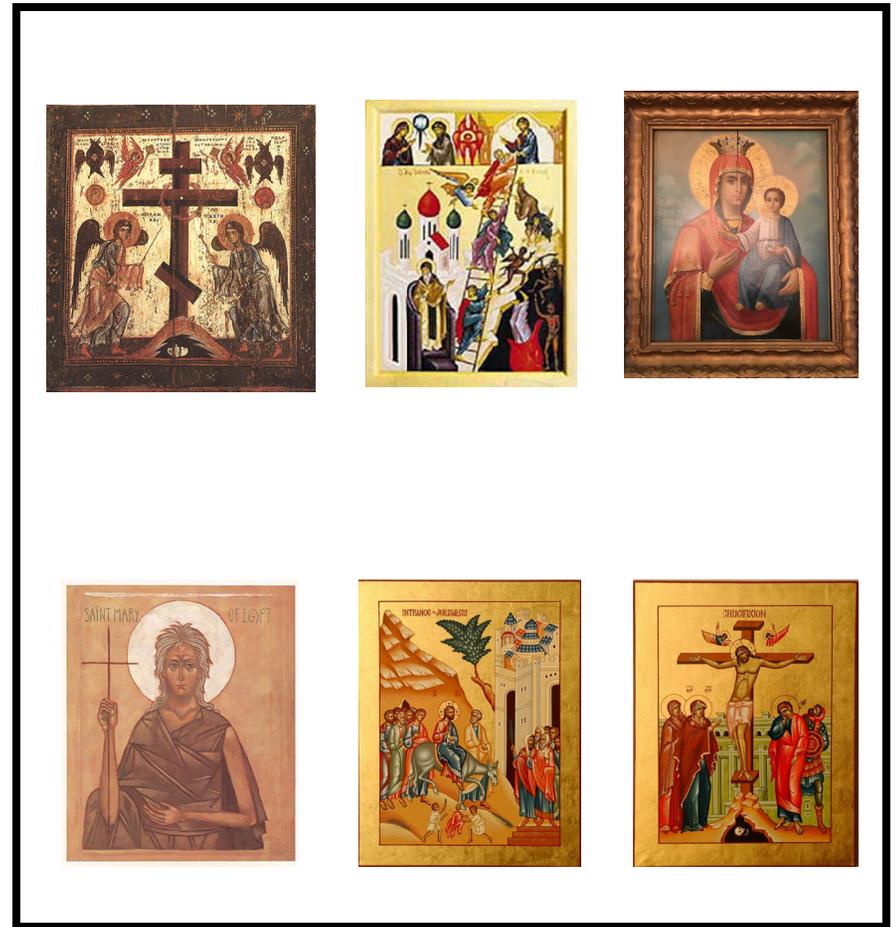
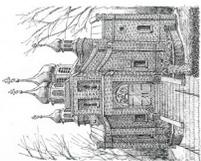


HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH



APRIL 2021

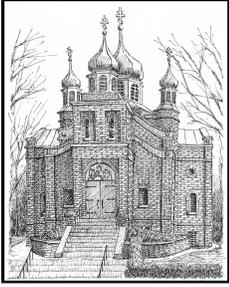
HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH
305 Washington Street
P. O. Box 2876
New Britain, CT 06050-2876



