

HOLY SPIRIT ORTHODOX CHURCH

The Very Rev. Father R. John Dixon, Pastor

Twenty-sixth Sunday After Pentecost Sunday of the Holy Forefathers December 11, 2011

Commemorating: Daniel the Stylite of Constantinople; Mirax of Egypt; Varsavas of Persia; Aeithala and Aksepsios at Arbela; Nikon the Dry of the Kiev Caves; New Hieromartyr Theophan of Solikamsk, Russia (1918); Kuksha of Odessa (1964); Martyrs Terence, Vincent, Emilian and Vevaia; Leontiosin Achaia; Luke the New Stylite

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: Jihad and Julian Saad

Today's Coffee Hour: Omayma and Joe Touma

Next Week's (12-18) Holy Bread: Emily and Daniel Beach

Next Week's (12-18) Coffee Hour: Church School

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy Birthday: Jason Rhoton (12-12); Jihad Saad (12-13); Lenny Poage (12-13); Janet Adkins (12-16); Loukia Dixon (12-17). May God grant you many years!

Choir Appreciation Sunday: Today our parish and Archdiocese remembers and gives thanks to all of our Choir Members and Chanters for the love, time, and dedication they give to making our liturgical services the best that they can be. God bless you all and grant you many years!

Orthodox Youth Christmas Party: This Wednesday, Dec. 14, their monthly meeting will be a pre-Christmas party. Everyone is invited to wear their ugliest Christmas sweater.

Last Call! Sunday, December 18, will be the final make-up for individual and family photos for the Church Directory. In addition to having your photo in the directory, you will be given the opportunity to purchase high quality prints. This service is being offered by Greg Mencotti Photography. And, please fill out the contact information sheeting on the usher's stand and bring it with you.

Church School Christmas Program: Join our Church School students next Sunday after the Liturgy as they sing some of a favorite songs of the season and have a visit from St. Nicholas.

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

SERVICES AND EVENTS FOR WEEK OF DECEMBER 12

Monday, December 12

- ♦ **Liturgy for Feast of St. Spyridon and Herman of Alaska at St. George GOC: 10:00 AM**

Tuesday, December 13

Wednesday, December 14

- ♦ **Orthodox Youth Pre-Christmas Party: 6:30 PM**

Saturday, December 17

- ♦ **City Mission Lunch: 10 AM**
- ♦ **Vespers: 5 PM**

Sunday, December 18

- ♦ **Matins: 9:30 am**
- ♦ **Divine Liturgy: 10:30 am**
- ♦ **Christmas Program and Visit from St. Nicholas**

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: Megan Mynes

Prokeimenon: **Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our Fathers.**
Verse: For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done to us!

The Reading is from St. Paul 's Letter to the Colossians (3:4-11)

Brethren, when Christ, Who is our life, appears, then you will also appear with Him in glory. Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idol worship; for the sake of such things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience; wherein you also once walked, when you lived in these things. But now you also put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, and filthy language out of your mouths. Do not lie to one another, having put off the old man with his works; and having put on the new man, who is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of his Creator, where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, bond, or free; but Christ is all, and in all.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke (14:16-24).

The Lord spoke this parable: "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But, one by one, they all began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

WISDOM FROM THE CHURCH FATHERS

In accordance with the words of the apostle, always maintain an attitude of thankfulness: 'Give thanks for all things.' (1 Thess. 5:18) For tribulations, sufferings, anguish, illness, physical pain, for everything that happens to you give thanks to God. Indeed, "Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.' (Acts 14:22) There we shall be freed from every evil. Have no doubt, never be discouraged ... Only by accepting suffering will you be able to share in the cross of Christ. As long as the ship is far out to sea, it remains exposed to danger at the mercy of the winds. But when it reaches harbor there is no longer anything to threaten its safety, its tranquility, its peace. The same thing happens to you. During this life, you must expect pain and suffering and attack by spiritual storms. But when you arrive in harbor, you will have nothing else to fear.

~St. Barsanuphius

Highlights from December Parish Council Meeting

Financial Report:

- ◆ Subpar month in terms of financial donations (the year-to-date financial report is posted on the bulletin board in hallway)
- ◆ Proceeds of Middle Eastern Dinner went to paying down kitchen and hall mortgages (\$6500) and also helped catch-up for the Archdiocese Assessment (only 3 months are now owed)

Maintenance:

- ◆ Cause of small leak in the hallway has been discovered and will be fixed when weather dries.
- ◆ Drywall Repair in Church is approved for \$2500, plus an addition \$500 for painting. This will be coordinated with installation of new Descent of the Holy Spirit icon on the front wall of the church, which is scheduled for late February or early March. First 1/2 payment for icon has been given by donor.

New Business:

- ◆ Approved renting space at WKEE Bridal Fair for \$800 if space is available. Teresa A. will contact Mary Rahall and Abraham S. will fax contract to WKEE.
- ◆ The rental contract and parameters were distributed to Council. These were approved two years ago.
- ◆ Annual Parish Meeting will be Sunday, January 22, 2012, with alternative date of January 29, 2012. Four Parish Council member's terms are expiring: Steve Nicholas, Teresa Abraham, Abraham Saad, and Dan Beach. All are eligible to run again with the exception of Steve Nicholas. Eddie Aractingi and Richard Tweel will recruit at least four parishioners to run.

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 11, 2011

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

TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION IN TONE 1

While the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. For which cause the heavenly powers cried aloud unto Thee, O giver of life. Glory to Thy Resurrection O Christ, glory to Thy kingdom, glory to Thy providence, O Thou Who alone art the lover of mankind.

TROPARION OF THE HOLY FOREFATHERS IN TONE 2

Thou hast justified by faith the ancient Forefathers, and through them Thou hast gone before and betrothed unto Thyself the Church of the Gentiles. Let the saints, therefore, take pride in glory; for from their seed sprouted forth a noble fruit, and she it was who gave birth to Thee without seed. Wherefore, by their pleadings, O Christ God, save our souls.

Messages of Love
Free Christmas Webcast Program

Because everyone should be able to spend time with their loved ones at Christmas

In an effort to help bring families closer together this Christmas season, Beard Mortuary is offering families of military personnel, missionaries or anyone with loved ones who can't come home for Christmas a way to share personal, live greetings. Webcasts will take place during the week of December 19-23. Call now at 304-522-8253 for details and to schedule your appointment. This service is absolutely free and we urge all to come--wives, husbands, babies, grandparents, siblings--the more the merrier! Free refreshments.

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