

# HOLY SPIRIT ORTHODOX CHURCH

The Very Rev. Father R. John Dixon, Pastor

## Twenty-fifth Sunday After Pentecost December 4, 2011

Commemorating: Great Martyr Barbara; John of Damascus; Gennadius, Archbishop of Novgorod; John of Polyvotos; Juliana at Heliopolis; Damascene, Bishop of Glukhov and Nicholas of Russia; Martyrs Christodoulos and Christodoule; New Hieromartyr Seraphim

### The Sanctuary Light

The Sanctuary Candle for the month of December is offered by Venice, Toufic, Sandra, Madison, Tony, and Rose Saad—for health and healing of Venice, for guidance, wisdom, peace and salvation, and in thanksgiving for God's many blessings.

Today's Holy Bread: Rose Saad

Today's Coffee Hour: In Honor of Matthew "Joseph" Bice

Next Week's (12-11) Holy Bread: OPEN

Next Week's (12-11) Coffee Hour: Omayma and Joe Touma

1 Woodhaven Drive Huntington, WV 25701

Church Office: 304-529-6693

Pastor's Home: 304-523-8870 - Pastor's Cell: 304-634-0411

[www.holyspiritwv.org](http://www.holyspiritwv.org)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Baptism:** Congratulations and many years to Matthew "Joseph" Bice who was received into Christ's Holy Church yesterday through the sacrament of baptism. Naime Joseph is his godmother. May God grant him many years.

**Happy Birthday:** Christina Saad (12-7) and Steve Nicholas (12-7). May God grant you many years!

**Christian Associates:** Our Food of the Month for December is **48 cans of chili.**

**Parish Council:** Meets this Tuesday at 7 PM.

**Feast of the St. Nicholas the Wonderworker:** This coming Monday evening, we remember one of the most beloved saints of the Church, St. Nicholas. Bring your children and honor this saint beloved by children throughout the world. The Vespers Liturgy begins at 6:30 PM.

**Middle Eastern Dinner:** We have the final figures for our Middle Eastern dinner last month: Dinner—\$7750; Ala Carte and Pastries—\$3732; Raffle—\$121. Total—\$11,603. Again, thanks to everyone for their hard work.

**Christmas Flowers:** Sponsor a poinsettia in honor or in memory of your loved-ones and beautify the church for the Christmas. See the enclosed flyer.

**November Attendance:** 11/6—54; 11/13—67; 11/20—68; 11/27—55.

## SERVICES AND EVENTS FOR WEEK OF DECEMBER 5

Monday, December 5

♦ **Vespers Liturgy for Feast of St. Nicholas: 6:30 PM**

Tuesday, December 6

♦ Parish Council: 7 PM

Wednesday, December 7

♦ **Advent Paraklesis: 6:30 PM**

Saturday, December 10

♦ **Decorating the Church for Christmas and Singing Practice for Kids: 11 AM**

♦ **Vespers: 5 PM**

Sunday, December 11

♦ **Matins: 9:30 am**

♦ **Divine Liturgy: 10:30 am**

### **APOLYTIKION OF ST JOHN OF DAMASCUS IN TONE 3**

Ye faithful, come let us honor with songs of praise the comely sounding and sweet-spoken nightingale, who doth adorn and captivate the Church of Christ with his sweet songs: John, the all-wise Damascene, let us honor resplendently, the divine and eloquent, and the chief of hymnographers; who verily was filled to the utmost with every divine and earthly wisdom.

### **TROPARION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN TONE 8**

Most blessed art thou, O Christ our God, who hast revealed the fishermen as most wise by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit, and through them didst catch the world into thy net, O lover of all mankind glory to thee.

### **KONTAKION FOR PREPARATION OF THE NATIVITY IN TONE 3**

Today the Virgin cometh to the cave where she will give birth in an ineffable manner to the Word Who is before all the ages. Rejoice, therefore, O universe, when thou hearest it heralded: Glorify Him, with the angels and the shepherds, Who chose to be seen as a new-born babe, the God Who is before all the ages.



