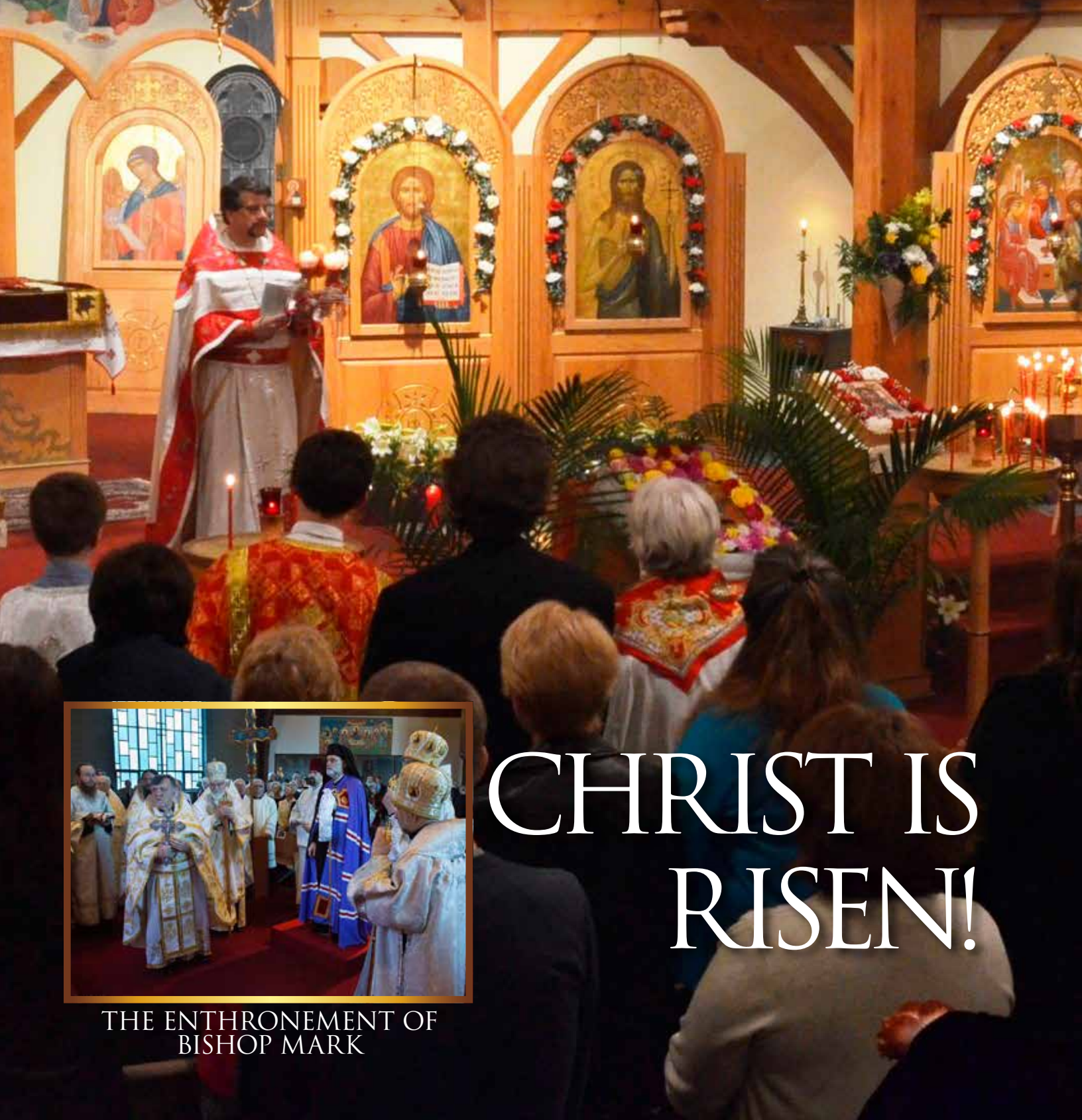


YOUR DIOCESE



Alive in Christ

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA • SPRING 2014



CHRIST IS RISEN!

