



# EASTERN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION

Volume 3 No. 3

March-April 2018

## Newsletter

Of the Eastern Orthodox Church of the Annunciation

### Annual Meeting

Parishioners gathered downstairs after services on Sunday, January 28, for a light meal and the Annual Meeting. The meeting began at 12:45 p.m. with a prayer.

Fr. Matthew announced that the candidates for the Parish Council this year are Rod Berg, Christopher Burkett, and Lois Herring. A motion was made to accept these candidates by acclamation and was passed. Fr. Matthew mentioned that parishioners are welcome to come to parish council meetings unless there is a closed session due to legal or personnel issues.

Amendments to the by-laws were explained by Fr. Matthew. The requirement to send out notice for the Annual Meeting each year was eliminated. In addition, two of the requirements for the Treasurer were eliminated: (1) The Treasurer had to send out quarterly statements, but now only the annual statement is sent to parishioners; (2) We eliminated the requirement that the Annual Financial Statement needed to be audited and certified, since the members of the Audit Committee are not CPA's.

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### Radonitsa! Sharing the Joy of the Resurrection with the Departed

Radonitsa has been a Slavic Orthodox tradition for centuries, but it is a relatively new celebration for us Americans. On the Tuesday after Bright Week, or 10 days after Pascha, the faithful go to the cemeteries and share the joy of the Resurrection with those who have fallen asleep in the Lord. Paschal hymns are sung, the graves are blessed and friends and relatives feast. This year, Radonitsa falls on Tuesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>.



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### ***Annual Meeting...***

Fr. Matthew also stated that we do an internal church audit each year. Announced candidates for the Audit Committee this year are Lori Jensen, Roxy Mary Rohan, and Gail Cramer. A motion was made to accept these candidates and was passed.

We then heard from Fr. Matthew about the progress of our church renovation. He said that he can't guarantee we'll be starting the renovation in the Spring, but we now have the money we need for the project. He said that there was still discussion with the county regarding a required sidewalk for the church, but what will probably happen is that we will build a sidewalk/bridge from Rusk Road to our parking lot.

Fr. Matthew announced that our church is growing, and we have 21 catechumens this year. He explained that our church is a church that that observes the daily cycle of prayers, which is one of our strengths. He noted that, because of our rich prayer life, there is more of a spirit of loving and helping each other.

- Lois Herring

"Do you know what a great gift it is that God gave us the right to speak to Him every hour and moment, wherever we are? He always listens to us. This is the greatest honor we have. For this reason we must love God."

- *Elder Prophyrios the Kapsokalivite*

### ***Radonitsa...***

Our parish has a section of a cemetery in Mollala, Oregon, that we acquired in 2011. Our beloved Fr. David was the first to be buried there. He has been joined by several others, and now we have a place to celebrate Radonitsa! We take our picnic lunches and caravan to the cemetery where many of us have already reserved the place where we will be laid to rest when we have finished our earthly race.



It is indeed a joyful and victorious time as we sing *Christ is Risen!* and then enjoy a picnic lunch together. Sometimes we sing other gospel songs or play games. All are welcome to join in this wonderful celebration of His Victory over death in the Paschal season.

- Mat. Connie Shank

## Catechesis of The Good Shepherd

We continue to move forward with preparing the materials for our first Catechesis of the Good Shepherd room. Fr. Matthew has announced that we will be using the children's playroom area, so after our Paschal Season, a new play space will be provided.

Those interested in learning more about the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program are encouraged to come to our next book study on Monday, March, 19th, at Brigid Gerard's house. There will also be a book study on April 30th, at Mat. Connie Shank's house. We are studying the book, *The Religious Potential of the Child*.

We will have another craft day on Saturday, March 10th at the church. We need seamstresses, painters and crafters. This will be 9-3pm, so please bring your lunch and snacks.

We want to thank everyone who has contributed thus far with your time and talents. If you want to make a monetary contribution to this program, please earmark a check with Catechesis of the Good Shepherd notated. There are some items that need to be ordered and cannot be made, so any help would be appreciated.

- Mat. Molly and Mat. Connie

"The struggle upon which we are engaged is full of hardships, full of dangers, for it is the struggle of man against himself." - *St. Patrick of Ireland*

## Hospitality: Special Events Teams

As you may have noticed, there is always quite a bit of activity going on in our church kitchen. Not only do we have coffee hour every Sunday, and soup suppers every Friday during Lent, but we also have other special events spread throughout the year.

These events are a vital part of the life of our parish. They are a time to be together to celebrate important feasts that are happening on the church calendar. Sometimes it may be an event to uplift, educate, and provide a time of respite for our mission priests. Other times it may be an event planned to just be together as a parish, building community. These events emphasize our faith and strengthen our bonds.

There is much work and planning that goes into having one of these events. In order to accomplish everything that needs to be done, our parish has put together three teams that work together to get the job done. Each team is assigned to an event and works hard to get set up and ready for the event, host the event, and put everything back together by cleaning up after the event.

Annunciation, Pascha weekend, our Harvest Festival, and Nativity are the main events the teams are responsible for each year. Many times people from the teams also help with the Mission Deanery Retreat which is a retreat held at our church for the mission priests in our diocese.

We would love to have your help on our teams. The more of us that participate,

the easier each event is. You know the saying, “Many hands make light work”! When considering whether to sign up for a team, think about what our parish would be like without the events that each team makes happen. Then sign up and join us in the kitchen. It is really a lot of fun!

- Cindy Olson

### **What’s New in the Bookstore?**

As you’ve probably noticed, the bookstore has undergone some changes in the last few weeks. We have begun to take over management of the bookstore from Matushka Connie so that she can focus on her many other ministries within our parish, including Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. We thank Matushka Connie for her service in the bookstore, and for her support and guidance during this transition. We also thank you for your patience as we learn how to best serve you!

