

# Holy Apostles Orthodox Church

A Mission Parish of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia

Archpriest George Johnson, Rector

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## Parish Bulletin for July 2010

### **The Grace of the Episcopate**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

There is a reason that we try to secure the visit of one of our bishops on our parish holiday. To be able to say “one of our bishops” is in itself recognition by our Synod of Bishops of this reason. The Diocese of Eastern America is big, extending from Maine to Florida and the largest in numbers of any diocese of the ROCOR. And so, our Diocesan Bishop is Metropolitan Hilarion of Eastern America and New York, and we have two Vicar Bishops, George of Mayfield and Jerome of Manhattan.

The reason we want our bishop to come to us is that a bishop carries the grace of God with him and we want that grace, more and more, for all our time here. His coming has nothing to do with our deserts, but everything to do with our spiritual desires. Remember what the Lord said just before the invention of the Mystical Supper: “With desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you.” He was not talking about the yearning of the physically hungry for a meal. He was talking about establishing the life of the Church, His Church, His Body. This intensive love among the people of God is founded upon God’s love, the love that radiates His divine grace among us. This is ever-present, but when the bishop comes to be with us, the presence of this grace is, as it were, intensified, ignited. It is like the simultaneous coming alive of all good memories. He is a successor to the Apostles, one with them. They are one with the Lord. The Holy Apostle Paul says of the Lord, “In Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.” Therefore that oneness in Christ is made alive in a way different from other times when the Bishop comes. When He is here, there is not one icon of the Holy Apostles; there are two.

This presence, really there all the time, is referred to as being under his omophorion, his mantle, his covering. In spirit, he hovers over us, protecting us by his prayers. When he is with us, we say, instead of “through the prayers of our Holy Fathers”, “through the prayers of our Holy Master.” We always pray first among our petitions for our Bishops. Our prayers focus on him, because his earthly life is focused on us, his life is indeed for us. His surname is no longer the one given at birth, but is the place of which he is shepherd.

Let us therefore take special joy in his being with us, for the sake of his prayers and our life together as the Church.

Father George

## **Service & Event Schedule for July through the Beginning of August, 2010**

**7/1 - Thursday 7-9 PM** Choir Rehearsal

**7/2 – Friday 6:30 PM** Evening Vigil

**7/3 – Saturday 8:40 AM** Hours & Divine Liturgy – St. John of Shanghai & San Francisco

**7/3 – Saturday 5:00 PM** Evening Vigil

**7/4 – Sunday 9:40 AM** Hours & Divine Liturgy – 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Holy Martyr Julian of Tarsus - *After the agape meal, weather permitting, a prayer service will be held at the St. Joseph's Chapel*

**7/7 – Wednesday 7:00 PM** A brief Moleben (prayer service) with petitions for the parish and for the sick, followed by the fourth in a series of discussions on the Divine Liturgy led by Father Deacon Damian Dantine

**7/8 – Thursday 7-9 PM** Choir Rehearsal

**7/9 – Friday 7:00 PM** – Meeting of the St. Joseph the Patriarch Young Adults – *Beginning at the St. Joseph's Chapel property to clean the church in anticipation of Bishop Jerome's visit, then adjournment to the Rectory for food and fellowship*

**7/10 – Saturday 5:00 PM** Evening Vigil

**7/11 – Sunday 9:40 AM** Hours & Divine Liturgy – 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Holy Un-mercenary Physicians Cyrus and John – *During the agape meal there will be a meeting of the Sisterhood – Upon completion of the meal, Kosara Milanovna Gavrilovitch will be with us to talk about the situation in Kosovo in Serbia*

*Sunday, 7/11 is the last day of the Apostles Fast, which is broken by the feast of Holy Apostles Peter and Paul on 7/12*

**7/11 – Sunday 6:30 PM** Evening Vigil

**7/12 – Monday 8:40 AM** Hours & Divine Liturgy – Holy Glorious All-praised Apostles Peter and Paul

*We welcome Father Gabriel and Matushka Tatiana Weller from All Saints of North America parish in Virginia – They will be with us to serve and pray Sunday evening and Monday morning for Holy Apostles Peter and Paul*

