

THE ENLIGHTENER

Newsletter of St. Ann Byzantine Catholic Church

Volume 1, Issue 6

Harrisburg, PA

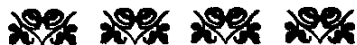
Fall 2002

A Year of Favor

Living the events of the life of Christ is a grace given in order to form Christ in us

Those who seek the Lord should not look for Him outside themselves; on the contrary, they must seek Him within themselves through faith made manifest in action.

St. Maximos the Confessor



Kontakion

You were truly a priestly worker in Myra, O holy Nicholas, for zealously living the Gospel of Christ, you dedicated your life to your people; you saved the innocent from death. Therefore, you have been sanctified as one who has entered the mystery of God's grace.



St. Ann Byzantine Catholic Church

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Harrisburg, PA 17109

Served by Fr. Michael Shear
717-652-1415

stann@stannsbyzhbg.org
www.stannsbyzhbg.org

Divine Liturgies at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.; Summer 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.; Holy Day Vigil 7 p.m.

The Church Year is a way to make present the events of salvation for our benefit. The Lord Jesus, then, is living and active, so we don't study His life on earth as history, something done in the past and over with. Why? Because as God, He is not bound by time. Therefore, His activity is not bound by time. It is timeless and therefore always timely. A monk once wrote about the Church Year:

Each liturgical feast renews and in some sense actualizes the event of which it is a symbol; it takes event out of the past and makes it immediate; it offers us the appropriate grace. (The Year of the Grace of the Lord)

As we live in the events of the life of Christ, it is a grace given to us in order to form Christ in us. This annual memorialization makes present for us what it commemorates.

An invitation from God to me

September first of each year, we read the Gospel passage from St. Luke. The Lord Jesus renews his invitation to us to participate in his divine life which is freedom and liberty and an insight and enlighten-

ment. It is a salvation from sin, evil and death.

The Lord Jesus announced "good news," or, in an Old English word that we use, "gospel." The good news or gospel He proclaimed was the coming of the Kingdom of God, and He, the Lord Jesus, was its Herald and its Embodiment. The Kingdom of God is present when God's will is done on earth as it is

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Nativity of Our Lord

Respect Life News

Parishioners set to March for Life!

“Today I believe the Lord is saying to us all: do not hesitate, do not be afraid to engage the good fight of the faith (cf. I Tim 6:12). When we preach the liberating message of Jesus Christ we are offering the words of life to the world. Our prophetic witness is an urgent and essential service not just to the Catholic community but to the whole human family.”

- Pope John Paul II, at the conclusion of the 1998 ad limina visits of the bishops of the United States.

January 22, 2003 marks the 30th anniversary of Roe v Wade – the Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion in the United States. Since 1973, there have been over 40 million abortions. Four thousand babies die every day in abortion clinics and hospitals across America. As if that loss of life were not evil enough, 4,000 women every day leave those clinics and hospitals *telling* themselves that what they did was the right thing, yet *feeling*, sometimes for years after, that what they did was very, very wrong. When a woman has an abortion she doesn't just leave a baby behind; she leaves a part of her heart and her soul, too. After an abortion, many women struggle with guilt, loneliness, and a

loss of hope. And so, every abortion leaves two victims in its wake.

At the March for Life in Washington, DC hundreds of thousands of women and men of all ages will commemorate the anniversary of the Roe v Wade decision by walking from the Washington Monument to the Supreme Court building. The March is a peaceful, prayerful witness, a sign of hope, and a call to share the *gospel of life* with the world. The Respect Life Committee will once again work with the Harrisburg chapter of Pennsylvanians for Human Life to provide transportation for all those in our parish who wish to attend the March. The members of the RLC invite everyone – especially the youth – to join with them as a sign that we in the Eastern Church are a people of life.

Look for a sign up sheet in December, and more information about how to prepare for the event. And don't forget to mark your calendar for January 22, 2003!

