

# THE PARISH NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2016

The Nativity of the Mother of God Russian Orthodox Church

617 Sand Creek Road, Albany NY (518) 869-3932

A parish of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad [www.albanyrocor.org](http://www.albanyrocor.org)

Rector: Protopriest Alexis Duncan ; Protopriest Michael Fritz

Protodeacon: Fr. Michael Soloviev

PLEASE NOTE: HOURS AND LITURGY BEGIN AT 9:30 AM

## OCTOBER NAMESDAYS

1	Irina Price Irina Kryktin	19	Thomas (Bobby) Henry Thomas Bradley
3	Oleg Popov	22	James Pupillo
4	Dimitri Soloviev	24	Ziniada Borscok
7	Vladislav Kletney	25	Domnika Popov
14	Roman Nedvidek	31	Luke Gonyea Luke Usov
15	Justina Henry Dennis Howard		

Wishing everyone celebrating their Namesday in October Many Years! Mnogaya Leta!

\*\*\*\*\*

## COFFEE HOURS WILL RESUME IN OCTOBER

Do you enjoy the delicious Sunday lunches provided by our Coffee Hour Hostesses? It's still not too late to join us in feeding our hungry parishioners after Liturgy on Sundays. Please contact RaeLynn (Anastasia) Gonyea to be added to the list. If you don't feel you can take on the responsibility of hosting an entire Coffee Hour, but would like to help by providing a dessert, side dish, or the drinks on a particular Sunday, please speak to that Coffee Hour hostess directly. Any and all help would be greatly appreciated. We would also like to remind everyone that the lunches are NOT free - a donation plate is set on the table and all donations go to the Sisterhood, NOT to the hostesses. These donations help buy the paper products and other needed supplies. So, please be generous. Share in the fellowship - and support your Church at the same time. Thank you!

## PARISH FEASTDAY CELEBRATIONS

This year we were blessed to have Metropolitan Hilarion visit our parish for the celebration of our Parish Feast - the Nativity of the Most Holy Mother of God, celebrating with our own Father Alexis, Father Michael, Father Andrei and Deacon Michael. We were joined by Father Philifilact, Father Anatoly, Father Seraphim and Father Konstantine from Holy Trinity Monastery in Jordanville. Also, Deacon Joseph (Utica), Deacon Nicholas (Connecticut), Deacon Alexander (Boston), Deacon Leonid (New Jersey), Deacon Pavel (Long Island) and Deacon Denis (Synod). Not only did we have many visiting Clergy but many guests as well, which filled the Church to capacity and the hall to overflowing. The choir sang beautifully under the direction of Nikhon Schuler. Natasha Schuler, our former Choir Director, received an icon from the Parish and flowers to commemorate her more than twenty years of dedicated service as the Church Choir Director and for sharing her knowledge and guidance in raising her son Nikhon to fill her position. The Church was beautifully decorated by our flower committee - great job. Thank you to everyone who came to help in preparing the Church and grounds for our Feastday - your hard work made the Church shine and the grounds look beautiful - you know who you are. Thank you to Anastasia (RaeLynn) Gonyea and all of her kitchen help who helped set-up the hall, cook, clean, set-up tents and tables and clean after the meal. Thank you also to the parishioners who helped wash dishes and clean up after the dinner. Our Starosta, Sasha Krykhtin won the 50-50 Lottery - \$1, 010 - and graciously donated it all back to the Church Fresco Fund. Thank you Sasha. We were truly blessed with a beautiful day, filled with God's grace.

## CHURCH SCHOOL

On Sunday, October 9th, Church School classes will resume. Classes will be held every Sunday. On the first and third Sundays of the month, classes will be held at 8:30 AM, before Liturgy, since we have Sisterhood and Council meetings following Liturgy on those Sundays. On the second, fourth and possibly fifth Sunday of the month, classes will be held after Liturgy. If you have not enrolled your children in Church School, please speak to Matushka Anna for more information. At the present time we have the following teachers: Youngest class: Junia Dragon and Emily Soloviev; Middle Class: Matushka Anna; Eldest Class: Reader John (Rick) Schuler and Tasia Fedorov. If anyone is interested in being a Teacher or an Assistant Teacher, or a Substitute, please speak to Father Alexis Duncan - **we need more people involved in teaching our youth.** Our parish is blessed with many, many children and we must ALL try to raise them in the faith. So they have an understanding of the services, of the Holy Days and of Saints. It is vital that we instill this in the children while they are young so they will have a foundation on which to build their faith and their understanding of Orthodoxy. We ask all parents to make a diligent effort to have their children arrive for classes in a timely fashion.

