

CHRIST IS BORN!



GLORIFY HIM!

CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

10315 Carey Road; Berlin, MD 21811
302-537-6055 (church) / orthodoxdelmarva.org /
frjohn@orthodoxdelmarva.org

BULLETIN OF DECEMBER 28, 2014

A Warm Welcome!

We warmly welcome all of our visitors! It's good to have you!

Sincere Appreciation

is expressed to those who helped clean the church, hall, and other facilities this past week, in preparation for the Nativity celebrations. Likewise, we thank those who sang, read, ushered, prayed and served for the Divine services. May the Lord bless you for offering of yourselves back to Him on His Day!



Christ is born! Glorify Him!

During the celebration of Christmas, it is the custom of Orthodox Christians to greet one another with the joyous exclamation, "Christ is born!", to which the one greeted responds, "Glorify Him!"

Fast Free Period

During the twelve days of Christmas, Dec. 25th, through Theophany, Jan. 6th, we do not fast, even on Wednesday and Fridays. A one day fast is observed on January 5th, the Eve of Theophany.

Many Blessed Years to Protopresbyter Daniel Hubiak!

Tomorrow is Fr. Daniel's 88th birthday, and we humbly ask the Lord's continued blessings upon him. May God grant Fr. Daniel and Mat. Dunia many more years of health, happiness, and salvation!

Helping a Needy Family

Many thanks to those who donated approximately \$300 to help our adopted family this Christmas. This year, we actually presented gifts to two families. May the Lord bless the givers and recipients!



New Civil Year

As we enter into 2015, we give thanks to God for all of His blessings during this past year. We will have Vespers on New Year's Eve at 7:00pm, and Divine Liturgy on New Year's Day at 9:00am.



Annual Meeting of the Parish – January 25th

will be on Sunday, January 25th, following the coffee hour. Everyone is asked to set aside this day, making a special effort to be in attendance. While all are welcome and encouraged to attend, voting privileges are reserved for those who are official members of the parish. A Parish Council meeting will be held on January 13th in preparation.

2015 Parish Directory – Last Call!

Please be sure to check your info in the draft copy in the back.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28TH

Sunday After Nativity

8:40a.m. Hours
9:00a.m. Div. Liturgy
St. Basil's Bread
Coffee Hour

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31ST

7:00p.m. Great Vespers

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1ST

Circumcision of the Lord; St. Basil

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

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3RD

6:00p.m. Great Vespers

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4TH

Sunday Before Theophany

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

READER SCHEDULE

Sunday, Jan. 4th

Gabriela Jones

Sunday, Jan. 11th

George Kaloroumakis



CASH FLOWS THROUGH 11/30/14					CASH FLOWS IN DECEMBER 2014					PROJECT CRAWLSPACE			FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT		
OPERATING		OTHER		ALL	OPERATING		OTHER		ALL	AS OF: 12/28			AS OF: 12/28		
Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Net	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Net	Income	Expense	Net	Checking	Overdue	Mortgage
63,946	61,597	8,613	10,687	+275	3,718	7,502	286	449	-3,947	6,271	8,462	-2,191	5,929	0	348,407

ST. BASIL THE GREAT

Commemorated on January 1st

Basil was born during the reign of Emperor Constantine. While still unbaptized, Basil spent fifteen years in Athens where he studied philosophy, rhetoric, astronomy and all other secular sciences of that time. His colleagues at that time were Gregory the Theologian and Julian, later the apostate emperor. In his mature years he was baptized in the river Jordan along with Euvlios his former teacher. He was Bishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia for almost ten years and completed his earthly life fifty years after his birth. He was a great defender of Orthodoxy, a great light of moral purity, a religious zealot, a great theological mind, a great builder and pillar of the Church of God. Basil fully deserved the title "Great." In liturgical services, he is referred to as the "bee of the Church of Christ which brings honey to the faithful and with its stinger pricks the heretics." Numerous works of this Father of the Church are preserved; they include theological, apologetical, ascetical and canonical writings as well as the Holy and Divine Liturgy named after him. This Divine Liturgy is celebrated ten times throughout the year: the First of January, his feast day; on the eve of the Nativity of our Lord; on the eve of the Epiphany of our Lord; all Sundays of the Honorable Fast [Lenten Season], except Palm Sunday; on Great and Holy Thursday and on Great and Holy Saturday. St. Basil died peacefully on January 1, 379 A.D., and was translated into the Kingdom of Christ.