THE ENTHRONEMENT OF
BISHOP MARK

In This Issue

- 2** THE ENTHRONEMENT OF BISHOP MARK

- 4** DIOCESAN NEWS

- 5** MISSION SERVICES

- 6** PALM SUNDAY

- 7** HOLY WEEK

- 8** PASCHA

- 10** BISHOP MARK AROUND THE DIOCESE

- 11-12** YOUTH AND EDUCATION

- 13-17** AROUND THE DIOCESE



COMMUNICATIONS BRIEF

Glory to Jesus Christ!

This issue of Alive in Christ presented a few interesting problems: first: the Enthronement of His Grace, Bishop MARK, coincided with the Great Feast of Pascha. We could have easily devoted the entire issue to the Enthronement and preparations and the actual event. We managed to balance the issue between the event and the Great Feast, but we will revisit His Grace in a later issue.

Second, we are running out of room! We finally managed to get the article about the teen winter retreat space - we are running out of real estate! The Diocese has responded wonderfully to requests for news. Please don't stop! We have been forced to expand issues in page count to fit everything - a fine problem to have! The Communications Department makes EVERY effort to get your news into the Diocesan magazine, with EVERY parish represented, and will always post it on the website. If you do not see your parish represented, find out how YOU can be the person who starts the process. We'd LOVE to have you and your parish represented!



Alive in Christ is produced by the Department of Communications of the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania, a diocese of the Orthodox Church in America.

EDITOR
His Grace, Bishop MARK

MANAGING EDITOR
Aric Gingo

EDITORIAL STAFF
V. Rev. John Kowalczyk
Matushka Sandra Kopestonsky

PHOTOGRAPHY
Aric Gingo

COVER PHOTOGRAPH
Caitlyn Foley

Alive in Christ is distributed free of charge within the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania, 144 St. Tikhon's Road, Waymart, PA 18472 570-937-9331

Submission Deadlines
August Issue: July 1
November Issue: October 1
February Issue: January 1
May Issue: April 1

In the interest of keeping current, events that have occurred prior to the most recent issue date will not be included.

Please submit articles and photographs (with captions) to Aric Gingo at communications@doepa.org.

Subscriptions outside the Diocese: \$12.00 per year. Please make checks payable to Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

THE ENTHRONEMENT OF BISHOP MARK

The Rite of Installation, during which His Grace, Bishop Mark [Maymon] was enthroned as Bishop of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania, was celebrated at the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at Saint Stephen Cathedral in Philadelphia, PA on Saturday, May 10, 2014.

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, presided at the Divine Liturgy. In addition to Bishop Mark, His Eminence, Archbishop Nathaniel of Detroit and the Romanian Episcopate; His Eminence, Archbishop Melchisedek of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania; and His Grace, Bishop Michael of New York and New Jersey, concelebrated. Eight priests, including Priest Victor Gorodenchuk, Dean of Saint Stephen Cathedral, and three protodeacons also served. The liturgical responses were rendered by a combined choir of singers from Saint Nicholas Church, Bethlehem, PA and other members of the diocese under the direction of Saint Nicholas Church's talented director, Reader Nicholas Lezinsky. Bishop Mark preached at the Divine Liturgy, encouraging the faithful to acquire attributes conducive to a healthy diocese. "Love comes first in our Church life, and foremost love for Christ," Bishop Mark said as he called upon the diocese's clergy and faithful to discern that which is of the Holy Spirit.

"Love comes first in our Church life,
and foremost love for Christ,"

Among the guests attending the Divine Liturgy were representatives of the Roman Catholic Dioceses of Philadelphia and Scranton and the Indian Orthodox Church.

On Friday evening, Great Vespers was celebrated at the cathedral with all four bishops in attendance. Archbishop Nathaniel delivered the homily, in which he preached on the need to continue to proclaim enthusiastically the message that "Christ is Risen" in a world that desperately needs to hear it. A wonderful meal followed in the cathedral hall.

At the conclusion of the Liturgy, Metropolitan Tikhon presented the archpastoral staff to Bishop Mark—the same staff with which Metropolitan Tikhon had been presented when he was installed as Bishop of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania—exhorting him to continue his apostolic work in the diocese. Bishop Mark then ascended the cathedra and offered his blessing to all present and to the diocese now entrusted to his archpastoral care.