HÖLY TRINITY ÖRTHÖDÖX CHURCH

APRIL 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Greeter: Greg Dresko	Charity:  Prudence Crandall Center, Inc.			1 St. Mary of Egypt	2	3 Great Vespers 5:00 PM [limited attendance] virtual streaming
4 3rd of Great Lent Veneration of the Cross Divine Liturgy 9:00 AM (sign-up required) [limited attendance] virtual streaming	5	6	7 St. Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow and Enlightener to America Liturgy of the Pre- sanctified Gifts 6:00 PM [limited attendance] virtual streaming	8	9	10 Great Vespers 5:00 PM [limited attendance] virtual streaming
11 4th of Great Lent St. John Climacus Divine Liturgy 9:00 AM (sign-up required) [limited attendance] virtual streaming	12	13	14 Liturgy of the Pre- sanctified Gifts 6:00 PM [limited attendance] virtual streaming	15	16 Matins & Akathist to the Theotokos 4:30 PM (live streamed from St. Tikhon's Monastery)	17 Pre-Pascha Clean-up 9:00 AM - ??? Great Vespers 5:00 PM [limited attendance] virtual streaming
18 5th of Great Lent St. Mary of Egypt Divine Liturgy 9:00 AM (sign-up required) [limited attendance] virtual streaming	19 Parish Council meeting 7:00 PM	20	21 Liturgy of the Pre- sanctified Gifts 6:00 PM [limited attendance] virtual streaming	22	23 Greatmartyr George	24 Lazarus Saturday Great Vespers w/ Litya & Blessing of Palms 5:00 PM [limited attendance] virtual streaming
25 Palm Sunday Festal Divine Liturgy 9:00 AM (sign-up re- quired) [limited attend- ance] virtual streaming	26 Great and Holy Monday Bridegroom Matins 4:30 PM (live streamed from St. Tikhon's Monastery)	27 Great and Holy Tuesday Bridegroom Matins 4:30 PM (live streamed from St. Tikhon's Monastery)	28 Great and Holy Wednesday Vesperal Liturgy of Holy Thursday 6:00 PM [limited attendance] virtual streaming	29 Great and Holy Thursday Matins - Passion Gospels, 6:30 PM [limited attend- ance] virtual streaming	30 Great and Holy Friday NB Vigil (Vespers & Matins of Holy Friday, 3:00 PM [limited attendance] virtual streaming	May 1 Great and Holy Saturday Vespers/Liturgy 9:00AM [limited attendance] virtual streaming Nocturne, Pascal Matins, Pascal Liturgy 10:30 PM Baskets/Agape following



Monthly Newsletter of HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

305 Washington Street • PO Box 2876 • New Britain, CT 06050-2876

www.htocnb.org

APRIL 2021

GREAT LENT: Please make a sincere effort to attend more services, to fast, to give alms, to read the scriptures or a spiritual book and to participate in the Sacrament of Confession during our journey of Great Lent. Fasting for the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts is nothing by mouth (food, drink, smoking, etc.) at least from the noontime meal until after Communion. Those who are physically able to are encouraged to fast the whole day.

- ◆ We have been given a blessing by His Beatitude, Metropolitan TIKHON to have Private Confession on a one-on-one basis, social distanced, by appointment. For those who want to come to private confession please contact Fr. David via email, text or phone to set up a convenient time. **Please** make your Lenten confession before the end of Great Lent, Friday, **April 23rd**.

A note about Confession and frequent Communion:



*For those who are receiving the Eucharist every Sunday and on Feast days, an acceptable rule of thumb is to participate in the Sacrament of Confession at least once during each of the four Lenten seasons during the year. Also, in preparation for receiving the Holy Eucharist, especially at Sunday Divine Liturgy, prayer and fasting is the acceptable practice. **Prayer**, by attending Vespers the night before, and*

***fasting**, from midnight until after Divine Liturgy. When we have a weekday Festal Vespers Liturgy the rules of fasting are the same as for Presanctified. We also should participate in the Sacrament of Confession if we are absent from Divine Liturgy and the Eucharist for three weeks in a row. This also goes for our children who are 7 years of age and older.*

PLEASE, both adults & children, if you have **NOT** been to confession during Great Lent **DO NOT** approach the Chalice on Pascha!

CEMETERY CLEAN-UP:

A reminder that with the warmer weather we should take the opportunity to remove the Christmas wreaths and winter flowers from the graves of our loved ones before we visit next month.



PARISH COUNCIL: The next meeting of the 2021 Parish Council will be held on Monday evening, April

19th at 7:00 P.M. All council members are reminded of the schedule change and asked to make every effort to attend the meeting.

HOLY WEEK: *The Resurrection of Lazarus & The Entrance of the Lord into Jerusalem (April 24th & 25th)* Even though these services are technically not part of Holy Week, we will begin this special time in our spiritual journey with Vespers, Litiya and the Blessing of Palms on the Eve of the Feast and Festal Divine Liturgy on Sunday morning. The complete schedule for Holy Week and Pascha are printed in the weekly bulletin and on the parish web page.

