



## DECEMBER COFFEEHOURS

DECEMBER 3 <sup>rd</sup> -	N. Smelova; O. Usov; V. Alieyva
DECEMBER 10 <sup>th</sup> -	Christina DiLello; Tasia Fedorov
DECEMBER 17 <sup>th</sup> -	M. C. Soloviev; A Popov, O. Parella (Fr. Wsevolod 40 <sup>th</sup> day)
DECEMBER 24 <sup>th</sup> -	I. Krykhtin; L. Kapustina; J. Howard; N. Samalova
DECEMBER 31 <sup>st</sup> -	Junia Dragon; Olyesa Zaichenko

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### **Memory eternal to the newly reposed Archpriest Wsevolod!**

On Wednesday, November 8, Archpriest Wsevolod Drobot, longtime cleric of the Eastern American Diocese, reposed in the Lord. Fr. Wsevolod's clerical service lasted 57 years, and he had been rector of Nativity of the Mother of God parish in Albany, NY. In the course of his 52-year service in Albany, Fr. Wsevolod oversaw the construction of a new church building, the great consecration of which took place in September 2010.

A brief biography of Fr. Wsevolod:

Archpriest Wsevolod Drobot came to the Albany, NY parish only by God's mercy. After the end of World War II, Batushka and his parents settled in Argentina. There they attended church at the cathedral in Buenos Aires, where he served in the altar with Archbishop Joasaph (Skorodumov; +1955) of blessed memory. His Eminence advised and blessed the young Wsevolod to attend seminary and be ordained a priest. So, on the stormiest day of the year, December 23, 1958, Wsevolod and Nadezhda Drobot arrived from Argentina to begin his studies at Holy Trinity Seminary in Jordanville, NY. After completing the required years at seminary, he was to return to help the clergy in Argentina. By the summer of 1960, Father Wsevolod was ordained a deacon and was blessed with a growing family. On August 27, 1961, Father Wsevolod was ordained a priest and was assigned to serve in the Protection of the Mother of God Parish in Schenectady, NY, while he completed his last year of seminary. In June 1962, he graduated and was assigned to serve in Queens, NY. But to Fr. Wsevolod's relief, Metropolitan Anastassy (Gribanovsky; +1965) reconsidered and gave his blessing for Fr. Wsevolod to serve in the growing parish of Albany, NY.

On our parish feast day, the Nativity of the Mother of God, September 21, 1962, Archbishop Averky (Taushev; +1976) happily introduced our new rector, Father Wsevolod Drobot. The rest, as they say, is history. At that time, our Church was located in North Albany on Pearl Street. Father Wsevolod and Matushka Nadezhda ran the Church School and Russian classes on Saturdays. The children would attend classes and then the Vigil service on Saturday night. Following the sale of the Albany church, the parish of the Nativity of the Mother of God joined with the parish of the Protection of the Mother of God in Schenectady. The parish then purchased property in Colonie, NY, and in 1988 the land was blessed by Archbishop Laurus (Skurla; +2008) and construction of the church hall began. In 2010, we held the Great Consecration of our new church in honor of the Nativity of the Mother of God. All of this is due to the hard work and dedication of our loving rector and pastor, Father Wsevolod. One of Father Wsevolod's favorite sayings was, "I have baptized more than I have buried". He will be greatly missed by all of the parishioners of the Nativity of the Mother of God Parish, where he was our spiritual father, our guide, our mentor, our friend. We love you, Batushka!

**THANK YOU Everyone who donated towards the luncheon in memory of Father Wsevolod.**

## CHURCH CLEANING SCHEDULE

Thank you to everyone who has helped in keeping our Church clean. If you are interested in cleaning the Church - this goes for men too, it is not ONLY a woman's job - please contact Maria Hauf. The Church needs to be cleaned weekly and Maria Hauf is more than willing to go over what has to be done. If you are able to volunteer for a month (clean 4 times) or for a couple of weeks, or are willing to be a "Substitute" cleaner, please contact Maria at 253-9286 as soon as possible

**DECEMBER STILL AVAILABLE - Anyone?????**

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## CHURCH SCHOOL CLASSES

Church School classes are held on Sunday mornings prior to Liturgy and during the reading of the hours. ALL of the children of our Parish SHOULD participate in the classes. Adult discussion groups also take place during the same time as the Church School classes. For more information regarding Church School, please speak to Matushka Anna.

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## Hello choir members,

We are approaching Christmas quickly – we have already started Choir practices to prepare for the Feast of the Nativity. Rehearsals are now held on Wednesday evenings at the Church. For more information, or to be notified by e-mail of rehearsal days and times, please speak to John Schuler. Thank you to John Schuler for taking over the duties of Choir Director and all of our wonderful singers - our choir is absolutely beautiful and your hard work is greatly appreciated.

