

# HOLY ASCENSION PARISH FEBRUARY 2009 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 Metropolitan Agafangel (Pashkovsky), Bishop of Odessa & Taurida. The Holy Ascension Parish was organized on Ascension Day, May 17, 2007.

## BISHOPS & LOCAL CLERGY

✠ Agafangel, Metropolitan of Eastern America and New York, Bishop of Odessa & Taurida, and First Hierarch of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad ✠ Andronik, Archbishop of Ottawa & North America ✠ Joseph (Hrebinka), Vicar Bishop of Washington ✠ Michael Foster, deacon ✠ Seraphim Englehardt, subdeacon ✠ John Hinton, subdeacon ✠ Daniel Olson, reader & choir director ✠

## ADDRESS

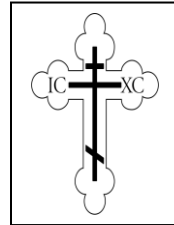
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## PART 1. OUR PARISH

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: African, Arab, Bulgar, Greek, Latvian, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Ukrainian, as well as American, western European, and far eastern peoples. The Church is One.

<http://ruschurchabroad.com/engindex.htm>  
<http://ruschurchabroad.com/>  
<http://www.holyascension.info/>



## PART 2. GIVING

### HOLY OBJECTS & FUNDING.

We have received gifts of service books, icons, and valuable Russian vestment textiles, from which another donor, of time, has used her time and skill to make vestments for us.

Our parish has also 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 anyone has questions about his or her donations to our parish during 2008, that person should speak to the treasurer, Mrs Hinton, who can prepare a list of donations for each member's personal review. "And, as always, thank you!"

**BUILDING COMMITTEE.** The committee continues searching for a building or building site convenient to highways in Virginia and Maryland. It has recently found several attractive properties. If you notice a site that looks promising to you, please mention it to the committee—to Mr Gontscharow, Mr Herbst, Subdeacon John Hinton, or Bishop Joseph (Hrebinka).



Archpriest Igor, now Bishop Joseph of Washington, reading to younger members of Holy Ascension Parish, in an earlier parish setting, 2007.

### **PART 3. FEBRUARY LITURGIES, CIVIL CALENDAR**

All Sunday Liturgies begin at 10:00 AM. A luncheon buffet follows all Sunday liturgies. Volunteers may come forward to offer help and material with cooking at home and preparation at the church.

Currently a regular schedule also designates a family that is responsible for cleaning the church after the services. The

duty is for one month at a time. If you wish to volunteer, please see the warden/*starosta*, Mr Gontscharow.

We have several copies of a 2009 Calendar & Typikon prepared and printed with the blessing of Metropolitan Agafangel in Odessa. These are sold at the candle stand for \$10 each.

On many Saturday afternoons a BIBLE STUDY GROUP meets at 3:30 PM, chaired by Bishop Joseph. Please check beforehand with the church office, to be sure that the study group will meet.



Saturday, January 31, Vigil at 5 PM.

Sunday, February 1, *33<sup>d</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*. Hours and Divine Liturgy at 9:40 AM. *Venerable Macarius the Great*.

Saturday, February 7, Vigil at 5 PM.

Sunday, February 8, *Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee*. Hours and Divine Liturgy at 9:40 AM. *New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia*. Afterwards the Parish of the Holy Ascension ANNUAL MEETING will elect new officers and discuss parish business.



A Modern Greek Icon of the Prodigal Son  
Returning to the house of His Father

Saturday, February 14, Vigil at 5 PM.

Sunday, February 15, *Sunday of the Prodigal Son*. Hours and  
Divine Liturgy at 9:40 AM. *Meeting of the Lord*.

Friday, February 20, Vigil at 6 PM. *Requiem Vespers and  
Matins*.

Saturday, February 21, *Meatfare Saturday*. Hours and  
Divine Liturgy at 9:00 AM, *Ancestors' Saturday*. *Universal  
Commemoration of the Departed*.

Saturday, February 21, Vigil at 5 PM.

Sunday, February 22, *Meatfare Sunday*. Hours and Divine  
Liturgy at 9:40 AM. *Sunday of the Dread Judgment*

Saturday, February 28, Vigil at 5 PM.

Sunday, March 1, *Forgiveness Sunday*. Hours and Divine  
Liturgy at 9:40 AM.



#### PART 4. READING & CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL. After the buffet, smaller children meet for  
Sunday School with Mrs. Edmunds and Mrs. Kotschoubey –



Sunday School, 2008

Subdeacon John Hinton's discussion group for older students resumed in October. Sub-deacon John's group is shown here in January, considering St Denys's words about angels and the Annunciation--



Discussion, 2008

## PART 6. DEVOTIONAL & PRACTICAL

BOOKSTORE. The bookstore sells icons, religious books, and other articles that are part of an Orthodox life, such as liturgical calendars. A new book in Russian on sale next month, widely collected by American research university libraries, will be that of Father George Edelshtein – a dissident memoir of the Russian priesthood in the troublesome 20<sup>th</sup> century.

*Please report all difficulties with newsletter distribution and, by all means, all newsletter corrections to the newsletter preparer, Patrick Brown ~ hpcjfbrown@cox.net.*