

SAINT MARY'S ORTHODOX CHURCH

(PROTECTION OF THE THEOTOKOS)
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(A PARISH OF THE CARPATHO-RUSSIAN ORTHODOX DIOCESE OF THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE)

OUR WEBSITE: SAINTMARYSORTHODOXCHURCHCORNING.ORG

SUNDAY MAY 24, 2015



7th Sunday of Pascha

*Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the
1st Ecumenical Council
Ss. Cyril & Methodios,
Equals-to the-Apostles*



Epistle: COLOSSIANS 3:12-16
Gospel Reading : JOHN 17:1-13
Liturgical Color: WHITE

SATURDAY VESPERS 5:00 PM
SUNDAY LITURGY 9:30 AM
HOLY DAY/WEEKDAY LIT 9:00 AM

WEEKLY SCHEDULE



Sunday, May 24

9:30am Divine Liturgy
Panachida memory of our Veterans
Coffee Social in honor of our 1st Holy
Confession Class
Annual Panachida at our Cemetery &
Blessing of Graves

Saturday, May 30

9:00am All Souls Memorial Service
5:00pm Great Vespers/Litija
Feast of Pentecost

Sunday, May 31

9:30am Divine Liturgy
FEAST OF PENTECOST
Kneeling Prayers
Coffee Social

Monday, June 1

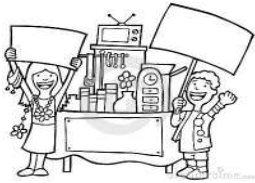
9:00am Divine Liturgy
Pentecost Monday (Holy Spirit Day)



PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS

His Grace, Bishop GREGORY; Protopresbyter Frank Miloro; Protopresbyter John Duranko; Protopresbyter Jim Dutko; Protopresbyter Luke Mihaly; Protopresbyter Lawrence Barriger; Protopresbyter Elias Kozar; V. Rev. Thomas Kadlek; V. Rev. Michael Kleban; V. Rev. Jason Kappanadze; Deacon Robert Kuchta; Deacon Charles Ellis; Deacon Donald Koch; Mother Ralphaela; Pani Betty Baranik; Pani Joan; Pani Kathleen Dutko; Pani Patricia Duranko; Mat. Anna Kozar; Pani Helen Shutack; Sally Ellis; Judy Koch; Michael & Jacqueline Banik; Helen Verno; Eleanor Adzima; Sandra Pleban; Amelia Falcon; Stan Lewek; Julio & Judith Falcon; Michael & Delores Kundrat; Mary Kolson; Lyudmyla Hayova; Kathy Preston; Helen Coons; Katherine Macura; Anna Soraparu; Marge Morse; Victoria Kozey; Orestes Mihaly; Tom Cox; Mae Antos; Child Zachary Spaulding; Child Michael Cicvak; Mary Benyo; Joan Shaw; Nancy Bleznuck; Rochelle Corby; Tim Burroughs; Karen Fuller; Carole Herrlich; Paul Mertus; Paulina Cherneva; Anna Chudanic; Paul Rodrigues; Rita Hulme; Dorothy Dymek

All our Brothers & Sisters in the Ukraine who are suffering persecution and denial of Human Rights;
All members of our Armed Forces serving our country



YARD SALE IN THE PARK IS BACK! SATURDAY JUNE 27TH

Start collecting clean gently used items to be donated for our sale!

Mark your calendar—Helping hands will be needed on Friday June 26th to set up and on the day of the sale on Saturday June 27th. More information to follow!

See Nancy Coons with questions



Ss.

Cyril

&

Methodios

Equal to the Apostles

Birthdays/Anniversaries May, 2015

BIRTHDAYS

May 25 Helen R.

May 26 David B.

May 28 Kyson B.

ANNIVERSARIES

May 27 Dan & Katerina H.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR



2015 FIRST HOLY CONFESSION CLASS

*LUKE, CHRISTINA,
ANGELINA, & ALINA*

We are so proud of you!

You have studied all year for this special day and now you can fully participate in all the Holy Sacraments of your church.

May our Lord God and Savior bless you with good health and happiness for many blessed years!

