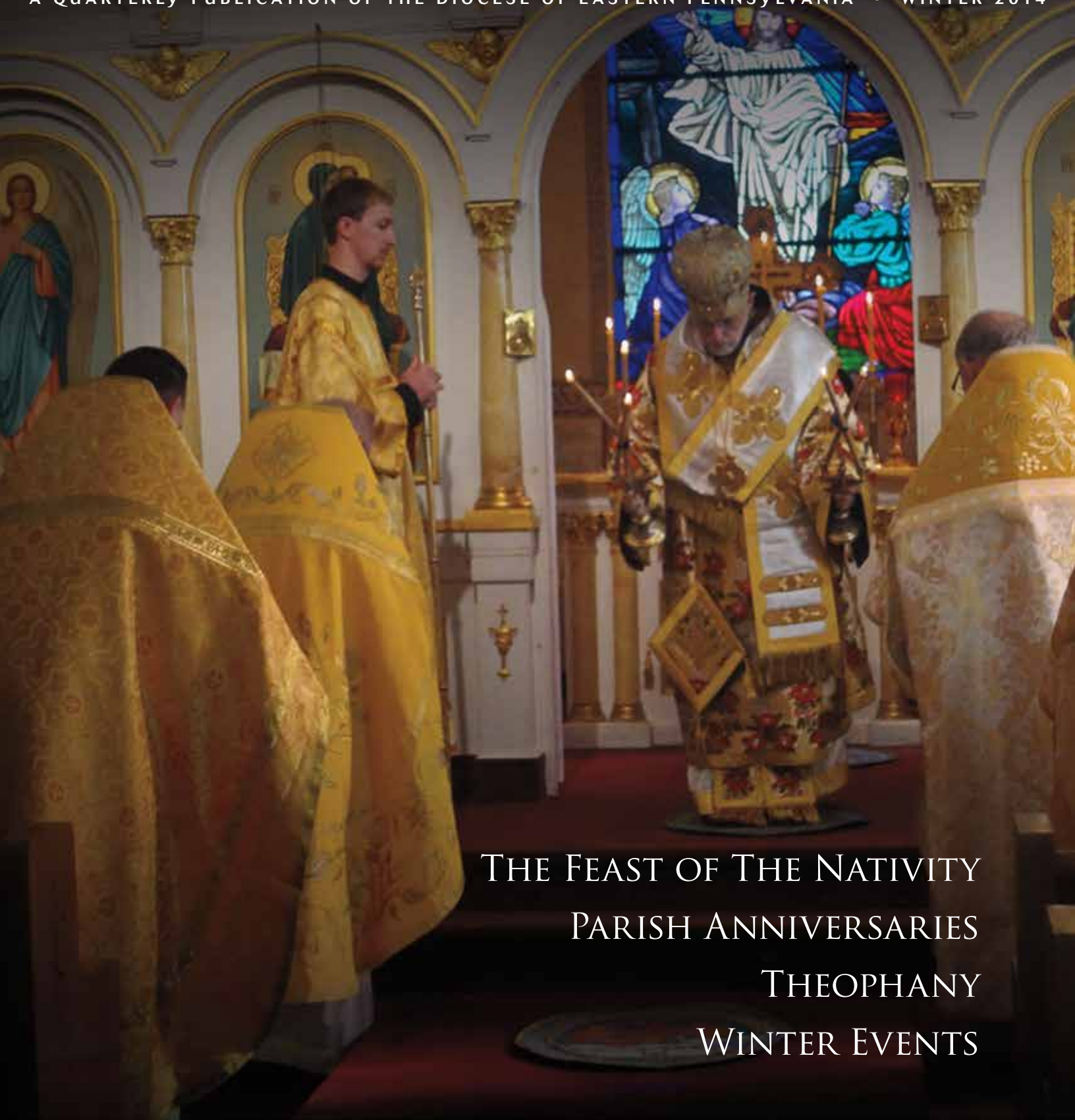




YOUR DIOCESE

# Alive in Christ

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



THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY  
PARISH ANNIVERSARIES  
THEOPHANY  
WINTER EVENTS

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## COMMUNICATIONS BRIEF

Glory to Jesus Christ!