A banquet honoring Bishop Mark was held at the Radisson Hotel Philadelphia Northeast, Treose, PA, at which time greetings and congratulatory messages were offered. Archpriest John Kowalczyk, Chancellor of the Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania, welcomed all in attendance. Several gift presentations were made. As a special gift, the diocese presented a new miter to Bishop Mark as a token of their love and as an expression of their joyful anticipation of the future.

On Tuesday, March 18, 2014, Bishop Mark was elected by the members of the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America to fill the vacant Episcopal See of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania. The election took place on the opening day of the spring session of the Holy Synod, at which Metropolitan Tikhon presided.

Delegates to the Assembly of the Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania, held at Saint Nicholas Church, Bethlehem, PA on January 17, 2014, had nominated Bishop Mark, who had served as the Diocese's Administrator since 2012, to fill the vacant See. His name was subsequently presented to the Holy Synod for canonical election.



Metropolitan Tikhon presents the archpastoral staff to Bishop Mark—the same staff with which Metropolitan Tikhon had been presented when he was installed as Bishop of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania—exhorting him to continue his apostolic work in the diocese.

For more information visit
www.doepa.com/news_events

Among the guests attending the Divine Liturgy were representatives of the Roman Catholic Dioceses of Philadelphia and Scranton and the Indian Orthodox Church.



The Diocesan Council met on Monday, March 17, 2014 at Holy Trinity Orthodox Church in Stroudsburg, PA.



Very Rev. John Kowalczyk, and Very Rev. Nicholas Solak participated in the Annual ACCA North East Training conference at the St. Alphonso Retreat Center, in Long Branch, New Jersey.



On Sunday, January 26, Deacon John Nightingale of St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, Olyphant, PA was ordained to the Holy Priesthood by His Grace, Bishop MARK.



Orthodox Faithful from across Alaska and the dioceses of the Orthodox Church in America attended the Saint Innocent Cathedral in Anchorage on the morning of Friday, February 21, 2014 for the celebration of the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, during which Bishop-Elect David [Mahaffey] was consecrated to the episcopacy as Bishop of Sitka and Alaska.



On Sunday, March 30, His Grace Bishop MARK made an Archpastoral visit to Holy Apostles Mission. His Grace bestowed on Fr. Timothy the right to wear the gold cross.



On Sunday, March 30th, Christ the Saviour in Harrisburg welcomed Bishop MARK to the Frackville Deanery Mission Vespers.

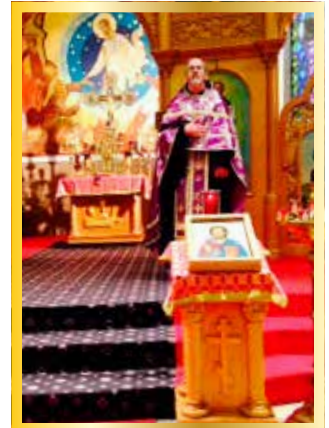
MISSION SERVICES



St. Vladimir's Orthodox Church in Lopez, PA welcomed the Wilkes-Barre Deanery to the St. Mary of Egypt Mission Service.



On April 6, 2014, the faithful of the Frackville Deanery gathered at St. Michael's Orthodox Church for Mission Vespers.



The Wilkes-Barre Deanery met at St. Michael's Orthodox Church in Old Forge for the St. John of the Ladder Mission Service.



After visiting Syosset, NY, his Grace, Bishop DAVID of the Diocese of Alaska was welcomed to the Veneration of the Cross Mission Service at St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church in Edwardsville.



The Orthodox clergy and faithful of Central Pennsylvania gathered at St. Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church for Vespers on Saturday, March 8th to celebrate the Triumph of Orthodoxy.

On March 9, 2013, Fr. Joseph Martin and the faithful of Holy Resurrection Orthodox Cathedral in Wilkes-Barre, PA welcomed clergy and parishioners from throughout the Wilkes-Barre Deanery to the Sunday of Orthodoxy Mission Service.