The Resurrection of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ (May 2nd) - the Vespers of Pascha will be celebrated on Sunday afternoon at 12:00 P.M. (noon), followed by an egg hunt for the children. Bright Monday (May 3rd) will be celebrated with Paschal Divine Liturgy and procession at 9:00 A.M.

ST. THOMAS SUNDAY: On the Second Sunday of Pascha, St. Thomas Sunday (May 9th), we will go to the parish cemetery for a general panikhida for our parish departed. We will begin at approximately 11:15 / 11:30A.M. In the event of inclement weather, the service will be held on May 16th.

The April charity collection is for **Prudence Crandall Center** for Women. For over 45 years, Prudence Crandall Center has been a leader in our state's efforts to reduce the devastating impact of domestic violence in the lives of victims, their children, and our community. Today PCC is one of only a few programs in the country offering the full spectrum of shelter, housing and support services needed to offer practical, long-term solutions to the challenges faced by victims, helping them heal and move forward to safe, self-sufficient lives, free of violence. We also provide professional trainings, prevention



Archpriest David Koles, Rector
9 Frankie Lane
Terryville, CT 06786
Phone: 860-573-0013
Email: frdavid@htocnb.org

programs for youth, and outreach to raise awareness, reach victims in need, and prevent violence in the future. Through all of our programs and services, we touch the lives of 8,000 adults and children each year throughout our region and state.

Visit their website at: www.prudencecrandall.org

The collection will be taken on the last Sunday of the month. Please use the envelope provided in your monthly mailing and be generous!! Please use the envelope provided in your monthly mailing.

GENERAL CONFESSION: is normally held on the last Saturday of each month (except for lenten periods), following Great Vespers. All regular communicants should make every effort to attend each General Confession. The next General Confession will be held on May 28th.



Birthdays & Anniversaries in APRIL:

3	Evelyn Cherpak	1941
6	Raisa Shafron	1936
17	Christian Stephen Burrill	1978
17	Samuel Thomas	2008
20	Rachel Santoro	1989
22	Aaron Alexander Veek	2019
22	Chris & Megan Adams	2018



“WHEN I WAS SICK YOU CAME TO ME”

The following parishioners (and friends) are now home-bound or in long-term care facilities. If there are any names missing, please inform Fr. David. The regular schedule of visitations is included on the monthly calendar. Parishioners are welcomed and encouraged to make regular visitations to nursing homes and shut-ins. Our loved ones **NEED** to feel connected to their parish family.

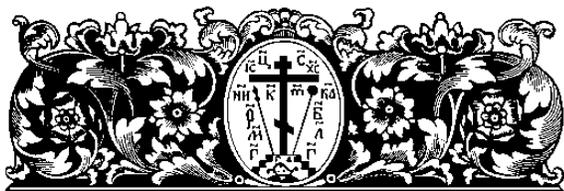
Jerome Home, New Britain
Alexander Dubnansky

The Summit, Plantsville
Nick Tabakow

Grandview Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center
[Walnut Hill Care Center], New Britain
Martha Cherpak

Avon Health Center, Avon
Stella Liwen

At Home: Helen Anop, Jim Dounouk, Joseph Kowar and Antoinette Rudy.



PARISH DIPTYCHS

Please remember our departed brothers and sisters in your prayers.