When you pick up this magazine we will be in the middle of the Lenten season. It would be hard to imagine how much has taken place in the Diocese since last fall unless you leaf through and see all of the activities, events and services that have occurred. Is your Parish represented?

Hopefully you will notice a few new parishes who have contributed material - welcome! Please make sharing your events a regular part of your Parish life. It is a joy to see our Orthodox brethren from around the Diocese. More importantly, it is a chance to see what other Parishes are doing and be inspired. There is much going on in the Diocese - it is an exciting time. An early but heartfelt "Christ is Risen" to you and yours.

\*\*\*As this issue of Alive in Christ was going to press, the joyful news that His Grace, Bishop MARK, had been elevated to Archbishop at the Holy Synod of Bishops in Syosset, on Friday, March 20 2015. Congratulations to His Eminence and May God Grant Him Many Years! We will take a closer look at this in the next issue of Alive in Christ.



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

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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.

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Dear to God!

Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!

After our Lord rose from the dead, He appeared to them for a period of 40 Days before Ascending into Heaven. Before He was parted from them, He instructed them to tarry in Jerusalem until they were endued with power from on High, the Holy Spirit, the Comforter and Giver of Life. While our Lord instructed the Disciples to go into all the world, make disciples of all people and to teach them all that He had commanded them, they did not do so until they were scattered by persecution and the martyrdom of the Protomartyr St. Stephen. Up until the martyrdom of St. Stephen they were content to only share their faith with their own people.

St. Paul in his missionary journeys certainly preached to his own people first in his travels, as Jews were all over the Roman Empire, but thanks be to God he eventually became the Apostle to the Gentiles and Peter was the Apostle to the Jews. The message of Christianity was vastly different from the pagan religions that limited their deities to a particular tribe, clan, people or land and could be manipulated through cultic activity. For Christians, God was not limited to a particular people or land, but the One who created all that exists.

As we move towards the Feast of Pentecost, 50 days after Pascha, we are reminded that the Lord not only removed the barriers between man and God, but between, Jew and Gentile; slave and free that we would be united one to another through our common faith. The Fathers illustrate this like the spokes of a wheel and its hub. If we think of God as the hub and our movement towards Him like the movement along the spoke of a wheel, the closer we get to God, the closer we are one to another. If our hearts are aflame with love for God, they cannot help but to be aflame in our love for those created in His Divine Image.

*+ Mark*

+MARK

Archbishop of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania

# ARCHBISHOP MARK AROUND THE OCA



PHILADELPHIA • On Monday, October 27 2014, Archbishop MARK met with Archbishop CHAPUT of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Philadelphia.



ATLANTA • During February 19-21, 2015, His Eminence, Archbishop MARK attended the Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry Board meeting as the Episcopal Liaison for the Assembly of Canonical Bishops of the United States. Fr. John Kowalczyk, Secretary of the OCPM, also attended.



OHIO • On February 14 2015, Archbishop MARK served with His Grace, Bishop ALEXANDER of Toledo, at St. Elia Orthodox Church, in Akron, Ohio for the occasion of the Ordination of Dn. Gabriel Bilas to the Holy Priesthood. On February 15, 2015, His Grace visited St. Nikolai of Zica Mission in Alliance, Ohio.

## ARCHBISHOP MARK ATTENDS DEDICATION IN KENTUCKY

Archbishop MARK and Archbishop NIKON of Boston share a moment of levity together, with Deacon Alexander Cadman looking on, as they led the Dedication Service for the new St. Athanasius Orthodox Church in Nicholasville, Kentucky. A dozen other Orthodox clergy--along with about 40 guests outside the Bluegrass--also participated in the services.



PHILADELPHIA • On Sunday, Sept 28, 2014 St. Stephen's celebrated 40 years of the consecration of the Cathedral. The celebration started with the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy presided by His Eminence Archbishop MARK. After the Liturgy, a 40th Anniversary Banquet was held at the Radisson Hotel, in Treose, PA with over 140 in attendance!