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## SISTERHOOD NEWS

**TASTE OF RUSSIA** - Thank you, thank you, thank you to everyone who made the Taste of Russia such a wonderful success. We almost sold out of all our food! Our baked goods table did a fantastic business and thank you to all of our bakers. The Arts and Crafts table did a booming business. Thank you to our performers - especailly Patrick Soloviev who played the accodian beautifully. Thank you to Father Michael, Father Alexis and Reader Eugene who gave tours of our beautiful Church. I can't thank everyone by name, but you know who you are - THANK YOU. All in all, a success. We still have some frozen vareniki available for sale.

**YOLKA DINNER** - We STILL need someone to step up to chair the Yolka Luncheon. This entails making sure the hall is set-up and decorated. Coordinate food (may be pot luck), the Sisterhood usually purchases the main MEAT portion of the meal, Food needs to be prepared and served. Dishes and Kitchen cleaned. Tables and Chairs put-away and Hall and Bathroom floors cleaned and mopped. We have a lot of young parents whose children will be participating in the Yolka. They should be the ones who are responsible for the Yolka Dinner. If anyone is interested in Chairing and Coordinating this event, they should contact Anastasia (RaeLynn) Gonyea immediately. If no one steps up to do the work, I guess we won't be having a luncheon Yolka.

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## YOLKA PLAY

Ok folks we are getting close...this Sunday will be our first run through for the Yolka, I am including a copy of the play with all of the parts assigned. As you can see I am still missing a person to play "Dancer" this ideally should be an older person male or female. Practice will take place during coffee hour. We will go over to the church and since we are just going to be explaining and reading our parts we will all be upstairs in the choir loft. I am going to need parental participation in costumes and some props and scenery. Please be thinking of poems that can be independently learned and recited. If there are small groups that would like to get together and sing a song, let me know. We will be singing all together as well. Due to church school in the mornings and coffee hours after church, I would like to propose the possibility of practices held on Saturday around 3:30 or 4. This would allow us to practice in the space with the least amount of disturbance. I do understand this might not be possible for all but maybe we could practice some parts/children.

When you reply it might be best to hit reply all so everyone knows the plan. Call me with questions, and please someone step up to fill the part of the dancer. This can be a lot of fun for all of us!  
Thanks Cecelia 518 577 5432

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## BROTHERHOOD CHILI COOKOFF

On Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, the Brotherhood provided a scrumptious luncheon featuring a CHILI COOK OFF. Four of our men provided a Chili to be judged. The winner of the Chili Cook-Off was John Raymond. If anyone is interested in the recipe, John has provided me with a copy. Please let me know and I will be more than willing to share. Contact Tasia Fedorov. Thank you to all our participants!

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## PROJECT TIKHVIN AND THE TIKHVIN BALL

The monastery of the Entrance of the Most Holy Mother of God has stood near the banks of the Tikhvinka River since the 14th century. This place was chosen by the Mother of God Herself as a resting place for the Tikhvin Icon of the Mother of God, painted by the Holy Evangelist Luke. The monastery has seen invasions, battles, civil upheavals and closure by the godless in our last century. The present cathedral was built by Tsar Ivan the Terrible. Project Tikhvin has taken up the task of providing the youth of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad the opportunity to journey to Tikhvin to assist in restoring this ancient and holy place. The Project is charged with raising the necessary funds to enable this restoration. All those who work with this project do so on a purely voluntary basis and receive no salary. The Project is blessed by His Eminence Metropolitan Hilarion, the First Hierarch of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad. It is administered by the St. Seraphim Camp.

To help with the cost of the trip and to keep expenses of our youth volunteers at a minimum, we need to raise money for this project. **SAVE THE DATE** for the Tikhvin Gala Dinner scheduled on **Friday, Feb 2, 2018**. Please save this date, and plan to attend. It is NOT only an evening for our youth, but for all ages. More information will be posted in the January Newsletter.

## NEW PARISHIONER'S

You may have noticed some new faces in Church. Please welcome these people to our parish - make them feel welcome. Sit with them during Coffee Hour, tell them about our Sisterhood, Church School, Choir etc. Be friendly, so these people will be glad to return.

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## CONGRATULATIONS

**CONGRATULATIONS!** Maxin Schuler and Tatyana (Kirichok) Schuler. Who were married on October 15<sup>th</sup>. What a beautiful wedding! God grant you both many, many years of happiness and blessings. Gorko!

**CONGRATULATIONS!** David Taylor and Alexandra (Alika Wolkow) Taylor who were married on November 12th. What a beautiful wedding! God grant you both many, many years of happiness and blessings. Gorko!

**CONGRATULATIONS** Theophana (Fanny) Pervychine on her Baptism into the Orthodox Faith. Godparents ProtoDeacon Pavel Wolkow and Nina Vassilieff. Monogaya Leta!

