



EPARCHIAL NEWSLETTER

Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Van Nuys

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OPEN TO ME THE DOORS OF REPENTANCE. O GIVER OF LIFE.
AS WE WORSHIP IN YOUR TEMPLE THIS MORNING.
TEACH US HOW TO PURIFY THE TEMPLES OF OUR BODIES.
AND IN YOUR COMPASSION, PURIFY ME BY THE GOODNESS OF YOUR MERCIES.

SUNDAY MARTINS, THE GREAT FAST

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

*W*e have entered the Season of the Great Fast. It is a special time for us of fasting and prayer. The fast is a time to set aside our needs to listen to the voice of God in our lives. We pray for the strength to deepen our relationships with God and our brothers and sisters.



It is an especially difficult and intense time for us during this Great Lent. Let us examine carefully the sins we have committed, mindfully acknowledge them, and ask God with a humble heart that our sins be forgiven. St. Clement of Alexandria reminds us, "As God, Jesus Christ forgives sin. As man, He educates us to avoid sin completely."

The Lenten Message of Pope John Paul II reminds us that if we humble ourselves, we will become great in the kingdom of Heaven. Our focus turns from satisfying our own needs towards remembering the least of our brothers and sisters. Whenever we receive one of these little ones, we are receiving Christ Himself.

We pray for our families. We ask that the Lord bring peace and healing for the hurts of the past. We ask Him to guide our steps so that we educate our youth for the future. We ask from God that we journey closer to Him each day.

Pray and fast with sincere hearts. Pray for our hurts and our healing. Then, when walking through the door of repentance, together will we share in the Glory and ever-lasting Joy of the Holy Resurrection of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ come Easter Morning!

Sincerely in Christ,

William C. Skurla

Most Reverend William C. Skurla, D.D.
Bishop of the Eparchy of Van Nuys

Official Eparchial Appointments

Seminarian Michael O'Loughlin was ordained to the Holy Order of the Subdiaconate on December 28, 2003, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Albuquerque, NM where Reverend Christopher Zuger serves as pastor.



*Subdeacon Michael
O'Loughlin*

Very Reverend Michael Moran, JCD is relieved of his responsibilities as Rector of the Cathedral of Saint Mary, Sherman Oaks, CA and began his retirement effective January 25, 2004. He is also relieved of his responsibilities as Eparchial Consultor and Promoter of Justice and from his appointment to the Commission for the Implementation of the Particular Law effective February 18, 2004.

Reverend Melvyn Rybarczyk, CR is relieved of his responsibilities as administrator of Holy Angels Byzantine Catholic Church, San Diego, CA and is appointed Rector of the Cathedral of St Mary, Sherman Oaks, CA effective January 26, 2004. He was appointed to the College of Eparchial Consultors effective February 18, 2004.

Reverend Robert M. Pipta is appointed Pastor of Holy Angels Byzantine Catholic Church, San Diego, CA effective January 26, 2004 and is relieved of his responsibilities as administrator of Saint Gabriel Byzantine Catholic Church, Las Vegas, NV effective February 16, 2004.

Reverend Robert Daigle is appointed Pastor of Saint Gabriel Byzantine Catholic Church, Las Vegas, NV effective as of February 16, 2004.



Bishop's Appeal 2004

Help your Eparchy by contributing!

A minimum pledge of \$200. per household is our goal

PARISH	PASTOR	FAMILIES	\$ GOAL	
Albuquerque, NM	Our Lady of Perpetual Help	Rev. Zuger	84	\$ 16,800
Anaheim, CA	Church of the Annunciation	Msgr. Vida	100	\$ 20,000
Anchorage, AK	St. Nicholas of Myra	Rt. Rev. Izer	50	\$ 10,000
Denver, CO	Holy Protection	Rt. Rev. Izzo	43	\$ 8,600
Fontana, CA	St. Nicholas of Myra	Rev. Hutsko	35	\$ 7,000
Gilbert, AZ	St. Thomas the Apostle	Rev. Acquaro	52	\$ 10,400
Las Vegas, NV	Our Lady of Wisdom	Rt. Rev. Vivona	47	\$ 9,400
Las Vegas, NV	St. Gabriel the Archangel	Rev. Daigle	91	\$ 18,200
Los Gatos, CA	St. Basil the Great	Rev. Hernandez	23	\$ 4,600
Olympia, WA	St. George	Rev. Perry	32	\$ 6,400
Phoenix, AZ	St. Stephen Pro-Cathedral	Rt. Rev. Washko	133	\$ 26,600
Portland, OR	St. Irene	Rev. Burnette	24	\$ 4,800
Sacramento, CA	St. Phillip the Apostle	Rev. Hernandez	14	\$ 2,800
San Diego, CA	Holy Angels	Rev. Pipta	69	\$ 13,800
San Luis Obispo, CA	St. Anne	Rev. Idranyi	36	\$ 7,200
Seattle, WA	St. John Chrysostom	Rt. Rev. Stanichar	82	\$ 16,400
Sherman Oaks, CA	St. Mary Cathedral	Rev. Rybarczyk	107	\$ 21,400
Spokane, WA	SS. Cyril & Methodius	Rev. O'Brien	29	\$ 5,800
Tucson, AZ	St. Melany	Rev. Rankin	51	\$ 10,200
TOTAL:	19 Parishes		1102	\$220,400



Safe Environment

by Sister Joanne Lickvar, OSBM
Safe Environment Coordinator



Children in particular, need our assurance that they are special. They see from the media, from their friends, and from the reactions of adults that it is better to be physically attractive than to be smart, that a good athlete is valued more highly than a good reader, and that having the right shoes is more important than having the right values.