#### ***Bookstore...***

**Fr. Nicholas** has been recommending *The Field* by Ignatius Brianchaninov for quite some time. We have more coming in, so if you haven’t purchased a copy yet, there are plenty available. From the book’s description: “This newly translated volume of the writings of the Orthodox spiritual teacher Ignatius Brianchaninov offers a vision of a life that flows from following Christ. The field is both a place of spiritual struggle and a garden in which to cultivate virtues.”

**Fr. John** is recommending *Unquenchable Fire: The Traditional Christian Teaching about Hell* by Fr. Lawrence Farley. From the book’s description: “The doctrine of hell as a place of eternal punishment has never been easy for Christians to accept. The temptation to retreat from and reject the Church’s traditional teaching about hell is particularly strong in our current culture, which has demonstrably lost its sense of sin. Fr. Lawrence Farley examines the Orthodox Church’s teaching on this difficult subject through the lens of Scripture and patristic writings, making the case that the existence of hell does not negate that of a loving and forgiving God.”

*The Bible and the Holy Fathers for Orthodox* by Johanna Manley is in stock. This is a wonderful resource for daily scripture readings with commentary from the Church Fathers for each day. It pairs well with the Orthodox Study Bible as it also uses the NKJV text for the readings.

We recently received a large shipment of prayer ropes from the sisters at St. Paisius Monastery in Safford, Arizona in response to several requests for wool and satin prayer ropes. These prayer ropes were individually hand-crafted with high-quality materials and workmanship. Feel free to take a look at the selection when you are able.

There are several other new titles and items, along with Lenten and Pascha items still coming in. Take a look around each Sunday to see what’s new!

Mark & Elizabeth Romanenko

## Prayer of St. Ephraim

O Lord and Master of my life  
A spirit of Slothfulness, Despondency,  
Ambition and Idle-talking give me not,

But rather a spirit of Chastity, Humility,  
Patience and Love bestow upon me, Thy  
servant.

Yea, O Lord, King, grant me to see my  
own failings  
and not to condemn my brother,

For blessed art Thou unto the ages of  
ages.  
Amen.

Instructions for the Prayer of St.  
Ephraim:

1st reading:

A prostration follows each petition.  
Then bow 12 times, while crossing  
oneself, saying, "O God, cleanse me a  
sinner".

2nd reading:

Then... read the entire prayer with a  
prostration at the end.

This prayer should be said at your  
prayer time in the morning and evening  
on weekdays during Lent.

## Upcoming Icon Workshops

This year we will again be blessed  
with having two iconography workshops at  
our parish. The Beginner's Workshop will  
take place from Monday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> through  
Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. Four students from our  
parish will be attending plus others from  
the Portland metro area and Willamette  
Valley, as well as three from Washington  
State and four from California (including our  
dear Abbess and one of her nuns from St.  
Xenia Skete in Wildwood, CA).

Altogether, nineteen students will  
gather to paint icons of the Guardian Angel  
or of Archangel Raphael, and more want to  
be on the waiting list!!! Dmitri Andreyev,  
who has been our incredible teacher in this  
endeavor for the last 10 years will be joining  
us again for this and for our Advanced  
Workshop, which will take place at the  
parish Monday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> through Saturday,  
July 28<sup>th</sup>. The Advanced class will write  
icons of Jacob's Ladder or Jacob Wrestling  
with the Angel.

The Workshops are not just to learn  
the techniques of painting icons, but also  
include lectures about the history of  
iconography and iconology. We learn the  
"spiritual practice" of painting/writing an  
icon, the theology of icons, the "liturgy" of  
an icon, the symbolism in the steps,  
shaping, styling, colors, harmony, and also

receive the blessing that comes from a better understanding of the beloved icons that surround us in our sanctuary and homes.

In the past many from our parish have graciously provided lunches and/or home stays for our guests. We thank you for all you have given! We don't want to burden anyone with one more thing to have to give. What is most important for us during these weeks is the gift of your prayers. Though if you are called to help with food or housing feel free to let me know. What we don't fill, we will augment with food we purchase and let participants know that we will help them find nearby hotels or B&Bs. All will be well!

- Rosalie Broding

Xenia Nino (St. Xenia)

Godparents: Mick Seppala and Emilia Reynolds

Parents: Nathan and Lizeth Nino



## Sacraments and Blessings

### Infant Baptism:

Moses Hodges (St. Moses)

Godparents: Paithen and Katie Larkins

Parents: Michael and Olga Hodges



"Faster and faster time passes, and the hour of our entrance into eternity draws nigh. Make use of your days on earth to prepare for this. Such preparation dispels temporal sorrows and brings consolation, thereby indicating that this preparation is indeed a preparation for blessedness.

- *St. Ignatius Brianchaninov*

**New Catechumens:**

Christine Furrer



Don McMullan

**Hospitality Schedule**

- 3/4 - Schuurmans/Myles Dressler
- 3/11 - Taylors
- 3/18 - Barton/Aveling
- 3/25 - Feast of the Annunciation
- 4/1 - Shank/Gerard
- 4/8 - Pascha

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- Cindy Olson

"Fasting is the soul of prayer; mercy is the lifeblood of fasting. Let no one try to separate them; they cannot be separated. If you have only one of them or not all together, you have nothing. So if you pray, fast; if you fast, show mercy; if you want your petition to be heard, hear the petition of others. If you do not close your ear to others, you open God's ear to yourself.... Therefore, let prayer, mercy, and fasting be one single plea to God on our behalf, one speech in our defense, a threefold united prayer in our favor."

- *St. Chrysologus of Ravenna*

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