The St. Ann Respect Life Committee meets on the 3rd Sunday of the month, after the second Liturgy, in the Parish Center. If you would like to know more about how you can help proclaim the Gospel of Life, contact Ann Hanincik at 717-312-0465, or email, amh260@comcast.net

A Year of Favor

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in Heaven.

The good news was that God is not against us because of Original Sin or our own sins. God is with us (this is, in fact, what his throne name, Emmanuel, means) to save us. All we have to do is abandon our own way and follow God's way. This is the first step in the renewal of our lives.

After the Lord Jesus announced his invitation at the synagogue, He left Nazareth and moved to Capernaum, and His preaching began with this message.

Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand. (Matthew 4:17)

The word for repent in the Greek original text is *metanoiete*. It means “repent” and “reform,” an invitation to change the direction of one's life, to orient oneself to God and away from evil. We promised to do this in the baptismal vows we took when the

priest asked if we renounce Satan, his angels, all service to him, and his pride. We answered three times that we did renounce him. We then were asked if we united ourselves to Christ. Three times we responded, “yes.” Now is the time of favor to make good on our promise. Let our New Year's resolution be to renew the promises in our lives. With the effort of our cooperation, we can, through the church year, receive the favor of the Lord.

And to the brothers and sisters of the faith

The epistle read on September first reminds us that we are “all in this together.” God has made all human beings, and He “wills everyone to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth” (1 Timothy 2:4). The epistle, the first epistle of Saint Paul to Timothy (2:1-7) calls us to pray for God's favor to come upon everyone, including ourselves.

What's Happening

1) Whenever you call the rectory and no one is there to answer the call, please leave the message on the answering machine. Your call will be answered as soon as possible.

2) We are grateful to our parents for bringing their children to the ECF classes on Sunday morning. However, we must remember we defeat the purpose of the religious education if we do not come to the Divine Liturgy to pray with our children.

3) **TREE OF GIVING:** Thank you to all who participated in our ANNUAL TREE OF GIVING. Some of the gifts will be distributed to a few needy families in the Parish, but the majority of gifts will be sent to orphans and needy children in Eastern Europe who have little to make them happy at Christmas time. We especially thank Drs. Richard and Kathy Szarko for the great deal of time, effort and talents they put into this project.

4) **ST. NICHOLAS BUFFET DANCE - SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2002** - preceded by a cocktail hour. Buffet at 7:45 P.M. Cash bar. \$40.00 per couple; \$20.00 single. **ADMITTANCE BY RESERVATION ONLY. FOR RESERVATIONS CONTACT JOHN FALATOVICH AT 697-4958** or mail your reservation to him at 908 Wakefield Ave., Mechanicsburg, PA., 17055 or drop your reservation form into the collection basket at Church. Please do not wait until the last minute.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please keep the Rectory informed of any change of address, telephone number both for and for work, in order that the parish records can be kept updated and correct and current. Thank you.

BINGO needs for 8 people to help to keep it going. Plus we have 6 volunteers who are not even members of our parish. Will **YOU** consider giving the parish help one night every five weeks?

NATIVITY (PHILIP'S) FAST: The traditional fast prior to Christmas is called **PHILIP'S FAST** or **PHILIPOVKA**. It lasts for 40-days and is similar to that before Easter. We are asked to refrain from dairy products and meats during this period

that begins on November 15, the day after the Feast of St. Philip on November 14. **MAY YOU HAVE A HOLY AND HAPPY PHILIP'S FAST!**

LOOKING FOR GIFTS? If you can't find the gift you are looking for try shopping in our Gift Shop in the Church Basement. You will find many one-of-a-kind icons from Eastern Europe, figurines, genuine antiques, gifts of all types that you can't find in local stores and reasonably priced. Stop in the Gift Shop, browse around and purchase your special gifts.

