

Holy Apostles Orthodox Church

347 Ridge Rd Lansing NY

HolyApostlesLansing.org

Fr James Worthington, Rector

315-706-6185

Rdr Bob West, Sr Warden

DECEMBER 14, 2014

27th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 2. Sunday of the Forefathers.

Martyrs Thyrsus, Leucis, and Callinicus of Apollonia (249-51). Martyrs Apolonius, Philemon, Arianus and Theoctychus, of Alexandria (286-287).

EPISTLE: Colossians 3.4-11: Put on the new man, which is the image of Christ.

GOSPEL: LUKE 14.16-24: The Heavenly Banquet – how do you respond to the invitation?

COFFEE HOUR HOST: Bazarov Family. **NEXT WEEK:** Eileen and Bernice.

VESPERS NEXT WEEK: Rdr Bob.

HOURS: Available/Eileen. **NEXT WEEK:** Available/Eileen.

EPISTLE READER: Rdr Bob. **NEXT WEEK:** Rdr Bob.

OCF CONFERENCE: The annual college conferences will be held concurrently at Antiochian Village, Bolivar, PA and Saint Nicholas Ranch, Dunlap, CA from December 27 through 30, 2014. For more info, go to OCF.net.

KNOW YOUR FAITH: The next class will be this Tuesday at Unwind Coffee Shop in the Ithaca Mall. We will be reading and discussing chapter 9 of the Gospel of St John, The Sabbath Healing of a Man Born Blind near the Pool of Siloam. Invite your friends to join us. The complete syllabus is available on the information table and online.

LAST CALL! FOCA ST NICHOLAS PROJECT: We are participating in the annual FOCA St. Nicholas Wish List Project, benefitting seminary families with necessities and gifts for the children. Gift cards and monetary donations are being accepted, and will be sent in the form of a prepaid card to our assigned family. All gifts are due today or tomorrow.

DDB: In grateful thanksgiving for the support of the Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors Program, each year we have given a little bit back. Please consider a donation to this fund to add on to the amount that will be donated from the Parish as a whole.

WELCOME!: We warmly welcome all of our visitors! It's good to have you with us! Please know that we are glad that you are here praying with us and invite you to join us after the service for a meal and to meet everyone in our community.

NATIVITY DONATIONS: A special Nativity collection is being made over the next couple weeks to both help defray the cost of decorations and to help us direct our financial blessings and gifts to the work of our church and its outreach.

7 QUESTIONS, 7 ANSWERS: Two seasonal videos featuring Bishop Michael are available on the diocesan website for viewing. The videos are "Saint Nicholas: 7 Questions & 7 Answers" and "The Nativity of Christ: 7 Questions & 7 Answers." They are part of the very popular LESSONS IN OUR FAITH series. The video on Saint Nicholas is especially tailored for children and parents. NYNJOCA.org.

NATIVITY PAGEANT: The Church School will begin rehearsing for the Nativity Pageant next Saturday during their regular Church School program. If you would like to support them or be part of the show, see Fr James.

NATIVITY HOLY SUPPER: The Holy Supper, a tradition of Slavic Orthodox Christians, and having been introduced from Italy, will be held on the Eve of the Nativity. A sign-up sheet is available for those who will bring a dish.

THEOPHANY WATER BLESSING: We will have our fourth annual Blessing of Cayuga Lake on Saturday, January 10th, after the Divine Liturgy. If you would like to help plan this event, please see Fr James.

PRAYER SCROLL: LIVING: Archpriest Timothy Holowatch, Archpriest Herman Shick, Archpriest John Chupeck, Archpriest Thomas Edwards, Archpriest Michael Thier, Archpriest Stephen Mack, Dn Symeon, Abbess Silouana, Mother Raphaela, Mother Christophora, Mat Cecelia, Katya, Mat Catherine, Mat Dorothy, Joshua, Brittany & Isaac, Gretchen, Toni, Peter, Marriane, Terrence, Helen, Judy, Gretchen, Mary & Susan, John & Carmine, Nathan, Leah, Helen, Lindsey, Christopher E, Susanne H, Olga S, Elizabeth, Mary, Joe A, Daniel, Andrew and family, Harold, Wilhemina, Children Anthony, Mia and Isabel, Gordon, Elizabeth, David, Madeline, Shirley, Larry, Christina, Caleb, Jim & Kim, Rachel, Constantine and Maria. **BIRTHDAYS:** None. **ANNIVERSARIES:** None. **NAMESDAYS:** Caleb.

REPOSED: Priest John, Archpriest Alexander, Rdr Gregory, Daniel, Ada, Walter, Lillian, Joseph, Marie, Joseph, Laura, Martha, Stanley, Helen, Charles, Arthur, Taissia, Steluta, Theophan, Lynda. **NEWLY DEPARTED:** Florence (11-29), Lynda (11-23), James (11-20), James (11-15). **ANNIVERSARIES:** None.



