the false sun god and instead celebrate the coming of the True God, "the Sun of Righteousness".

The second explanation says that the day was chosen in relation to the feast of the Annunciation, which was celebrated on March 25<sup>th</sup> commemorating the supernatural conception of the Lord in the womb of the Virgin Mary. The Annunciation was celebrated on this day because of the belief in the ancient world that great men died on the same day as they were conceived. Since the Lord was believed to have been crucified on March 25<sup>th</sup>, it also came to be believed that He was likewise conceived on this day. And since it followed that the Lord's birth would be nine months after His conception, the feast of His Nativity was set on December 25<sup>th</sup>.



## THOUGHTS ON CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

*From Parish Publishing, LLC*



Let the theme of this Christmas be giving and receiving. Receiving first, the amazing grace of God in Christ Jesus. Then to give. A gift for someone in need. A thank-offering of money for the Lord's work at your church. The gift of ourselves: our souls and bodies, our time and talents. What do we have that we did not receive?

Love is faith in action. Two of the most important questions we ask ourselves are: "Whom do I love?" and "Who loves me?" As Christians we put faith into action by extending our concern for people beyond ourselves. We show our concern for others in our actions and relationships. Is our concern for others Christ-like? Do we reach out to help people in need?

The meaning of stewardship has to do with 100%, rather than 2, 3, or even 10%. All people are stewards. The only uncertainty is what kind. We are stewards of God's gifts to us: our time on this earth, our material resources, our talents, our very life itself. It is the Lord's world in which we live, and it is to God that we are responsible.

## SENSE OF HUMOR NEEDED: CHURCH BULLETIN BLOOPERS

- ❖ Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.
- ❖ Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.
- ❖ Ladies Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10 AM. All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B.S. is done.
- ❖ Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church.. Please use large double door at the side entrance.
- ❖ The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7 PM. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

