

HOLY SPIRIT ORTHODOX CHURCH

The Very Rev. Father R. John Dixon, Pastor

Twenty-fourth Sunday After Pentecost

November 27, 2011

Commemorating: James the Persian; Pinouphrios of Egypt; Nathaniel of Nitria; Romanus the Wonderworker of Cilicia; Diodorus, abbot of Yuregorsk; James, Wonderworker of Rostov; 17 monk martyrs of India; Theodosius of Turnovo; New Hieromartyrs Nicholas, Archbishop of Vladimir and Cronides, Archimandrite of Saint Sergius Lavra (1937); Kursk-Root Icon of the Mother of God.

The Sanctuary Light

The Sanctuary Candle for the month of November 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: Leila Hawarny

Today's Coffee Hour: Leila Hawarny

Next Week's (12-04) Holy Bread: OPEN

Next Week's (12-04) Coffee Hour: OPEN

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Church Office: 304-529-6693

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

www.holyspiritwv.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy Birthday: Alex Parlock (12-01). May God grant you many years!

Christian Associates: Our Food of the Month for December is **48 cans of chili**. They are also in need of donations of new underwear. Men's sizes small, med., large, and x large and Women's sizes 5 – 8 are especially needed.

Feast of the St. Andrew: We honor the memory of St. Andrew, the first to answer the Lord's call to "follow Me." After the Lord's Ascension, St. Andrew preached the gospel in various lands and eventually was martyred on an "X" shaped cross. Liturgy Tuesday evening.

Pastry Sale: Thanks to those who helped with the pastry sale. Over \$1100 was raised for the church. Remaining cookies available today. Fresh pastries are available for order for the Christmas season.

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.

Baptism: Matt Bice wishes to invite everyone to his baptism, next Saturday, December 3, at 11 AM.

Nativity Fast: We are observing the joyous 40 days of preparation for the Nativity of our Lord. The purpose of fasting is to focus on the things that are above—the Kingdom of God. Through it we are freed from dependence on worldly things. We fast faithfully and in secret, not judging others, and not holding ourselves up as an example.

SERVICES AND EVENTS FOR WEEK OF NOV. 28

Monday, November 28

Tuesday, November 29

♦ Vesperal Liturgy for St. Andrew, the
First Called: 6:30 PM

Wednesday, November 30

♦ **Advent Paraklesis: 6:30 PM**

Thursday, December 1

♦ **Agiasmos (Blessing of Water):
10 AM @ St. George GOC**

Saturday, December 3

♦ **Baptism: 11 AM**

♦ **Vespers: 5 PM**

Sunday, December 4

♦ **Matins: 9:30 am**

♦ **Divine Liturgy: 10:30 am**

**TROPARION FOR THE KURSK ROOT ICON OF THE MOTHER OF GOD
IN TONE 4**

Having acquired thee as an unassailable rampart and fount of miracles, we, thy servants, set at naught armies of adversaries, O most pure Theotokos. Wherefore we entreat thee: grant peace to our native land and great mercy to our souls!

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: Basil Dixon

Prokeimenon: **The Lord will give strength unto His people.**
Verse: *Bring unto the Lord, ye sons of God; bring unto the Lord glory and honor!*

The Reading is from St. Paul 's Letter to the Ephesians (2:14-22)

Brethren, Christ is our peace, who made both one, and broke down the middle wall of partition, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances, that

He might create in Himself of the two one new man, thus making peace, and might reconcile them both to God in one body through the Cross, thereby having slain the enmity in Himself; and He came and preached peace to you, to those who were far off and to those who were near, for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father. Now therefore you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; being built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief Cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, fitly framed together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together for a habitation of God in the Spirit.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke (18:18-27)

At that time, a man came testing Jesus and asking, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery. Do not kill. Do not steal. Do not bear false witness. Honor your father and mother.'" And the man said, "All these I have observed from my youth." And when Jesus heard it, he said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But when the man heard this he became sad, for he was very rich. Jesus, seeing him sad, said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." Those who heard it said, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus said, "What is impossible with men is possible with God."

WISDOM FROM THE CHURCH FATHERS

Riches are not forbidden, but the pride of them is.

~St. John Chrysostom

Do you ever wonder where your donations to our Ministries of Compassion go? For the next couple of weeks, we'll be featuring a recent "thank you" note from Information and Referral. Our contributions, along with many others in our community, do make a big difference in the lives of people:

Dear members of Holy Spirit,

As we enter the holiday season, we at Information and Referral want to thank you for your kindness and generosity, and to let you see into some of the many cases you have helped. These are real people, struggling to make it, who have benefited from your assistance.

1) A veteran with a wife and three children came to us with a disconnect notice from the electric company. His pension from the military is good, but their utilities are high. You pitched in so that the family was not left sitting in the dark.

2) Three of four people in this rural trailer are disabled. Their checking account is overdrawn, and the penalties are causing a lot of financial trouble. Their water was about to be disconnected, but you intervened. They were so relieved!

3) This single mother has a lot of problems, but her two children shouldn't really have to pay the price for that. They are in public housing, and if their electricity were to be turned off, they would lose their housing. That's the contract people sign when they move into subsidized units. So Holy Spirit graciously pitched in, and this crisis was averted.

4) The father in this household has thyroid cancer, which may have spread. The mother is the only one working. There are four children in the household. They were about to lose their water service, but you joined with other churches and agencies, and the bill was paid.

5) This family is making higher trailer payments than they can afford, and life is one big financial struggle. They are trying to sell the trailer and get a more humble one, but they haven't found a buyer. In the meantime, the electricity is about to be turned off. They were so relieved when you and others helped to keep it on.

(Continued next week)

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 November 27, 2011

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

TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION IN TONE 7

Thou didst shatter death by Thy Cross; Thou didst open Paradise to the thief; Thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment-bearing women into joy, and didst bid Thine Apostles proclaim a warning that Thou hast risen, O Christ, granting to the world the Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION OF ST JAMES THE PERSIAN IN TONE 4

Thy Martyr, O Lord, in his courageous contest for Thee received as the prize the crowns of incorruption and life from Thee, our immortal God. For since he possessed Thy strength, he cast down the tyrants and wholly destroyed the demons' strengthless presumption. O Christ God, by his prayers, save our souls, since Thou art merciful.