JERMYN • On Sunday, November 9 2015, Archbishop MARK ordained Vasili Dubee to the Holy Diaconate. Vasili received a full scholarship from the parish through the "Adopt a Seminarian Program." Rev. Dn. Vasili will be attached to St. Michael's Parish in Jermyn.



BERWICK • On Sunday, January 4 2015, Fr. Michael Demko was awarded the gold cross by His Eminence, Archbishop MARK for his years of service for the church and community.



WILMINGTON • On Friday, November 21 2014, Archbishop MARK ordained James Carpenter to the Holy Diaconate and Reader James Weremedic, Jr. to the Subdiaconate. James Carpenter is a graduate of St. Tikhon Orthodox Theological Seminary's Diaconal Formation program. Reader James Weremedic, Jr. is the son of Fr. James and Matushka Lisa Weremedic.



OLYPHANT • On the weekend of October 4-5, 2014, St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in Olyphant, PA celebrated its 110th Anniversary. On Sunday, October 5, the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy was concelebrated by His Eminence, Archbishop MARK, the parish clergy and visiting clergy. Following the Divine Liturgy, a festive banquet was held.



BETHLEHEM • On October 11th & 12th, the faithful of St. Nicholas Orthodox Church were blessed to have Archbishop MARK celebrate Vespers and Divine Liturgy with them.



EDWARDSVILLE • Archbishop MARK visited the parish of St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church on Thursday, December 11, 2014. His Grace discussed issues facing not only the Orthodox Church, but Christianity itself in the modern world.



SAINT CLAIR • On Sunday, November 23, 2014 Archbishop MARK visited St. Mary's Church in St. Clair, PA for the first time as Diocesan Bishop to celebrate Divine Liturgy and visit with the parishioners.



STROUDSBURG • During September 14-15 2014, Archbishop MARK visited Holy Trinity, attending their monthly soup kitchen, preschool, Parish Council breakfast meeting, Parish cookout, Vespers and Divine Liturgy.



MOUNT CARMEL • St. Michael's welcomed Archbishop MARK on November 8, 2014 for St. Michael's Day. A full day of celebration including Divine Liturgy, a luncheon, and guest speakers followed.



MINERSVILLE • SS. Peter and Paul Church welcomed His Eminence, Archbishop MARK, for Divine Liturgy on Sunday, November 30, 2014. Concelebrating the Divine Liturgy was Very Rev. Nicholas Wyslutsky, pastor of St. Nicholas Church, Mogadore, Ohio, a native son of the parish.



EDWARDSVILLE • On Sunday, September 21, 2014, the faithful of St. John the Baptist welcomed His Eminence, Archbishop MARK to celebrate the Parish Feast and recognize parishioners achievements.



WILKES-BARRE • On October 14th 2014, Father Deacon Stephen Muse, Ph.D., a well-known speaker and the Director of Counselor Training and Clinical Services in Columbus, Georgia, spoke to our clergy on pastoral counseling.



STROUDSBURG • Dr. Philip Mamalakis, Assistant Professor, Pastoral Care, at Holy Cross Orthodox School of Theology, Brookline, MA, was the speaker at the February 13th clergy continuing education program held at Holy Trinity Church.



HARRISBURG • On November 11th 2015, a clergy continuing education unit was held at Christ the Saviour Orthodox Church. The guest speaker was Fr. Andrew Stephen Damick, pastor of St. Paul Orthodox Church in Emmaus, PA. His presentation focused on the topic of "Internet and Social Media".



SOUTH CANAAN • On November 18, 2014, members of the Diocesan Council were welcomed to the Diocesan Center for their quarterly meeting. The Council welcomed attorneys John Krisa and John Petorak to discuss the ongoing property transfer of the Diocesan Center.