On Sunday, April 13, 2014, the faithful of St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in Bethlehem celebrated the Feast of Palm Sunday with the blessing of palms and Pussy Willows.



The Faithful of Holy Apostles' Orthodox Mission in Mechanicsburg celebrate with the blessing of palms and willows.



The community of Christ the Saviour in Harrisburg celebrates Palm Sunday.



The faithful of St. Michael's Orthodox Church in Jermyn celebrated the Feast of Palm Sunday, Fr. John Kowalczyk blesses palms and willows.



The faithful of All Saints Orthodox Church in Olyphant celebrated Palm Sunday.



On Sunday, April 13, 2014, the parishioners of St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church in Edwarsville, PA celebrated the Feast of Palm Sunday with the blessing of willows following Divine Liturgy.

PALM SUNDAY



The communities of Christ the Saviour and Holy Apostles Mission, gather to celebrate the service of Holy Unction.



Holy Annunciation Orthodox Church in Berwick performs the service of Holy Unction.



Holy Trinity Orthodox Church in Pottstown during Good Friday Lamentations and processional.



All Saints Orthodox Church in Olyphant during the readings of the 12 Passion Gospels.



Holy Annunciation Orthodox Church in Berwick gathers for Lamentations and the Good Friday processional.



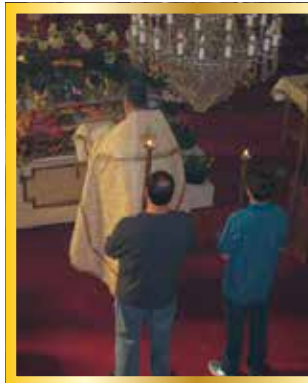
St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in Bethlehem during their Good Friday processional.



All Saints Orthodox Church in Olyphant during their Good Friday processional.



St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church in Edwardsville during the Good Friday processional.



St. Michael's Orthodox Church in Mount Carmel during Good Friday Vespers.

