

24th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 7. Venerable Botolph of Iken (7th c.). Prophet Nahum (7th c. B.C.). Righteous Philaret the Merciful of Amnia in Asia Minor (792). Martyr Ananias of Persia.

Ephesians 2:14-22

Luke 18:18-27

The joy of the Messiah's appearance abounds in the Church's liturgical services of the Winter Pascha. When the "Hail" of the angelic salutation is translated "Rejoice," as it often is in the church services since in Greek that is what it literally means, there is an even greater presence of the "good news of great joy" for the faithful, since they, together with the whole of creation, are greeted with this salutation again and again in the songs of the festal celebration . . .

One of the most devastating accusations that can be made against Christians is that they have no joy. Joyless Christians are a contradiction in terms. People who are bitter, complaining, condemning, accusing, dissatisfied and depressed are certainly not Christians. They can only be people whose life is untouched by grace, people whose existence is confined to the suffocating limitations of "this world" whose "ruler" is the devil and whose "form... is passing away" (Jn 12:31; 1 Cor 7:31). They cannot possibly be those who belong to Christ and the kingdom of God. For Christians by definition have Christ's "joy fulfilled in themselves" (Jn 17:13). They are people whose joy, which no one can take away, is literally full and complete (Jn 15:11; 16:22, 24).

In his famous book For the Life of the World, Father Alexander Schmemmann speaks about the joy of Christians. From its very beginning, he says, *Christianity has been the proclamation of joy, of the only possible joy on earth. It rendered impossible all the joy we usually think of as possible. But within this impossibility, at the very bottom of this darkness, it announced and conveyed a new all-embracing joy, and with this joy it transformed the End into a Beginning. Without the proclamation of this joy, Christianity is incomprehensible. It is only as joy that the Church was victorious in the world, and it lost the world when it lost that joy, and ceased to be a credible witness to it. Of all the accusations against Christians, the most terrible one was uttered by Nietzsche when he said that Christians had no joy.*

Father Alexander goes on to say that before Christians can do anything else with all of their "programs and missions, projects and techniques," they "must recover the meaning of this great joy." He says that joy "is not something one can define or analyze. One enters into joy. 'Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord' (Mt 25:21)." And one enters into this joy, this exceeding great joy, he insists, only by entering into the liturgical, eucharistic life of the Church herself. Here, and only here, as in the celebration of the Nativity of Christ and His Epiphany in the world, can a person partake of that joyful reality for which the world itself was created in the beginning.

-- from The Winter Pascha by Protopresbyter Thomas Hopko

SCHEDULE

- Sunday, Dec. 1**9:30am Third Hour
9:45am St. Xenia Prayers
10:00am Divine Liturgy
- Friday, Dec. 6** 8:00am Akathist to St. Nicholas
- Saturday, Dec. 7**6:00pm Great Vespers
7:00pm Private Confessions
- Sunday, Dec. 8**9:30am Third Hour
9:45am General Confession
10:00am Divine Liturgy

Welcome to all our visitors.

MANY YEARS to all those celebrating birthdays, anniversaries and names days during the month of December.
BIRTHDAYS: Alex Bohensky, Abigail Braun, David Christensen, Elizabeth Connerat, Kari Constantine, Sonya Dzwonczyk, Eleanor Fichtner, Dr. Kurt Fichtner, Olga Garey, Anna Gurevich, Maria Hasenecz, April-Chrysal Holmes, Patricia Kaufman, Robert Kern, Deanna Kietrys, Sandra Masklee, Sofia O'Malley, Joseph Penola, John Penola, Lori Prymak, Jack Smith, Mary Tczap, Deryl Tczap, Donna Tompkins, Jon Vandermark IV, Katherine Vandermark, Mark Wydner
NAME DAYS- Nick Bohensky, D. Nickolai Fox and Nick Gakos, December 6, Carol Wetmore, December 7, Mary Tczap, December 10, Deryl Ann Tczap, and Donna Tompkins, December 11, Fr. David, December 29.
ANNIVERSARIES: Martin & Debbie Burne, Brian & Cheryl Farbanish, Roy & Margo Robinson, Dr. & Mrs. Kurt Fichtner, Barry & Patricia Glennon.