Child Nicholas Shcherdakevich	4	April 2 1922
Elizabeth Kolvek	75	April 2 1931
Child Basil Huts	1 mo	April 2 1936
Theodore Baluk	49	April 2 1940
Emily Balkun	75	April 2 1976
Vladimir James Dounouk	75	April 2 1984
Nina Burak Hair	83	April 2 2007
George Shchenansky	43	April 3 1930
Emilian Opanasenko	83	April 4 1986
Daniel Protosen	57	April 5 1952
Michael Truhan	45	April 5 1962
John Suzich	38	April 6 1913
Christine Kupchik	75	April 6 1959
John Panasevich	38	April 8 1956
John Waskiewicz	55	April 8 1964
Alexander Romanchuk	80	April 8 1966
Albina Schaplak	75	April 8 1973
Child Sophia Vinaid	3	April 9 1914
Joseph Novak	47	April 9 1965
John Biczun	69	April 9 1972
Dorothy Ludko		April 9 2014
Mary Wayda	73	April 10 1973
George Buchan	31	April 11 1910
Zenaida Keyko		April 11 1914
Child Sophie Keyko	3	April 11 1914
Andrew Ladutko	35	April 12 1930
Antonina Kovalchuk	71	April 12 1964
Sophie Zaiko	62	April 13 1953
Efrem Noveck	67	April 13 1964
Katherine Cherpak	85	April 13 1975
Olga Hallin	92	April 13 2007
Anna Cherpak	67	April 14 1941
Bronislava Galagan		April 14 1984
Louise Matczyzk Bechum	87	April 14 2007
Child Mary Purindis	8 mo	April 15 1914
Walter (Vladimir) Matczyzk	75	April 15 2001
Nikita Stelman	62	April 16 1948
George Labas		April 16 1988
Michael Labas		April 16 1989
Michael Molchan	86	April 17 1997
Susan Labas	96	April 17 2016
Gregory Cyckowski	71	April 18 1971
Nicholas Novosett		April 18 2005
Sophia Stankevich	38	April 19 1929
Harry Ptuska	67	April 19 1948
Nikolay Pobrezny	82	April 19 1975
Alla Hamisevich	86	April 19 2017
Sophia Zurawlew	88	April 20 2013
Archpriest Andrew Vanyuch		April 21 1971
Rector: 1917 - 1919		
Moses Basuk	31	April 21 1919
Mary Oleyer	68	April 21 1960
Daniel Gasukevich		April 21 1984
Nicholas Cherpak	52	April 22 1935
Anna Truhan		April 22 1971

Annastacia Matyczuk	93	April 22 1988
Child Peter Hudzik	3 days	April 23 1933
George Hamilla	53	April 23 1956
Melania Sulima	84	April 23 2002
Mary Smith		April 24 1982
Timothy Sadowsky		April 25 1932
Helen Panasewich	67	April 25 1961
George Cocores	17	April 25 1966
Daniel Karpovich	65	April 26 1936
Theodore Gladky	49	April 26 1937
Peter Keilowok	56	April 26 1941
Alice Andruskiewicz	75	April 27 1996
Andrew Dobosz	60	April 28 1976
Emil Tynik	76	April 28 1990
Michael Horbal	89	April 28 2015
Alexander Dudeyko	46	April 29 1917
Jacob Snitko	55	April 29 1935
Stella Zamayduk	52	April 30 1952
Paul Panasewich		April 30 1986
Edward Johnson	78	April 30 1998

ВѢЧНАА ПАМЯТЬ



AN EXPLANATION OF THE ORTHODOX THREE-BAR CROSS

By Fr. Theodore Jurewicz

The Top Bar - The Explanation:

The top bar is the title-board, which Pilate ordered to be hung in mockery over Christ's head on the Cross. On this board was inscribed: "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews" in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin (abbreviated to the Greek initials 'INBI' or the Latin initials 'INRI' in the Western tradition). This is replaced with the Christian inscription: "King of Glory" – below the knees of the angels. On the title-board is inscribed the initials 'IC XC', being the first and last letters of Christ's name in Greek. In addition, just above Christ's arms we see the inscription: 'NIKA', which in Greek means: "He conquers" or "He is victorious." Frequently, we see these last two inscriptions together: 'IC XC NIKA', meaning: "Jesus Christ is victorious" (over death and sin).

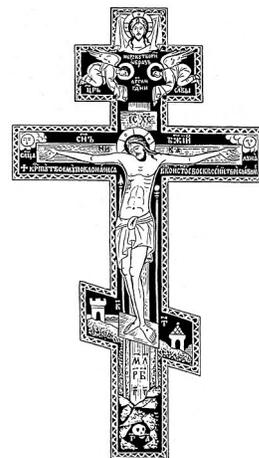
The Middle Bar - The Explanation:

The middle bar is that on which the Lord's hands were nailed. On either top corner we see the depiction of the sun (left) and the moon (right), for "The sun hid its light, and the moon turned to blood." (Joel 2:31) The inscription: "Son of God" is placed on both sides of Christ's head, and below His arms we read the inscription: "Before Thy Cross we bow down, O Master, and Thy holy Resurrection, we glorify". The halo of Christ is inscribed with three Greek letters meaning "The Being" or "He Who Is", to remind us that Christ is the same God Who identified Himself with those words to Moses in the Old Law.

