

THE ENLIGHTENER

Newsletter of St. Ann Byzantine Catholic Church

Volume 2, Issue 4

Harrisburg, PA

December 2003

Troparion of the Nativity of Jesus Christ

Your birth, O Christ our God, has shed upon the world the light of knowledge; for through it, those who worshiped the stars have learned from a star to worship You, the Son of Justice, and to recognize You as the Orient from on high. Glory be to You, O Lord.

CALENDAR

November

- 15 Nativity (Philip's) Fast begins
- 21 Presentation of the Mother of God
- 27 Thanksgiving Day

December

- 6 Feast of St. Nicholas
- 7 St. Nicholas Party
- 8 Conception of St. Ann
- 13 St. Nicholas Buffet Dance
- 14 Children's Pageant
- 25 Nativity of Jesus Christ
- 26 Synaxis of the Mother of God
- 27 Feast of St. Stephen

January

- 1 Circumcision of Our Lord
- 5 Vigil Liturgy for Theophany and Solemn Blessing of Water (Holy Supper)
- 6 Theophany

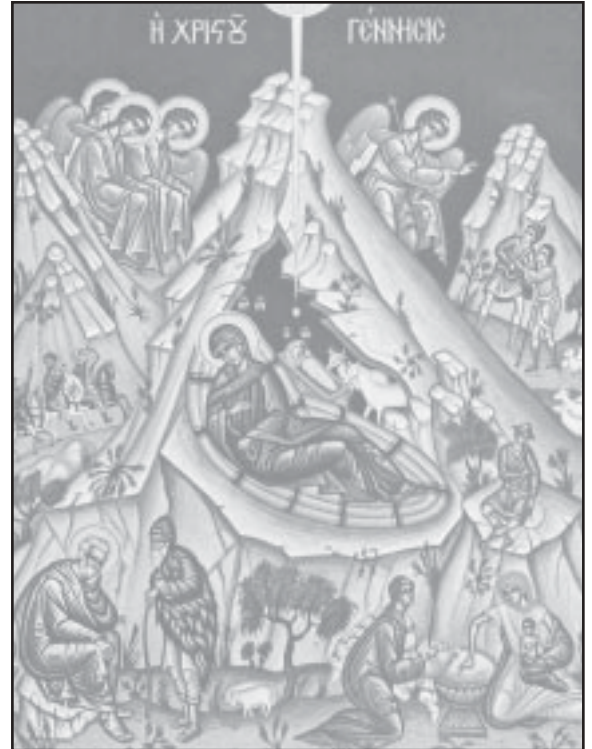
Nativity of Jesus Christ

Preparing for Christmas includes traditions to which all of us look forward as we become involved in the holiday spirit. Sometimes the hectic activities keep us so busy that we forget about the true meaning of Christmas, the birth of Jesus Christ, Our Savior. Our Church helps us to focus on Jesus by giving us the Nativity Fast (Philip's Fast).

During the forty days before the Feast of the Nativity, the Church asks us to prepare by prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. This is difficult at times because many parties and celebrations take place before December 25.

We need to remember that before Christmas we are in a time of preparing for Jesus. Our time to celebrate takes place after the birth of Jesus. That is our time to announce through our rejoicing "God is with us!"

To honor the birth of Jesus, we greet each other with the words "Christ is born! Glorify Him!" This is one way we announce that God is with us, and we now have a reason to celebrate.



OUR 40th ANNIVERSARY

Thanks you to anyone who helped in any way to make our 40th Anniversary Celebration a success. Also, thank you to the over 340 people who attended the social.

We finally got our new sign that clearly identifies St. Ann Byzantine Catholic Church.



ST. ANN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

5408 Locust Lane
Harrisburg, PA 17109

Served by Fr. Michael Shear
717-652-1415

stann@stannsbyzhbg.org

www.stannsbyzhbg.org

Divine Liturgies at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.,
Holy Day Vigil 7:00 p.m.

ECF Matters

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST! GLORY FOREVER!