O Cyril and Methodios, inspired by God, you became equal to the Apostles in this life. Since you were the teachers of the Slavs, intercede with the Master of All, that He may strengthen all Slavic peoples in the Orthodox Faith, and that He may grant peace to the world and great mercy to our Souls.



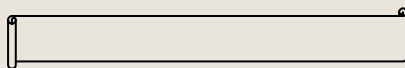
Let us praise the two monastics and priests of God who enlightened us and poured upon us the flow of knowledge of God by translating the Holy Scriptures. O Cyril and Methodios, since we still draw abundant learning from the translation, we exalt you who now stand before the Most High, interceding with fervor for the salvation of our souls.

A NOTE FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL.....*Mary Leonard has been appointed to Church Council to complete the term of Rodney Kerrick who was elected Church Treasurer at our Annual Parish Meeting in February. Thank you Mary for stepping forward and offering your time and talents.*

A NOTE FROM OUR CEMETERY COMMITTEE..... *We are looking for several parishioners to add to our Cemetery Committee. This is a wonderful way of offering your time and talents, helping us in the operation of our beautiful cemetery. Please see Chuck Coons or Father Dan with any questions or letting us know you would like to help.*

A NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER.....*The official start of the Summer Season is here and vacation time is fast approaching. Please check your records, making sure your dues for 2015 are up to date. If your going on vacation please bring your envelopes to church before you leave. Remember that our lights, air conditioning and maintenance upkeep keep working all season long.*

You ascended in Glory, O Christ our God: You delighted the Disciples with the promise of the Holy Spirit. Through this blessing they were assured that
You are the Son of God, the Redeemer of the World.



O Christ our God, You are above all praise, for You established our Fathers as lights to all the earth. You led us to the true faith through them.

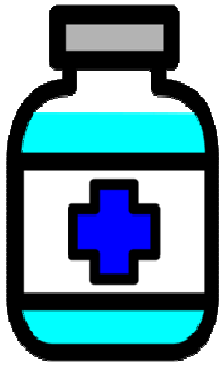
O Most Bountiful Lord, glory to You!



LAST DAY TO SIGN UP!!!

Fathers' Day will be coming soon and we would like to honor any special men in your life. By May 24th we would like to have pictures of the "men in your life" that you would like to honor, along with a message or caption. We will make copies (returning originals) and place all the photos and messages in a large attractive collage for all to enjoy. This is a no work fundraiser. The cost per picture is \$10. You can get information sheets from Helen Revelas, Mary Leonard or Diane Rodrigues. All proceeds go to St. Mary's Orthodox Church.

Brought to you by the Ladies Altar Society

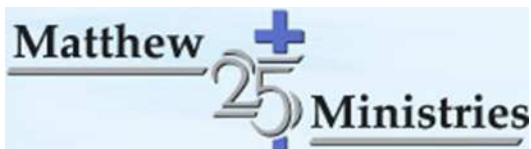


Pill Bottle Collection

In developing countries, medicines are often dispensed into hands, pockets, leaves, or torn scraps of paper. You can help to change this by donating empty pill bottles to help improve health care quality in developing nations.

Please bring in your empty, clean, **unlabeled**, pill bottles and place in the box in the church hall. Include prescription and over-the counter bottles, with and without child resistant caps. We will forward to a charity that provides them to medical facilities around the world. If you like, include a nickel, dime or quarter in the bottle to help with shipping costs. For more information, please see Carol Telehany.

Brought to you by the Ladies Altar Society



Memorial Day 2015 is upon us and that means the start of Summer Activities. Please drive responsibly and watch for our young ones crossing streets or riding bikes or playing in or around the streets.

Please keep our men and women serving our country around the world in our prayers as well as those who made the supreme sacrifice to keep all of us free!

Calendar Change Discussion

The following are comments transcribed from a recording at the 2011 Annual Meeting held on January 29, 2012. Although not verbatim, the thoughts of each speaker were captured as best possible.

A vote will be taken in June 2015 whether or not to change the calendar from the current Julian "Old" Calendar to the Revised "New" Gregorian Calendar.

Mary Benyo – I would like to stay because I have been going here 87 years and I hate to see the calendar change because my family won't get together.