**7/12 – Monday 6:30 PM** Evening Vigil

**7/13 – Tuesday 8:40 AM** Hours & Divine Liturgy – The Synaxis of the Holy Apostles – *Our Parish Feast Day*

**7/15 – Thursday 7-9 PM** Choir Rehearsal

**7/17 – Saturday 4:00 PM** Pannykhida in commemoration of the repose of Matushka Deborah's father, John Garvey

*Our Parish Weekend, attended and celebrated by his Grace, the Right Reverend Jerome, Bishop of Manhattan*

**7/17 – Saturday 5:00 PM** Evening Vigil – *Meal at Sierra Restaurant in Calverton, \$25 per person – Please see Brigid Diaz for details*

**7/18 – Sunday 9:40 AM** Hours & Divine Liturgy – 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Uncovering of the Relics of St. Sergius of Radonezh – *Pot Luck Reception at the rectory following the Liturgy – Please see Brigid Diaz for how you might help*

**7/21 – Wednesday 7:00 PM** A brief Moleben (prayer service) with petitions for the parish and for the sick, followed by another in a series of discussions on the Divine Liturgy led by Father Deacon Damian Dantine

**7/22 – Thursday 7-9 PM** Choir Rehearsal

**7/23 – Friday 7:00 PM** – Meeting of the St. Joseph the Patriarch Young Adults at the Rectory – *Invite your Orthodox friends who may be interested in fellowship with other Orthodox Christian young folks!*

**7/24 – Saturday 5:00 PM** Evening Vigil

**7/25 – Sunday 9:40 AM** Hours & Divine Liturgy – 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Most Holy Theotokos Icon “of 3 hands” – *After the agape meal, weather permitting, a prayer service will be held at the St. Joseph's Chapel*

*The week of the St. Seraphim Camp – Reader Christopher Johnson will be in attendance and will lead the choir in the weekend services there*

**7/28 – Wednesday 7:00 PM** A brief Moleben (prayer service) with petitions for the parish and for the sick, followed by another in a series of discussions on the Divine Liturgy led by Father Deacon Damian Dantine

**7/29 – Thursday 7-9 PM** Choir Rehearsal

**7/31 – Saturday 5:00 PM** Evening Vigil

**8/1 – Sunday 9:40 AM** Hours & Divine Liturgy – 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Holy Fathers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Six Ecumenical Councils & St. Seraphim of Sarov – *After the agape meal, weather permitting, a prayer service will be held at the St. Joseph's Chapel*

## **Announcements for July**

### ***Remember to pray for...***

Betty Chisholm (and her husband, Don) as they struggle with the infirmities of age.

### ***An opportunity to help a fellow parishioner***

Betty Chisholm would very much like to come to church, but needs a special Medical-Transport van to do so. If you would like to donate the price of one (1) trip (\$103.00), please speak with Matushka Deborah Johnson.

### ***Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction....***

Our parishioner, Olga Prisekin, has lost a lot of her eyesight and her hearing. She would be grateful for help with grocery shopping, if anyone can donate the time to take her to one of her favorite stores, either MOM's or Trader Joe's. If you would like to help Mrs. Prisekin by driving her to the store, the best way to let her know would be to tell her at church. It's easier to communicate with her by writing things down on paper; phone calls are difficult.

### ***Books for Spiritual Growth and (great for gifts too!)***

In our bookstore we have these items, all highly recommended (they wouldn't be there otherwise). They should be a part of every Orthodox Christian's library.

*Father Seraphim Rose, His Life and Works* by Abbot Damascene

*Confession, the Holy Mystery of Repentance* by Father John Townsend

*Orthodox Dogmatic Theology* by Father Michael Pamazansky

We have other books for sale and please also take advantage of our library.

### ***Purchase of Books, Candles, Proshora and Other Items***

Please remember when buying anything from the church to record the item name, quantity, and \$ amount on the columned paper at the candle stand. Also indicate your purchase on the "for" or memo line of a check, or on a slip of paper with your name attached to cash and leave your check or cash in the wicker basket. By so doing, you will make possible a correct accounting by our treasurer.