An important part of our Safe Environment Program is to teach children how to protect themselves. To do this, children need to have a good self image because predators tend to target children with low self-esteem and gain their trust by making them feel special.

Catechists were given an appropriate grade level plan to help students help themselves. The plan focuses on self-image and the virtue of respect. As children become more

self-assured, they will be less dependent on the approval of others. They will also become more confident as they take on responsibility for themselves. This is the objective of our Program.

A helpful resource for parents and catechists is listed below and can be found at your local public library.

Stranger Danger: How to Keep Your Child Safe by Carol Soret Cope. This book gives safety rules for children and concepts for prevention. It also gives sample conversations with children of various age levels from pre-school through teenagers.

Stranger Danger provides complete, thorough, and reassuring strategies for parents to teach their children without frightening them.

*Father Januarius Izzo, OFM
Pastor of Holy Protection (Denver)
reviews Safe Environment strategy
with Coordinator, Sr. Joanne*



EPARCHIAL CALENDAR

- December 28, 2003** Ordination of Seminarian Michael O'Loughlin to the Holy Order of the Subdiaconate, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Albuquerque, NM
- January 6** Theophany - Baptism of Our Lord
Annual Bishop's Appeal Begins
- January 17-18** Bishop's Visitation: Pro-Cathedral of Saint Stephen, Phoenix, AZ
- February 7-8** Bishop's Visitation: Saint Nicholas of Myra Church, Fontana, CA
February 16-18 Eastern Clergy of Arizona Retreat: Spirit of the Desert, Cave Creek, AZ
February 23 First Day of Great Lent
February 28 - 29 Bishop's Visitation: Our Lady of Wisdom, Las Vegas, NV
February 29 First Sunday of Great Lent: Sunday of the Holy Images (Icon Sunday)
- March 6-7** Bishop's Visitation: Saint Gabriel the Archangel Church, Las Vegas, NV
March 17 Metropolitan Youth and Young Adult Commission Meeting, Parma, OH
March 19-21 Deacon Candidates (and wives) Retreat: Life-Giving Springs Retreat Center, Boulder City, NV
- March 26-28** Life Quest: A Retreat for Discernment for Women, Mt. St. Macrina, Uniontown, PA
March 27 Lenten Day of Prayer: Saint Nicholas of Myra, Fontana, CA
March 29-30 Eastern Bishop's Meeting: St. Louis, MO
- April 3** Celebration of Women: Developing Gifts of Body, Mind, Spirit, Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, Munhall PA (Sponsored by the Archeparchial Office of Religious Education)
- April 11** Resurrection of Our Lord - Pascha
April 19-21 Metropolitan Liturgical Commission Meeting, Pittsburgh, PA

DEACON MICHAEL HLADKY

Deacon Michael Hladky of Irvine, CA fell asleep in the Lord on Thursday, December 18, 2003. He was born in Chester, PA on Nov 12, 1917. Michael was ordained to the Diaconate on November 8, 1981 and served in the Eparchy of Van Nuys at the Cathedral of Saint Mary, Sherman Oaks, CA. He retired in November, 1992. One son preceded him in death. He is survived by his wife, Julia and eight children. The Great Parastas was held on December 21 at the Saddleback Chapel in Tustin, CA. Funeral services were held on December 23, 2003 in the Church of the Annunciation, Anaheim, CA. Burial was at San Fernando Mission Cemetery in Mission Hills, CA.

Blessed Repose! May his Memory be Eternal!



SISTER FABIOLA BORUTA, OSBM

Sister Fabiola Boruta, OSBM entered into eternal rest on February 1, 2004 in Uniontown, PA. She was in the 67th year of her religious life as a Sister in the Order of Saint Basil the Great, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Province, Uniontown, PA. Sister Fabiola served as both teacher and principal in various schools of the Byzantine Metropolia for over fifty years. Funeral services were held Tuesday, February 3, 2004 with burial in the Dormition Section of Mount St. Macrina Cemetery.

May God grant His handmaiden, Sister Fabiola, Eternal Memory and Peaceful Repose!

CANTOR WORKSHOP

A workshop for cantors in Byzantine liturgical music was held recently at Saint Gabriel the Archangel Church in Las Vegas, NV. "Sing Praise to His Name" took place Wednesday evenings from January 14 to February 18, 2004.

In the first two classes, Professor J. Michael Thompson, instructor of chant at SS Cyril and Methodius Seminary in Pittsburgh, PA emphasized the rich spiritual life of a cantor. He emphasized the importance of cantoring and explained the origin and development of chant.