BETHLEHEM • The 2015 Diocesan Assembly for the Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania was held on Thursday, January 29 and Friday January 30, 2015, at St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in Bethlehem, PA. The Assembly began on Thursday afternoon with Vespers at 4pm, followed by the formal opening. After dinner in the Parish Hall, Fr. Nathaniel Symeonides (Director of the Office of Inter-Orthodox, Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations for the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North America) led a round table discussion on the Assembly of Bishops, Proposals for Canonical and Regional Planning and the Great and Holy Council scheduled for 2016. The evening concluded with a Little Compline. Friday, January 30 began with the Reading of the Hours followed by Divine Liturgy. Following brunch, a presentation on Stewardship was given by Fr. Timothy Hojnicky, Fr. Stephen Vernak, and Mark Linnehan. Reports were reviewed throughout the remainder of the Assembly, and the budget and old business were discussed in the afternoon. New business included the upcoming All American Council, the revised Statute of the OCA, and plans for next years' Assembly.

# FEAST OF THE NATIVITY

JERMYN • St. Michael's Orthodox Church celebrated the Feast of the Nativity on December 25, 2014. The Church was decorated by Father Gabe Petorak and his helpers.



UNIONDALE • On Thursday, December 25 2014, the faithful of SS Peter and Paul Orthodox Church celebrated the Feast of the Nativity with Divine Liturgy.



MOUNT CARMEL • St. Michael's Orthodox Church celebrated the Feast of the Nativity on December 25, 2014.



BERWICK • The faithful of Holy Annunciation Orthodox Church held their annual Parish Holy Supper and celebrated Nativity Matins on December 24, 2014. Those gathered experienced the traditional Orthodox Nativity supper.



MECHANICSBURG • Holy Apostles Mission celebrated the Feast of the Nativity, welcoming guests Very Rev. Nicholas and Mat. Anastasia Molodyko-Harris and Fr. Christopher Rocknege from St. Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church in Steelton.



HARRISBURG • Christ the Saviour celebrated the Eve of the Feast of the Nativity with Royal Hours and Vespers Divine Liturgy in the morning, and the Nativity Vigil in the evening. The Festal Divine Liturgy was celebrated on Christmas morning.



WILMINGTON • On December 24 2014, the parishioners of St. Michael's Orthodox Church in Wilmington, DE gathered before Nativity services for the Holy Supper. Following the Supper, the Nativity Vigil was celebrated.



EDWARDSVILLE • St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church welcomed parishioners, guests and visitors to Divine Liturgy on December 25, 2014. Those gathered were treated to Nativity selections during dismissal.



BERWICK • On December 24 2014, the men of Holy Annunciation Orthodox Church's Choir visited parishioner's homes to sing Christmas Carols.



LOPEZ • On December 25, 2014, the faithful of St. Vladimir's Orthodox Church celebrated the Feast of the Nativity. Parishioners gathered on Christmas Eve to share Holy Supper.



MOUNT CARMEL • On Sunday, December 14 2014, following Divine Liturgy, the parishioners of St. Michael's Orthodox Church gathered in the church hall to hold a Sing Along. Many seasonal favorites were sung in anticipation of the Feast of the Nativity.



OLYPHANT • St. Nicholas Orthodox Church celebrated the Feast of the Nativity on December 25, 2014. A light meal was served in the parish hall following the Divine Liturgy.



EDWARDSVILLE • On Saturday, December 20, 2014, the Choir of St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church presented a Nativity Concert featuring traditional hymns and many Russian standards.



HARRISBURG • On November 23 2015, Christ the Saviour enjoyed a Pan-Orthodox choral concert. This year's concert was entitled "Praise the Lord". The adult choir, under the direction of Fr. Christopher Rocknage (pastor of St. Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church and president of OCCSCP) sang beautifully and prayerfully, as did our combined youth choir, under the direction of Nina Radonovic (also of St. Nicholas).



EDWARDSVILLE • On Sunday, January 4, 2015, the Sunday School of St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church held its' annual Nativity celebration for the Parish.



GRADYVILLE • St. Herman of Alaska Sunday School presented it's annual Yolka on January 4, 2014.



