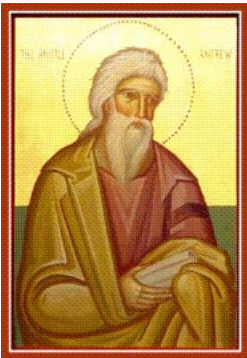


St. Andrew Orthodox Church

1216 Greencrest Ave. East Lansing, MI 48823 (517) 351-4627

January 2008



Rev. Fr. Christopher Rozdilski, Pastor

Saturday Vespers 6 pm

Confessions (following)

Rectory: (517) 351-4627

Sunday Liturgy 9:30 am

Cell Phone: (517) 256-7399

Confessions 9:00 am

Visit Our Website at: StAndrewOrthodoxChurch.US

The Feast of Theophany

The Epiphany, or Theophany (6th January) is - after Easter and Pentecost - the greatest Feast of the Orthodox Church. Greater even than the feast of the Nativity of Christ. It commemorates the baptism of our Lord by John, the Forerunner in the Jordan and the public manifestation of the incarnate Word to the world.

The Orthodox Church commemorates only one event in our Lord's life at Epiphany: our Lord's baptism. Our Lord's first public manifestation or appearance takes place at His baptism, as father Thomas Hopko points out, for very good reason:

"Baptism is the symbol of death and resurrection; Christ came to the earth in order to die and be raised. Baptism is a symbol of repentance of sin and its forgiveness; Christ came as the Lamb of God who takes upon Himself the sin of the world in order to take it away. Baptism is a symbol of sanctification; Christ has come to sanctify the whole of creation. Baptism is a symbol, finally, of radical renewal. When one is baptized the old is over and the new has come. And Christ has appeared on earth to bring all things to an end, and to make all things new. The act of baptism, therefore, contains in symbol the entire mystery of Christ, the whole purpose of his coming." (The Winter Pascha, p.142)

At his manifestation in the Jordan, our Lord, made like us in every respect save sin, enters into the water to identify with our fallen condition in order to bring it to an end and to create us anew for life in the kingdom of God.

Continued on page 2

JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS Please check your Calendar for a complete listing of events.

| | | |
|-----|---------|---------------------------------|
| Jan | 6:30 pm | Council Meeting |
| 16 | 6:30 pm | Sisterhood Meeting |
| 26 | | MSU Concessions meeting / party |

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Great Vespers every Saturday night at 6:00PM
Confessions after Saturday Vespers and at 9:00 AM
Sunday mornings
Divine Liturgy every Sunday at 9:30AM

Parish Council

- **Denise Covell**
(517) 651-2682
- **John Johnson—Chair**
(517) 646-8786
- **Maria Daly—Treasurer**
(517) 487-9511
- **Don Beck—Secretary**
(517) 651-6668
- **Don Dimitroff—Vice Chair**
(517) 321-1266
- **David Long**
(517) 351-1229

Sisterhood of St. Helen

- **Fran Johnson Vice President**
(517) 646-8786
- **Kathy Fortais Secretary**
(517) 694-4617
- **Catherine Hattrem Treasurer**
(517) 372-3154

Brotherhood of St. George

- **Scott Pierpont President**
(517) 694-9144

Newsletter Staff

- **Fr. Christopher**
- **Catherine Hattrem**
kathleenh50@hotmail.com
- **Douglas Hattrem**

Parish Council Report

Happy New Year!

A huge thank you to everyone who helped make this years MSU concession a great success. Your hard work and commitment to this project raised \$5,840.82 for our Parish!

On January 26, 2008 (time to be announced), there will be a meeting/thank you party to discuss the future of this fundraiser. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend, please!

Your 2008 offering envelopes are now available. Please pick them up.

Have you turned in all of your 2007 offerings?

Thank you,
Your Parish Council

Church School —Jennifer Beck

We had a wonderful Christmas Pageant this year! Thanks to all of our talented church school students, our teachers and parents, Scott and Barb Pierpont for the great set, Laran Matta for our music, and the Sisterhood and the Pierponts for the cookies.

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At the river Jordan, God reveals Himself in the person of Jesus. He is the Word of God incarnate, on Him rests the Holy Spirit from all eternity, the Father witnesses to the divinity of Christ and proclaims Him to be His only Son: "This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17)

Jesus' baptism in the Jordan is also the first manifestation of the greatest of all mysteries, the worship of the Trinity.