The Bottom Bar - The Explanation:

The slanted bottom bar is the footrest. There is some question of whether it was actually on the Cross of Christ, but it is acknowl-

edged to be a necessary attribute of the Cross, worthy of veneration and prophetically alluded to in the words [Let us] worship the footstool of His feet... (Ps. 98:5). In prayers for the Ninth Hour, the Church likens the Cross to a type of balance of righteousness: "Between two thieves Thy Cross did prove to be a balance of righteousness: wherefore one of them was dragged down to Hades by the weight of his blasphemy whereas the other was lightened of his transgressions unto the comprehension of theology. O Christ God, glory to Thee." The meaning of this prayer is as follows: the Cross of Christ stood for a scale of justice between the two thieves: for one of them sank in to hell, dragged down by his blasphemous words; and the other, the wise thief, ascended into heaven, because of his repentance. The church fathers attempted to render tangible the thought of the unfaithful thief going to hell for his blasphemy through the just judgment of God (the lower end of the bar), and of the wise thief going to heaven for his repentance and his praise of God (the upper end).



The Images - The Explanation:

On the Cross is our Savior, Jesus Christ. Note that He does not wear a crown of thorns, and that His feet are nailed with two nails. Behind the body of Christ, on either side, are a lance (which pierced Him) and a sponge (which was soaked with gall and offered to Christ to drink) on a pole made of reed or cane. On the body of Christ is depicted blood and water flowing forth from His side. Below the feet of Christ is four Slavonic letters meaning: "The place of the skull became Paradise". Hidden in a cave under the earth is 'the skull of Adam'. We are thus reminded that Adam our forefather lost Paradise through the tree from which he wrongly partook; Christ is the new Adam, bringing us Salvation and Paradise through the tree of the Cross. The city of Jerusalem is depicted in the background, for He was crucified outside the city walls.



My Guide to the Feast of Palms and Holy Week (Monday - Friday)

The Feast of Palms

The Feast of Palms is a two-day celebration that falls between Great Lent and Holy Week. While they are days of celebration, they also announce the "beginning of the Cross" and Pascha (making possible the "universal resurrection"). Two events are commemorated: (Saturday) **The Raising of Lazarus** (John 11: 1-45) and (Sunday) **The Entry of Our Lord into Jerusalem** (John 12:1, 9-19. See also: Matt. 21:1-9; Mark 11:1-10; Luke 19:28-38)

During the Vespers of Lazarus Saturday, the following hymn is sung:

We have completed the forty days which profit our souls.
Now let us beg the lover of man; enable us to see the
Holy Week of Thy passion, that we may glorify Thy

mighty work, Thy wonderful plan for our salvation, singing with one heart and voice, O Lord, Glory to Thee.

The Troparion for the feast is the same for both days:
By raising Lazarus from the dead before Thy Passion, Thou didst confirm the universal resurrection, O Christ God. Like the children with the palms of victory, we cry out to Thee: O Vanquisher of Death: Hosanna In the highest. Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord.



The hymn to the Theotokos (9th Ode of the Canon) says:

God Is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us. Celebrate the feast and come with gladness. Let us magnify Christ with palms and branches, singing: Blessed is He that comes In the name of the Lord!

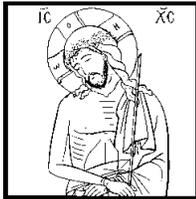
Special things to watch for:

1. The blessing of palms and branches during the Matins service on Saturday night (after the reading of the Holy Gospel).
2. The vestments of the clergy are in a festal color, rather than purple or black (as in Lent or Holy Week).
3. In some churches, there is a procession of children with palms and branches on Saturday (Serbian tradition) or Sunday (Middle East, Greece). It is also a local custom in other places.

Some Basic Characteristics of the Great and Holy Week of the Lord's Passion:

The services of these first three days are called "The Bridegroom Services," for the theme of the two hymns that are repeated each evening refer to Christ, the Bridegroom, who comes at midnight.

