

HOLY ASCENSION PARISH OCTOBER 2008 NEWSLETTER



THE HOLY ASCENSION ORTHODOX CHURCH
is the Washington, DC, parish of the Russian Orthodox
Church Abroad (ROCA), under the *omophor* (or the conciliar
leadership) of Bishop Agafangel of Odessa & Taurida. The
Holy Ascension Parish was organized on Ascension Day, May
17, 2007.

BISHOPS & LOCAL CLERGY

✠ Agafangel, Bishop of Odessa & Taurida, and chairman of
the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad Provisional Supreme
Authority ✠ Andronik, Bishop of Ottawa & North America ✠
✠ Igor Hrebinka, archpriest ✠ Seraphim Englehardt,
subdeacon ✠ John Hinton, subdeacon ✠ Daniel Olson, reader
& choir director ✠

ADDRESS

500 West Annandale Road, Falls Church VA 22307

☎ 703.539.9445 ☐ www.holyascension.info

PART 1. OUR PARISH

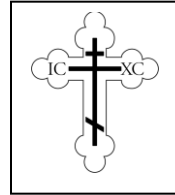
The Holy Ascension parish welcomes all Orthodox people to its sacraments and all people with an interest in Christianity and the abiding Tradition of the Holy Orthodox Church. The immediate Holy Ascension parish background is Russian émigré with many English-speaking converts. Members, visitors, and people in touch online come, however, from all ethnicities: Arab and African, Greek, Romanian, Serb, Ukrainian, as well as American, western European, and far eastern peoples. The Church is One.

PARISH LINKS.

<http://ruschurchabroad.com/engindex.htm>

<http://ruschurchabroad.com/>

<http://www.holyascension.info/>



PART 2. SUMMEREND EVENTS

PROPER NAMES, OTHER LANGUAGES. To date, the bishop of *Taurida* is understood to be the Russian Orthodox bishop of the Crimean Peninsula, Ukraine. During the time of the Russian Empire, the *Taurida Governorate* was the official name of this area. The consonants of the name *Taurida* differ among European languages: *Taurica*, *Tauria*, *Tauris*. The classical dramas about a Greek princess written by Euripides and Goethe are both called *Iphigeneia in Tauris*, or *Iphigeneia Among the Taurians*. The opera of C.W. Gluck is *Iphigénie en Tauride*. ROCA usage will be *Taurida*.

PICNIC. On Sunday afternoon, September 14, the Brotherhood of Sts Cosmas and Damian sponsored a parish fellowship picnic in Nottoway Park, Vienna, for about 24 people. The afternoon was warm and humid, but the landscaping offered dense foliage and considerable comfort from overhead. The good food and company delighted everyone.

MOLEBEN/CELEBRATION. The St Xenia Sisterhood had asked for a *moleben* in honor of St Xenia of St Petersburg on the Sunday after her commemoration day, September 24, which this year fell on Sunday, September 28. St Xenia may assist our parish to find its permanent home.

BUILDING COMMITTEE. The committee continues searching for a building or building site convenient to highways in Virginia and Maryland. If you notice a site that looks promising to you, please mention it to the committee--to Mr Dimitri Gontscharow, Mr John Herbst, Mr John Hinton, or Father Igor Hrebinka.

GIFT. In September a donor gave the parish a 19th-century Russian gold-on-copper liturgical wine cup. The Slavonic inscription reads "The warmth of Faith and the Seal of the Holy Spirit."



CUP

ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP FUND. The Parish Council has approved setting up a scholarship fund to promote the development of new church musicians. Scholarship funds for both individual music lessons and enrolling in formal courses

of instruction will be made available for young people who desire to develop their musical talent for our Church and our parish. For additional information, please contact our choir director, Reader Daniel Olson, at 571-297-4224. Donations should go to our treasurer, Ruth Hinton.

STORM DAMAGE. Hurricane Hannah, September 6, did not damage our rented church building visibly, but it flooded the basement, harming the wiring that controls the elevator and air conditioners. Two other hurricanes, Fay and Gustave, did much more terrible damage to the people of Haiti and their homes and to our mission there. Generous gifts for rebuilding are needed. Father Gregory Williams will coordinate our Haitian relief--<http://www.haitiorthodoxe.org/> Our donations should go to our treasurer, Mrs Hinton.

PART 3. OCTOBER LITURGIES, CIVIL CALENDAR.

All Sunday Liturgies begin at 10:00 AM. A luncheon buffet follows all Sunday liturgies. Volunteers may come forward to help with cooking at home, preparation at the church, and then straightening things afterward. Mr Gontscharow coordinates.

Saturday, October 4, Vigil at 5 PM.

Sunday, October 5, THE 16TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, Hours & Divine Liturgy at 9:40 AM. HIEROMARTYR PHOCAS; APOSTLE QUADRATUS.

Saturday, October 11, Vigil at 5 PM.

Sunday, October 12, THE 17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, Hours & Divine Liturgy at 9:40 AM. VENERABLE CYRIACUS

Monday, October 13, Vigil at 6 PM

Tuesday, October 14, PROTECTION OF THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS. Hours & Divine Liturgy at 7:40 AM.