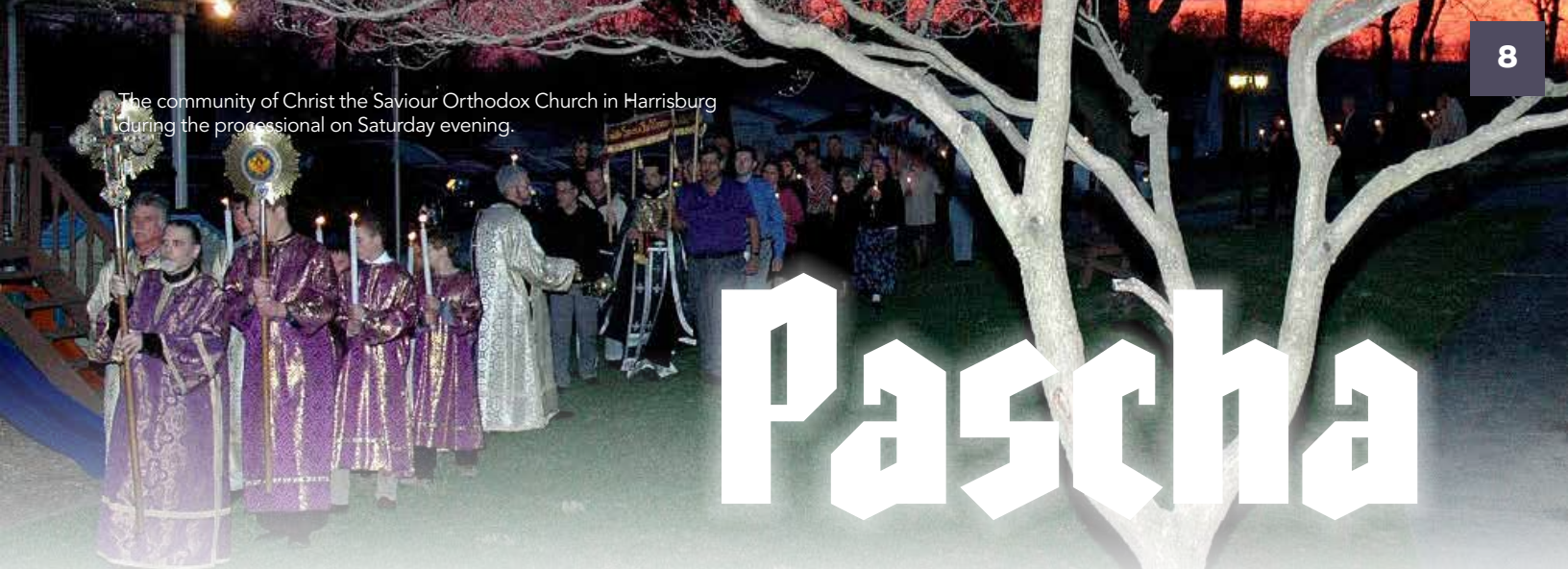


Christ the Saviour Orthodox Church in Harrisburg during Good Friday services.



St. Mark's Orthodox Church in Wrightstown gathered for the Good Friday Vesper service with processional.

HOLY WEEK



The community of Christ the Saviour Orthodox Church in Harrisburg during the processional on Saturday evening.

Pascha



The Orthodox faithful of Holy Trinity Orthodox Church in Wilkes-Barre gather to celebrate the Resurrection.



The Orthodox Faithful of All Saints Orthodox Church in Olyphant celebrated PASCHA, with nocturnes late Saturday evening, and Paschal Matins at midnight.



On Saturday, April 19, the Orthodox Faithful of St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in Bethlehem, PA gathered for Holy Saturday Services.



The Orthodox Faithful of Holy Cross Orthodox Church welcomed His Grace, Bishop MARK, to Pascha services, beginning with Nocturnes on Saturday evening.



St. Mark's Orthodox Church in Wrightstown, PA gathered to celebrate the Resurrection, with Lamentations, processional and Matins at midnight.



St. Michael's Orthodox Church in Jermyn celebrates the Resurrection.



St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church in Edwardsville celebrates PASCHA, with Nocturnes,, the processional, Paschal Matins, and the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom.



Holy Trinity Orthodox Church in Stroudsburg celebrates the Resurrection.



Holy Apostles Mission in Mechanicsburg celebrates the Resurrection.



Holy Annunciation Orthodox Church in Berwick gathers to celebrate the Resurrection.



Holy Resurrection Cathedral in Wilkes-Barre during their PASCHA celebration.



Clergy and parishioners gathered at Holy Trinity Orthodox Church in Wilkes-Barre to celebrate Bright Saturday.



Holy Trinity Church in Pottstown rejoiced in the Resurrection of our Lord.



St. Nicholas Church in Bethlehem, PA gathers to celebrate Bright Monday.



Christ the Saviour hosts local Orthodox parishes for the Bright Monday services.



Holy Ascension Orthodox Church in Frackville welcomes His Grace, Bishop MARK to celebrate Divine Liturgy - the first service celebrated in the Diocese by His Grace after being approved as the Diocesan Hierarch.



On Saturday, April 19th Christ the Saviour in Harrisburg welcomed His Grace, Bishop MARK, to the Vespertal Liturgy of St. Basil, sometimes called the "First Pascha."



His Grace, Bishop MARK makes an Archpastoral Visit and presides over the Pre Sanctified Liturgy at St. Michael's Orthodox Church in Jermyn.

Bishop MARK Around the Diocese



The community of Christ the Saviour commemorates their parish feast day. His Grace, Bishop MARK led the gathered faithful for the Divine Liturgy.



Holy Trinity Orthodox Church in Wilkes-Barre welcomes His Grace, Bishop MARK, to celebrate Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of Orthodoxy.



His Grace Bishop MARK visited St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in Bethlehem, PA. Following Divine Liturgy, His Grace awarded Fr. Ian Shipley the Nabedrennik.