HARRISBURG • On Sunday, December 14th the parish Church School at Christ the Saviour held its annual Nativity Program.



FRACKVILLE • On Sunday, December 7, 2014, the parishioners of Holy Ascension Orthodox Church in welcomed "St. Nicholas" after Divine Liturgy.

## Youth Nativity Events



BERWICK • The Sunday School of Holy Annunciation put on their annual Christmas play on Sunday, December 21 2014.

AROUND THE DIOCESE



STROUDSBURG • The Faithful of Holy Trinity collected 20 boxes of food to donate to Monroe County Children and Youth Services this advent season. Additionally, the Church School raised money and purchased gifts to accompany the food donation.



BERWICK • The teens of Holy Annunciation sponsored a needy family for the holiday season. They went shopping for the family and wrapped gifts after church to be sent out.



GRADYVILLE • St. Herman of Alaska parishioners gathered enough items to remember, thank, and to send to two Army platoons serving in Afghanistan.



STROUDSBURG • Holy Trinity hosted a Thanksgiving Soup Kitchen dinner on November 14, 2014 serving approximately 40 meals.



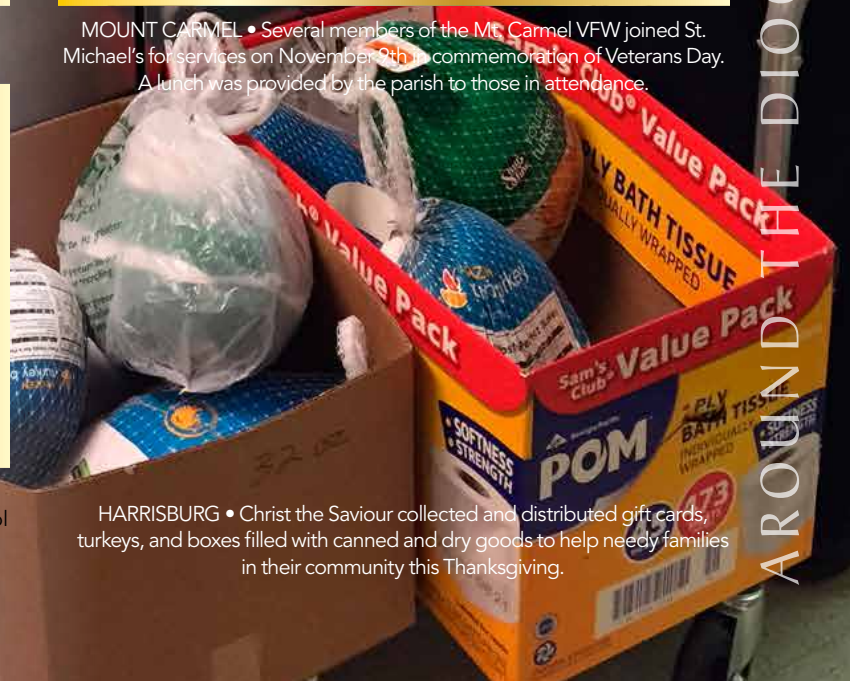
EDWARDSVILLE • On Saturday, December 20, 2014, the Sunday School of St. John the Baptist visited the local Veteran's Center to share a home made holiday meal and Orthodox fellowship.



# IMPACTING OUR COMMUNITIES



MOUNT CARMEL • Several members of the Mt. Carmel VFW joined St. Michael's for services on November 11th in commemoration of Veterans Day. A lunch was provided by the parish to those in attendance.



HARRISBURG • Christ the Saviour collected and distributed gift cards, turkeys, and boxes filled with canned and dry goods to help needy families in their community this Thanksgiving.

STEPHEN'S O.C.F.  
of the  
FELLOWSHIP of ORTHODOX  
CHRISTIANS in AMERICA  
Welcomes you  
to our annual  
NOVODNY BALL  
by New Year!