Joyce Nissen - I have a problem with my family too because I am the only Orthodox in my family so therefore I have to have December 25 for the celebration of Christmas so therefore I don't have one for our Christmas. On the other hand my son, who is Byzantine Catholic, his church just changed and he is not happy because he would like to see it stay as it was.

Anna Chudanic – I've been an Eastern Orthodox Christian, I was brought up that way so I don't really want to change. But I don't celebrate Christmas here, I go to Endicott. It doesn't make any difference to me because I can celebrate either one. At my age it doesn't really matter.

Jean Cox – Because it is tradition I just would like it to stay the same.

Millie Sosanka – Our children are in mixed marriages. Lot of them celebrate on December 25. It means one thing for me; it's a holy holiday for me, Christmas.

Carole Herrlich – For tradition, I like it on January 7. If we change to the 25th, we have mixed marriages in our family, so more than likely our families would not be attending. I wouldn't be doing what I normally do on January 7, I go to church with my husband on December 25. I am going to be 69 years old, I was brought up on January 7th so I prefer the 7th but if it changes it changes. Things change every day. There were people who should have been here, who want it on the 25th who were not here on the 7th.

Helen Coons – I'm undecided but I would like to have a day for my own birthday.

Pani Joan – It doesn't make any difference to me. I think it should go the 25th but it doesn't really make a difference.

Gloria Ewsuk – The 7th. One's commercial and one's a holiday.

Jay Borck – I prefer the 7th. I would rather have a reverent celebration of Christ's birth than a chaotic, secular holiday. A Holy day instead of holiday.

Diana Borck – I feel the same. I want the 7th.

Denise Topichak – Definitely the 7th.

Paul Topichak – The Julian calendar was created 46 years before Christ was born. The Gregorian calendar wasn't created until 1582 years after he was born. They are 13 days apart. We also know that Christ wasn't born on December 25 or January 7. They say shepherds were in the fields which they did in the summer and spring. But that date was selected about 300 years after that because Christians wanted to worship the SON instead of the SUN.

They celebrated the winter solstice on December 22, the shortest day of the year, celebrating the sun getting closer. Christmas today is a collection of a cartoon character, which is what Santa Claus is, Christmas trees and gifts. Less and less about the birth of Christ. For me it's significant. The birth of Christ is biblical. Christmas is manmade. We reserve the 7th for what it should be the birth of Christ. It doesn't get diluted. Our ancestors celebrated the birth of Christ with the greeting of "Christ is Born, Glorify Him" not "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year". The other thing is I go back in my family, my parents ran an independent business and could ill afford to take any time off and somehow we celebrated on the 7th for years when schedules were far less flexible and travel was far less convenient than today. Our Orthodox faith distinguishes itself in many ways, whether it is Christmas, Easter, marriages, death. It is what makes our faith Orthodox, which means correct, truthful. One thing that there is no denying is that Christ was born on the Julian calendar. No doubt it will change some day when our diocese will change but no need to hurry it along.

Charlie Havalchak - Along with what Paul says about the ancestors and the history of the church, I feel that the Cathedral has that final say about the calendar, not the Greeks. It is the way it is, Julian calendar no matter what.

Ted Kerrick – before coming to this church I did experience the change over for two years and it was highly commercialized and didn't experience the true meaning. It's just another holiday. It's nice to have it back where you celebrate the religious aspect of Christmas. I vote for the 7th.

John Cowherd – Keep it the 7th.

Adam McKane – 25th! The Julian calendar is flawed. It's like a clock that runs fast. It's been running fast for centuries. The Orthodox refused to fix it up until now. I would like to see it fixed. Commercialism can be ignored; concentrate on Christ. You can do it on the 7th or you can do it on the 25th. Contrary to what other people have said, schedules are not that flexible it is very difficult for me to get the 7th off.

Carol Telehany – My preference is the 25th. I would take either.