9) **Christmas Bake Sale: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14 IN THE PARISH CENTER, 9 A.M. UNTIL SOLD OUT. SALE ON FIRST COME-FIRST SERVED BASIS. NO ORDERS TAKEN.**

CHRISTMAS EVE DECEMBER 24

You are all invited to the Parish Center after the 9:00 P.M. Liturgy. Parishioners are asked to please bring their famous cookies and baked goodies for everyone to enjoy. Contact Helen Lutzkanin at 566-3175 if you will be bringing cookies and let her know. These cookies, etc., can be brought to the Parish Center prior to Christmas Eve. Beverages will be provided. We thank all those who have volunteered to set up the Parish Center.

OUR CHRISTMAS RAFFLE WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE PARISH CENTER DURING THIS SOCIAL.

EPIPHANY EVE SUPPER JANUARY 5

Supper will be held at 5:30 P.M. in the Parish Center. Attendance by reservation only. The deadline for reservations is December 31, 2001. We must know the number of people who will attend in order to prepare sufficient food and to take care of other preparations. For reservations call Helen Lutzkanin at 566-3175, John Falatovich at 697-4958 and Eleanor Bereschak at 533-7908. Offering is \$4.00 per adult, and this includes anyone over the age of 10 years.

VESPERS WITH VIGIL LITURGY AND SOLEMN BLESSING OF WATER WILL FOLLOW THE HOLY SUPPER AT 7:00 P.M. Plan to attend the Holy Supper and the Epiphany Vigil

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Christmas Liturgy Schedule

CHRISTMAS LITURGY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY - DECEMBER 22 - SUNDAY BEFORE

CHRISTMAS - HOLY FATHERS

8:00 A.M. - Liturgy

10:30 A.M. - Liturgy

TUESDAY - December 24 - VIGIL OF CHRISTMAS

- CHRISTMAS EVE

8:00 P.M. - Compline

9:00 P.M. - CHRISTMAS EVE LITURGY

PARISH SOCIAL IN PARISH CENTER AFTER THE
9:00 P.M. LITURGY

WEDNESDAY - DECEMBER 25 - THE FEAST OF

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

10:30 A.M. - Liturgy

THURSDAY - DECEMBER 26 - SYNAXIS OF THE

MOTHER OF GOD

7:00 P.M. - Liturgy

FRIDAY - DECEMBER 27 - ST. STEPHEN

9:30 A.M. - Liturgy

SUNDAY - DECEMBER 29 - SUNDAY AFTER

CHRISTMAS - SUNDAY BEFORE EPIPHANY

8:00 A.M. - Liturgy

10:30 A.M. - Liturgy

TUESDAY - DECEMBER 31 - NEW YEAR'S EVE

5:00 P.M. Vigil Liturgy

*I wish all of you a most holy,
happy, and blessed Christmas,
New Year, and Epiphany.*

Father Michael

PARISH SOCIAL - following the Vigil Liturgy, in the Parish Center. A pork and sauerkraut supper will be served. The Social is contingent on enough people attending. Watch your bulletin for further information.

WEDNESDAY - JANUARY 1 - CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD - ST. BASIL THE GREAT - NEW YEAR'S DAY

9:30 a.m Liturgy

SUNDAY - JANUARY 5 - VIGIL OF EPIPHANY EPIPHANY EVE

5:30 P.M. - HOLY SUPPER IN THE PARISH CENTER

7:00 P.M. - Vespers with Vigil Liturgy and Solemn
Blessing of Water

MONDAY - JANUARY 6 - BOHOJAVLENIJA - EPIPHANY - THIS IS A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

8:00 A.M. Liturgy

10:30 A.M. Liturgy

Note: Above times are subject to change. Watch your bulletin for changes in times.

What's Happening

(Continued from Page 3)

Liturgy on Saturday, January 6, EPIPHANY LITURGY WILL BE AT 9:30 A.M. EPIPHANY IS A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION.

HOUSE BLESSING: Father will determine at a later date as to how he will bless homes.

