

THE PARISH NEWSLETTER MARCH 2010

The Nativity of the Mother of God Russian Orthodox Church 518 869-3932

A parish of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad www.albanyrocor.org

Mitered Protopriest Wsevolod Drobot Protopriest Father Michael Fritz

Protodeacon Michael Soloviev Subdeacon Andrei Podymow

THE SCHEDULE OF SERVICES AND MEETINGS FOR MARCH

Saturday Vigils: 6:00 p.m. Vigils of Feasts: 6:30 p.m.

Sundays & Feasts: 9:30 a.m., Hours; 9:50 a.m., the Divine Liturgy

- 7 Veneration of the Holy Cross
 - 14 St. John of the Ladder *Daylight Time Begins*
 - 21 St. Mary of Egypt
 - 28 Palm Sunday *The choir of youth and children sings the Liturgy.*
-

MARCH NAMES' DAYS May God grant them all many years!

- 10 Alexander (Kirk) Hoffman
- 13 Kira Milas (February 28 o.s.)
- 14 Antonina Shevtchuk
- 17 Viatcheslav Boitchenko
- 18 Conon (Conner) McClure
- 19 Helene Potthoff Helene (Jean) Henry
- 26 Nikiforov Popov
- 30 Alexei Nikiforov Alexei Vepritsky Alexey Glazyrin
Patrick Henry Patrick Soloviev

COFFEE HOUR TEAMS FOR MARCH (* indicates a Lenten coffee hour)

- *March 7 N. Schuler group, Barbara N. group, Bridget T. group
- *March 14 Ceclia Soloviev, Anna Popova, Olga Parella
- *March 21 Tasia Fedorov, Christina DiLello, Nina Fedorov
- *March 28 RaeLynn group, N. Smelova group, Margo group

(If you are unable to host on your assigned date,
it is your responsibility to switch dates with another group.)

IMPORTANT SISTERHOOD NEWS

Below is the Sisterhood's schedule for Pascha Sale food preparation. Please call Margo Beighey if you can help.

Vareniki: March 2. Close-up person needed at 6 p.m.

Golubtsy: March 8 at about 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., two people needed for p.m.

March 10 at 1 p.m. for 30 minutes. March 15 in the evening.

Kulitch and/or Babka: the week of March 15 for 3 or 4 days.

Watch for requests to clean the church floor for July and August. It goes quickly with the steamer, but needs to be done at least twice per month. Please contact Rae Lynn (Anastasia) Gonyea if you can help.

ABOUT NEXT MONTH'S NEWSLETTER

The deadline for submission of items is Thursday, March 25. Please submit articles by e-mail or in writing. Thanks! BACVAS@dishmail.net Your editor plans to publish the schedule of services for Holy Week.

A LETTER TO METROPOLITAN HILARION

A while ago our parish received a letter from the Synod advising us that we are expected now to contribute parish dues, although previously we had been exempted from this obligation by Metropolitan Laurus. Father Wsevolod presented his objections to the Parish Council, and the council unanimously supported his position. There is no objection on our part to paying what we owe as to ordinary parish expenses, which are incumbent on any parish of our jurisdiction. Following is a letter which has been sent to our Metropolitan by our Church Council. Anyone wishing further explanation should ask Father Wsevolod or a member of the council.

25 January/ February 7, 2010

New Martyrs of Russia

We respectfully request that we be exempt from paying diocesan dues on monies collected to pay for the mortgage for our new church in dedication to the Nativity of the Mother of God in Albany , New York .

With love in Christ,

The letter was signed by the clergy assigned to us, by the members of the Church Council, and by numerous others of our parish family.

CHURCH CONSECRATION PREPARATION UPDATE

With God's help, parish members are busy preparing for the upcoming Holy Consecration of our church. The Commemoration Book Committee would like to update you on the progress of the committee.

Currently we are hard at work gathering material for the book. To that end we ask your assistance in getting the very best pictures of our parish life for the Commemoration Book. With the blessing, of Batushka, on Palm Sunday, March 28 a group picture of our parish family will be taken in front of our church, weather permitting. Otherwise, the pictures will be taken in church. We shall also have the opportunity to take pictures of our priests, deacon, altar boys, starostas, Children's Choir, Adult Choir, Sisterhood, Church Council, Youth Group, Church Flower and Garden Committees, as time allows. Please plan on staying after the liturgy and participating in this wonderful and memory-making occasion.

Also, watch your mailbox for your opportunity to send in congratulatory wishes and share favorite parish memories and pictures, which will be featured in the Commemoration Book.