### **THE EPISTLE**

**Reader: Jason Rhoton**

*Prokeimenon:*

***God is wondrous in His saints.***

*Verse: In the churches bless ye God!*

**The Reading is from St. Paul 's Letter to the Galatians (3:23-4:5)**

**B**rethren, before faith came, we were preserved under the Law, enclosed within, until the faith would afterward be revealed. The Law then was our tutor leading us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.

For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is no male and female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, heirs according to promise. Now I say that the heir, as long as he is a child, does not differ much from the bond-servant, though he is lord of all; but he is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father. So we also, when we were children, were held in bondage under the rudiments of the world: But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, in order to redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

### **THE GOSPEL**

**The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke (13:01-17)**

**A**t that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And there was a woman who had had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, He called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And He laid His hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the Sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrite! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his ass from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?" As Jesus said this, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by Him.

***Information and Referral Letter (continued from last week)***

6) This single mother tried to be a stay at home mom, but the bills just kept coming. She's gone back to work, and with that income and her child support the future should be easier. At this point, however, the electric company was not willing to wait. Thank you for helping this family.

7) These grandparents have the children much of the time. Their pension and disability incomes might work if there were only the two of them, but that's not the case. Also his mother, the great-grandmother, arrived for an extended visit. The grandfather is a veteran and may at times yearn for the organized military life he left behind. You helped keep the lights on for this extended family.

8) Another grandparent! This one is a grandmother, with custody of two grandchildren. She also is in public housing, and with the electricity about to be disconnected, is in jeopardy of losing not only the power, but also the housing. She's usually employed, so will land on her feet, but at this point really appreciated your help.

9) This family of five, again in public housing, was robbed. The money they'd planned to use to pay their bills is gone. The electric company is not sympathetic. Was there really a robbery? We have no idea, but we are quite sure that the electricity was about to be turned off. You helped save the day.

10) This widowed mother had to spend her income on car repairs. The electric company once more is in the picture, and the lights were about to be turned off. Holy Spirit to the rescue!

11) Four children and an overdrawn bank account don't bode well for this family. Add to this the mother's Chrones Disease and a water disconnect notice, and you have a tough picture. Thank you for helping this family of six.

12) A young mother of two children, ages one and three, hardly ever comes to ask for help, but her water is about to be turned off. She lives in a rural hollow and is very shy. You helped this young family.

So there you have a dozen cases, just part of the larger group you have helped. Thank you so much for your kindness and your generosity. May the rest of the year go well for you all, and may 2012 be a year of peace and good health!

Most appreciatively, Francie, Marcia times 2, Rob, and Sidney

***To Our Visitors Concerning Holy Communion***

Holy Spirit Orthodox Church is a parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America, the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and All the East – “the Disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.” (Acts 11:26) We welcome you to worship this morning and thank you for joining us. Unfortunately, one of the sad consequences of the division among Christians is that we cannot offer the Eucharist (Holy Communion) to anyone except Orthodox Christians in good moral standing with the beliefs and practices of the Orthodox Church. Orthodox Christians believe that the Eucharist is a final sign of unity among all Christians and not a means by which unity is achieved. We invite you to share in the blessed bread that is distributed at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. Please join us for fellowship at coffee hour following the dismissal.

***Service Guide for December 4, 2011***

***The following hymns are sung during the Entrance (bottom of page 97 in the Service Book.)***

***TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION IN TONE 8***

From the heights Thou didst descend, O compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion; Thou art our life and our Resurrection, O Lord, glory to Thee.

***APOLYTIKION OF ST. BARBARA IN TONE 4***

Let us honor Saint Barbara, for she hath broken the snares of the enemy; and like a sparrow, she, the all-modest maiden, was delivered out of them by the help and weapon of the Cross.