



# EASTERN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION

Volume 3 No. 2

January-February 2018

## Newsletter

Of the Eastern Orthodox Church of the Annunciation

### Theophany - Outdoor Blessing of the Water and Swim for the Cross



On Sunday, Jan. 7th, after the Sunday service, Fr. Kevin led all clergy and parishioners to our pond behind the church to celebrate the blessing of the water. The blessing was followed by the annual swim for the cross.



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### Christmas Gathering

After services, coffee and snacks downstairs on Sunday, 12/17, everyone gathered together to hear some of our parishioners' gifts of song, music, and a story. Aquilina Larkin began the program with a musical rendition on the piano of "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" followed by Jo Anna Tobey who read a story titled "Grandmother Remembers".



*Our church choir sings Christmas carols*

Then, many musical performances followed to round off the event. Nathaniel Gerard sang two a capella Christmas songs: "Low How a Rose Er' Blooming and "Oh, Holy Night". Irena Burkett and Victoria Drozdova played a piano duet together called "Sleigh Ride" by LeRoy.

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### ***Theophany...***

Three of our parishioners took the challenge this year: Emilia Reynolds, Gabriella Hesselink, and Joel Wolfberg. The brave trio dove into the frigid water by the pond and gave it their all. The first one back with the Cross was Joel. He will keep the cross in his home until the next Theophany swim in 2019 when he will hand it over to the new victor.

### **Catechesis of The Good Shepherd**

We are forging ahead with plans for our children's program, *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd*. There's a great deal of preparation to be done before the training the last week of June. Some are already working on assignments in helping to prepare the classroom. However, more participation is needed.

To kick off our new year, we are holding a Saturday workshop on February 3, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm where we'll be painting wooden figures, sculpting, sewing and preparing other classroom articles. Please let us know if you can come and help. Children 10 years and older are welcome if they would like to help. We will provide snacks and coffee, but please bring your own brown bag lunch. This will take place at the Shoreside East Clubhouse (1400 SE Lava Dr, Milwaukie).

As we are slowly putting together this new children's program, we could use your help with some needed items. Many of these can be purchased at thrift shops or perhaps you have one or two of these items at your home, that you can donate to the program.

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### ***Christmas Gathering...***

Next, Fr. Nicholas came to the stage and led everyone in some favorite Christmas songs: "Joy to the World," "O Come All Ye Faithful," "Hark the Herald Angels Sing," and "Angels We Have Heard on High".

Borys Smolyansky entertained the audience by singing three traditional Ukrainian Carols: "Good Evening for You, Lord of the House," "News in Bethlehem," and "Oh, Holy Night." Then our Annunciation Choir finished off the program with four songs: "Troparian and Kontakian Ode 9 for Nativity," "Oh, Come All Ye Faithful," "The First Noel," and "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen."



*Borys Smolyansky plays his guitar and sings traditional Ukrainian Carols*

It was a wonderful Christmas gathering, and the performances were greatly enjoyed by all. And it is not too soon to begin planning your Christmas presentation for next year!

**Catechesis...**

Here is the list of needed items: Brass chalice 3"-4" tall; 7-branch candle holder that has a center candle, 3 on each side, 1 foot tall; small cross, about 4-5"...can be brass or wood; small red votive; small spray (child's size) bottle; donation of sponges, q-tips and cotton pads; small child size watering can; wooden bookstand; 2-4 small easels (for holding cards)...can be plastic or metal; small rug (round or rectangle) for a prayer rug; small match box - plain; small candle snifter; 5-6 sheep from a nativity set, about 2" high; 2 shepherds from a nativity set, about 3-4" high; Oriental-style (church like) rugs for Atrium 8 x 10 or 4 x 6.

In order for all of us to prepare for this good work, we will have a monthly study group for those that are interested in becoming catechists. The first book that we'll study is *The Religious Potential of the Child*. This is available for purchase in the bookstore or you can check out a book from the library. The Catechist Study Group will take place on the last Monday of each month, 6:30-8:00pm at Mat. Connie's house. The first meeting will be Monday, January 29th.

