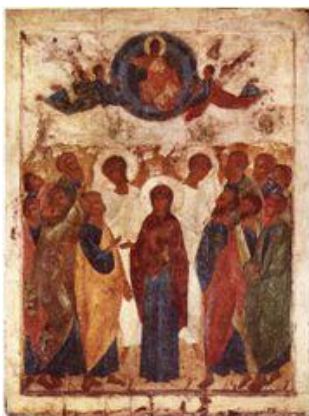


HOLY ASCENSION PARISH MARCH 2009 NEWSLETTER



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

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

ADDRESS

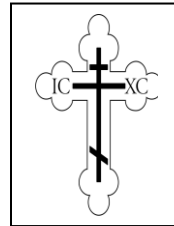
500 West Annandale Road, Falls Church VA 22307

☎ 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: 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 1. RECENT EVENTS.

Rather than citing episcopal letters visits, your newsletter preparer believes that these photographs express much of the character of our hale metropolitan Agafangel and his home in Odessa, welcoming the Faithful for *blini* and an outdoor concert.



METROPOLITAN AGAFANGEL BEFORE CONCERT



ROCA DIOCESAN RECTORY, ODESSA, 2009

PART 2. GIVING

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 found several attractive properties that committee and parish members and visiting and seriously considering. If you notice any site that looks promising to you, please mention it to the committee – to Mr Gontscharow, Mr Herbst, Subdeacon John Hinton, or Bishop Joseph (Hrebinka).

PART 3. MARCH 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 Igor. Please check beforehand with the church office, to be sure that the study group will meet.



Saturday, February 28. Vigil at 5 PM.

Sunday, March 1. Cheesefare Sunday. Hours and Divine Liturgy at 9:40 AM, *Casting out of Adam from Paradise.*

Forgiveness Sunday.

Great Vespers and the Rite of Forgiveness at 1 PM.

Monday, March 2. Matins, Hours, Typica, and Vespers at 7:30 AM.

Great Compline with the reading of the Great Canon of Venerable Andrew of Crete at 6 PM.

Tuesday, March 3. Matins, Hours, Typica and Vespers at 7:30 AM.

Great Compline with the reading of the Great Canon of Venerable Andrew of Crete at 6 PM.

Wednesday, March 4. Matins, Hours, Typica, Great Vespers and the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts at 7:30 AM.

Great Compline with the reading of the Great Canon of Venerable Andrew of Crete at 6 PM.

Thursday, March 5. Matins, Hours, Typica, and Vespers at 7:30 AM.

Great Compline with the reading of the Great Canon of Venerable Andrew of Crete at 6 PM.

Friday, March 6. Matins, Hours, Typica, Great Vespers, the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts at 7:30 AM..

Matins and the Blessing of Kolivo at 6 PM.

Saturday, March 7. First Saturday of Great Lent

Hours and Divine Liturgy at 8:40 AM. *St. Theodore's Saturday*, Vigil at 5 PM.

Sunday, March 8. First Sunday of Great Lent. Hours, and Divine Liturgy and Moleben for the Conversion of the Erring at 9:40 AM. *Triumph of Orthodoxy*. Great Vespers and Matins at 5 PM.

Monday, March 9. First and Second Finding of the Head of the St. John the Forerunner. No morning service.

Tuesday, March 10. Matins at 6 PM.

Wednesday, March 11. Hours, Typica, Great Vespers and the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts at 8 am.

Friday, March 13. Matins at 6 pm.

Saturday, March 14. Second Saturday of Great Lent. Hours and Divine Liturgy at 8:40 AM. *Ancestors' Saturday. Commemoration of the Departed*. Vigil at 5 PM.

Sunday, March 15, Second Sunday of Great Lent
Hours and Divine Liturgy at 9:40 AM. *St. Gregory Palamas*

Tuesday, March 17. Matins at 6 PM.

Wednesday, March 18. Hours, Typica, Great Vespers and the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts at 8 AM.

Friday, March 20. Matins at 6 PM.

Saturday, March 21. Third Saturday of Great Lent.

Hours

and Divine Liturgy. *Ancestors' Saturday – Commemoration of the Departed.*

Vigil with the Veneration of the Holy Cross at 5 PM.

Sunday, March 22. Third Sunday of Great Lent.

Hours and Divine Liturgy at 9:40 AM. *Sunday of the Veneration of the Holy Cross. 40 Martyrs of Sebaste.*

Tuesday, March 24. Matins at 6 PM.

Wednesday, March 25 Hours, Typica, Great Vespers and Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts at 8 AM.

Friday, March 27. Matins at 6 PM.

Saturday, March 28. Fourth Saturday of Great Lent.

Hours and Divine Liturgy at 8:40 AM. *Ancestors' Saturday – Commemoration of the Departed.*

Vigil at 5 PM.

Sunday, March 29. Fourth Sunday of Great Lent.

Hours and Divine Liturgy at 9:40 AM. *Venerable John Climacus.*

Tuesday, March 31. Matins at 6 PM.

Wednesday, April 1. Hours, Typica, Great Vespers and Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts at 6 PM. Matins with the reading of the Great Canon of Venerable Andrew of Crete.

Saturday, April 11. General cleaning of the church, time to be set in early April.



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

PART 5. DEVOTIONAL & PRACTICAL

BOOKSTORE. The bookstore sells icons, religious books, and other articles that are part of an Orthodox life, such as liturgical calendars. The shop-candle stand has noticed that the Odessa diocese has published the first issue of its religious journal, *The Russian Zoar*, in Russian. The Old Calendar Greek monastery in Etna, California, regularly publishes another religious journal in English, *Orthodox Tradition*. A sample is at

the candle stand and includes ordering information. A new book in Russian on sale this month, ad widely collected by American university research libraries, is that of Father George Edelshtein—*Notes of a Country Priest*, a dissident’s memoir of being a priest under a regime basically hostile to religion and within in a compromised church hierarchy.



FATHER GEORGE WITH TWO PARISHIONERS BEFORE THEIR CHURCH BUILDING. UNDER RESTORATION IN 2004

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