### ***Our Choir***

Our choir, as you can hear, is very effective, but small, and new members are always welcome. If you can sing and would like to participate, please speak with our choir director, Reader Christopher Johnson. Rehearsals are normally held on Thursday evenings from 7 to 9 (*see the schedule*), and attendance at them is required (*which is directly related to the choir's effectiveness*).

### ***Our Sunday School***

We have these Sunday School classes available:

- 1) 3 to 6 years old, taught by Dorothy Johnson and assisted by Matushka Anastasia Dantine
- 2) From 7 to 9 years old, taught by Clare Mendis
- 3) From 10 to 12 years old, taught by Peter Gardner
- 4) From 13 to 15 years old, taught by Mariya Petrenko
- 5) From 16 to 18 years old, taught by Reader Christopher Johnson
- 6) Adults, taught by Father George

### ***Bishop Jerome's Coming***

The weekend of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of July, our parish feast weekend will be graced by the visitation of Bishop Jerome of Manhattan, one of our diocesan vicar bishops under our Metropolitan. We remember the joy of his being with us last year. Please take opportunity to be with us and help with not only with the services, but for the two celebratory meals associated with his visit. See elsewhere in the bulletin how you can help, and ask Brigid Diaz for details.

### ***Another Special Guest***

On the 11<sup>th</sup>, our old friend, Kosara Milanovna Gavrilovitch will be with us to pray and after lunch give a talk on the situation in Kosovo in Serbia. We will learn that it is not for nothing that we continue to pray for the suffering people in that region. Kosara lives there and is the interpreter for Bishop Artemy of that region and with whom we are acquainted from his visits to this country. Matushka, I and Christopher have known Kosara for our whole Orthodox life. She was the first person to speak to us when we visited St. John's for the first time back in May of 1986.

## News about our Building Fund



We have a building fund. We hope and pray, that soon with God's help, we will start restoration of the St. Joseph's chapel and re-dedicate it to the glory of God and the Holy Apostles. We have a fundraising goal of three million dollars. This is an updated estimate of what we need to build a parish hall and make the chapel usable for worship. To this end, we ask that our parishioners and friends keep this prayer in their daily prayers. We also ask that contributions targeted for the building fund be made, over and above our regular pledging, indicating so on the memo line of a check, or through a note attached to other means of giving. According to His will, may God grant us to see the day of the dedication of the new church.

### Building Fund Donations

**To make a tax-deductible contribution to our building fund you may**

1. ***write a check*** to "Holy Apostles Orthodox Church" and indicate "building fund" on the memo line. Mail the check to  
Holy Apostles Orthodox Church  
P.O. Box 594  
Beltsville, MD, 20704.
2. Donate ***using your credit or debit card via PayPal***. Please use the PayPal "Donate" button on our Building Fund web-page  
<http://www.holyapostlesorthodoxchurch.org/fundraising.html>

**Participate in any or all of the opportunities described below.**

The following programs and projects, also described on our web-page ([www.HolyApostlesOrthodoxChurch.org](http://www.HolyApostlesOrthodoxChurch.org), “Building Fund” tab) contribute to the Holy Apostles Orthodox Church building fund. Any suggestions, questions or comments regarding fundraising efforts can be directed to Mariya Petrenko ([musliba@yahoo.com](mailto:musliba@yahoo.com), 313-618-7646).

**eScrip program**

This is a great program that requires about 10 minutes of your time to register online and then all contributions happen automatically.

***This is how it works:*** parishioners and friends of Holy Apostles register their grocery loyalty cards (e.g., Safeway, VONS...) and/or one or all credit/debit cards with eScrip. Then go *shopping at any of the participating retailers or dine at participating restaurants*, and present the registered card at the checkout. The store will then contribute a portion (1-2 % or more) of your total bill to the charity of your choice. You pay nothing extra, merchant gets a tax break, and the church gets a donation. To register on the eScrip website [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com) you will need our Group Name: Holy Apostles Orthodox Church or **Group ID #: 500023712**

**eScrip Online Mall**

with eScrip Online Mall our church receives a ‘referral bonus’ up to 16% of the total purchase amount, if you go to the merchant’s web-site from our online mall.

***This is how it works:*** go to our web-page [www.HolyApostlesOrthodoxChurch.org](http://www.HolyApostlesOrthodoxChurch.org), “Building Fund” tab and click on the eScrip Online Mall Logo, or the active link.