OFFICERS FOR THE ECF

President: Dr. Robert Balogh

Vice President: OPEN

Treasurer: Joe Aponick

Secretary: Kathy Szarko

Activities Coordinator: Lisa Jones

Kitchen Help Director: Stephany and Mike Taylor

ECF meetings are held every third Sunday of the month at the parish center during the same time that your children are in their ECF classes. Plan to attend these meetings to show your support of the activities that are an important part of our Church family life.

From Mrs. Trautlein, ECF Coordinator:

- We welcome Albert and Meribeth Peters who are teaching the children in fourth grade.
- Matt Sahd will start teaching a monthly lesson on Catholic Apologetics to our junior high students.
- On the first day of ECF classes, our senior high students met Peter Yaroshak, one of the founders of our church. As he told them about the early days of our parish family, he encouraged our young people to continue in their love of their church so that some day they might become a founder of an Eastern Catholic Church.

Peter Yaroshak is the father of Marie Nester, one of the senior high teachers.



Do you know what the Jesse tree is?

Ask one of our ECF students to help you learn more about the Jesse tree this year.

ST. NICHOLAS CHILDREN'S PARTY

Sunday, December 7, after the 10:30 A.M.

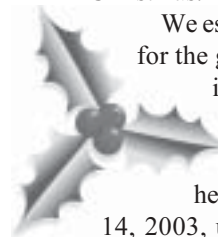
Liturgy. Remember to bring your cookies to enjoy at the party.

Everyone is invited.



TREE OF GIVING — Our tree of giving is decorated and ready for your donations. Some gifts will be distributed to a few local families who are in need of help, 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. Please return your gifts early to make sure the children receive them in time for Christmas.

We especially thank Drs. Richard and Kathy Szarko for the great deal of time, effort and talents they put into this project.



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT will be held in the Parish Center on Sunday, December 14, 2003, under the direction of Mrs. Joan Trautlein. Everybody is invited to attend the pageant.

The EFC KITCHEN COMMITTEE is asking for food donations and help for the children's Christmas programs. Please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the back of the church. Any questions, call Steph and Mike Taylor, 691-1360.

From the Respect Life Committee:

The St. Ann Respect Committee meets on the 3rd Sunday of the month, after the second Liturgy, in the Parish Center. Plan to attend to become actively involved in promoting respect for all life! Another way to become actively involved is by offering a donation to help support the activities.

Thank you to everyone who helped to make the Second Annual Kristen's Dance for Life a success.

Are you planning to go on the Pro-life March in January? For more information, contact Lisa Sakmar (865-0299) or Ed Hara (732-5535).

ByzanTEEN Youth Rally 2004 — Plan ahead and save! The 2004 Rally, sponsored by the Intereparchial Youth Commission will take place June 24-27 at Camp St. Nicholas, Frazier Park, CA, which is 75 miles from Los Angeles. Cost for the rally will be \$250 per person. It is open to Byzantine Catholics ages 13-19. For further information visit www.Byzanteen.com or call the Rally Planning office at 708-645-0241. Our parish will supply scholarships for any youth who wants to go but is unable due to the cost. Contact Father Michael for more information. Also, read the weekly bulletin for more details about the rally.

We remember in prayer Pope John Paul II as he celebrates his 25th anniversary.



Nativity Fast (Advent) Folders

Your Nativity Fast (Advent) folders have been sent to you in a special letter. We are requesting that everyone in our parish offer to Christ and His Church a gift of twenty-five cents a day to help brighten Christmas for someone else who is less fortunate. The monies offered will be sent to the seminary in Uzgorod or will be given to help those in need in our parish community.

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. Envelope enclosed.

Special Articles For Christmas Offering

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 was included with the letter with the Nativity Fast Folders.

Make your selection and return the form as soon as possible.

Annual Christmas Raffle

On Christmas Eve, the annual Christmas Raffle will take place during the social in the parish center. If you need additional tickets, contact Steve Plouse or pick up more in the back of the church.