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SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

CONFESSIONS ARE HEARD BEFORE AND AFTER VESPERS AND AT ANY OTHER CONVENIENT TIME.

SUNDAY DECEMBER 14: 9 AM Divine Liturgy, Social Hour (No RC SS) and Play Rehearsal

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16: 8:30 Daily Matins

11:45-2:15 OCF Ice Skating Party

7 PM Know Your Faith at Unwind in the Ithaca Mall

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17: No Morning Prayers

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18: No Morning Prayers

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19: 8:30 Morning Prayers

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20: 6 PM Great Vespers and Play Rehearsal

SUNDAY DECEMBER 21: 9 AM Divine Liturgy, Social Hour, Nativity Pageant (No RC SS)

THE FOREFATHER OF CHRIST BEING REMEMBERED TODAY

In the sacred hymnography for today among the Old Testament righteous men the following are referred to by name: Aaron (the first priest, brother of Moses), Avakum [LXX for Habakkuk] (December 2), Obadiah (November 19), Abel (son of Adam), Abraham (October 9), Haggai (December 16), Adam (Forefather of the human race), Azariah (December 17), Anna (December 9), Barak (Judges 4-5), Gideon (September 26), David (December 26), Daniel (December 17), Deborah (Judges 4-5), Eleazar (September 2), Elisha (June 14), Enos (son of Seth, - see Genesis 5:6-11), Enoch (Genesis 5: 18-24), Esther (Esther 1-10), Zechariah (February 8), Elijah (July 20), Isaac (son of Abraham), Isaiah (May 9), Jael (Judges 4-5), Jacob (son of Isaac), Ezekiel (July 21), Jeremiah (May 1), Jesse (father of David), Jephthah (Judges 11, 12:1-7), Joshua (September 1), Job (May 6), Jonah (September 22), Joseph (March 31), Josiah (4 Kings, 21:26, 22, 23:1-30), Judah (Genesis 49:8-17), Judith (see Book of Judith 1- 16), Levi (son of Jacob), Malachi (January 3), Melchizedek (Genesis 14:18-20), Misael (December 17), Micaiah (August 14), Moses (September 4), Nahum (December 1), Nathan (2 Kings 5:14), Noah (Genesis 5:28-32, 6-9), Huldah (April 10, 4 Kings 22:14), Hur (Exodus 24:14), Rachel (wife of Jacob), Rebecca (wife of Isaac), Ruth (Ruth 1-4), Samson (Judges 13-16), Samuel (August 20), Sarah (wife of Abraham), Seth (son of Adam, see Genesis 5:3-5), Solomon (son of David), Zephaniah (December 3).



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2014
27TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
ST AMBROSE OF MILAN

Holy Apostles Orthodox Church

Lansing, New York

27th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS
MARTYRS THURUS, LEUCIS, AND CALLINICUS

Troparion Tone 2 (Resurrection)

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life Immortal,
Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead.
And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead,
all the powers of heaven cried out://
“O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!”

Troparion Tone 2 (Forefathers)

Through faith Thou didst justify the Forefathers,
betrothing through them the Church of the gentiles.
These saints exult in glory,
for from their seed came forth a glorious fruit:
she who bore Thee without seed.//
So by their prayers, O Christ God, have mercy on us!

Kontakion Tone 6 (Forefathers)

You did not worship the graven image,
O thrice-blessed ones,
but armed with the immaterial Essence of God,
you were glorified in a trial by fire.
From the midst of unbearable flames you called on God, crying:
“Hasten, O compassionate One!
Speedily come to our aid,//
for Thou art merciful and able to do as Thou dost will!”

Prokeimenon Tone 4 (Song of the Fathers)

Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever!
(Song of the three Holy Children, v. 3)
v: For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us! (v. 4)

Alleluia Verse Tone 4

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!
v: Moses and Aaron were among His priests; Samuel also was among those who called on His Name. (Ps 98/99:6)
v: They called to the Lord and He answered them. (Ps 98/99:6)

Communion Hymns

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (Ps 148:1)
Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous; praise befits the just! (Ps 32/33:1)
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Sunday of the Holy Forefathers of Christ

On the Sunday that occurs on or immediately after the eleventh of this month, we commemorate Christ's forefathers according to the flesh, both those that came before the Law, and those that lived after the giving of the Law. Special commemoration is made of the Patriarch Abraham, to whom the promise was first given, when God said to him, "In thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed" (Gen. 22:18). This promise was given some two thousand years before Christ, when Abraham was seventy-five years of age. God called him and commanded him to forsake his country, parents, and kinsmen, and to depart to the land of the Canaanites. When he arrived there, God told him, "I will give this land to thy seed" (Gen. 12:7); for this cause, that land was called the "Promised Land," which later became the country of the Hebrew people, and which is also called Palestine by the historians. There, after the passage of twenty-four years, Abraham received God's law concerning circumcision. In the one hundredth year of his life, when Sarah was in her ninetieth year, they became the parents of Isaac. Having lived 175 years altogether, he reposed in peace, a venerable elder full of days. -From the Synaxarion of Holy

Monastery,



Transfiguration
Brookline, MA.