Choose the web-site you shop at (over 1,000 of popular and not so popular online merchants, including eBay, Amazon, Expedia, Snapfish, Travelocity, Target, Sears... and many more), and continue with your shopping like you usually would.



Or simply bookmark this web-page and start all your on-line shopping from here:

<https://secure.escrip.com/jsp/group/onlinemall/groupmallredirect.jsp?gid=500023712>

Online mall contribution *works even if you don't register your card* but have gone to the merchant's web-site from our web-page. Just one extra click on your part is easy for you and valuable to us!

**Just Love Coffee Roasters**

For every order you place at our online coffee store:

<http://www.justlovecoffee.com/HolyApostlesOrthodox>

our building fund will receive a donation from Just Love Coffee Roasters: Coffee: \$ 5 each , T-shirt: \$ 5 each, Travel mug: \$ 3 each, Tote bag: \$ 3 each, Hat: \$ 3 each, Coffee scoop: \$1 each.

Samples and commercial packaging for businesses and organizations are also available.

### **Yard sale “Clean your house – build a church!”**

***How it works:*** we collect the items, get invited to a yard sale, sell the donated items and contribute the revenue to the Holy Apostles Orthodox Church building fund.

All donations will be contributed in the name of the people who provided the sold items, and will be recorded as their tax-deductible contribution to the church.

#### ***Ways to participate:***

- *Host a yard sale*, or if you know someone who is planning one, *ask* if we can bring our stuff (and come help sell it of course);
- Donate some space to store some or all of large (like pieces of furniture) or small items;
- Collect things for sale, and donate them, or better, bring to the yard sale yourself
  - Both big and small things are accepted, but if you want to donate something big, talk to us in advance – we have no room to store it, and need to arrange a big car for transportation,
  - Please make sure all donations are in some presentable condition. Everything dirty/filthy/too smelly will bypass the yard sale, and will be recycled or thrown away.
- Come help at the sale, at the setup, and/or the cleanup.
- If the bake sale is allowed, we'll need volunteer-bakers to increase our profit.
- Come to the yard sale. If there is something you are looking for, you might find it there for a symbolic price, and benefit the church at the same time.

*Yard sale dates and locations will be announced separately.*

*The first one is scheduled for June tentatively. Watch announcements closely.*

### **Loaves and Fishes Campaign**

Our “Loaves and Fishes” fund-raising campaign is well underway and has been bringing in contributions to the Building Fund. To date, the contributions directly related to the campaign have topped \$14,000.00. Some have participated, but just think of what might happen if we all participated. If you have not yet participated, materials and instructions to help you participate are available on a shelf in the coat closet behind the candle stand. Please speak with Matushka Deborah for more details.

## DINNER WITH THE BISHOP

*Join us for food and fellowship following the Saturday festal vigil.*

Date: Saturday, July 17, 2010

Where: Sierra Grill, 11619 Beltsville Drive, Beltsville, MD 20705  
(301) 572-7830

Cost: \$25 per person (includes choice of selected menu item, see below; wine with meal and non alcoholic beverage). Cash bar will be available.

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Please fill out form and return no later than Thursday, July 15, 2010 to Brigid Diaz. Questions about event, please call Brigid at 240-205-1111.

Please select number of ticket(s) and then place the desired number beside menu selection.

Number of tickets: \_\_\_\_\_

Menu Selection (choose one meal per ticket please)

\_\_\_\_\_ Trucha Asada (Butterflied Rainbow Trout served w/rice, pico and tortillas).

\_\_\_\_\_ Arroz Con Pollo (Chicken in ranchera sauce, onion, tomatoes, green peppers and mushrooms. Served on a bed of rice and topped w/cheese).

\_\_\_\_\_ California Burrito (Beef with rice and beans rolled in a tortilla topped w/enchilada sauce, guacamole and cheese. S/C on the side).

\_\_\_\_\_ Steak Soft Tacos (2 flour tortillas topped w/ lettuce cheese and pico de gallo. Served w/ rice and refried beans. S/C and Guacamole on request).

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of Scholarships I am able to assist with (to help cover the cost of Bishop Jerome and our other guests) (\$25 each)

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount Attached.