ADVENT FOLDERS

Your Advent Folder is enclosed. Please offer to Christ and His Church a gift of a coin a day and the joy in our souls will help brighten Christmas for someone else who is less fortunate. Be generous and bring joy to your heart. The monies offered in your Advent Folder will be distributed to the poor

and to the Churches in Eastern Europe.

CANDLE OFFERINGS

Please remember to burn a candle during the Feast of the Nativity in memory of a loved one or for a special intention of yours.

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS

If you would like to offer a special article for Christmas in memory of a loved one, in Thanksgiving, or for a Special Intention, a special form is included with this letter. Make your selection and return the form as soon as possible.

Eternal Memory

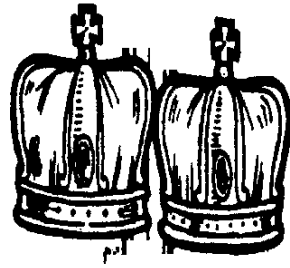


Our parish family offers prayers and condolences to the family of John Pinchorski and Margaret Bastardi-Hein.

Crowned in Matrimony

Matthew Zurat
and Jaime Gibson

Mnohaja l'ita!



Sacraments of Initiation

Nicholas Koval
(Son of Edward and Tamara Koval)

John Michael Gruber
(Son of Ray and Marie Gruber)

Andrew Stephen and Jessica Elizabeth Anderson
(children of Lon and Teresa Anderson)

Nicholas Andrew Grubb
(son of Charles and Karen Grubb)

Michael Robert Brunner
(son of Robert and Laura Brunner)

Enlightened by the Spirit and Bread of Life

Gabrielle and Edward Koval
(Children of Edward and Tamara Koval)

Holy Priesthood

Congratulations to Father Peter Hahn on his ordination to the Holy Priesthood. His mother, Helen Hahn, is a member of our parish and Father Hahn is a nephew of Bishop Pataki. He is stationed in New Cumberland.

New Parishioners

Edward and Tamara Koval and children
Allen and Patricia Ann Shellong

Catherine Dugdale

**“ ... for the salvation of the sick,
the suffering and the captive,
let us pray to the Lord.”**

- from the Divine Liturgy

Please remember the sick - Those who are hospitalized, those who are residents in nursing homes, those who are in some way incapacitated, and those who cannot worship with us. Please remember them with a prayer, a card, a visit, or a gift to let them know we are thinking about them and have not forgotten them.

Mrs. Anna Langes
Cedar Haven Nursing Home
590 S. 5th Ave., Rm. 302 D
Lebanon, PA 17042

Mrs. Rose Lefever
623 Firehouse Rd.
Grantville, PA 17028

Mr. Mike Ondeck
602 Drexel Rd.
Harrisburg, PA 17109

Mrs. Alice Pawlinski
Arden Courts
2625 Alianthus Lane
Harrisburg, PA 17110-3450

Miss Isabella Lesko
Outdoor Pointe at Harrisburg
3560 N. Progress Ave.
Room 211
Harrisburg, PA 17921

Mrs. Winifred Collins
12 S. Queen St.
Littlestown, PA 17340

Mary Mucha
C/o M Palamar
HC 60
P.O. Box 68-
Orbisonia, PA 17243

It would also be nice to remember our retired bishop. He will appreciate hearing from you.

The Most Rev. Michael J. Dudick, D.D., Bishop Emeritus
32 Lakeview Trail
Sugarloaf, PA 18241-1043

Mrs. Mary Lucas
1020 N. Union St.
Frey Village
Middletown, PA 17057

Mrs. Mary Gnall
7102 Sandy Hollow Rd.
Harrisburg, PA 17112-9319

Mrs. Helen Houser
Villa Teresa Home
1051 Avila Road
Harrisburg, PA 17109

Mrs. Ann Rosiak
(Ann M. Falatovich's
Mother)
Church of God Home
801 S. Hanover St.
Peace Wing, Rm. 405
Carlisle, PA 17013-4112

Mr. Donald Smith
Mary Smith
334 Third St.
Hanover, PA 17331-4909

Mrs. Mary Kosloski
356 Pine Street
Steelton, PA 17113-2349

Questions about the sign of the cross

I got the address to your newspaper from a Byzantine friend of mine. He promised to pass the paper along to me if you print your answer. I attended a wedding with him in the Byzantine Catholic Church and I was mystified by the great number of times the people made the sign of the cross. Being from the Protestant tradition, I cannot understand why.