Helen Revelas – Some of you haven't met me yet. My name is Helen Revelas and I just recently joined this church. I grew up in the Greek Orthodox tradition, so I grew up with the 25th. The Greek Orthodox Church, the Patriarch in Constantinople have all switched to the 25th. When I moved here, I did not join this parish initially even though it was closer to where I lived. I joined St. Athanasios in Elmira because it was Greek Orthodox and I was more comfortable with their traditions, they celebrated Christmas on the 25th, their music was what I knew. But that parish was really lacking in what I was needing, which was community. So for several years I searched and searched. The only thing that kept me from joining this parish was the calendar. Finally I said I am going to ignore them, I will continue to be on the revised calendar. This is a wonderful group here but as many of you have noticed it is changing. If you want to continue to bring new people in, you'll notice that new families have been Orthodox but have not been from the same *ethnic* tradition. The Orthodox part remains the same.

The Liturgy is the same and I want to keep celebrating Liturgy here. If we want to look to the future of this church for the next 10, 20, 40 years, we need to make it an open environment for *all* Orthodox which will involve change. Change is difficult, I know, because changing to this parish was difficult for me. So this change to the revised calendar is difficult. But makes you a more open parish and give more long term future. What many of us experience now and what your parents didn't experience was mixed marriages. I myself am in one. Try to explain to my husband why we need to celebrate Christmas on January 7 when he is celebrating on December 25, I can't give him a good reason for that one. For new members, for future members, for mixed families, this is where we need to be. I really hope you will take to heart what I'm telling you, how big of an impact this has on someone who hasn't grown up on the Julian calendar and consider what impact this is going to have on the parish long term.

Paul Mertus – First of all I would like to say I don't know what the answer is to this. I don't claim to know what the answer is. I have done a lot of praying about it and I have found a home here and am very thankful for the church and I'll be part of the church either way. I keep going back to "What is the church here for?" It is here for the salvation of the world, not just the people in this parish, though we are first and foremost on the ark. In the Book of John Christ prays what is called The High Priestly Prayer. It is read every year on the Church calendar on the 7th week of Pascha and the reason they talk about it is because Christ is praying for a healthy church. He prays for the Apostles and He prays for the unchurched, and the prayer is a prayer of unity that they may all be one. That's my biggest reason. Not because of unity with the outside or the unchurched, although I do care and I want to outreach to them. But more importantly I want to celebrate Christmas the same day that my Patriarch celebrates Christmas, the day the vast majority of my fellow Orthodox Christians in the world celebrate. I hope that everyone understands that January 7th is really December 25th on a different calendar, everyone understands that right? I hope everyone understands that. We need to all be one. Christ prays several times in the book of John that they all be one. Another thing is the outreach aspect. St. Paul tells us numerous times among his epistles "That we may be everything to everyone", that God and Christ in the church may be everything to everyone. So we have to find a way to connect with people. I know there have been several times in my experience people say "What do you mean you don't celebrate on the 25th, what do you mean "Your Christmas"?" Immediately there is conflict there, there is division. Christ is not about conflict. Christ is about love. Conversation like that, I'm sure everyone in here has. Immediately it's conflict and Christ is not about conflict. Something else that I think we are missing here is we are not changing tradition. Tradition is rooted in the Nicene Creed; tradition is rooted in the Eucharist. Orthodoxy does not change with the calendar. Who are we to think we are changing that? We need to keep the life of the church growing and pass on the gifts we have. We have an amazing community of people. We forget what a gem we have. It's almost selfish. It is easier for me on the 25th.

But that is not a reason to change. My day to day is not going to change if it is the 25th or the 7th. In my heart, I still pray the Nativity. Christ is Born! Glorify Him! It is not just on one day. That part doesn't matter to me. What matters to me is the life of this church and how it will be 25 years from now and how we can reach the most people in our community and love them as much as we love each other and share that gift we have. I am for the change to the revised calendar.

Jill Mertus – I prefer the 25th. Obviously, I grew up with the 25th not being a part of the Orthodox Church initially. But also for our family situation we have to celebrate on the 25th or we would not be able to celebrate with the kids. Also, our work schedules. We're designated our vacations we have to celebrate on the 25th. We can't get off to celebrate on the 7th.

Rodney Kerrick – Obviously there are great arguments for both sides. I come from a position, a family where we celebrate both. The 25th is not really about the birth of Christ. The 7th brings it back. That's when we're celebrating the birth of Christ. For that reason I am for the 7th.

