

THE PARISH NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2012

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, Fr. Wsevolod Drobot Protopriest, Fr. Michael Fritz
Priest, Fr. Andrei Rudenko Protodeacon, Fr. Michael Soloviev
Subdeacon, Br. Andrei Podymow Subdeacon, Br. Marcus Hauf

THE SCHEDULE OF SERVICES AND MEETINGS FOR

JANUARY

**SUNDAYS & FEASTS: 9:30 a.m., HOURS; 9:50 a.m., THE
DIVINE LITURGY**

- 1 Sunday of the Holy Fathers **Sisterhood Meeting**
- 7 **(Saturday) Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ**
- 8 Second Day of Nativity
- 15 Sunday before Theophany
- 19 **(Thursday) Theophany of our Lord Jesus Christ**
- 22 Sunday after Theophany
- 29 Zaccheus Sunday **Church Council Meeting for
January/February**

JANUARY NAMES' DAYS May God grant them many years!

- 3 Julianna Fedorov
- 4 Anastasia (RaeLynn) Gonyea Anastasia Miller Anastasia
Nikiforov
- 6 Eugenia Podymow Eugenia Stabinsky
- 9 Stephen Taylor
- 1st Sunday after Nativity
David Taylor Jacob Welsh Stephen Sherokey Joseph (Brian)
Farley
- 13 Melanie Taylor
- 14 Basil (George) Greene
- 18 Phosterius (Foster) Kinnear
- 20 Ivan Krayniy Ioann Popov
- 25 Tatiana Taylor Tatyana Kosovskij Tatiana (Frantsov) Scott
Tatyana Muller Tania Buchanan Tatjana (Tanya) Purcell
- 27 Nina Fedorov Nina Federow Nina Clark
Nina Krayniy Nina Vepritskaya
- 28 Paul Turaev
- 30 Anton Krayniy Anthony Mazzucco

JANUARY COFFEE HOUR TEAMS

- 1 *(fasting)* Cecelia Soloviev Anna Popov Olga Parella
- 8 **Nativity weekend:** coffee & bagels (& leftover cookies from
home?)

15 **Yolka**

22 Barbara Nikiforov Shura Sinkevich Anastasia Nikiforov

29 Natalie Schuler Maryna Baker Ingrid Knoll

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

**DEADLINE FOR THE FEBRUARY ISSUE: Thursday, January
26**

Please submit items by e-mail or in writing. Thanks for your
cooperation.

Charlie (Vassily "The Fool") Murn

BACVAS@dishmail.net

*Let us remember love for the poor, that this love might save us from
greed, when the sin of greed shall come to meet us. Let us acquire
peace with all, the humble and the great, that this might guard us
against hate, when it shall come to meet us. Let us acquire patience
before all and in all things, that this might guard us against
carelessness, when it shall come to meet us. Let us love all of our
brothers and sisters, without hating anyone or repaying any ill done
against us; for this shall guard us against envy, when this demon too
shall come to meet us. Let us love the endurance in humility of our
neighbor's word, even if this word should bring upon us hurt and
derision; for humility will guard against pride, when this too shall come
to meet us. Let us seek to honor our neighbor and not condemn or
hurt anyone; for this shall protect us from gossip, when it shall come to
meet us. Let us despise the cares of this world and its honors, that we
might be saved from its bewitching evil, when it shall come to meet us.
Let us teach our tongues to be unceasingly occupied with the
commandments of God, righteousness and prayer, that we might be
protected from falsehood, when it too shall come to meet us.*

St. Abba Isaiah

(Your editor is grateful to Tasia Fedorov for supplying the above
passage and many of the others which have appeared in the Parish
Newsletter.)

GOTTA LOVE OUR SISTERHOOD!

The NET income from our annual Taste of Russia sale totaled
\$8025.21, an **increase of nearly \$800.00** from last year.