## St. Stephen's Orthodox Christian Fellowship Sponsors Successful 78th Novogodny Ball

On Sunday evening, January 18, 2015, St. Stephen's Orthodox Christian Fellowship (O.C.F.), Chapter 82 of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America (F.O.C.A.) hosted the 78th Novogodny Ball at the Crowne Plaza Hotel - Philadelphia in Cherry Hill, NJ. The Novogodny Ball has been an annual New Year's tradition in the Philadelphia area for nearly eight decades. This year the Ball attracted over 250 persons who came from as far away as Oklahoma, Ohio, Pittsburgh area, Delaware, Maryland, D.C., Virginia, New Jersey and New York. Over the past few years it has been encouraging to see the large number of teens and young adults, many of whom met at St. Tikhon's summer camp, who come to the Ball to renew their friendships. The Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania was well represented by Fr. Dan Kovalak and Matushka Myra who brought a youth group of twenty to New Jersey.

St. Stephen's was especially pleased to host His Eminence, Archbishop MARK who attended the Ball for the first time. During the first intermission His Eminence welcomed the guests and expressed his pleasure at seeing the large gathering of youth. He commended the F.O.C.A. for the good works it performs for the Orthodox Church and for the fellowship opportunities it provides for its members.

Proceeds from the Ball have always supported Orthodox and other worthy charities. Most recently this financial support has been directed to the Married Seminarian Housing Project at St. Tikhon's Seminary. Collectively, St. Stephen's O.C.F., St. Stephen's Cathedral, and St. Stephen's Women's Society have already contributed \$12,500 toward the F.O.C.A.'s goal to raise \$300,000 toward this project. The members of St. Stephen's O.C.F. look forward to having you as our guests for the 79th Novogodny Ball on January 17, 2016. Please reserve that date on your calendar and watch for further details. Tickets are available by reservation only.





**WILLIAMSPORT** • Holy Cross Orthodox Church held their Icon Festival on October 18, 2014. Special “guest” for the day was the Weeping Icon of St Anna from St. Tikhon’s Monastery, brought by Fr Steven Voytovich, Dean of St. Tikhon’s Seminary. After an Akathist Service, we were blessed with a dynamic presentation/demonstration by noted iconographer, Lynette Hull on “Encountering the Icon.” The Holy Cross Auxiliary offered many delicious ethnic foods and desserts for lunch, after which attendees shopped at St. Tikhon’s Bookstore and watched a video of the Our Lady of Tikhvin Icon. Vespers concluded the day, with a heartfelt farewell to our “special guest.” Thanks to all who participated!



**BERWICK** • The Very Rev. John Chakos visited Holy Annunciation on Sunday, November 2, 2014 to serve Divine Liturgy and give a presentation on his travels to Guatemala and mission work.



**JERMYN** • On November 23 2014, Fr. Sergius, Abbot of St. Tikhon’s Monastery, accompanied by two monastics brought the Miracle working Icon of the Virgin with Child; “She who is quick to hear” to St. Michael’s.



**FRACKVILLE** • On Sunday, October 26, 2014, the faithful of Holy Ascension Orthodox Church gathered for an Akathist to the Mother of God, Healer of cancer service.



**EDWARDSVILLE** • On Thursday, November 7, 2014, the faithful of St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church welcomed Fr. Timothy Hojnicky, pastor of Holy Apostles Mission in Mechanicsburg, to give a presentation on Parish revitalization.



**HARRISBURG** • On Tuesday, November 11 2014, Fr. Andrew Stephen Damick presented a talk entitled: Will YOU be “left behind?”: The Rapture in light of Ancient Christianity at Christ the Saviour Orthodox Church.



BETHLEHEM • On January 25, 2015 before the Divine Liturgy, Barry Bretz was Chrismated into the Holy Orthodox Church by Fr. Ian Shipley at St. Nicholas Orthodox Church.



MCADOO • On Saturday, October 4th, 2014, Juliet Gabriella Mincarelli was baptized at Holy Trinity Orthodox Church.



Mechanicsburg • Stuart Ryerse and Michelle Brincat were blessed to enter the Catechumenate of the Orthodox Church at Holy Apostles Mission.