Diane Rodrigues – Personally, I feel for the people who want the 7th. I grew up in the OCA church and when I was about 18 years old the calendar was changed. But last year Father said that all new parishes coming into the diocese will be automatically put on the 25th. That changed how I thought about this. There is a lot of meat to what Helen said. If we are going to look at the future of the church, you're not getting many cradle Orthodox, you're getting converts. The 25th seems to make more sense at this point.

Natasha McKane – Last year I argued passionately about the 7th because this is the tradition I grew up with and we still have debates with Adam who wants the 25th. You can turn away from the noise and commercialism but it's not easy. You have children who come in and talk about presents their friends received. I did not get presents for Christmas because that is not what it is about; Christmas is about the birth of God. We did not exchange presents on the 6th or 7th or any time. I work for Corning Inc. and the beginning of year is a very busy time for us. We are closing books and are working 12 hour days. The 25th would be easy and the 7th is difficult but I've been there 10 years and people respect if you are passionate about your traditions and holidays. Now they know, they ask me if I'm going to be there on the 7th and they understand. I think I am more open minded about the 25th if the majority votes I will go along because the most important part is that we are a family, we all love each other and want this community to work out. It's about people more than about calendar. But if I had my choice I would go with the 7th.

Katerina Hulme – as most of you know I am Greek, Greek people always celebrate on the 25th, so celebrating the 25th is very comfortable. But I understand what those who want the 7th are saying. I would like to see this church become part of the greater Orthodox family and follow the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople. I can recognize the commercialism but I can also say to you that despite the fact that

Orthodox Easter is different than the other Easter, we still have to deal with the Easter bunny. Greeks don't even exchange Easter baskets or egg hunts. But you have to bring yourself back to your faith. Also, Dan is Episcopalian and is so supportive and here so often. We celebrate two Easters, though we focus on Orthodox Easter. But we cannot change to celebrate two Christmases. You have not seen us on the 7th and it would be lovely to be able to share Christmas with all of you.

Nancy Lewek – (submitted in writing) Many parishioners are part of mixed marriages and celebrate on the 25th, at least in a secular fashion. Although I don't believe church attendance will increase on Christmas eve and Christmas day, I am in favor of adopting the new calendar. In truth, attendance will probably decrease. We no longer "advertise" our church celebrations to the public with festive decorations outside, and pictures and articles in the local newspapers. Kwanza and Ramadan seem to get press coverage. People say they do not want to be known as the piroghi church, yet that is the only thing advertised.

Chuck Coons – I'm in favor of the change. The simple fact is we don't focus on the birth of Christ on the 25th because we don't celebrate the birth of Christ on the 25th. How can we focus on something we don't celebrate? We are just coming out of the celebration of St. Nicholas when the rest of the world is celebrating the birth. We are still in Advent at that time, so we don't put any emphasis on the 25th as Christmas. It is commercial because that is what people make it. More so, everything I have looked at suggests the move to the new calendar. It is very difficult to explain why we celebrate on January 7th. Because we're Orthodox. Well, she's Orthodox, and Helen's Orthodox, and the Greeks are Orthodox, and the OCA's are Orthodox, and they don't celebrate on the 7th. Well, it's tradition. But that doesn't mean just because we've always done it that way doesn't mean we have to keep doing it. The calendar change will be inevitable. As our parish demographics are changing and people are getting older, the new people coming in are never going to celebrate the 7th like I did. For those who grew up with it, it is important to us, but moving forward it is not.

Father Dan – The only thing I can do is echo a few comments that were made, especially by Katerina and Helen Revelas. Orthodoxy is not a calendar. There are only a few number of churches still on the old Julian calendar. The Greek church and the Patriarch are on the revised calendar and went on around 1908. It is strange when you read something from the Patriarch that he's celebrating on the 25th and here we are on the 7th. It will bring us in union with most other Orthodox churches. It will bolster the Orthodox church and make it easier for people coming from other areas. There are churches in our diocese that have changed. Metropolitan Nicholas said it was up to the parishes to decide when to do so but eventually we will all be on the new calendar. It is up to you folks. I will be here either way. But it would be nice to celebrate together.

End