- Mat. Molly and Mat. Connie

**St. Francis Ministry**

Our ministry with St. Francis Dining Hall thanks members and volunteers for another successful Thanksgiving Turkey Drive! We welcome your continued support and participation on the third Sunday of every month.

On November 19, about a dozen Church of the Annunciation volunteers delivered 25 turkeys and four large hams

for holiday meals served to the homeless at the St. Francis Dining Hall. Volunteers, many of whom were from our church youth group, also helped serve dinner that Sunday and cleaned up afterward.

The dining hall is a nearly 30-year-old ministry in the basement of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Sellwood. Church of the Annunciation volunteers have been participating in this ministry for nearly two decades. Volunteers are always welcome.

**Information on the St. Francis Dining Hall Ministry:**

Every third Sunday of the month, Church of the Annunciation volunteers serve meals at St. Francis Dining Hall (330 SE 11th Avenue, Portland) from 3:15 p.m. to 5 p.m. Individuals and families are always welcome!

Donated Items Needed: socks, coats, men's clothes – especially jeans, sleeping bags, blankets, tarps, coffee cups, razors, deodorant.

For details, contact Brigid Gerard: 971-678-9550.

**What's New in the Bookstore?**

We have new volunteers to help in our bookstore! Mark and Elizabeth Romanenko are new to our parish but are old hands with selling Orthodox books from their volunteer time at Holy Trinity's Festival. Rdr. Nathaniel Gerard is also new to our volunteer staff. Tammy Croll and Trisha Taylor continue to help with the bookstore, and Jo Anna Tobey will be returning after needing to take a break with health concerns. Cynthia Malain has been a big help for many years and is now letting go of this volunteer opportunity to give herself more time for her many other works

within the church. Thank you, Cynthia Brigid!

*The Field* by St Ignatius Brianchaninov has been a best seller and there are more copies on the way. We have a few copies of *Living Without Hypocrisy* which is a collection of counsels on many subjects from the Optina Elders. We also have a new order of incense as well as incense burners from Hermitage of the Holy Cross.

- Mat. Connie Shank

### Upcoming Retreats

The Monastery of St. John, located in Manton, CA, will have two retreats in the first part of 2018. On Friday and Saturday, Jan. 12-13, Fr. George Gray will talk about the "Apocalypse Retreat". In March, Monk Cosmas will conduct a 3-day retreat, Friday through Sunday, March 16-18, titled "Facing Provocations, Thoughts, and Temptations: Taking Jesus as Our Guide."

If you want more information about these retreats, you can contact the Monastery of St. John by phone (530) 474-5964 or email: [www.monasteryofstjohn.org](http://www.monasteryofstjohn.org).

*"Remember the one who has ridiculed you, who has grieved you, who has wronged you, who has done evil to you, as your physician, your healer. Christ sent him to heal you; don't remember him with anger."*

- Abba Zossima

### Sacraments and Blessings New Parishioners:

Mark and Elizabeth Romanenko



Joshua Cheves (Sts. Joshua and George)



*"O Lord, grant me Thy humility that I may be filled with Thy love, and Thy holy fear may dwell in me."*

- St. Silouan the Athonite

**New Catechumens:**

Rhys, Tanya (Monica), Reuben and Oren Pashmina



Noah (St. Isaac), Mindy, Selah, and Kisiah Clark



- 1/13-14 House Blessings (see list)
- 1/18 Matins 5:45 am Liturgy 6:45 am
- 1/18 Catechism 7:00 pm
- 1/20-21 House Blessings (see list)
- 1/21 St. Francis Dining Hall 3:15 pm
- 1/25 Catechism 7:00 pm
- 1/28 Annual Parish Meeting 1:00 pm
- 1/29 Catechist Study Group 6:30 - 8:00 pm
- 1/29 Vigil 6:30 pm
- 1/30 Liturgy 9:00 am
- 1/31 Parish Council 7:00 pm

