

# Sts. Cyril and Methody Orthodox Church Parish Bulletin

Orthodox Church in America  
4770 Maryville Rd, POB 1303  
Granite City, IL 62040

January 2012



## Bulletin Sponsor

This month's bulletin is sponsored by Dr Anita Eftimoff with prayers for God's blessings on her family and good wishes for our parish family for the New Year.

If you would like to sponsor a monthly bulletin, sign up in the booklet at the candle stand. The cost of a monthly bulletin is currently running around 50 dollars.

## Important

Please inform Father Andrew immediately when you or any member of your family is sick or hospitalized, so that appropriate

### Contacting Father Andrew

Home phone: (618)452-1903  
Cell phone: (618)709-2335  
e-mail: moultonr@wustl.edu

### Bulletins & Calendars

Available at our website:  
[www.stscm.net](http://www.stscm.net)

prayer and visitation may be scheduled. Hospitals do not notify clergy of patients, even if you list yourself as a member.

Remember, never to fear the power of evil more than your trust in the power and love of God. - Hermas, one of the Seventy

## Congratulations

To Father Andrew on his 400th blood donation, made during December at the Barnes Hospital Apheresis unit. Father has been donating at Barnes since coming to our parish in 1987. If you would like to learn about Apheresis donation or make an appointment to donate at Barnes, give them a call at (314)362-1253

## In our prayers:

Arch Alexander Golitzin  
Ap Kiril Antonoff  
Ap Thomas Succarotte  
Leslie Aerts  
Jerry Carpunky  
Bertha Petty - hospice  
Diane Stoffan  
Nora Todoroff

## Passages this Month:

Birthdays: Michael Andria (9th), Carrie Carpunky (9th), Rebecca Ambuehl (11th), John Dimitroff (12th), Mark Moulton (12th), Gregory Christich (13th), Rose Richardson (15th), Elaine Bonzon (17th), Chris

Carpunky (22nd), Stephen Jacobs (27th), Margaret Vaught (30th). Anniversaries: John and Michelle Conkovich (14th).  
Departed: Elizabeth Malincheff (15th,01), Nannette Markuly (16th,74), Anthony Simurda (20th,93), Kiro Vasileff (21st,89), Milka Vasileff (25th,95).

Someone who bears a grudge while he prays is like a person who sows in the sea and expects to reap a harvest. - St. Isaac The Syrian

## Greeting Visitors

Every visitor to our parish has changed their Sunday schedule to be a part of our church. They probably got up earlier and dressed better. They certainly have changed their Sunday routine. They found our church, and overcame the fear of who they will meet at the door. They have faced the uncertainty of understanding our style of worship and singing, and worried if they would be welcome. They made a bigger effort and have taken greater risks to be in our church than we have. To them it is a special Sunday. They deserve to receive our most positive greeting. They deserve our friendliest welcome.

For virtue is a light and buoyant thing, and all who live in her way "fly like clouds" as Isaiah



says; but sin is a heavy affair, as another of the prophets says, "sitting upon a talent of lead." - St. Gregory of Nyssa

## Bowling

Assumption Greek Orthodox parish is sponsoring a Pan-Orthodox family bowling party on Sunday, January 15th, from 2PM until 6PM at:

Saratoga Bowling Lanes  
2725 Sutton Blvd

in St. Louis. The admission is \$10/person or \$25/family and includes unlimited bowling and shoes. Please bring a snack to share, drinks must be purchased from the bowling alley.

For additional information and to RSVP, please call Flora Dimitriu (636)795-4602 or Diane Sieckmann (314)412-3476.

I think that one must approach the Logos Savior, not induced by the fear of punishment and not in the expectation of some kind of a reward, but primarily for the sake of the good in itself. Such will stand on the right in the sanctuary. - St. Clement of Alexandria

## Reaching out in Love

As a convert to Orthodoxy from Protestantism, one of the things which truly amazed me about our faith is the consistency with which it is taught.

As an Orthodox Christian, I can attend any of the thousands upon thousands of Orthodox churches throughout the world, and find the same faith being proclaimed there as that proclaimed at our own parish here in Granite City. From my own experience I know that this cannot be said of Protestant churches, or even of the Roman Catholic Church.

Moreover if we had the ability to travel back in time we would find that this consistency

of faith crosses not only physical space, but also the centuries back to the very Apostles. Of course we cannot actually travel back in time, but if we study the works of the saints in every generation we can see that this is true. In our bulletins, I try to quote from Holy Fathers throughout the centuries, and you can see from those quotations the consistency of Orthodox teaching.

Truly our Holy Orthodox Church has taught the same thing "in all times and at all places". Would this not be true of a church which was founded by Jesus Christ, supported by the Father and guided by the Holy Spirit? As St. Paul wrote, the true Church is know by "one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." (Eph 4:5-6)

Always remember that at the Last Judgement we are judged for loving Him, or failing to love Him, in the least person. - Archbishop Anastasios of Albania

## Responding in Love

Why is there all this about "The Trinity"? The word "Trinity" isn't in the Bible. The Bible only talks about one God.

It is true that the word "Trinity" does not appear in the Bible, but the concept of the Trinity is clearly expressed in the Bible, by way of foreshadowing in the Old Testament, and more clearly in the New Testament. The word Trinity was coined later, to express what is clearly stated and shown in the Scriptures, that our God is one God in three Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Indeed, when God chose to reveal Himself to creation, He did not reveal Himself as an impersonal "force", but as a person, the Son become man in Jesus Christ.