## CHURCH FRESCOES

Father Theodore will be returning in October to work on the Frescoes in our Church. At the present time, we have about \$10,000 in the Fresco Account - thanks to the Parish Feastday where we raised a substantial amount of money. It is estimated that we will need another \$5,000 to pay Father Theodore. If you would like to make a donation to the Fresco Fund, please contact Reader John (Rick) Schuler. All donations would be greatly appreciated for the beautification of our Church. What a perfect way to remember someone's birthday or anniversary - make a donation to the Church Fresco fund and the gift will be remembered every time you come to Church and by generations to come.

\*\*\*\*\*

## CHURCH CLEANING SCHEDULE

Thanks to everyone who has volunteered to clean the Church. We **still** need volunteers for the months of **November and December**. Please remember, this is not only "women's work", everyone can help. If you are able to clean anytime during the months of November & December, please contact Maria Hauf.

\*\*\*\*\*

## HARVEST TIME FUN

As all of you should know, as Orthodox Christians we are not big on celebrating Halloween. We would like our children to have a fun day out on Sunday, October 30th, for a Harvest Party. We are thinking about taking them bowling at Sunset Lanes, which is on Central Avenue, very close to the Church. The Children would enjoy the Coffee Hour and then it's off to the bowling alley at about 2pm. We need to give the bowling alley an estimate as to how many children will be attending. If you would like your children to attend this "Harvest Party" please speak to Matushka Anna so she can get a count as to how many children the bowling alley can expect. If anyone is interested in making a donation to help defer the cost of this party - that would be wonderful. Remember, to keep our children involved in Parish life, we have to keep them interested not only in Church, but to help them develop friendships and relationships that will keep them strong in their faith as they grow into adults.

## **We are planning a Campout at Church for Saturday, October 8th, 2016.**

All parishioners are welcome to join us at this G rated event targeted toward the younger children and those young at heart. Come and pitch a tent for an evening under the stars. Hopefully the weather will cooperate. The idea is to setup camp in the afternoon, collect firewood, get the fire pit ready, attend vigil at 5 PM and then have a camp fire, cook hot dogs, make smores, play games. Then all the children will be on premises for the first day of Church School and everyone will be on time for school and Liturgy on Sunday morning. Parents are asked to attend and sleep out with their children as a family event. If your child is going to attend and you cannot be there, please make arrangements with another family to be responsible for your child. Everyone needs to bring their own camping gear. John Gonyea will setup the 20 x 20 tent, the one we use for our feast day, for general use. We will also have access to the hall, but want to limit that. Please email John Gonyea at [rgonyea4@nycap.rr.com](mailto:rgonyea4@nycap.rr.com) to let him know if you are interested in attending. This will give us an idea of how many people to expect. We have chicken tenders, pizza and hot dogs on the menu. If you would like to bring something else to eat and share that would be great! The idea is to keep it simple and easy and fun! The details will be sent in an e-mail.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **UTICA PARISH FEASTDAY**

Our neighboring parish in Utica, NY will be celebrating its Parish Feastday in commemoration of St. John of Kronstadt on October 29-30. Bishop Nicholas will be officiating. Many parishioners from the Utica parish joined us in celebrating our Parish Feast and it would be lovely if some of our parishioners could travel to Utica to join them on their special day. They will hold their banquet at the Valley View Country Club, 620 Memorial Pkwy, Utica, NY and reservations must be made in advance (no later than October 20th) so they can tell the restaurant how many people to expect. The cost is \$32.00 per adult; Children 5-12 \$15.00; Children under 5 free. Checks should be made payable to [St. John of Kronstadt Memorial Church](#) and sent to [St. John of Kronstadt Russian Orthodox Memorial Church](#), 1009 Conkling Avenue, Utica, NY 13501, please include a sheet of paper stating the check is for the banquet and the names of the people who will be attending. Thank you.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **FEAST OF THE PROTECTION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD**

The feast of the Protection of the Mother of God will be celebrated on Friday, October 14th. This was the feastday of our parish when we were serving in Schenectady. After Liturgy on Friday, October 14th, everyone is invited to join us at the Chinese Buffet for lunch. It is a Friday and the Chinese Buffet usually has a decent selection of Lenten food. Let's celebrate together. Cost of the Buffet for lunch is approximately \$12.00.