**FEBRUARY**

- 2/1 Catechism 7:00 pm
- 2/2 Matins 8:00 am; Liturgy 9:00 am
- 2/6-8 Mission Deanery Retreat
- 2/8 Hours 8:30 am; Liturgy 9:00 am
- 2/8 Catechism 7:00 pm
- 2/9 Young Adults @ Jensen’s 6:00 pm
- 2/11 Meatfare Sunday
- 2/15 Catechism 7:00 pm
- 2/17 Memorial Saturday:  
Matins 8:00 am Liturgy 9:00 am
- 2/18 Cheesefare/Meat Fast
- 2/18 St. Francis Dining Hall 3:15 pm  
Forgiveness Vespers 5:30 pm
- 2/19 Vespers 6:00 pm  
Great Compline/ Canon of St. Andrew
- 2/21 Presanctified Liturgy 6:30 w/Canon
- 2/22 Vespers 6:00 pm w/Canon
- 2/23 Presanctified Liturgy 6:30 pm  
Meal to follow
- 2/24 Matins 8:00 am Liturgy 9:30 am
- 2/25 Sunday of Orthodoxy
- 2/26 CTGS Catechist Study Group  
6:30 - 8:00 pm
- 2/27 Presanctified Liturgy 6:30 pm
- 2/28 Presanctified Liturgy 6:30 pm

**Calendar of Events**

**JANUARY**

- 1/4 Catechism, 7:00 pm
- 1/5 Royal Hours 6:00 am  
Vespertal Liturgy 6:00 pm
- 1/6 Holy Theophany  
Matins 8:00 am Liturgy 9:30 am
- 1/7 Outdoor Blessing of Waters
- 1/11 Matins 5:45 am Liturgy 6:45 am
- 1/11 Catechism 7:00 pm
- 1/12 Young Adults @ Jensen’s 6:00 pm

### Hospitality Schedule

1/7 - McConnell/Johnson/Asano  
 1/14 -  
 1/21 - Vallejos/Matta  
 1/28 - Larkins/Reynolds  
 2/4 -  
 2/11 - Jolly/Liid  
 2/18 - Riel/Ziegenfus/Singeorzan  
 2/25 - Tadesse/Martinson/Senge  
 3/4 - Schuurmans/Myles Dressler  
 3/11 - Taylors

*"Whoever the Lord visits with a difficult ordeal, sorrow, the bereavement of a dearly beloved one, such a person involuntarily prays with all his heart, all his understanding, all of his mind. Consequently, there is a wellspring of prayer in everyone, but it is revealed either by gradually going deeper and deeper into yourself, according to the teaching of the fathers, or by a sudden Divine drilling into one's soul.*

- St. Leo

*"The Lord leads His chosen ones to glory by a narrow and sorrowful path; for even She, the Mother of God according to the flesh received the prophecy of Simeon that a sword shall pierce Her soul, and she will experience heavy sorrows in Her soul during Her Son's suffering life, that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed (Lk. 2:34-35). The path of all God's chosen is thus sorrowful and narrow, for the world and the prince of this world--that is, the enemy of God and people, extremely presses the people of God. The Lord Himself allows them to go by the narrow way, inasmuch as He enables them to strive for God and put all their hope in Him."*

- St. John of Kronstadt

*"I advise you to cheer up with prayer--even if it is brief--and trust that, just as after winter and severe bad weather a pleasant spring-time arrives, so also--after boredom--pleasant delights quickly appear; and, therefore, concern yourself with this hope."*

- St. Anthony of Optina

If you have submissions for the newsletter,  
 please e-mail them to  
 Gail Cramer, [islandtimezone@yahoo.com](mailto:islandtimezone@yahoo.com)