We do use the sign of the cross often in our prayer, both publicly as at the wedding you attended, and privately. The sign of the cross is a sign of our salvation in Jesus Christ by tracing it on our bodies. We are identifying ourselves with Christ and His death and resurrection. The action of signing ourselves becomes our act of our commitment to Jesus Christ.

When are we supposed to make the sign of the cross? There are no hard and fast rules that are common to all Christians. Each church has its own particular customs. Each church gives us the

following indications in the service books of Byzantine usage. The sign of the cross is to be made at the following times, but not necessarily limited to these times:

When one enters the altar (sanctuary) or departs from it.

At the beginning of any office (service).

At the Trisagion (or the hymns that replace it) At the "Come let us worship and fall down before Christ ..."

When one says all three Alleluias at the end of a Psalm

Whenever three Persons of the life giving Trinity are mentioned together

As often as one passes before an icon

It should be noted that we should not make the sign of the cross when the church is incensed, nor during the Great Entrance (the service books instruct us to make a small bow only)

Summer of Love

Parishioners share faith and hope at youth gatherings

Youth from St. Ann made pilgrimage to Mount St. Macrina in Uniontown, Pa., for the second Byzantine Youth Rally in June. There they met other Byzantine Teens from every corner of the United States to share faith, hope and love with the theme "Be Not Afraid!"

"It was a grouping together of all the Byzantine Catholics to make a united religious youth group," said Clifford Canant, a member of the ECF high school class.

The youth attended workshops, learned how to dance the waltz and cha-cha, and went on a dinner-dance cruise in Pittsburgh. But what was a really big hit was the BC Cafe - the old pierogie stand-turned-coffee house where the kids could stay and talk all night.

"I liked the BC Cafe because you could eat and hang out with your friends," said Monica Lazar.

"Everyone there is Byzantine Catholic and it was so easy to talk to people, and they were kids. You could talk about God and not have to worry about people giving you a hard time," said Allison Mushalko. Allison was also chosen as one of only two representatives for the Eparchy of Passaic for the

planning of the next Byzantine Youth Rally in 2004.

Another pilgrimage was made to Toronto this summer for the XVIIth World Youth Day. Anthony Sedun, Jim Eline, Ann Hanincik and Marya Tipton joined nearly one million 18 to 35-year-olds from all corners of the globe for a week-long celebration culminating with the papal mass.

Pope John Paul II called on young people to be salt of the earth and light of the world, to bear witness to Christ's presence in today's society, and to become builders of the "civilization of love and truth."

The Holy Father's presence made a huge impact on the youth of the world, his spirit and courage transcending the multitude of cultures and languages. A special moment was when the morning torrential rains stopped and the clouds parted as he started celebrating mass in front of the largest gathering in Toronto's history.

"I have heard your festive voices, your cries, your songs, and I have felt the deep longing that beats within your hearts: you want to be happy," he told the crowd.

Slav pope link between East and West

"The 'Pope from Poland' is the first Slav Pope. His origin and his language link him to all the Slav peoples who inhabit eastern Europe and a good part of central Europe. Consequently, he and his people inherit the common ground between two Christian traditions and of two cultures, those of the West, centered on Rome, and those of the East, linked with Constantinople. It is pertinent to recall that the apostles of the Slavs, SS. Cyril and Methodius, came from Thessalonica, that is, Constantinople's sphere of influence. Nevertheless, history tells us that for their mission to the Slavs they sought support and confirmation from Rome. Right at the beginning of its history Poland received baptism through the

intervention of a Czech princess, the wife of the first sovereign of my country attested by history. The union with Rome shaped our thousand years of Christianity. At the same time, especially after the union with Lithuania at the end of the fourteenth century, Poland entered into close relations with the Ruthenian peoples - who lived on each side of the line Lvov-Kiev - and through them the eastern tradition. Thus our heritage is a fruit of this meeting between East and West."