"Gihugeant" thanks to all our sisters and all who helped! (Gihugeant
—pronounced "jy-HUGE-ant"—is U. S. Navy slang, derived from
gigantic", "huge" and "giant".) **Wow!**

VENERATING ICONS

When you enter the church, it is traditional to venerate the icons.
When venerating (kissing) the icon, pay attention to where you kiss.
We would not go up and kiss the Lord or His Mother on the lips or

cheek, nor should we do this as we venerate their icons. Pay attention to what you are doing. When you approach an icon to venerate it, kiss the gospel, scroll, or hand-cross in the hand of the person in the icon, or kiss the hand or foot or hem of the garment of the person depicted. As you venerate the icon, show proper respect to the person depicted in the icon—the same respect you would show the person by venerating him or her in an appropriate place. And remember, if you wear lipstick to church, blot off your lipstick before kissing. Teach your children and Godchildren, too.

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NATIVITY/CHRISTMAS GIFT

Your continued love and support for our parish is truly appreciated. If you would like to make a Nativity donation, you may specify to which need you would like your donation to apply: Mortgage Fund, Fresco Fund, or whatever else is close to your heart. All gifts, no matter the size, are in support of the Church's mission here on earth, and all gifts are greatly appreciated. Thank you.

DID YOUR KNOW?

...that the name "Emmanuel" means "God with us"?

...that it was St. Justin Martyr who identified the site of Jesus' birth in the second century?

...that because of a mosaic of the Magi dressed in Persian garb, when the Persians rampaged through the Holy Land in 614 A.D. destroying churches, they left the Church of the Nativity alone?

...that it was Queen Helena who erected the first Church of the Nativity in 329 A.D? She directed that a pagan shrine to Adonis, which was built over the cave of the Nativity by Hadrian in 135 A.D., be torn down?

...that upon meeting Jesus, the Magi were described as handing over gifts and "falling down" in joyous praise, meaning lying prostrate on the ground, which would have an important effect on Christian religious practice? Previously both Jewish and Roman tradition had viewed kneeling and prostration as undignified, although for Persians it was a sign of great respect, often showed to the king. Inspired by these verses, kneeling and prostration were adopted in the early Church. While prostration is common in Eastern churches, especially during Lent, kneeling remains an important element of Christian worship to this day.

PORTOBELLO CAVIAR

1 ½ pounds portobellos, stems trimmed 2 Tbsp. olive oil

1 ½ shallots, minced 2 cloves garlic, minced 1 Tbsp. sherry vinegar

Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste Chopped parsley for garnish

Working in batches, coarsely grind the portobellos in a food processor. In a very large skillet set over medium heat, heat the oil.

Add the shallots and garlic and cook, stirring, until softened, 1 to 2 minutes. Add the portobellos, reduce the heat to medium and cook, stirring occasionally, until all the liquid has evaporated, about 30 minutes. Raise the heat to high; add the vinegar and cook, stirring, until the vinegar has evaporated. Remove from the heat. Season with salt and pepper. Garnish with parsley and serve warm or at room temperature with bread or crackers.

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Editor's note: An article on-line about how St. Nicholas sadly "morphed" into Santa Claus appears as "St. Nick in the Big City". The author, John Anthony McGuckin, is a priest of the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese.

MORTGAGE FUND UPDATE, December 20, 2011

Thanks to everyone who answered our appeal, we now have a positive balance in our Mortgage Fund! But we still need a little more to make our next monthly payment of \$5,219.74. If you would like to donate to our Mortgage Fund, please contact Reader John Schuler in church, or call him at 346-4350, or e-mail him at rickschuler@verizon.net. Any amount pledged on a regular basis, no matter how large or small, would be truly appreciated. If you are unable to make a regular pledge at this time, please still consider making a donation. May God bless you for your generosity!

Mortgage Fund Balance \$4,188.30

Fresco Fund Balance \$25, 074.37

Nativity of the Mother of God Russian Orthodox Church
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Mark your calendars: Yolka, Sunday, January 15 after church