Under the direction of Reverend Robert Pipta of Saint Gabriel, selected music from Vespers, Matins, and Divine Liturgy were covered. Cantors from St. Gabriel and from parishes in California and Nevada were enriched by the experience.



Professor J. Michael Thompson, Rev. Pipta, and Cantors of the Eparchy

John Jay Study Report

The Eparchy of Van Nuys which covers 13 western states cooperated with the John Jay Study (*The John Jay College of Criminal Justice report on the Nature and Scope of abuse from 1950-2002*). The Eparchy reviewed records of 50 priests and 8 deacons who worked during the twenty-one years from the founding of the Eparchy in 1981 until 2002 for the report.

During that time, the Eparchy had one priest with seven credible allegations. The allegations were resolved and the priest is deceased. The Eparchy offered counseling and assistance to the victims.

We are saddened by the acts of the past, but the Eparchy is committed to preventing the sexual abuse of minors in the future. We will continue our Safe Environment Programs. A full description of the current programs and policies can be found on the Eparchial Internet Website (www.eparchy-of-van-nuys.org). We pray for the healing of all who have suffered in the past, and we strive to prevent problems in the future.



“ALIVE IN CHRIST!”

An Ascetical Boot Camp
for Byzantine Catholic Young Men
ages 8 – 17

June 3rd – June 6th, 2004
in Upper Nutria, NM
(a 30 minute drive from Gallup)

for details contact your pastor or
Fr. Robert Pipta (858) 277-2511

Picture yourself there!



Eparchial Winter Youth Retreat



Fellowship of the Teens: Hayride-in-Progress

Youth of the Eparchy of Van Nuys participated in the five day retreat during Winter Break. Saint Nicholas Church, Fontana, CA was the site of the second Annual Winter Youth Retreat held from December 30 - January 3, 2004. Reverend Joseph Hutsko serves as pastor.

The theme of the retreat was “Holy is Your Mountaintop O Lord.” To reach the mountaintop, one must climb the path of spirituality to attain a closer relationship with Christ.

Father Hutsko, Reverend Robert Pipta, pastor of Holy Angels, San Diego and Reverend Robert Rankin, pastor of St. Melany, Tucson, AZ directed the weekend workshops. In the liturgical journey, a relationship with Christ in the Eucharist was further explored by the teens.



In Fontana, the “Art of Pirohi-Pinching” at its finest!

Cantor Sherill Franklin of the Fontana parish led the liturgical singing and seasonal traditional Carols and Marian hymns.

Friday’s Candlelight Penance service preceded a service of Anointing on Saturday.

Fellowship was evident in pirohi pinching, sharing of meals, square dancing, cider pressing on a farm, and a hayride.

The plan for the next gathering was discussed in anticipation of another spiritual journey.

The Holy and Great Fast 2004

Fasting Regulations:

Strict Fast forbids the use of meat, eggs, dairy products and condiments made from animal fats and is observed on Pure Monday—the first day of the Great Fast—(February 23) and on Good Friday (April 9). The use of synthetic substitutes violates the spirit of the Great Fast.

Simple Fast forbids the use of meat and meat products and is observed on all Wednesdays and Fridays of the Great Fast and on Holy Saturday.

All Byzantine Catholics are to keep the Fast. Infants, expectant and nursing mothers, and those who are seriously ill or in poor health are exempt from the Strict Fast.

For grave and particular reasons, pastors and religious superiors may dispense their subjects of the responsibilities of observing the Strict Fast, but should replace it with another penitential practice.

Liturgical Directives:

Divine Liturgy

1. The Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great is celebrated on the Sundays of Great Fast.
2. Bright vestments, except on the Third Sunday when red is used for the Holy Cross, are used on the Sundays of the Great Fast.
3. On the weekdays of the Great Fast, the celebration of the Divine Liturgy is forbidden.
4. In place of daily Divine Liturgy, one of the Lenten Hours is to be celebrated in each parish.

Liturgy of the Pre Sanctified Gifts

1. Beginning no earlier than 5:00 PM and no later than 9:00 PM, the Liturgy of the Pre Sanctified Gifts is celebrated on Wednesdays and/or Fridays of the Great Fast.
2. It may also be celebrated on Pure Monday and on the Fifth Thursday of the Great Fast (Andrew of Crete) and is also celebrated on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Great Week.
3. On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Great Week it may be celebrated as early as Noon.

All Souls' Saturdays

The All Souls' Saturdays are to be celebrated with Divine Liturgy on those specific Saturdays with the reading of the Diptychs for the deceased. The reading of the Diptychs or the celebration of the All Souls' Divine Liturgy may not be anticipated on Friday evening.

PRAYER OF SAINT EPHREM

*O Lord and Master of my life,
keep me from the spirit of indifference and discouragement,
lust of power and idle chatter.*

*Instead, grant to me Your servant,
the spirit of wholeness of being, humble-mindedness, patience and love.*

*O Lord and King, grant me the grace to be aware of my sins and not to judge my brother;
for You are blessed now and ever, and forever. Amen.*