Gary Gurevich was received into the Orthodox faith through the Sacrament of Baptism yesterday, Saturday, Nov. 30th. May God grant Gary and his family many years!

THANK YOU to our crafters. Twenty-one hats and nine scarves were sent to Hats for the Homeless Charity in Hackensack for distribution to those in need.

THANK YOU. During this week of American Thanksgiving Chris, Barbara and the children attending Atrium wanted to express our heartfelt gratitude to the Holy Trinity Randolph community for your support of and interest in the Atrium created to educate our youngest members. We remembered our church family when we sat together in Prayer Corner to give thanks for God's many blessings on Sunday. This week we would like to ask only that you remember all of us in your prayers.

DON'T FORGET! Please visit the Creative Crafters table at Sts. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church in Rockaway on Sat. Dec. 7 from 9am to 2pm.

COOKIE WALK will take place on Saturday, Dec. 14th from 10-2. Please contact Larisa Bohensky if you can bake 8 dozen cookies and what type. Cookies may be made ahead and frozen. If you can help with the set up on Friday, Dec. 13th at 10am or with selling on Saturday, please contact Suzette Eremin.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT- HTOC is hosting a Christmas Concert featuring the Sheehan Family Singers, St. Tikhon's Seminary Choir and the Monastery Mixed Choir on Sunday, Dec. 15th at 4pm. Please plan on attending and bringing a friend. A free-will offering will be taken at the door. Take a flyer for more details.

FLYERS for the Cookie Walk and Christmas Concert are in the narthex. Please take a few to post at various businesses to help advertise these events.

“Do not listen gleefully to gossip at your neighbor’s expense nor chatter with a person who likes finding fault. Otherwise, you will fall away from divine love and find yourself cut off from eternal life.”
+ St. Maximus the Confessor

“We must not act like children and constantly ask God for minor things. When we are asking for something, which can be humanly accomplished, we must try, as much as we can, to do it ourselves. We should only turn to God when we, as human beings, are unable to achieve what we want.”
+St. Paisios the Athonite

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

Offering the Fullness of the Christian Faith

Orthodox Church in America

Diocese of New York and New Jersey

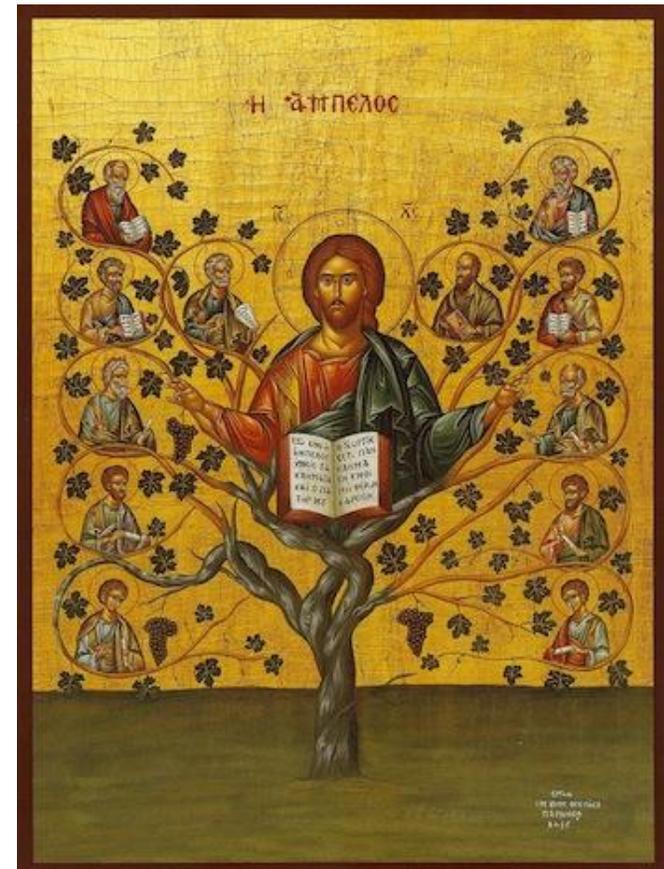
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Very Rev. David R. Fox, Rector

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Very Rev. George Hasencz, Attached – Carol Wetmore, Choir Director



“I am the true vine” Icon (John 15:1)

December 1, 2019