

# HOLY ASCENSION PARISH

## NOVEMBER 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
- ✠ Michael Foster, deacon
- ✠ Seraphim Englehardt, subdeacon
- ✠ John Hinton, subdeacon
- ✠ Daniel Olson, reader & choir director

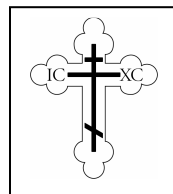
#### ADDRESS

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☎ 703.539.9445 ☐ [www.holyascension.info](http://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.

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



## PART 2. AUTUMN EVENTS

### FIFTH ALL-DIASPORA SOBOR

The *sobor* [church conference] will take place the week of November 17, 2008, in Nanuet, New York. The week will culminate with a canonization service for Metropolitan Philaret (Voznesensky) at the Holy Trinity Church, Astoria, Queens, New York City. The vigil will begin at 5 PM on Saturday, 22 November 2008, and the Liturgy will occur on Sunday, 23 November 2008, at 10 AM. A banquet will follow that Sunday afternoon at 2 PM. Those interested in coming to the services or the banquet or both can find out more information on the church bulletin board or speak with the warden/*starosta*.

Since Fr. Igor and a number of parishioners will be in New York for these events, **there will be No Services That Weekend, 22-23 November 2008.** We will discuss the *sobor* upon return.

### ORDINATION 2008

Deacon Michael Foster was born in 1949 and was received into the Orthodox Church in 1968. He worshipped at the St John's Parish in Washington, DC, and assisted Father Nicholas Pektoros as an altar server. At the Holy Transfiguration Church in Baltimore, he sang in the choir. He attended Holy Trinity Seminary during the years 1972-75. He was a novice in Jerusalem in 1977. He attended several ROCOR parishes, the last being the Holy Apostles in Beltsville MD, before his coming to the Holy Ascension Parish in 2007.

Deacon Michael has written that "It has been a great blessing and privilege to belong to the Holy Ascension. The great Christian love and piety I have experienced here has been a source of spiritual nourishment and strength. When approached by Father Igor to become a deacon, I agreed despite my unworthiness and fear of God. . . . Prayers and examples [of many mentors] help to sustain me. With heartfelt gratitude to Fr Igor and the parishioners of Holy Ascension, I beg your holy prayers." "Unworthy Deacon Michael"

## PART 3. GIVING

### HOLY OBJECTS & FUNDING

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. Some recent sums have gone to Haitian relief, music education, and clergy travel expenses. We have also received gifts of service books, icons, and valuable Russian vestment textiles, of which another donor has used her time to make vestments for us. If anyone has questions about his or her donations to our parish during 2008, he should contact 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. 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.

#### **PART 4. NOVEMBER 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 and preparation at the church. Currently we also keep a schedule that 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 Bishop Agafangel in Odessa. These are sold at the candle stand for \$10 each.

On most Saturday afternoon a BIBLE STUDY GROUP meets at 3:30 PM, chaired by Father Igor. Please check beforehand with the church office, to be sure that the study group will meet.



- ❖ 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 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, Hours & Divine Liturgy at 9:40 AM. Great-martyr Artemius.
- ❖ Saturday, November 8, Vigil at 5 PM
- ❖ Sunday, November, 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, 9:40 AM, Hours and Divine Liturgy. Martyr Nestor of Thessalonica.
  
- ❖ Saturday, November 15, Vigil at 5 PM.
- ❖ Sunday, November 16, 22<sup>d</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, 9:40 AM, Hours and Divine Liturgy. Martyrs Acepsumus, Joseph, & Aithalas of Persia. Dedication of the Church of the Great-Martyr George in Lydda.
  
- ❖ Saturday-Sunday, November 23-23, **No Services Here.** Our clergy will be taking part in the Fifth Sobor, in New York City.
  
- ❖ Thursday, November 27, Thanksgiving Molieben, 10:00 AM.
  
- ❖ Saturday, November 29, Vigil at 5 PM
- ❖ Sunday, November 30, 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, 9:40 AM Hours and Divine Liturgy St. Gregory the Wonderworker.
  
- ❖ Wednesday, December 3, Vigil at 6:00 PM
- ❖ Thursday, December 4, Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos Into the Temple. 7:40 AM, Hours and Divine Liturgy.



## PART 5. READING & CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### FEAST

Inasmuch as November begins with the Feast of St John of Kronstadt, one may want to come to understand the saint by reading some of the lengthy meditations he called, *My Life in Christ*. A good scholarly biography of St John is that of Professor Nadieszda Kizenko--*Prodigal Saint, Father John of Kronstadt and the Russian People* (University Park, PA: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2000).

### PARISH AUTHORS

Mr Konstantine Preobrazhensky also continues to publish articles about church history and the Russian Government, which are searchable on the worldwideweb. His most recent book is *KGB-FSB's New Trojan Horse: Americans of Russian Descent* (New York: Gerard Group International, with the assistance of St John of Kronstadt Press, Liberty, TN, 2008). After Liturgy on November 2, Mr Preobrazhensky will speak to us about his book, which will be on sale.

### 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 webpage is <http://ruschurchabroad.com/engindex.htm>

The Ottawa and North American Diocese will set up its own Russian-English site: <http://www.rocor.us>

The *Economist* magazine from the London School of Economics has also taken some interest in the ROCA. See [http://www.economist.com/world/international/displaystory.cfm?story\\_id=12432281](http://www.economist.com/world/international/displaystory.cfm?story_id=12432281)

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Smaller children meet with Mrs Edmunds and Mrs Kotschoubey after the buffet. Subdeacon John Hinton's discussion group for older students resumed on October 19<sup>th</sup>.

## 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.

## LITURGICAL EQUIPMENT

The parish still needs *a tub large enough for water to immerse an adult* during Orthodox baptism. Some parishes adapt farm equipment with candle stands and Orthodox inscriptions. The altar of the parish also needs a larger *prestol, or table of oblation*.

## PART 7. CHURCH LEADERSHIP

### 25 October 2008

Fr. Aleksey Morgunov, who left the Moscow Patriarchate (MP), has been admitted to the Siberian Deanery of the Central Russian Administrative District. Fr. Aleksey will serve at the Church of the Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos in the city of Ishim, where the rector is Hieromonk Nikon.

### 22-24 October 2008

Bishop Agathangel of Taurida & Odessa participated in the celebration of the patronal feast of the monastery of the Holy Martyrs Cyprian and Justinian in Athens, Greece. The services were led by the Most Reverend Bishop Cyprian (for the ailing Metropolitan Cyprian, hierarch of the Old Calendar Church of Greece). In attendance also were the Most Reverend Metropolitan Vlasie, hierarch of the Old Calendar Church of Romania, and the Most Reverend Metropolitan Photii, hierarch of the Old Calendar Church of Bulgaria. There were also 16 other bishops who celebrated the liturgy.



BISHOPS IN ATHENS

### 3 October 2008

Three parishes of the Free Serbian Orthodox Church have joined the Australian Diocese of the ROCA: the Church of St. Stefan of Decani in Victoria, the Church of St. George in Brisbane, and the Church of St. Nicholas in Canberra. They will be attended to by Hegumen John (Shmelts).

### **30 September 2008**

Bishop Agafangel blessed the formation of a parish in the city of Ishim, in the Russian Federation, dedicated to the Kazan Mother of God icon and named Hieromonk Ermogen (Petrov) as its rector.

### **21 September 2008**

A parish meeting was held at the Church of the Holy Great Martyr St. Andrew Stratelates in St. Petersburg, Florida, USA, at which the parishioners along with the rector, Archpriest Igor Chitikov, decided to join the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad under the *omofor* of Bishop Agafangel, to “remain in the traditional ROCA, which never merged with the MP.”

### **2-4 September 2008**

“A regular meeting of the PSEA took place from September 2-4, 2008, in Odessa. Among other decisions made at the meeting, it was decided to accept two catacomb bishops and their flocks into the ROCA--Bishop John (Zaitsev) of Buinsk & Volzhsk and Bishop Afanasiy (Savitsky) of Vologodsk & Velikoustyuzhsk”[Agathangel website]. These bishops were accepted under the terms ROCOR specified in the early 1990s, when several groups of these Sekatch catacomb Christians first approached ROCOR, seeking acceptance and full communion.

*Please report matters of newsletter distribution and by all means any corrections to the newsletter preparer, Patrick Brown~[hpcjfbrown@cox.net](mailto:hpcjfbrown@cox.net).*