Saturday, October 18, Vigil at 5 PM.

Sunday, October 19, THE 18TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST,
Hours & Divine Liturgy at 9:40. HOLY APOSTLE THOMAS.

Saturday, October 25, Vigil at 5.

Sunday, October 26, THE 19TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST,
Hours & Divine Liturgy at 9:40 AM.

Friday, October 31, Vigil at 6 PM.

Saturday, November 1. ST. JOHN OF KRONSTADT, Hours &
Divine Liturgy at 8:40 AM.

Saturday, November 1, Vigil at 5 pm.

Sunday, November 2, the 20TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST,
Hours & Divine Liturgy at 9:40 AM. GREAT-MARTYR
ARTEMIOUS.

PART 4. NEAR FUTURE

PARISH AUTHORS. Mrs Galina Rosniansky Tunik has prepared the papers of her father, Dr Sergei Tunik, a Kharkov University 1915 law graduate and military legal advisor. His *Memoirs of a Young White Guard* will see publication in November in St Petersburg. Also in November, an Orthodox friend of the parish, Professor Alexis Congdon, a recently retired historian at James Madison University, Harrisonburg Virginia, will publish *George Kennan: A Writing Life* (Wilmington DE: Intercollegiate Studies Institute, 2008). In the thoughtful media, Professor Congdon often writes about modern society and Christian political philosophy, with special attention to Eastern Europe and the European frontier-
<http://www.amconmag.com/article/2008/sep/22/00011/> Mr Konstantine Preobrazhensky also continues to publish articles about church history and the Russian government, which are searchable on the worldwideweb.

SUNDAY SCHOOL. The school for smaller children resumed teaching on September 21. The early fall curriculum will deal with days of the week and the church year of festivals and fasts. Mrs Edmunds and Mrs Kotschoubey are the teachers.

The discussion group for high school students, led by Subdeacon John Hinton, will resume on October 5.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

BROTHERHOOD OF SS COSMAS & DAMIAN. This fall the Brotherhood will lead altar service instruction for the Divine Liturgy and other services. Details and signup will be forthcoming. The brotherhood has also begun planning a patronal festival and a spring picnic. If you have any special needs or have suggestions for the brotherhood, please get in touch with the brotherhood president Philip Rapp.

TREASURY. Our parish has established a Benevolent Fund to assist those in need, at the discretion of the Parish Council. If you would like to make a contribution, please write *Benevolent Fund* on the memo line of a check payable to Holy Ascension Orthodox Church (or, in the case of cash, on the envelope in which you place the cash). You are welcome to suggest a specific recipient, but the Parish Council will make any final determination. If you have any questions, please speak to the parish treasurer, Ruth Hinton. Thanks.

ROCA SOBOR 2008. The Russian Orthodox Church Abroad under the *omofor* of Bishop Agafangel of Taurida & Odessa will convene the 5th All-Diaspora *Sobor*/conference the week

of November 17, 2008, near Nyack NY. The *sobor* will discuss a range of matters vital to our Church. The *sobor* will conclude with a triumphant service of canonization of the third ROCA Hierarch, Metropolitan Philaret (Voznesensky). Details will be published when available, by parish contact and on Church websites. Our Church needs the support of every one of us to make the *sobor* successful. A basket for donations is near the church door.

WEBSITES. Bishop Agafangel has an Internet website with a wide range of information regarding the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad (ROCA) and events in the various dioceses.

The site is in both Russian and English. The English page is <http://ruschurchabroad.com/engindex.htm>. The Ottawa and North American Diocese will set up a Russian-English site: <http://www.rocor.us/>

PART 5. DEVOTIONAL & PRACTICAL

PROSFORA/SACRAMENTAL BREAD. Please see the *starosta*/warden, Dimitri Gontscharov, if you would like to arrange for perpetual Sunday *prosforas* kept for you after the Liturgy commemoration.

BOOKSTORE. The bookstore sells icons, religious books, and other articles that are part of an Orthodox life, such as liturgical calendars.

LITURGICAL EQUIPMENT. The parish needs a *large tub-shaped vessel*, large enough for water to immerse an adult during Orthodox baptism. Some nearby parishes have adapted farm equipment to church use with candle stands and Orthodox inscriptions. Do you have a tub? Can you suggest something practical for us to try?

The altar of the parish also needs a larger *prestol*, or *table of oblation*.



SEVERAL OF OUR BISHOPS TOGETHER IN UKRAINE

Holy Liturgy was held in the Church of St. Michael in Odessa, Ukraine, September 7, attended by the Most Reverend Bishops Agafangel, Sofroniy, John, Afanasiy, and Georgiy, along with the Reverend Fathers Vyacheslav Zaburyan, Vitaliy Morozov, and Aleksandr, and Deacon Vitaliy Taranenko.

Please report matters of newsletter distribution and by all means any corrections to the newsletter preparer, Patrick Brown ~ hpcjfbrown@cox.net.