## **YOUNG ADULT ORTHODOX DISCUSSION GROUP**

The Capital Region Orthodox Christian Fellowship is a pan-Orthodox college group meeting every Thursday 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 president Aryan von Eicken (857-259-8145) or chaplain Fr. Matthew Markewich (518-212-7845) for more information or for a ride.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **BALLET CLASSES**

Ballet Classes Offered by Anastasia Welsh (at the Church Hall)

(Former Professional Ballerina with the Manassas Ballet Theatre)

Ana is working on setting up a few ballet classes at the hall on Wednesday nights for a 8 week session (paid by individual class OR at discounted rate for whole session). I would hold 3 classes in a row (1 hour each) starting with the youngest class first, then a teen class, and then adult ballet. Before I can set up classes/ times/ definite age groups, I would like to know who has an interest in signing up. If there are enough children interested in taking these classes, I would also like to use some of the class time to create a class dance for the Yolka. Please email me if you are interested and include your child's age/name so I can see what kind of age ranges I have:  
welsha23@gmail.com

\*\*\*\*\*

## **PRAYERS REQUESTED**

Please keep Father Wsevolod in your prayers, and if you would like to visit him or send him a card - that would be wonderful.

Please, if you know of anyone who is I need of prayers: sick, in the hospital, traveling, etc. Please let me know so I can put it in the Newsletter.

If anyone has news to share or an announcement they would like published in the Parish

Newsletter, please contact Tasia Fedorov by the last Monday of the Month.

The Monthly Newsletter and Calendar are available on the Church Website as well as being distributed by e-mail. If you would prefer the receive a "hard" copy of the Newsletter, copies are available at the back of the Church across from the Starosta Stand.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Orthodox America**

### **LIVES OF SAINTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE Sts. Cyprian and Justina**

In the reign of the pagan emperor Decius (249-251), there lived in the city of Antioch in Asia Minor a famous philosopher and magician whose name was Cyprian. His parents were pagan and when he was still a child, they sent him to study sorcery and demonic wisdom. Cyprian learned all sorts of evil tricks which he was able to perform with the help of demons. He could send diseases upon people, produce thunder, cause damage to crops, and finally he even learned how to call forth the dead from the graves and force them to speak by means of various magic spells. He became a great sorcerer, magician and destroyer of souls. God had given him a good mind, but Cyprian used all his knowledge to serve evil. He became the faithful slave of the prince of darkness. Returning to Antioch, it was not long before Cyprian was teaching others how to perform evil tricks: some he taught to fly in the air, others to sail in boats on the clouds, still others to walk on water. By the pagans he was greatly honored as a chief priest and most wise servant of their horrid gods. The prince of darkness himself, as Cyprian later related, spoke with him face to face and praised him for his obedience, promising to help him in everything during his earthly life. Cyprian described how he saw the prince of darkness sitting on a throne and surrounded by a countless number of evil spirits.

Through his wicked way of life, Cyprian had already placed himself in the jaws of the devil. But the Lord Who, in His great love for mankind, desires that all men be saved, wished also to save Cyprian. And He did this in the following way: There lived in Antioch at that time a certain maiden named Justina who had chosen Christ as her bridegroom. She served Him with her whole heart, with fervent prayer and a pure life. Seeing her virtuous life, the devil, the hater of mankind, became angry and began to do her harm. In the same city there lived a young man named Aglalias who was very rich and led a very worldly life of pleasure. Once it happened that he saw Justina as she was going to church and he was struck by her beauty. By evil trickery, the evil one planted in his heart shameful feelings towards the maiden. Aglalias, burning with passion, tried by every means to win the love of Justina and thereby deceive her into falling into sin with him. But Justina firmly resisted for she had already chosen Christ as her bridegroom. Finally, unable to deceive her himself, Aglalias asked Cyprian to help him, promising him much gold and silver if he should succeed. Cyprian called on one of the evil spirits who proudly said that he should have no trouble in planting the same impure thoughts into the heart of Justina. The next night, when Justina was praying, she noticed that some wicked thoughts had entered her head and she felt as though her body were possessed by a sinful attraction for Aglalias. Recognizing that this was caused by the evil schemes of the devil, she only increased her prayers. This put the demon to shame and he was forced to flee. The inward battle stopped and Justina glorified God and sang a song of victory. Then Cyprian sent a more powerful demon. But he too was unable to overcome the maiden. Finally the prince of darkness himself, disguised as a woman, came to Justina and tried to deceive her using words of Scripture. But Justina saw that this too was the work of the devil. She protected herself with the sign of the Cross and the wicked one immediately vanished in great shame. Seeing how powerless even the prince of darkness was against Justina, Cyprian became angry and demanded to know what weapon the maiden used against them. The devil admitted: "We cannot behold the sign of the Cross, but flee from it, because it scorches us like fire and banishes us far away." Having become convinced that nothing could conquer the power of the sign of the cross and the name of Christ, Cyprian came to his senses and said to the devil: "O destroyer and deceiver of all. Now I have discovered your true weakness. Woe is me! for I too have been deceived. Get