2 0 1 4

Winter Teen Retreat

*A look at the 2014
teen winter retreat at
the Fatima Renewal Center*



YOUTH AND EDUCATIO



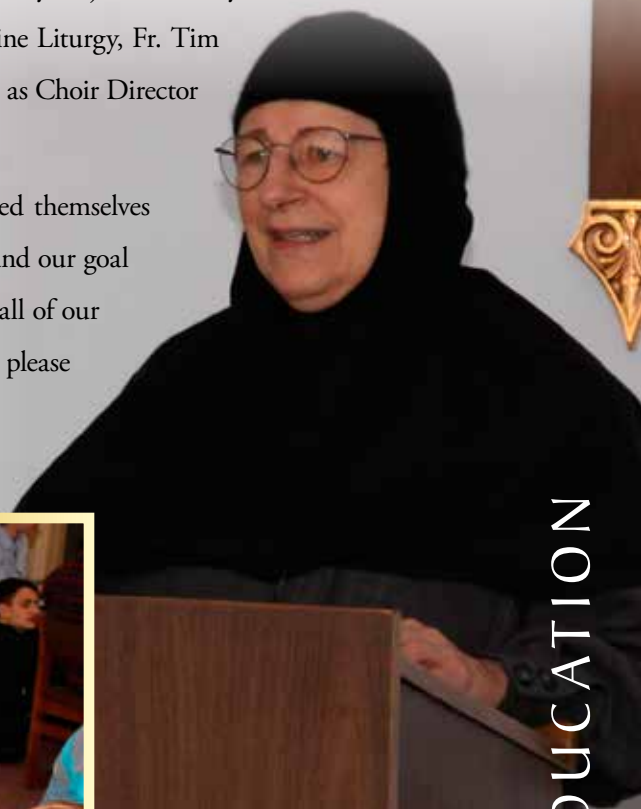
Thirty-two teenagers from the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania (and beyond!) trekked to Dalton, PA on the weekend of February 7-9 for the 2014 Winter Teen Retreat.

This Retreat was unique for several reasons. Firstly, with the recent news that the Catholic Archdiocese of Scranton has decided to close the Fatima Renewal Center, we tried to enjoy our time there as much as possible because it was the last time our event would be held at their wonderful facility.

Secondly, this was the first Winter Retreat in recent memory where a female monastic was invited as the keynote speaker. We proudly hosted Mother Raphaela, Abbess of Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery in Otego, New York. This was the first time that many of the teens had ever met an Orthodox Nun, and they were extremely impressed by Mother Raphaela's discussion about how easy it is to become distracted and influenced by the worldly messages we are receiving subliminally in the media. Together, we practiced sitting in complete silence for personal reflection and prayer for a full fifteen minutes during one of the workshop sessions. Many of the teens later reported that the silent time was their favorite part of the Retreat.

We were happy to once again enjoy the company of our Youth Chaplain, Fr. Timothy Hojnicky of Holy Apostles Mission, Mechanicsburg, PA. In addition to serving Vespers and Divine Liturgy, Fr. Tim also spent time in workshops with the teens. Fr. Dn. Gabriel Bilas also joined us as Choir Director for the weekend.

The Office of Young Adult Activities is glad that all of the participants enjoyed themselves during our last Retreat in Dalton. The search for a new location is under way, and our goal is to keep the timing of this popular event as a pre-Lenten spiritual renewal for all of our Diocesan young adults. To be included on the mailing list for next year's event, please email retreat@ocayouth.org





St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in Olyphant, PA hosts their Senior Appreciation Day.



Teens from Holy Annunciation Orthodox Church prepare pierogies for their dinner dance.



The Sunday School of St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church in Edwardsville holds a waffle breakfast.



The Sunday School students of St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church in Edwardsville prepare Easter Candy.



St. Michael's Orthodox Church in Mount Carmel held an educational seminar.



The faithful of St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in Olyphant discuss the video of the Mysteries of the Jesus Prayer in their Parish Hall.



Holy Annunciation Orthodox Church in Berwick welcomed Dr. Christopher Veniamin to their Lenten retreat.



The teens from Holy Annunciation Orthodox Church held an ethnic dinner dance at the Berwick Elks Lodge.



St. Michael's in Jermyn, PA held a Pre Lenten Breakfast on Sunday, February 16th following Divine Liturgy.



The parishioners of St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church, Edwardsville, held a Lenten food sale.



Fr. Richard Cannuli of Villanova University, a master iconographer, conducted a special week long Icon Workshop at St. Herman of Alaska Orthodox Church in Gradyville PA.