This is Orthodox Christianity's unique doctrine: the worship of the Holy Trinity "one in essence and undivided". It was foreshadowed in the theophanies of the Old Covenant of Israel, for example, the visit Abraham received at the oak of Mamre (Genesis 18:1) And, as Father Hopko says:

"...it was clearly made manifest in the 'final and everlasting covenant of peace' of the one true God with His people, first revealed in the Messiah's epiphany at His baptism in the Jordan. This worship stands at the heart of the celebration of the Winter Pascha in the Orthodox Church." (ibid., p.147)

This manifestation of Christ the Orthodox Church separates from all the others (birth, magi, and wedding at Cana), because on this day God reveals Himself fully: He is one in three persons. This is the mystery which allows us to call on the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit as one God. Nothing can be added to this vision.

This is why the word Epiphany meaning "manifestation" was replaced in the East by Theophany meaning "manifestation of God" the latter specifying and developing the meaning of the feast.

"When Thou, O Lord was baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest... O Christ our God who has appeared and enlightened the world, Glory to Thee." Troparion at the Liturgy on January 6th

Father Illtyd

Sisterhood of St. Helen

Our next meeting will be on January 16, 2008 at 6:30 pm.

Thank you to all those who helped to make our Cookie Walk a success. We especially thank Matushka Sarah and Bianka Daly, who co-chaired this event.

Ushers, Coffee Hour Sponsors and Prosfora Donors

| | <u>Ushers</u> | <u>Coffee Hour</u> | <u>Prosfora</u> |
|-----|--------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Jan | 6 Sandy Oade & Penju Miteff | Matta | John & Fran Johnson for Marissa McFarland on her Birthday |
| | 13 Leann & Samir Matta | Volunteer Needed | Doug & Catherine Hattrem wish the Blessings of the New Year to everyone at St. Andrew. |
| | 20 Doug & Catherine Hattrem | Church School - Beck's Class | Don & Jennie Dimitroff in memory of Evelyn Vander Bos |
| | 27 Anna Zivic & Simo Paripovic | Volunteer Needed | Parapovic in memory of Ruza's Mother Pavica |
| Feb | 3 Nevenka Dines & John Johnson | Pierpont / Fortais | Steve & Denise Covell for Matushka Mary's Birthday |
| | 10 Denise & Steve Covell | Tsveta Lambo | Maria Daly In Memory of Louis J Lambo on |

Coffee hour

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR COFFEE HOUR IN 2008.
PLEASE SIGN UP DOWNSTAIRS IN THE CHURCH HALL.**

Church Cleaning Schedule

| <u>Week Ending of Saturday</u> | <u>Upstairs</u> | <u>Downstairs</u> |
|--------------------------------|------------------|--|
| Jan 5 | Grigorescu | Michael / Bianka Daly |
| 12 | Poufcas | Isaicu / Fisher |
| 19 | Beck | Donahue / Covell |
| 26 | | Jr Foca / Shruti Gross / Cathy Estrada |
| Feb 2 | Volunteer Needed | Berbasov |
| 9 | Hattrem | Miloage / Oade |

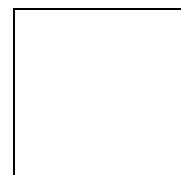


January 2008



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|-----|---|---|-----|-----|--|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 <i>6:00 PM Great Vespers/Confessions</i> |
| 6 <i>Feast of Theophany 9:00 AM Confession 9:30 AM Liturgy</i> | 7 | 8 <i>6:30 PM Council Meeting</i> | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 <i>6:00 PM Great Vespers/Confessions</i> |
| 13 <i>9:00 AM Confession 9:30 AM Liturgy</i> | 14 | 15 | 16 <i>6:30 PM Sisterhood Meeting</i> | 17 | 18 | 19 <i>6:00 PM Great Vespers/Confessions</i> |
| 20 <i>9:00 AM Confession 9:30 AM Liturgy</i> | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 <i>6:00 PM Great Vespers/Confessions</i> |
| 27 <i>9:00 AM Confession 9:30 AM Liturgy</i> | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED