

# Parish News

## St. Peter & St. Paul Orthodox Church

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Pastor: Fr. Herman Kincaid, Editor: Shirley Bryar, Digital Strategist: Ervin (Rusty) Mihalko. A quarterly publication concentrating on the events of our church, on the lives of our parishioners, and interesting things in the world. Back copies of previous issues can be viewed in our church library, or on our web site.



WINTER-SPRING 2019-2020



We are adding visual images to the words in the Bible, about the Birth of Christ. In Luke 2 we learn that the authorities ordered a census, that all the world should be registered, for

taxation purposes. Everyone had to do this in their own city, so Joseph went with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child, to Bethlehem, because he was of the lineage of David.

Luke 2:8-20 recalls the story, in the same country, of the shepherds living out in the fields, tending their flocks at night when an angel appeared before them. The Angel announces the birth of Christ the Lord, in the city of David. When the angel left, they decided to go and see what had been known to them.

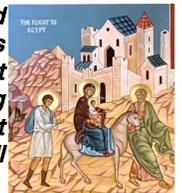


Matt 2:16 When Herod learned that he was deceived by the Wise men, he ordered the death of all the male children, 2 years old and younger who were in Bethlehem and all its districts.

Matt 2:12 The wise men, or magi were divinely warned in a dream not to return to see Herod, so they departed for their own country another way.

Matt 2:13-15 Then when they had departed, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said that they should flee to Egypt.

According to Matthew 2 - 3 The Holy family did not return to the land of Israel until Herod was dead but, another dream gave warning about Archelaus, the son of Herod, who was reigning over Judea, so they went to Nazareth, that it might fulfill the words of the prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarene."



Matthew 2:2 tells us about the wise men, or Magi, who came from the East asking, Where is He who was born King of the Jews? They had seen his star in the East and had come to worship him. Also, PSALMS 72:10-11 refers to the Kings who will bring gifts.



The Grotto is the site of Christ's birth in Bethlehem, below in the Church of the Nativity. The silver star, written in Latin translates to "Here Christ was born."

The gifts of the Magi:

See Matthew 2:11  
Gold for a king,  
frankincense for God,  
and myrrh for a man who is to suffer and die.



Matthew 2:1-12  
Jesus is born in Bethlehem and honored by the wise men.



Christmas Day Liturgy our church Dec. 25, 2019.

**MISSION STATEMENT:** To live and share the good news of Jesus Christ through worship, ministries and service.  
**VISION STATEMENT:** Grow God's family, experience God's transformative love and develop dynamic disciples of Christ.



*John Sutko, choir director emeritus of our church fell asleep in the Lord on 6-9-20 after battling various health complications. John grew up in our church, started singing in the choir at 14 years of age.*

*At 17 he began to study music in college and in 1953, he was asked by Fr. Nicholas Semkoff to direct the second Liturgy on Sundays, which was in Church Slavonic. At age 20, John took*

*over both liturgies.*

*John's full time job was teaching music at McClure Junior High School in Western Springs.*

*While working, he went on to receive 2 Master's Degrees and in 1968 became the Assistant Principal of the school. He was there for 35 years.*

*In the 60's & 70's John took on the project of converting all vesper verses for the feast days of our church, in four parts and in their proper tones. This project took 10 years to complete.*

*John's voice was very deep and powerful, in fact, he sang in the lowest registry, called Basso Profundo. He was invited to participate in various presentations as lead*

*soloist, chanter and oktavisit by the Bach Society of St. Louis, Mo., in their presentation of Rachmaninov's Divine Liturgy and in Northwestern University and the University of Chicago's choir presentations of Rachmaninoff, Gretchaninoff and Kalinnikov vigils.*

*In 2013 our church celebrated John's 60th year as our Choir Director and in February, 2016, John directed his last Divine Liturgy at our church.*

*On May 6, 2017 the Order of St. Romanos was bestowed on John by the Holy Synod of the OCA. He was only the 8th person to receive this award which was created in 2014 to honor influential composers, arrangers, teachers and conductors.*



*John is survived by his wife Alice of 63 years, his brother Michael (Nick), and his sister Mary Jane Rozdilsky, his children Cynthia (Gregory) Koranda, and son David plus his grandchildren grew up in our church, but now attend Holy Trinity Cathedral where their brother Fr. Alexander is the priest. John is also a great-grandfather to Magdalena and Anna.*

*John was very active in our church's "O" Club, and But, one of the very special things about John was*

*comment, or take doing for the church. labored so much many projects, that a kind word meant to also kind and the choir members.*

*He liked to have rehearsals, so that people would be prepared. I remember a couple of members, new to Orthodoxy, joined our church, just because they wanted to sing in our choir. We also have husbands and wives who sing together and some who met and married fellow choir members. We also remember the yearly Choir Banquets that were such fun.*

*in the Carpatho-Russian organization. that he always remembered to notice of the work that other people were*

*He had himself, on so he knew what others. He was encouraging to*



*Thanks for the all the music and all the good memories John!*



*Harriet Ruiz, wife of John Ruiz, mother, and grandmother, passed away on 3/23. Although she was a member of Holy Apostles Church, she also attended many of our church services, and was a part of many of our group activities. Her "bucket list of wishes was topped with the desire to visit the Holy Land and she really wanted to go with us on last year's trip. Her doctor didn't advise it, but she was on our minds, and in our prayers at every site.*



*Frank M. Sedlacek, fell asleep in the Lord on March 10, was the husband of the late Tatiana nee Motel, father of long time parishioners Susan Schuster and brothers Zachary, Michael, grandfather of five and great-grandfather of one. Our condolences to the entire family. We remember Frank, that he was kind, truthful and had a great sense of humor. He was no longer able to drive, but had loved coming to church. Mr. Sedlacek had been an employee of the Burlington Northern Railroad for 40 years.*



Fr. Herman ended the service by Blessing the church and all of us.



"The Cross is submerged by the priest to illustrate encountering God in Christ. Water is restored to it's original goodness."



After Jesus was baptized he went here, Mt. of Temptation. We didn't visit the Greek Monastery, but got to see this.



The Bulgarian Orthodox really celebrate Epiphany. A child has retrieved the cross.



In Arles, France Bishop throws a cross into the river for divers to retrieve for good luck.



River Jordan on our visit was yellow, but..



This is the usual color of Jordan River.



Josh Smak got to March with his Hinsdale Central Marching Band on New Years Day.



Sanctity of Life Service, 1-19-20, Bishop Paul Presiding



We re-enacted the Feeding of the Multitude with Bishop Paul. Matt 14:23-21



Our parish sends Care Packages to our College students. Natalia Ogurkiewicz, took a photo of her gift as a thank you. She is studying Jurisprudence & Law at Washington University School of Law, St. Louis, Mo.



St. Nick made his annual visit.



"Angel Wing" ornaments commemorate our departed loved ones. It is our 12th year.



Our Parishioners went Christmas Caroling in the neighborhood.



Tammy Girten shown with Fr. Herman, was this year's winner of the gold coin, cut from our Vasilopita Bread in honor of St. Basil. The winner is assured of good luck for the year, and will return it at the end of the year to be rebaked in a new Bread.



Emil Tripa, our Choir Director, led a choir composed of our sister church's on Christmas Eve. The Acoustics, on the first floor level were fantastic.



Fr. Herman's daughter Ella got to sing in her first recital.



Lenten Hotdog Poach a carrot in some herbs, add a pinch of sugar. Top with canned Vegetarian Chili, or

MARCH FOR LIFE

relishes and Caramelized onions.



Bethlehem, Israel, July, 2019 an older baptismal font was discovered inside the church's baptismal font. It dates to the 6th c. or 200 yrs after the church was built, and seems to be of the same stone as was used in the columns. No one knows why it was concealed & nothing was written about it in the church, nor in the history books, but those who have seen it say it is magnificent.



Fr. Herman stated that "We had a bus load to Chicago to join others on this year's march." Although the weather forecasters predicted terrible weather, the day turned out pretty nice, and we were glad that nothing was cancelled for the crowd of 9000 on Jan. 11, 2020.

*It seems to me that something like, "Igniting the Flame" happened in our church 15 years ago, when Fr. Biernacki was our priest. I don't know the particulars but, I was informed that I was on a committee, along with Joe Bilas, Dorothy Koncel and a Deacon we had at that time, (who moved out of state shortly afterward.) Our new committee had a meeting, I was selected to be the Chairman and Joe was to be the Secretary of the committee. Dorothy Koncel was also a member.*

*We talked about church attendance, how visitors were greeted and how our people were informed about Orthodox events that occurred elsewhere. We decided to contact all previous parishioners, who had not made the-move to Burr Ridge with us, from our previous location in Chicago. I do not have the results. Unfortunately, Joe kept his information on his lap top and when he Fell Asleep on December 2, 2015, I understand that the family was not able to access his pass-word protected computer. But, his great idea to establish a Greeter Committee" lives on.*

*We each attended other churches to see what they were doing and decided to have a pamphlet printed, all about our church, so that we could have something to hand out to visitors of our church. Our Parish Council awarded us \$200 to have these pamphlets made. Joe also lined up "Greeters", established a schedule and informed the Greeters on how to apply for additional information about our church. Joe's wife Mona continued making out the schedule. My contribution was to establish the EOPS Newsletter + we had required reading, learning all that the OCA said about EOPS.*

*I had admired what others were doing about Newsletters and I had studied Journalism in high school, had been the Feature Editor of my School Paper 1 yr and Co-Editor in Chief my Senior year, plus I had taken classes in photography, at 2 different colleges, so I began an adventure that I have really loved. The fact that I had traveled extensively throughout the Orthodox world helped me, as does the fact that my college degrees are in Painting & Drawing, plus Art History. The unfortunate part was that Fr. Biernacki refused to have anything to do with the paper. I was forced to attend every single Orthodox event that any group was hosting in order to have different things to write about.*

*When Fr. Karaffa came to our church, he was active in everything. We added Art Rawers to our committee and Fr. decided that we should rule by committee. We each would bring up a topic for the next Newsletter and if any member didn't like it, it wouldn't happen. Unfortunately, there was no creativity involved. Everyone wanted an Open House, so everyone helped, we advertised in the paper, our choir was ready to sing upstairs and every group, O Club, Choir, Church School, Parish Council, made huge photo displays, we even were offering refreshments and hardly anyone came. I only know of 1 local Orthodox family who came and they belong to another church. It was devastating. We had all really labored. At least, I got to photograph and print it for one issue. Too bad it was in black/white.*

*Fr. Herman has been very involved with the Newsletter and I thank him for his guidance, his great ideas and for writing his articles. Fr. Herman and I go over the topics and every item that we want to cover for each issue. The one really big thing that happened is that the Parish Council approved our request to print the Newsletter in color. Winter 2015 was our first. I welcome your news about what your children are involved with and I thank you for helping me with photos, especially those who take them from the choir loft as we get another view and I welcome any ideas.*

*Thank you to Rusty Mihalko for his brilliant computer work. We have thrown a lot of unusual requests his way for special effects, etc. and he always comes through, plus he writes a lot of the photo captions. Thank you to Mona Bilas, for continuing Joe's work and to Laura for helping Mona. Also, to Dorothy Koncel who still has our ear. Also, thank you to Deacon Dave Kenny, our church's computer expert, who not only helps me out figuring out Drop Box, but he takes photos of the Youth Group, as does Fr. Herman, but Dave is the one who enters each new Newsletter onto our Church's Facebook page. In case you didn't know, you can read our past copies at that site.*

*Another thing, Joe never charged the church for the mailing labels that he printed and in order to keep costs down, a couple of years ago I decided to pay for the postage myself and not charge the Church. So, if you are not getting the Newsletter in the mail and you think you should, please do not blame the church, see me. We are not mailing some copies because we really would prefer that you come to church, but if you have a problem, let Fr. Herman know about it. We really love our church, and love it when all are here.*

**By: Shirley Bryar, Editor**

*In January, the parish's monthly charity collection was given to Share Perinatal Support Services of Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital. Part of the Advocate Charitable Foundation, Share is a nonprofit that supports families experiencing a high-risk pregnancy, critically ill infant, pregnancy loss, or neonatal death. Services provided by Share include support groups, keepsakes and mementos, art therapy, financial assistance, and annual reunions and memorial services. None of what Share provides is billed to the patients; it is entirely funded by charitable donations.*

*Share has been in existence at Good Samaritan Hospital since 1982. In August of 2019, Matushka Jessica accepted the position as Share's coordinator. Her job includes guiding and counseling families going through very difficult perinatal experiences. She runs weekly and monthly support groups, coordinates the patient's care, helps identify and aide patients in financial crisis, runs an art therapy program, provides pictures and keepsakes to bereaved parents, and helps educate and support the staff. While it is sometimes a difficult job, Mat. Jessica considers it an honor and a privilege to be able to walk beside these families and support them on their journey from uncertainty and grief, to healing and hope. The January charity collection will go directly to helping the patients she serves, and she is thankful for your generosity.*

**ANNUAL WALK to REMEMBER.**

**Balloons are released to honor babies that fell asleep in the Lord or were stillborn.**





Michael Palandech was a long time member of our church who was a member of our "Jolly Cleaning Crew" and a member of this Newsletter for our first 10 years. He also played a big part in making sure things ran smoothly during Liturgy and our Food Pantry work. I remember that he was an avid golfer and how we used to discuss our favorite pro-golfers during tournaments. There were many talks to his wife Betty when we worked on the Newsletter and we got to know his son, Colonel Don when he was commanding the 407th Group in Iraq, where we sent Christmas pkgs to in 2006. Then in 2013, though he was retired, Col. Don Palandech participated in Fr. Herman's Church Ceremony when he became a Military Chaplain. Mike's brother Richard, is a faithful parishioner, and he just suffered the loss of his wife (see below). Our condolences to the rest of Mike's family. We heard that Mike fell asleep in the Lord peacefully.

Archpriest John Kuchta fell asleep in the Lord on 12-28-19, surrounded by family. He and his wife Ruth took their only assignment at St. Nicholas Church, Joliet, Ill. and served for 56 years. His wife Ruth preceded him in death in 2012. I didn't really know Fr. John, but I do know that he was really loved by his congregation. Our condolences to the family.



We also wish to offer our condolences to our parishioner Richard Palandech, on the falling asleep in the Lord of his wife Yvonne on 12-18-19 and to their children, and grandchild. Although Richard is one of our members, his wife was a member of St. Archangel Michael Serbian Church in Lansing, IL.



Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus was arrested, was then brought to this house where he spent the entire night and this was the scene of the first trial. Matthew 26:57-63.

Almost a complete set of Hebrew measures, a stone mill, a dungeon, a courtyard, servants quarters and the remains of a Byzantine Church, were discovered. On the left side of the church, this flight of ancient steps was discovered. THESE STEPS DATE FROM THE TIME OF CHRIST. As this was the shortest way from Gethsemane to the upper city, it is possible that the feet of JESUS ACTUALLY TROD ON THESE VERY STONES. At that time this site was within the walls of Jerusalem. Much of Jerusalem is about 7' higher now, than in the time of Jesus, so this may now be the only site where you can really walk in his footsteps.



Santa Claus in Jerusalem riding a camel.

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