The Sunday School students of Holy Trinity Orthodox Church in Pottstown commemorated the Feast of Annunciation with a skit.



Maxim Gingo is awarded the St. George Medal by Fr. George Volkovinsky.



The Sunday School students and teachers of St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church in Edwardsville were honored with gifts of prayer books.



Holy Apostles Mission honored their parish Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.



The children of All Saints Orthodox Church in Olyphant took part in a Lenten Retreat.



The community of Christ the Saviour honored our parish Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. Vladimer Kellachow was awarded the "Alpha Omega Award."



Sunday, May 11 marked the end of the church school year at Holy Trinity Orthodox Church in Pottstown, PA. The students bid a fond farewell to Ms. Debra Souilliard. (pictured on the left) Ms. Souilliard has been a teacher for the toddler class for several years.



Tim and Dylan Kritzer were Chrismated into the Holy Orthodox Church before Divine Liturgy at Holy Annunciation Orthodox Church in Berwick.



The Zeppuhar family, who were Baptized and Chrismated the day previous, received their first Holy Communion at Christ the Saviour in Harrisburg.



The Holy Sacraments of Baptism and Chrismation were received by Aryanna Grace Harang and Mattox Patrick Schlosshauer at Holy Trinity Orthodox Church in Stroudsburg



Christ the Saviour Orthodox Church in Harrisburg receives the Lentz family through the Sacrament of Chrismation.



The Holy Cross community rejoiced in the reception of Cory Michael Chelko through the Sacrament of Chrismation.



Kimberly Metz and Ashkon Abouzari were joined in the sacrament of Marriage at St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in Bethlehem.

THE SACRAMENTS

AROUND THE DIOCESE



Holy Apostles church school children who participated in the Sacrament of Confession for the first time are recognized.



Christ the Saviour Orthodox Church in Harrisburg and Holy Apostle's Mission in Mechanicsburg welcomed new members to the catechumenate.





St. Mary's Orthodox Church in Coaldale, PA recognized Olga and Ben Macalush who celebrated their 66th wedding anniversary and Matushka Lovey and Very Reverend Paul Ropitsky for their 49th wedding anniversary



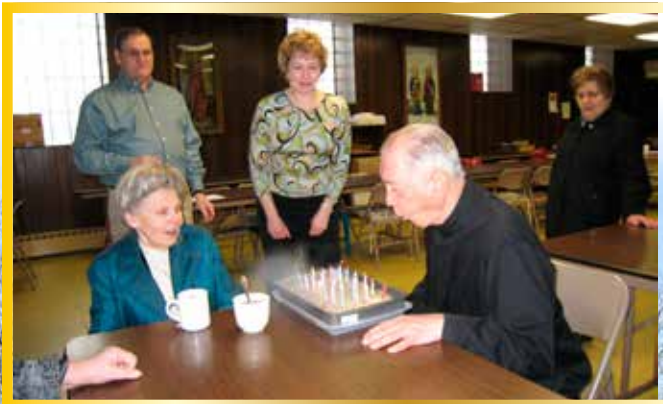
Joseph and Dorothy Fetchina of St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in Olyphant celebrated their 65th Wedding Anniversary with a Service of Thanksgiving.



The ancient Kursk-Root Icon of the Mother of God visited Holy Trinity Orthodox Church in Stroudsburg.



Holy Ascension Orthodox Church in Frackville blessed new vestments donated by parishioners for the Lenten season.



Parishioners of St. Michel's Orthodox Church in Mount Carmel welcomed Father Daniel Ressetar with a Lenten Birthday cake on March 30, 2014.



On Monday, March 31, the Feast of the Repose of St. Innocent of Moscow, the clergy of the Frackville Deanery gathered at SS. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church in Minersville to celebrate the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts in the presence of a portion of the relics of St. Innocent.



On Bright Monday, April 21, 27 parishioners of St. Mark's Orthodox Church in Wrightstown took a trip to Adventure Aquarium in Camden, NJ following Divine Liturgy and breakfast held in Corner Bakery Cafe in Newtown.