Behold! The Bridegroom comes at midnight, and blessed is the servant whom He shall find watching, and again, unworthy is the servant whom He shall find heedless. Beware, therefore, O my soul, do not be weighed down with sleep, lest you be given up to death, and lest you be shut out of the Kingdom. But rouse yourself, crying: "Holy! Holy! Holy! art Thou, O our God, through the Theotokos, have mercy on us!"



Thy Bridal Chamber I see adorned, O my Savior, but I have no wedding garment that I may enter, O Giver of Light, enlighten the vesture of my soul and save me.

The other major theme of the Gospel readings is the "End," the time of Judgment. The Bridegroom comes at midnight, in the darkness, to judge all people by the light of His truth. The verses call us to *be prepared and watch*, for we know not the day or the hour when the Lord will come. (John 12:31-36; Matt. 25:13).

During the Great and Holy Week of the Passion of Our Lord, the usual time of services is moved ahead. The Matins for the coming day is celebrated in the evening, while Vespers (with the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts) is celebrated in the morning. Thus, Holy Monday, for example, begins with Matins on Sunday evening.

The liturgical signs of Great Lent are still with us through Wednesday: the prayer of St. Ephrem the Syrian, the lenten chant melodies, the longer readings (*kathismata*) from the Psalter, and the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts.

Great and Holy Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

The Gospel lessons and their themes for these days are:

Matins: Mt. 21:18-43

Presanctified Liturgy: Mt. 24:3-35

The Fig Tree that bore no fruit, a symbol of the world that was created to bear spiritual fruits and failed in its response to God The signs and announcement of the "End" - "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away."

Matins: Mt. 22:15-23, 39

Presanctified Liturgy: Mt.24:36-26:2

Condemning of Pharisees of blind and hypocritical religion; those who see themselves as leaders and the light of the world, but who instead "shut up the Kingdom of heaven to men." Parables of the End: the Wise and Foolish Virgins; and the Talents-showing the need to be ready and prepared for the coming of the Bridegroom. Also, the parable of the Last Judgment when we will be called to account for how we have loved and served others.

Matins: Jn.12:17-50

Presanctified Liturgy: Mt. 26:6-16

Jesus says: "Now is the judgment of the world." Christ came as light into the world, but those who prefer the darkness and do not believe Him, or the Father who sent Him, will face judgment by His Word. The woman who poured the precious oil on Jesus is the image of love and repentance, which unites us with Jesus Christ. She is contrasted with Judas, who betrayed Christ out of his love for money.

Read the Bible passages each day before you go to church. Select one or two sentences that will help you remember the meaning of this day.

Great and Holy Thursday

The main theme of Great and Holy Thursday commemorates the Lord's Supper. It is found in the major hymn of this day: "*Of Thy Mystical Supper*" This hymn is sung many times during the Vespereal Liturgy of St. Basil the Great. It replaces the Cherubic Hymn, and "Let our mouths be filled..." (sung after communion); it is also the Communion verse of the day. The second hymn is sung just before Communion, in place of the hymn to the Theotokos.



' Of Thy Mystical Supper, O Son of God, accept me today as a communicant for I will not speak of Thy Mystery to Thine enemies, neither like Judas will I give Thee a kiss; but like the thief will I confess Thee. Remember me, O Lord, In Thy Kingdom.

Come, O faithful. Let us enjoy the Master's hospitality: the Banquet of Immortality! In the upper chamber with uplifted minds, let us receive the exalted words of the Word, Whom we magnify!

On this last night with His disciples, Christ took bread, and blessed, and broke it. He gave it to His disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is; my Body," And He took a cup, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you; for this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins," After the supper, Jesus led the disciples out to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. It was there that Judas came and betrayed Him to the soldiers.

The Lord's Supper is commemorated during the Vespereal-Liturgy on Thursday morning. In cathedral churches, following the liturgy the bishop washes the feet of 12 priests, following the

example of Christ who, as a servant, washed the feet of His disciples.