Christmas Bake Sale

Nut, poppy, and apricot rolls will be sold on Saturday, December 6th, from 9 a.m. until noon.

Cooking Schedule

Plan ahead by marking the following cooking dates on your calendars:

Jan. 1, 2, and 3 — Holy Supper Preparation

April 5, 6, and 7 — Pascha Baking

May 3, 4, and 5 — Halupki

June 7-8 — Schnitzleih

July 6-7 — Kolachi

July 15,16, and 17 — Picnic Preparation

All dates are tentative. Check your weekly bulletin for more details before the actual dates.

Diocesan Development Appeal (Stewardship Appeal—2003)

As you all know, this Appeal has been in effect for several months. Your participation is vital to our Church not only in the United States but also in Eastern Europe. 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 those of you who have not yet made a commitment to do so and help us reach our goal that has not been reached yet. Thank you to those who have donated.

Christmas Offerings

This year please plan to be as generous to Almighty God as you are to your family members and friends, the ones for whom you are looking for the perfect gift. Your Christmas offering to your church is your way to thank God for the most perfect gift, His Son Jesus, that He gave to you.

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 by to see our "new look" and purchase your special gifts.

Notice

Please inform the rectory of your new address whenever you move. This common courtesy will save our parish the money used in postage for returned mail.

2004 ENVELOPE PREPARATION

WHO NEEDS CHURCH ENVELOPES?

Every married couple or single person 18 years old and over is to be registered and receive envelopes. Your sacrifices to support our parish indicate your willingness to be continued as a member of St. Ann Church. The neglect of regular church attendance and the neglect of regular use of the 2004 envelopes can lead to serious difficulties at the time of baptisms, weddings, funerals, etc. In other words, to be considered a member of this parish, REGULAR CHURCH ATTENDANCE AND USE OF THE 2004 ENVELOPES IS REQUIRED. If you are ill or aged and cannot come to church, please give this information to Fr. Michael. Remember, you are not considered a member of this parish without 2004 envelopes and their use. If you have used your 2003 envelopes faithfully, disregard this notice.

Clip and return on or before November 30, 2003

Fr. Michael,

I realize that it is my responsibility because of my baptism into the Christian Community to help support the Church to the best of my ability. I DID NOT receive Church envelopes in 2003. Would you please see to it that I receive a box of 2004 Church envelopes? I understand that when I receive them, it is my responsibility to use them in the support of St. Ann Church.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

Fr. Michael,

I will be receiving envelopes in 2004, but my address, phone, or e-mail address has changed. Please note the change above in your computer database file.

HOW WE TREAT PEOPLE

Dr. Charles Laskowski

Five lessons to make you think about the way we treat people.

1 First Important Lesson — Cleaning Lady.

During my second month of college, our professor gave us a pop quiz. I was a conscientious student and had breezed through the questions, until I read the last one: "What is the first name of the woman who cleans the school?"

Surely this was some kind of joke. I had seen the cleaning woman several times. She was tall, dark-haired and in her 50s, but how would I know her name? I handed in my paper, leaving the last question blank. Just before class ended, one student asked if the last question would count toward our quiz grade.

"Absolutely," said the professor. "In your careers, you will meet many people. All are significant. They deserve your attention and care, even if all you do is smile and say 'hello.'"

I've never forgotten that lesson. I also learned her name was Dorothy.

2 Second Important Lesson — Pickup in the Rain

One night, at 11:30 p.m., an older African American woman was standing on the side of an Alabama highway trying to endure a lashing rainstorm. Her car had broken down and she desperately needed a ride. Soaking wet, she decided to flag down the next car.

A young white man stopped to help her, generally unheard of in those conflict-filled 1960s. The man took her to safety, helped her get assistance and put her into a taxicab.

She seemed to be in a big hurry, but wrote down his address and thanked him. Seven days went by and a knock came on the man's door. To his surprise, a giant console color TV was delivered to his home.