PLEASE PRAY FOR ALL THE SUFFERING PEOPLE OF HAITI

The Fund for Assistance to ROCOR has supported the mission to Haiti since the hurricanes of 2008, but the earthquake was much worse. Checks may be sent to: Fund for Assistance/Haiti, c/o Synod of Bishops, 75 East 93rd St., New York NY 10128.

PRAYERS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE HOLY FORTY DAY FAST

This prayer, offered by a priest, might well be offered by any of us. It was suggested by Matushka Cecelia Soloviev.

Blessed art Thou, O Lord Almighty, God of our fathers, of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Who hast created heaven and earth, the sea and all that is therein, Who hast appointed unto man repentance for salvation, and Who regardest not their iniquities, Who accepted the tears of Thy servant, the Prophet David, and accorded to him remission of sins when he repented; and Who didst accept the prayer of Manasseh who was bound with iron bonds and confessed to Thee in repentance, and didst remit his sins; Who didst save the harlot who perceived Thy mercy, received the spies [of the children of Israel], and sent them on their way in peace: hearken now unto the treaty of me, Thy unworthy servant, and regard not all the offenses of these Thy servants who flee to Thee in repentance, and grant them contrition of heart and remorse for the sins whereby they have angered Thee, their Creator, which are able to cleanse them of their sins. Grant them Thy grace, that, awakened and sustained thereby, they may bring to mind their evil deeds and truly confess them all, in the fear of Thee, to their spiritual father, the judge appointed by

Thee. And, in accordance with Thy promise, vouchsafe them in contrite and humble heart to accuse themselves as guilty, to repent, and to desire for themselves complete forgiveness thereof and the remission thereof by Thy loving kindness through their spiritual father, Thy judge. For Thou didst say: Whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in the heavens. Yea, O Master, Jesus Christ our God, accept Thy servants who are repenting of their sins, known and unknown, voluntary and

involuntary, and who have determined to confess them, in accordance with Thy command; and having mercifully received them through Thy power and grace, strengthen them, that they may none of them return to their sin and to the wicked and unseemly acts whereunto they have fallen, but raise them up and help them out of the snares and all the evil wiles of the devil, that unhindered, they may serve Thee in sanctity and righteousness all the days of their life. For Thou art the God Who hast come into the world, not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance, and Who commanded us to forgive seventy times seven the offenses of them that fall into sin. Therefore, as Thou didst not condemn the woman caught in adultery whom the Pharisees brought before Thee to test Thee, but mercifully said: Go, and sin no more; so condemn not these, but have mercy on them in Thy love for mankind. And as in Thy mercy Thou didst take pity on that other harlot who wept, and laved Thy feet with her tears and wiped them with the hairs of her head, grant unto these Thy servants freely to weep tears fervent in true repentance. Make steadfast their mind and heart, that they may know Thee, the one true Son of God Who takest away the sins of the world. Accept them as Thou didst accept Peter who had denied Thee but returned in repentance and with better tears; stretch forth Thy right hand and receive them as Thou didst receive him when he was drowning in the sea, and strengthen them against the devil who warreth against them. Cleanse their souls and bodies of evil defilement. For Thou Thyself didst say, O good Lord, that they are well need not a physician, but they that are sick; and Thou didst come not to save them that are already saved, but them that are perishing. Grant, therefore, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, that these Thy servants may complete this holy fast now beginning, untainted, may therein fulfill Thy commandments, may be earnest in prayers and be well-pleasing unto Thee by all the virtues all the days of their life, that they may vouchsafed a pure conscience to partake uncondemned of Thy divine Body and of Thy life-creating Blood shed for the whole world unto the remission of sins, and that they may vanquish and put to shame the devil that warreth against them. For Thou, O God, art the God of the penitent, Who desirest not the death of the sinner, but that he repent and live. For Thou dost not desire, O Master, that the work of Thy hands perish, neither art Thou pleased at the destruction of man; but Thou wilt have all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. Wherefore, do Thou not now turn Thy countenance away from these Thy servants, but grant unto them truly to turn away from their sins unto Thee and to be delivered from all evil deeds. And vouchsafe us all to reach the end [of the fast] in peace, full of good works, and to worship Thy saving passion and Thy holy resurrection, and at the end of our lives to receive with all that have been well-pleasing unto Thee eternal joys in Thee, our God and Savior. For Thou art the God of mercies and compassions and love for mankind, and to Thee do we ascribe glory, with Thine unoriginate Father, and Thine all-holy, good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.