On Sunday, April 6, 2014, Father John Kowalczyk installed the 2014 Church Council of St. Michael's Orthodox Church in Jermyn.



Holy Ascension Orthodox Church in Frackville installed their 2014 Parish Council on Sunday, February 23, 2014.

2014 PARISH COUNCILS



On Sunday, March 30, 2013, All Saints Orthodox Church in Olyphant swore in their newly elected Parish Council.



The newly elected Parish Council of St. Michael's Orthodox Church in Mt. Carmel received the Oath of Office.



On Sunday, May 11 Father Jason Franchak installed the 2014 Parish Church Council of Holy Trinity Church in Pottstown.



On Sunday, February 24, 2014, the newly elected Parish Council was sworn in following Divine Liturgy at St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church in Edwardsville.

MEMORY ETERNAL!

ARCHPRIEST ALEXANDER ATTY

With the saints give rest, O Christ, to the soul of Thy servant the Archpriest Alexander Atty where sickness and sorrow are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.



Archpriest Alexander Atty received his rest in the Lord, the Sunday of the Holy Cross, March 23, 2014. Memory Eternal!

It is with a profound sense of loss that the St. Tikhon's Community marks the passing of its former Dean, the Archpriest Alexander Atty. Fr. Alexander received his rest in the Lord early this morning, the Sunday of the Holy Cross, March 23, 2014, finally receiving rest from his many-year struggle with cancer.

Fr. Alexander was Dean and Chief Operating Officer of St. Tikhon's Seminary from the summer of 2010 to February of 2013. For several years before this he was a devoted member of the Board of Trustees and beloved benefactor of the institution.

In his 2 ½ all-too-short years as Dean, Fr. Alexander Atty would make a dramatic and indelible mark on the life of St. Tikhon's. Under his direction many improvements were made to the physical property including: remodeling of the entire front of the the administration building, updating nearly every office space and classroom, and construction of a new dining hall. Also under his tenure, the school would enjoy advances in it's networking and communications including a new phone system, upgrades to the website and student email communications system, the purchase of two new seminary vehicles, new heating systems for both the seminary building and for the monastery church.

He will be remembered not only for his strong emphasis on campus renewal but also for the love and care that he and his beloved wife, Matushka Olga, took to ensure a certain quality of life for the student body of St. Tikhon's Seminary. During their time here, Fr. Alexander and Matushka Olga, dedicated much of their efforts to ensure the seminarians and their wives and families were included in every aspect of community life. They instituted a family lunch program where wives and children were invited every day to come and join the seminarians, faculty, administration, and staff to share together in a common meal with one another. Each of these accomplishments, and others not mentioned, were accomplished by Fr. Alexander in 2 ½ years while undergoing very aggressive cancer therapy that would have by itself ended lesser men.

He will be remembered by all as a dedicated churchman, a husband, a father, a friend, and a leader.

He will be remembered by those of us in the Community of St. Tikhon's as a Dean with an uncompromising love of the beautiful and a steadfast desire to share that with each of us.

CALENDAR

JULY

- July 6 Holy Ascension, Frackville
- July 6-12 St. Tikhon's Summer Camp
- July 16-21 OCA Delegate to Russia
- July 27 Holy Annunciation Church, Berwick

AUGUST

- August 6 Transfiguration
- August 15 Dormition of the Theotokos
- August 16 Women's Retreat At St. Tikhon's Seminary
- August 19 Diocesan Council Meeting, Harrisburg
- August 21-23 OPM Board Meeting
- August 29 Beheading of St. John the Baptist

SEPTEMBER

- September 8 Nativity of the Theotokos
- September 14 Exaltation of the Holy Cross
- September 15-18 Assembly of Bishops Meeting, Dallas, TX
- September 21 St. John the Baptist, Edwardsville
- September 27-28 St. Stephen's, Philadelphia



FINAL CALL!

LAST CALL GRADUATES!

Add one more thing to your post-graduation to do list! The Fall issue of *Alive in Christ* will feature our 2014 High School and College graduates. *Alive in Christ* would be honored to share your accomplishment with the Diocese. Submissions will also be posted on the Diocesan website. Instructions can be found at

www.doepa.org