A special note was attached. It read: "Thank you so much for assisting me on the highway the other night. The rain drenched not only my clothes, but also my spirits. Then you came along. Because of you, I was able to make it to my dying

husband's bedside just before he passed away. God bless you for helping me and unselfishly serving others."

Sincerely, Mrs. Nat King Cole

3 Third Important Lesson — Always remember those who serve.

In the days when an ice cream sundae cost much less, a 10 year-old boy entered a hotel coffee shop and sat at a table. A waitress put a glass of water in front of him. "How much is an ice cream sundae?" he asked.

"Fifty cents," replied the waitress.

The little boy pulled his hand out of his pocket and studied the coins in it.

"Well, how much is a plain dish of ice cream?" he inquired. By now more people were waiting for a table and the waitress was growing impatient. "Thirty-five cents," she brusquely replied.

The little boy again counted his coins. "I'll have the plain ice cream," he said. The waitress brought the ice cream, put the bill on the table and walked away. The boy finished the ice cream, paid the cashier and left.

When the waitress came back, she began to cry as she wiped down the table. There, placed neatly beside the empty dish, were two nickels and five pennies. You see, he couldn't have the sundae, because he had to have enough left to leave her a tip.

4 Fourth Important Lesson — The Obstacles in Our Path.

In ancient times, a King had a boulder placed on a roadway. Then he hid himself and watched to see if anyone would remove the huge rock. Some of the king's wealthiest merchants and courtiers came by and simply walked around it. Many loudly blamed the King for not keeping the roads clear, but none did anything about getting the stone out of the way.

Then a peasant came along carrying a load of vegetables. Upon approaching the boulder, the peasant laid down his burden and tried to move the stone to the side of the road. After much pushing and straining, he finally succeeded. After the peasant picked up his load of vegetables, he noticed a purse lying in the road where the boulder had been. The purse contained many gold coins and a note from the King indicating that the gold was for the person who removed the boulder from the roadway. The peasant learned what many of us never understand!

Every obstacle presents an opportunity to improve our condition.

5 Fifth Important Lesson — Giving When it Counts.

Many years ago, when I worked as a volunteer at a hospital, I got to know a little girl named Liz who was suffering from a rare and serious disease. Her only chance of recovery appeared to be a blood transfusion from her 5-year-old brother, who had miraculously survived the same disease and had developed the antibodies needed to combat the illness. The doctor explained the situation to her little brother, and asked the little boy if he would be willing to give his blood to his sister. I saw him hesitate for only a moment before taking a deep breath and saying, "Yes I'll do it if it will save her." As the transfusion progressed, he lay in bed next to his sister and smiled, as we all did, seeing the color returning to her cheeks. Then his face grew pale and his smile faded. He looked up at the doctor and asked with a trembling voice, "Will I start to die right away?"

Being young, the little boy had misunderstood the doctor; he thought he was going to have to give his sister all of his blood in order to save her.



The Enlightener, our parish newsletter, will be published 4 times throughout the year. Any information for the next newsletter must be submitted by March 1, 2004. Submissions can be made by placing them in the collection basket or by giving them to Marie Nester or e-mailing them to MarieNestr@aol.com.



CHRISTMAS LITURGY SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 21

- *Sunday Before Christmas*
- *Holy Fathers*
8:00 A.M. — Liturgy
10:30 A.M. — Liturgy

Wednesday, 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**

(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.**)

Thursday, December 25

- *The Feast Of The Nativity Of Our Lord*
10:30 A.M. — Liturgy

Friday, December 26

- *Synaxis Of The Mother Of God*
7:00 P.M. — Liturgy

Congratulations to Ivan Schemet, who will be ordained to the Sacred Priesthood on December 14th. Ivan was with us for three summers. A gift collection for him will be announced. Na Mnohaya Lita!