away from me, you wretched one'." Angered by these words, the devil threw himself at Cyprian in order to kill him. But Cyprian protected himself with the sign of the Cross and the devil immediately leaped away from him like an arrow shot from a bow. Fully realizing his sins, Cyprian went to the Christian bishop and begged him to give him holy baptism. He then gave him all his books of magic to be burned. Seeing his genuine repentance, the bishop baptized him and burned his books in front of all the believing people. Cyprian completely changed his life and began to work not only for his own salvation, but also to help others. Soon he was made a bishop and Justina became the abbess of a convent. The devil was angry at this betrayal of one of his former servants. He inspired the pagan rulers with the idea that Cyprian and Justina were their enemies because they were leading people away from the pagan gods to the worship of Christ. Many deceived pagans went to the governor and demanded that Cyprian and Justina be put to death. After they had bravely withstood many tortures, these two servants of the true God were beheaded with a sword. The devil had thought to destroy Cyprian and Justina, but instead, they had gained crowns of martyrdom and eternal life with Christ our God, to Whom be glory and honor forever. Amen.

*(Adapted from the Life of Sts. Cyprian and Justina, The Orthodox Word , Vol. XII, 5)*

## **Martyr Longinus the Centurion, who stood at the Cross of the Lord Commemorated on October 16/29**

The Holy Martyr Longinus the Centurion, a Roman soldier, served in Judea under the command of the Governor, Pontius Pilate. When our Savior Jesus Christ was crucified, it was the detachment of soldiers under the command of Longinus which stood watch on Golgotha, at the very foot of the holy Cross. Longinus and his soldiers were eyewitnesses of the final moments of the earthly life of the Lord, and of the great and awesome portents that appeared at His death. These events shook the centurion's soul. Longinus believed in Christ and confessed before everyone, "Truly this was the Son of God" (Mt. 27:54).

According to Church Tradition, Longinus was the soldier who pierced the side of the Crucified Savior with a spear, and received healing from an eye affliction when blood and water poured forth from the wound. After the Crucifixion and Burial of the Savior, Longinus stood watch with his company at the Sepulchre of the Lord. These soldiers were present at the All-Radiant Resurrection of Christ. The Jews bribed them to lie and say that His disciples had stolen away the Body of Christ, but Longinus and two of his comrades refused to be seduced by the Jewish gold. They also refused to remain silent about the miracle of the Resurrection.

Having come to believe in the Savior, the soldiers received Baptism from the apostles and decided to leave military service. St Longinus left Judea to preach about Jesus Christ the Son of God in his native land (Cappadocia), and his two comrades followed him.

The fiery words of those who had actually participated in the great events in Judea swayed the hearts and minds of the Cappadocians; Christianity began quickly to spread throughout the city and the surrounding villages. When they learned of this, the Jewish elders persuaded Pilate to send a company of soldiers to Cappadocia to kill Longinus and his comrades. When the soldiers arrived at Longinus' village, the former centurion himself came out to meet the soldiers and took them to his home. After a meal, the soldiers revealed the purpose of their visit, not knowing that the master of the house was the very man whom they were seeking. Then Longinus and his friends identified themselves and told the startled soldiers to carry out their duty. The soldiers wanted to let the saints go and advised them to flee, but they refused to do this, showing their firm intention to suffer for Christ. The holy

martyrs were beheaded, and their bodies were buried at the place where the saints were martyred. The head of St Longinus, however, was sent to Pilate.

Pilate gave orders to cast the martyr's head on a trash-heap outside the city walls. After a while a certain blind widow from Cappadocia arrived in Jerusalem with her son to pray at the holy places, and to ask that her sight be restored. After becoming blind, she had sought the help of physicians to cure her, but all their efforts were in vain.

The woman's son became ill shortly after reaching Jerusalem, and he died a few days later. The widow grieved for the loss of her son, who had served as her guide.

St Longinus appeared to her in a dream and comforted her. He told her that she would see her son in heavenly glory, and also receive her sight. He told her to go outside the city walls and there she would find his head in a great pile of refuse. Guides led the blind woman to the rubbish heap, and she began to dig with her hands. As soon as she touched the martyr's head, the woman received her sight, and she glorified God and St Longinus.

Taking up the head, she brought it to the place she was staying and washed it. The next night, St Longinus appeared to her again, this time with her son. They were surrounded by a bright light, and St Longinus said, Woman, behold the son for whom you grieve. See what glory and honor are his now, and be consoled. God has numbered him with those in His heavenly Kingdom. Now take my head and your son's body, and bury them in the same casket. Do not weep for your son, for he will rejoice forever in great glory and happiness. The woman carried out the saint's instructions and returned to her home in Cappadocia. Here she buried her son and the head of St Longinus. Once, she had been overcome by grief for her son, but her weeping was transformed into joy when she saw him with St Longinus. She had sought healing for her eyes, and also received healing of her soul.