"Be Not Afraid!" Pope John Paul II Speaks Out On His Life, His Beliefs, And His Inspiring Vision For Humanity
Andre Frossard & Pope John Paul II



Thank you from all of us

Mrs. Susan Gable has been an active and vibrant member of our church since it was founded. In addition to being a dedicated member of the parish, she has been the pastoral assistant/secretary. For many years we have been blessed with her talents. In October, she retired from her duties in the office. Father Michael and all of us parishioners thank her for her many years of dedicated and committed service. May God grant her health and happiness in her retirement!



St. Ann Festival News

We thank everyone for the many hours of preparation for the great success of 2002 St. Ann Festival. The tremendous humidity and the high heat kept many people from attending the festival. Naturally, this affected our financial outcome.

Our income was	\$38,133.06
Our expenses	19,925.46 (Including updating the pavilion)
Our profit	18,207.60

The St. Ann Festival will be held on July 20, 2003, the third Sunday in July, in order not to conflict with the Seminary Day Fundraiser in Minersville and with other local events. Mark your calendar now for next July.

Diocesan Development Appeal:

(Stewardship Appeal-2002) Your participation is vital to our church, our Eparchy, and our Bishop. There is a great need--only you can help! Giving to this Appeal is a way of thanking God for all His Blessings and returning to God a prayerful share of

time, talent and treasure allotted to us. May we count on all of you to make a commitment and help reach our goal for this appeal. Thank you to those who have donated already.

Dear parishioners and friends,

I am most grateful to God who has permitted me to continue to pray His words in Song and glorify His Name!

My voice is beginning to come back. Though if I sing too much I get a sore throat. So I have to continue to be careful.

I want everyone to know how grateful I am to everyone who remembered me with get-well cards and prayers. To the clergy who covered the parish, just to everyone, Thank you!

God's Blessing on You!
Father Michael

ARTICLES FOR MEMORIALIZING: The new Holy Water Sprinkler has been donated to the parish in Thanksgiving for God's blessings by Luke and Marie Nester and Family. May God shower them with blessings. The following articles are still available as memorials for a loved one or in honor of Thanksgiving to Almighty God: Two sets of blue vestments; one icon of Blessed Paul Goidich; one Holy Thursday candelabrum; one hot water container; two hand-carved icon stands; one hand-carved table, one sterling silver chalice set; one candelabrum; and one Holy Week hand bells. Please see Father Michael.

Our Thanksgiving offering will be given to the less fortunate. On this Thanksgiving Holiday, may the poor eat and be satisfied & may those who seek the Lord praise him.

"... of myself I will not boast, except of my weaknesses ... I will all the more gladly boast of my weaknesses that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

(2 Cor 12:5.9)

Stop CROP walking

For 25 years, Catholic parishes around the country have taken part in the annual "CROP Walk" sponsored by the Church World Service to fight global hunger.

But that may change now that it's been discovered that one of the agency's weapons in fighting hunger is to send, not food, but condoms and other birth-control devices to Third World countries.

That's why Bishop Raymond Burke of the Diocese of La Crosse, Wis., ordered his parishes not to support the walk this year, making it one of only two dioceses in the country that does not support Church World Service, a relief, development and refugee-assistance ministry of 35 denominations, which helps fight hunger through

partner agencies in more than 80 countries. Judy McDowell, Church World Service spokeswoman, told the Stevens Point (Wis.) Journal (Oct. 1) that only La Crosse and Rockford, Ill., have withdrawn support from the walks over the birth control issue.

But Rose Hammes, spokeswoman for Bishop Burke, predicted more protests would come as more bishops learn that Church World Services' policies are "not in line with the right-to-life teaching of the Catholic Church"