Saturday, December 27

- *St. Stephen*
9:30 A.M. — Liturgy

Sunday, December 28

- *Sunday After Christmas*
- *Sunday Before Epiphany*
8:00 A.M. — Liturgy
10:30 A.M. — Liturgy

Wednesday, December 30

- *New Year's Eve*
5:00 P.M. — Vigil Liturgy

Thursday, January 1, 2004

- *Circumcision Of Our Lord*
- *St. Basil The Great New Year's Day*
9:30 A.M. — Liturgy

Monday, January 5

- *Vigil of Theophany (Theophany Eve)*
(Monday is a holy day of strict observance — **No meat or dairy products are eaten on this day.**)
5:30 P.M. — Holy Supper in the Parish Center.

(Attendance by reservation only. The deadline for reservations is December 31, 2003. 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.)
7:00 P.M. — Vespers with Vigil Liturgy and Solemn Blessing of Water

Tuesday, January 6

- *Bohojavlenija — Theophany — This is a Holy Day of Obligation*
9:30 A.M. — Liturgy

NOTE

Above times are subject to change. Watch your Bulletin for changes in times.

HOUSE BLESSING

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



NATIVITY CELEBRATION
There is no fasting
from December 25-January 4.

Swish all of you a very special, holy, and glorious Christmas season, and I pray that you keep and maintain this prayerful season as a truly special one. As we approach the New Year, may it be filled with health, happiness and a time of special graces for you personally and for your family.

Sincerely,
Father Michael



2003 Upfront Raffle

Thank you to the following businesses and individuals that made upfront donations to 2003 picnic raffle.

Gary M. Solamon	Suzanna D. Shear
Michael G. Sgrignoli	Joseph J. Krajsa
Andrew Pleszkoch	Irene Sauter
John Williams	Paul & Donna Alpaugh
George Demshock	Dr. Bruce & Eileen Dietman
Victor J. Segina	Joanna P. Gilbert
Geo's Family Restaurant	Paul G. Miller
Vera Chamomaz	PA. Telephone Products Co.
Margaret Whalen	Rodney Raver
Tyson Fence Co.	Irene Snyder
Jesse H. Geigle Funeral Home	Wiedeman Funeral Home
St. Ann Baking Ladies	Fackler-Wiedeman Funeral Home
Hetrick Funeral Home	St. Ann Bingo
Tim Mctaggart	Jaroslav & Edwina Dubiansky
Francis J. Pavucsko	M & S Auto Center
Theodore M. Demko	The Catholic Shop
M/N4 Joseph Chaposky	Butch Kowal's Taveran/Liquor Store
Edward Pitman	Roger & Trish Kauffman/Dininni Catering
Zimmerman/Auer Funeral Home	Mona Lisa Shaw
Hoover Funeral Home	Carsonville Hotel
Michael Smoley	Senior Financial Services
David & Debra Goodnight	
Mary A. Cremo	
George & Beverly Kushner	

Remember The Sick . . .

Those who are hospitalized, those who are residents in nursing homes, those who in some way are 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. Winifred Collin
12 S. Queen St.
Littlestown, Pa 17340

Mrs. Ann Dorcsis
Grayson View
150 Kempton Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17111

Mr. and Mrs. Andy Gnall
7102 Sandy Hollow Road
Harrisburg, PA 17112-9319

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

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

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

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

Mr. Mike Ondeck
602 Drexel Road
Harrisburg, PA 17109

Mrs. Alice Pawlinski
1901 N. 5th St.
Homeland Center
Harrisburg, Pa 17102

Mr. Nick Pauley
4901 Creek Drive
Harrisburg, PA 17112-2911

Mrs. Mildred Potochney
Dauphin Manor
1205 S. 28th St.
Harrisburg, PA

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

Mr. David Harchak
7130 Clearfield St
Harrisburg, PA 17111



ST. NICHOLAS BUFFET DANCE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2003

Preceded by a cocktail hour. Buffet at 7:45 P.M. Cash bar. \$40.00 per couple; \$20.00 single. Music by the Polka Quads. **Admittance By Reservation. 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.

Mark Your Calendars Now!



St. Ann Slavic-American Festival

Sunday,
July 18,
2004