Moreover, the concept of

the Trinity has huge importance for us, because it shows that love, true loving relationships between persons exists at the level of perfection, and has existed eternally.

As a result, we understand that the relationships of love which we are called to build with our fellow men and women is intended to grow eternally closer to the perfect image of love in the Holy Trinity.

Moreover, we see that we do not lose our identity or merge into some cosmic reality, as taught by some religions. Instead, we are called to move eternally closer to God while retaining our own personhood, our own identity. We are truly called to be brothers and sisters of Christ, sons and daughters of the Father, loving and beloved of the Holy Spirit.

Even if we stand at the very summit of virtue, it is by mercy that we shall be saved. - St. John Chrysostom

## Candle Prices

Remember the last time we raised the prices of candles? Neither do I, but, unfortunately, we are going to have to raise them, as the prices from our suppliers have risen dramatically. The new prices, which will take effect in January are:

\$7 - for 7 day votives

\$2 - for large candles

\$1 - for thin candles

\$1 - for small votives

The small candles for children will still be free.

Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. - Romans 13:10

## Help a Mission

The OCA mission in Quincy Illinois, dedicated to St. Raphael of Brooklyn, has been meeting for a number of years in a rented building, which has now been

sold. They are looking for a new location, hopefully a permanent one. The mission has reached out to us and other parishes in the midwest, with this request:

St. Raphael's, Quincy, is raising money for our building fund.

You can help us in one (or more) of four ways.

First and most important, pray for us that we may find a suitable location for our Temple so that God may be glorified.

Second, buy our hand crafted items on-line at [etsy.me/straphaelwomen](http://etsy.me/straphaelwomen).

Third, buy a novel about the Theotokos written by one of our members. This is sold through Amazon.com at <http://amzn.to/motherseyes>.

Fourth, send a donation designated for the building fund to

St. Raphael of Brooklyn Orthodox Christian Mission, PO Box 115, Quincy, Illinois 62306.

All of us who are human beings are in the image of God. But to be in his likeness belongs only to those who by great love have attached their freedom to God. - St. Diadochus of Photike

## Learning Opportunity

Fr. Harry Pappas, Phd and a professor at St. Vladimir Seminary, as well as being a parish priest, will be at St. Nicholas parish in St. Louis on Saturday, January 28th, to give two talks on the Old Testament. Cost is \$12, \$15 at the door, and includes lunch. The schedule is:

9:30 AM - Registration.

10 AM - "It's Hebrew to Me: Why Biblical Languages other than Greek matter"

11:45 AM - Lunch

12:45 AM - "Ancient Wisdom for Modern Living: How the Old Testament Benefits Believers Today"

2:30 PM Finished.

To pre-register, e-mail Dr. Michael Tschlis at [mtsichlisphd](mailto:mtsichlisphd)

@yahoo.com, or call 314-265-1961.

More details are posted on the bulletin board in the parish hall.

## FOCUS Meal Dates

The dates have been set for our Sunday FOCUS meals for the homeless at St. Michael parish in St. Louis in 2012. They are April 29, Aug 26, Oct 21, and Dec 30.

He who does not envy the spiritually mature and is merciful to the wicked has attained an equal love for all. - St. Thalassios the Libyan

## Spiritual Reading

Now is the time to be planning for special Spiritual reading during Great Lent, so we'll take a break from our normal spiritual reading and give a "Top Ten List of books to consider. Many have been reviewed before in our monthly bulletins, which I know you all save.

10. A Collection of Letters to Nuns, by St. Anatoly of Optina - Brief, spiritually enriching letters dealing with many aspects of spiritual life common to nuns and those living in the world.

9. Christ is in our Midst, by Father John from New Valaamo monastery. Like the above, but letters to lay people living in the world, and in modern times.

8. My Life in Christ, by St. John of Kronstadt. Beautiful short meditations and exhortations of all types by the beloved Russian saint. A must read!

7. Journey to Heaven, by St. Tikhon of Zadonsk. This book, by a loving and compassionate Russian father, is treasured throughout the Greek and Slavic Orthodox worlds. Thoughts and comments, organized by topics.

6. If we Confess our Sins, by Father Thomas Hopko. This short book (really a pamphlet)

contains a beautiful explanation of the meaning and purpose of Confession, along with an examination of conscience and prayers before Confession.

5. The Orthodox Way, by Metropolitan Kallistos (Ware). In a way this book is an Orthodox Catechism, because it discusses all the basic teachings of our faith. But it is far more than a catechism - for it both teaches and inspires.

4. The Art of Prayer, compiled by Igumen Chariton of Valaamo. This holy monk began to keep a journal of important passages concerning prayer from the books he read which, after his death, was published. All the great Fathers are represented in these brief, compelling, quotes.

3. The Life of the Virgin Mary, The Theotokos, compiled by Holy Apostles Convent. This book takes information from hundreds of sources and weaves it into a beautiful and coherent Life of the Holy Virgin, covering many, many facets of her life and the veneration in which she is held by the Holy Church. Lots of things here you didn't know.

2. Orthodox Prayer Life, by Matthew the Poor. This humble Coptic monk has a wonderful insight into faith and prayer, which is clearly and beautifully expressed in this wonderful book, only recently translated into English. His other work, Communion of Love, is also a classic.

1. The Orthodox Study Bible. All of the books I have mentioned above freely and extensively quote the Holy Scriptures. Their authors were steeped in the Holy Scriptures, and made them the foundation of their life. So should we.

Cast yourself into the arms of God and be very sure that if He wants anything of you, He will lift you for the work and give you strength. - Philip Neri