Great and Holy Friday - Matins

The Matins service of Great and Holy Friday consists of 12 readings from the Gospels that recall the final instructions of Jesus to His disciples during the supper. They include the account of the betrayal of Jesus by Judas, His trials before the High Priest and Pilate, the governor. The gospels continue with the readings about His crucifixion, death and burial. In between the readings are the hymns giving the meaning of these terrible events for our life. The church bells are also tolled at each gospel, according to the number of each reading.



The Cross is placed in the center of the Church during Matins. In some churches, it is carried out in procession, during the singing of a beautiful hymn for the 15th Antiphon (between the 5th and 6th gospel readings).

Today He who hung the earth upon the waters is hung on the tree,
 The King of the angels is decked with crown of thorns.
 He who wraps the heavens in a cloud is wrapped in the purple of mockery.
 He who freed Adam in the Jordan is slapped on the face.
 The Bridegroom of the Church is affixed to the Cross with nails.
 The Son of the virgin is pierced by a spear.
 We worship Thy passion, O Christ. We worship Thy passion, O Christ. We worship Thy passion, O Christ.
 Show us also Thy glorious resurrection.

The Exaposteilarion (hymn of light) tells us that it is never too late to repent and to ask for God's forgiveness, for Christ forgave the thief on the Cross who said: "Remember me O Lord, in Thy Kingdom." Jesus answered, saying, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

The wise thief didst Thou make worthy of Paradise, in a single moment, O Lord; By the wood of Thy Cross, illumine me as well, and save me.

Great and Holy Friday Vespers

During the Vespers service, we remember the death and burial of the Lord. Towards the end of the service, with the singing of "The Noble Joseph," the clergy bring the shroud with the image of Christ's Body (Plashchanitz) from the Altar and place it on a tomb in the center of the church. The people kneel as the procession passes by, and the choir sings these hymns:

The noble Joseph, when he had taken down Thy most pure Body from the tree, wrapped it in fine linen, and anointed it with spices, and placed it in a new tomb.
 The angel came to the myrrh-bearing women at the tomb and said, "Myrrh is meet for the dead, but Christ has shown Himself a stranger to corruption."



Parish Council Meeting January 18, 2021

Members in Attendance via video conference: Fr. David Koles, Daniel Belonick, Paul Salina, Chris Adams Sarah Clark, Rosemary Delaney, Greg Dresko, Al Hromi, Marina Kaplan and Rachel Santoro.

Meeting Called to Order at 7:00 p.m. and began with "O Heavenly King".

Dan Belonick shared the readings of the incarnation (St. Athanasius).

Pastor's Report:

Fr. David expressed his gratitude to the 2020 Parish Council for their service.

Fr. David shared his plans to retire on June 30, 2021. Fr. David will make an announcement to the parish at the annual meeting later this month.

The Diocese is facing a number of absences for various reasons including Fr. James Parnell's upcoming deployment in the next month or so. (Which means that Fr. David may actually need to serve as the HTOC supply priest following his retirement.)

Fr. David shared a very kind thank you letter from the Chrysalis Center for all our contributions.

The January/winter schedule going forward will look the same. The Pre-Lenten season is coming up mid-February and hoping to head back toward reopening for the beginning of Lent.

Warden's Report:

Dan Belonick expressed his appreciation for Fr. David's support and service to the Parish.

Additionally, this year has posed incredible challenges to our parish and he appreciates all the service from the Council. Dan gave a heartfelt closing to his term as Warden.

He also announced that he, Jen and Benjamin will be moving to Denver, CO in March 2021.

Secretary's Report:

November minutes were approved with edits via an e-vote.

Financial Report:

Dan Belonick shared that he appreciates Stephanie Thomas completing her duties as much as possible from Virginia.

Dan Belonick provided a report from Stephanie Thomas covering the balance sheet for the church accounts. Dan Belonick also presented the November figures, which have been audited.

Total November income - \$ 13,830.00
 Total November expenses - \$ 9,852.56
 Income over Expense - \$ 3,977.44

Total December income - \$ 12,303.92
 Total December expenses - \$ 12,299.67
 Income over Expense - \$ 4.25

Chris Adams motioned to accept the financial report as provided. Al Hromi seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

[to be continued] (Prepared by Dr. Constance Tarasar; 1998)

As we reach the final month of the year, it is worth noting that we have made it through 2020 without needing to dip into the dividend funds. While contributions are slowing, Chris Adams does not anticipate needing to at all. He is keeping a close watch.