SAINT JOHN OF SAN FRANCISCO ON MATTHEW 1:25

And [Joseph] knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called His name JESUS.



The word "until" does not signify that Mary remained a virgin only until a certain time. In the Bible, the word "until" and words similar to it often signify eternity. It is said of Christ: "In His days shall shine forth righteousness and an abundance of peace, *until* the moon be taken away" (Psalm 71:7), but this does not mean that when there shall no longer be a moon at the end of the world, God's righteousness shall no longer be; precisely then, rather, will it triumph. And what does it mean when it says: "For He must reign, *until* He hath put all enemies under His feet?" (1 Cor. 15:25). Is the Lord to reign only for a time until His enemies shall be put under His feet?! The Savior in the Gospel says to the Apostles (Matt: 28:20): "Lo, I am with you always, even *until* the end of the world." Are we to believe that the Lord will no longer be with the disciples in the age to come? While there are plenty more such examples of the use of the word "until", the above are sufficient to prove that Matt 1:25 does not argue against the life-long virginity of the Mother of God.

JANUARY CONGRATULATIONS!

Anniversaries:

- 1/15 Richard & Diane Evanusa
- 1/24 Michael & Nada McFarland

Birthdays:

- 1/5 Constantine Mitsopoulos
- 1/12 Nada McFarland
- 1/13 Matthew Nicholas McFarland
- 1/19 Howard Peters
- 1/23 Sebastian Wyant
- 1/26 Fr. Christian Lesinsky

Namesdays:

- 1/1 *St. Basil the Great*
Basil Cook
- 1/3 *St. Genevieve of Paris*
Jenny Barbarita
- 1/7 *St. John the Baptist*
John Kokkinos
- 1/12 *St. Tatiana of Rome*
Tatiana Chistyakova
Tetyana Reynolds
- 1/17 *St. Anthony the Great*
Antonio Kokkinos
John Anthony Reynolds

**ARCHPASTORAL MESSAGE OF HIS BEATITUDE, METROPOLITAN Tikhon
FOR THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST 2014**

CHRIST IS BORN ! GLORIFY HIM !

To the honorable Clergy, Venerable Monastics, and Pious Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America,

My Beloved Brethren and Blessed Children in the Lord,

I greet all of you with the joy of the most glorious Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ! As Saint Leo the Great reminds us in his sermon on the Nativity, "in adoring the birth of our Savior, we find that we are celebrating the commencement of our own lives, for the birth of Christ is the source of life for the Christian people, and the birthday of the Head is the birthday of the Body."

Indeed, we rejoice and celebrate on this great day. Yet we must never fail to recall those for whom the earthly sojourn seems to be anything but joyful -- the lost and searching and seeking, the lonely and forgotten, the sick and imprisoned and persecuted, the hungry and thirsty, and those who, like the Christ Child, "have no where to lay their heads." If the birth of Christ is the commencement and source of our lives, then it is not only our duty, but our blessed honor, to share the light of the newborn Christ with those who sit "in the valley of the shadow of death," thereby revealing the love God so richly and unconditionally pours out on all who would accept it.

Our Lord proclaimed good news to the poor, gave sight to the blind, and healed every manner of infirmity. How well we know the spiritual poverty and blindness and infirmity that fills our world today. And how crucial it is to be continuously reminded that "with God, all things are possible," (Mt 19:26) precisely because "God is with us" (Mt 1:23) and calls us to become "partakers in His divine nature." (2 Peter 1:4) Even our most seemingly insignificant expressions of love and compassion for "the least of the brethren" (Mt 25:40) make the impossible, possible and the mundane as miraculous as the divine birth we celebrate today.

The angelic hosts called out to the simple shepherds: "Tarry not in the field, O ye that shepherd the nurslings of the flocks! Cry aloud and sing praises, that Christ the Lord hath been born in Bethlehem!" Let us not tarry in singing praises to our incarnate Lord, not only with our voices, but also with our unconditional acts of love and kindness and compassion. Such is the fruit of the good news proclaimed over two thousand years ago. And such is the very heart of our common ministry to incarnate Him in our hearts and our lives, and in the hearts and lives of those whom He continually prepares to encounter Him.

Please be assured of my prayers for all of you, that Our Lord will not only equip us in our common ministry as His Body, but bring our efforts to fruition. May the divine blessing that He so freely brings into the world remain with all of us now and throughout the new year to come!

With love in the New-Born Christ,



†TIKHON
Archbishop of Washington
Metropolitan of All America and Canada