**CONGRATULATIONS!** Benjamin & Becca Taylor on the Birth of your beautiful son Aidan James Taylor! 7lbs 13 oz , 20.5 inches long, born at 1807 on November 14! Thank you Aidan for waiting for after Uncle David's wedding to enter this world. God Bless your beautiful family. Congratulations to the Parents, Grandparents, Great Granparents, Aunts and Uncles and cousins.

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## YOUNG ADULT ORTHODOX DISCUSSION GROUP

The Capital Region Orthodox Christian Fellowship is a pan-Orthodox college group meeting every Tuesday at 6:00 pm at the parish hall of the Nativity of the Mother of God Church, 617 Sand Creek Road, Albany NY. All college-aged students or those slightly older are invited to attend! Free food every week! Please contact student chaplain Fr. Matthew Markewich (518-212-7845) for more information or for a ride.

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## KITCHEN (DINING ROOM) TABLE

Anyone need a solid wood kitchen (Dining Room) Table in great shape. Solid wood with a self storing leaf. When closed it is about 36 inches square. When open with leaf can seat 8 people comfortably. If you are interested, please contact Tasia Fedorov. It's yours if you want it. Just have to come pick it up, or I can bring it to Church.

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## REMINDER TO PARENTS

When young children are brought to Communion they should be lifted to the chalice. As Bishop Nicholas stated in his sermon on our Church Feastday and as Deacon Michael Soloviev reiterated this past Sunday, children under age 5 should be lifted by an adult to receive communion. The Chalice and priest should NOT kneel down to the children. Thank you!

## **Church Etiquette - A couple of points to remember:**

When attending the Vigil, it is improper to sit during the Six Psalms and the reading of the Gospel. We are, of course, supposed to stand for the whole Vigil except during readings which sometimes follow "O Gentle Light" and during Kathisma readings. It is understood that some people have weakness or infirmities that prevent them always standing, but this should not apply to the above times. During Liturgy - It is also improper to move around the church venerating icons, lighting candles, etc. during the Cherubic Hymn, the Eucharistic Canon (from "It is meet and right" to "It is truly meet"), or the Lord's Prayer at Divine Liturgy. If you enter the church late, during one of these times, simply stand quietly in the back until it is appropriate to move around.

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## **CHURCH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**

I don't know how many people actually take the time to read the Monthly Church Newsletter on-line. It takes quite a bit of effort and is quite frustrating when people claim they knew nothing about a specific activity when it has been discussed in length in the Monthly Newsletter. So, I am going to try a different approach. I will still publish a Monthly Newsletter which will be on our Church Website and sent to all parishioners through our "Google Group" Account. But in addition, I will provide a WEEKLY Update that will be handed out during the kissing of the cross on Sundays. Hopefully this will keep everyone informed, and EVERYONE will know what is happening in our Parish.

If you would like something posted in the Newsletter or in the weekly bulletin, please contact Tasia Fedorov (518) 459-1253. THANK YOU!

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# Feast of the Entrance into The Temple of Our Most Holy Lady The Theotokos

## Introduction

The Feast of the Entrance into the Temple of Our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary is celebrated on November 21 each year. The Feast commemorates when as a young child, the Virgin Mary entered the Temple in Jerusalem.

## Introduction

The birth and early life of the Virgin Mary is not recorded in the Gospels or other books of the New Testament, however this information can be found in a work dating from the second century known as the

Book of James or Protevangelion.

When Mary was three years old, Joachim and Anna decided that the time had come to fulfill their promise and to offer her to the Lord. Joachim gathered the young girls of the neighborhood to form an escort, and he made them go in front of Mary, carrying torches. Captivated by the torches, the young child followed joyfully to the Temple, not once looking back at her parents nor weeping as she was parted from them. The holy Virgin ran toward the Temple, overtaking her attendant maidens and threw herself into the arms of the High Priest Zacharias, who was waiting for her at the gate of the Temple with the elders. Zacharias blessed her saying, "It is in you that He has glorified your name in every generation. It is in you that He will reveal the Redemption that He has prepared for His people in the last days." Then, Zacharias brought the child into the Holy of Holies—a place where only the High Priest was permitted to enter once a year on the Day of Atonement. He placed her on the steps of the altar, and the grace of the Lord descended upon her. She arose and expressed her joy in a dance as wonder seized all who saw this happen. The Virgin Mary dwelt in the Temple for nine years until, reaching an age for marriage, she was taken from the Temple by the priests and elders and entrusted to Joseph as the guardian of her virginity.

The Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple signifies her total dedication to God and her readiness for her future vocation as the Mother of the Incarnate Lord. This is a feast of anticipation. As honor is shown to Mary, the faithful are called to look forward to the Incarnation of Christ, celebrated in a little more than a month by the Feast of the Nativity on December 25.

## Icon of the Feast

The icon of the feast tells the story of Mary's entry into the Temple. The High Priest, Zacharias, is in his priestly robes standing on the step of the Temple. His arms are outstretched, ready to greet and receive the Virgin. Mary is shown as a small child, standing before Zacharias with her arms reaching up to him