EVANGELIZATION: “A TALE OF TWO PARISHES!”

Over the weekend of November 15-16, 2014, Archpriest Jonathan Ivanoff, Director of the Commission on Mission and Evangelism of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey, visited Holy Apostles Mission Church here to meet with Priest James Worthington, Rector, and his parishioners, to celebrate the divine services, and to share in the joy and blessings being poured out upon this OCA Planting Grant Mission. “On Saturday evening, we were pleased to have Father Jonathan present with us,” said Father James. “Afterwards, members of the parish joined Father Jonathan in a conversation about the good things that are being done in the parish—including daily services, care



for college students and charitable outreach—while examining new and further ways for ‘growing the mission.’”

On Sunday morning, the celebration continued with a baptism and two Chrismations—a sign of the growth of this four-year-old mission community. “Two newly illumined young men, as well as several youths from the parish, joined Father Jonathan and me at the celebration of the Divine Liturgy in the sanctuary, which was nearly full of the faithful of the parish,” Father James said. “As Father Jonathan noted, ‘The joy and laughter at coffee hour was truly contagious, and the entire service and atmosphere was so conducive to prayer and worship. I was also blessed by the fellowship and talk we shared Saturday night after that meeting.’” The parishioners of Holy Apostles are quite blessed to be guided by Father Jonathan

and their entire diocesan family.

“Through the prayers and generous support of the entire Diocese of New York and New Jersey,” Father James concluded, “the mission of the Orthodox Church to spread the Gospel to all nations is bearing fruit in Lansing, NY.

Similar “good fruit” is being experienced at Saint John the Baptist Church, Rochester, NY, where Archpriest Ken James Stavrevsky is Rector. Celebrating its 50th Anniversary in 2014, the parish is well established, yet has never lost its missionary spirit. At the beginning of 2014, it launched an Evangelism Task Force, made up of 12 members—ranging in age from 16 through 80—to consider ways to proclaim the Good News to all who would receive it.

“‘What great things has God done in your life?’ is a profound and wonderful question, to be sure,” said an enthusiastic Blake Keller, who chairs the Task Force. “It’s also a question central to our evangelism efforts, for we—like the healed Gadarene demoniac of Matthew 8:26—are commanded to ‘go and proclaim all that God has done for you!’”

With this thought in mind, Task Force members welcomed Priest John Parker, who chairs the Orthodox Church in America’s Department of Evangelization, on November 12, 2014.

“The Task Force had been working actively for over six months and found affirmation that their efforts were heading in the right direction while considering new ideas for the coming months,” Blake said. “When formed, the Task Force set a lofty goal of increasing Liturgy attendance by 20 percent by May 2015. We discovered that, to realize this goal, we didn’t need to reach much further than those already known to us and friends of the parish—those who come infrequently, children of regular attendees, people married or baptized in the parish, and so on. With Father John’s help, we

made the commitment to this concrete goal through actionable and measurable steps.”

Among these steps are developing an “baseline” against which to measure attendance, creating an on-line parish directory with member photos, forming an Ushers’ Ministry to ensure that visitors are welcomed warmly and gather contact info, producing a Liturgy guide with an illustrated text of the Liturgy with explanations, redesigning the parish’s web site to optimize for search engines while producing informative content that appeals to “seekers” and parishioners alike, and installing a more visible exterior sign that features service times and a clear message of invitation—“Ancient Christianity for Everyone!”

“On Saturday, October 4, we hosted a ‘Blessing of Animals,’ for which we mailed out over 2,400 invitations to households within a half-mile of the church and asked parishioners to distribute flyers to their neighbors, friends and coworkers,” Blake continued. “Even members of the Mounted Unit of the Rochester Police Department attended!”

Future efforts will include a program titled “Brother’s Keeper” to reach out actively to contact those who no longer attend the parish, letting them know that they are missed. Social media opportunities are also being explored. “Father John emphasized that all efforts should be kept personal, to the extent possible,” Blake said. “While the internet and social media offer promise, they must always point toward a personal contact—telling our personal stories being the best way to connect with others. This has proven true in our case with many, including our parish’s Protodeacon, coming to the church after receiving a simple, personal invitation by a friend.”

Father John offered attendees three key principles for parish growth—hospitality, people telling others about the Church, and a beautiful, clean and accessible church building. “He also shared two methods of outreach—a personal method, such as sharing our stories with others, and a more ‘broadcast method’ by which many are reached through the internet or other advertising/marketing methods,” Blake added. “Another possibility is to host and invite neighbors to a ‘movie night’ at the parish with seasonally appropriate films. “The gathering with Father John was energizing, and Task Force members are more excited than ever to continue our efforts,” Blake concluded. “It’s especially exciting to know that other parishes are also working hard to rekindle the zeal that characterized those who brought Orthodoxy to North America over 200 years ago!”