Al Hromi noted that all the notices about people's 2020 contributions are in the mail.

Fr. David noted that a number of parishioners, including council members are still in need of completing their pledge forms for 2021.

Finance Committee:

Chris Adams will be getting an annual report on the church investments from our advisor.

Building and Grounds:

Dan Belonick connected with Dan Bradanini to look into the water damage in the back of the church. The recommendations which extend beyond the fix implemented this year (rubber wrapping) include some repairs and a comprehensive review of the entire roof. The plan is to approach Silktown first, which is the company who handled the temporary repairs this year to the council's satisfaction and see if they can offer us a decent price. If the quote is too high, then the council can put it out to bid.

Dan Bradanini is expecting that the work we are asking for will be about \$200,000 (which would wipe out about one third of the Bissland Fund if used exclusively.) The suggestion was made to ask parishioners to fund a portion of the cost. All this should at least be brought up at the Jan 2021 annual parish meeting, but we can always hold the official vote with the parish body at a later date. Important factors to consider include employing a good contractor, structuring the timing to our advantage (maximizing the crew, equipment, etc..) and having the work completed before material pricing increases.

The gates have been fixed and Fr. David will get locks this week.

Annual alarm maintenance/system check will happen this week.

Parish Life:

Dan Belonick expressed the tremendous work being completed for the Chrysalis Center.

Cemetery Committee:

Gladys Labas shared no major news to report.

Old Business:

Reopening Committee -

Greg Dresko has graciously stepped up to lead the committee along with Fr. David, Rosemary Delaney, Mallory Kokus and John Thomas. Services have had 12-14 attendants. Paul Salina noted that members in attendance have been singing, though wearing masks, and the reopening will discuss whether something needs to be said about this practice possibly posing unnecessary risks.

Parish Council 2021 -

Paul Salina will thankfully assume the role of HTOC Warden for the next year, Rachel Santoro will step up to become Vice Warden. Chris Dresko will come on the Council as an At-Large member. Gladys Labas needs to think about whether or not she wants to continue in her role on the Cemetery committee beyond this year.

We also need to appoint a Diocesan Assembly representative to attend in Southbury. This particular meeting could also include

an Episcopal election.

Annual Parish Meeting 2021 -

In 2 weeks, the church will hold a hybrid meeting with people in attendance in New Britain and remotely via Zoom or telephone. The Council discussed prioritizing older parishioners to attend the meeting in person should they feel less able to connect using phone or computer technology. The council will reach out to their lists to let people know how the annual meeting will run and see if those persons feel they need a spot in the church to participate in the meeting. Father David will also send an email inquiring if any members who feel they need to attend in person.

Normally to be a voting member you need to have submitted a pledge form, have been to confession in the past year and participated in some of the sacraments in the past year. The Diocese has somewhat relaxed the rules given the strained circumstances of the pandemic. This year the Council determined that having signed and returned a pledge form will be sufficient to be able to vote.

To ensure the technologies are in place, Dan Belonick will conduct a trial run this week.

New Business:

Pastoral Responsibilities

Concerns have been raised, and discussions are necessary even in light of Fr. David's announced retirement. The council and future pastor should be on the same page in regard to expectations.

Some points raised included: constant communication with parishioners - not long conversations, but as a way of staying in touch, letting people know that they are appreciated and important. Little things matter.

The transition to a new pastor should involve consideration and compromise at least as first. The new priest should take some time to learn how things are working currently, build relationships and make an effort to keep New Britain's identity intact. We should be looking to find the right priest who brings the right kinds of change to the parish.

Dan Belonick asked the 2020 council to give more thoughts to "what we want" in a priest.

Process for identifying the next priest would include establishing a search committee who will then meet with the Dean and Chancellor of the Diocese who will then do their process to sift through candidates.

Al Hromi motioned to have St. Vladimir's Seminary serve as the charity for February, seconded by Paul Salina. The motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting -

Regular Council Meeting: Mon, February 22, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Chris Adams motioned to adjourn at 8:44 p.m., Rachel Santoro seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah Clark