MCADOO • On Sunday, October 12, 2014, Holy Trinity welcomed our newest Catechumens: Christine Bittner, William Bittner, Macy Bittner, John O'Donnel, William Bittner, Larissa Smith, and Laura Bittner.



MOUNT CARMEL • On September 21, 2014, Ally Photini Mackey was baptized at St. Michael's Orthodox Church by her father, Father Theophan Mackey.



MECHANICSBURG • On Sunday, Nov. 30 2014, Brian Noel was received into the Orthodox Church through the Mystery of Holy Chrismation.



STROUDSBURG • Donato Davanzo was received into the Orthodox Faith on Saturday, September 6 2014 at Holy Trinity Church.



MINERSVILLE • On Saturday, November 1 2014, Matthew Hatrak and Lori Bane were united in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony.



HARRISBURG • On Sunday, November 16 2014 Christ the Saviour was treated to a special fellowship hour prepared by their Ethiopian and Eritrean members. They were blessed to share in the sights, sounds, smells, and tastes of one of the many cultures that constitutes their ethnically diverse parish family.



BERWICK • On Sunday, January 25th, Holy Annunciation Ladies Organization (HALO) hosted their annual Winter Fiesta following Divine Liturgy.



WILLIAMSPORT • On October 8, 2014, the choral ensemble from St Petersburg Russia -- LYRA -- performed a concert of Russian Orthodox liturgical hymns and traditional folk songs.



JERMYN • The Fifth Annual Christmas in September and Classic Car Show was held from September 26-28 at St. Michael's Center. A record crowd of nearly 1,300 people attended on Sunday afternoon.



PHILADELPHIA • On November 1, 2014, St. Stephen Cathedral held their annual Fall Food Festival. A variety of ethnic food was prepared by parishioners and enjoyed by many visitors from the neighborhood.



HARRISBURG • From October 4th - 5th Christ the Saviour held its annual Slavic Food Fest, welcoming hundreds of our parishioners, neighbors and friends to enjoy a "taste" of one of the many cultures that constitutes our ethnically diverse community.



EDWARDSVILLE • On Sunday, December 7 2014, the FOCA Chapter of St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church in Edwarsville, PA held their annual Spaghetti Dinner.

# 2015 Winter Teen Retreat

Submitted by Kimberly Metz, Nicholas Macura, Tatiana Bohush – Diocesan Office of Young Adult Activities

Twenty teenagers from the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania gathered at the Trout Lake Retreat Center in Stroudsburg, PA for the annual Winter Teen Retreat. The weekend of February 6-8 was cold and overcast, but the group found friendship and warmth in the rustic wooden boathouse that served as our meeting room and our church. The Retreat opened on Friday night with Evening Prayers, followed by a brief orientation session and a few hours of free time to get to know each other. Many of the students discovered a shared interest in science fiction during an impromptu screening of *The Empire Strikes Back*. Others enjoyed bonding over card games, and still others sat together and talked, catching up for the first time since attending Saint Tikhon's Summer Camp in July. Fr. Timothy Hojnicky of Holy Apostles Mission in Mechanicsburg, PA, who always participates in the Winter Retreat as the Youth Chaplain, was also our keynote speaker this year. On Saturday, he led two workshops on the theme of Orthodoxy: *Back to the Basics*. He offered an in-depth review of the basic tenets of our faith – a topic that the middle- and high-school students visibly enjoyed revisiting and discussing with Fr. Hojnicky. Bishop Mark also visited us at Trout Lake on Saturday afternoon. The students had the opportunity to talk with His Grace in an informal question-and-answer session, and they had some very good questions about his personal experiences as a bishop. We celebrated Vespers with Archbishop MARK and enjoyed dinner together that evening. The next morning, we celebrated Divine Liturgy in the boathouse, encircled by windows offering a panoramic view of an icy lake surrounded by snow-blanketed forest. It was a particularly beautiful setting for Liturgy, and one that we hope the participants will remember for years to come. After sharing one last meal at Trout Lake, the students departed in a flurry of hugs and goodbyes. The Office of Young Adult Activities would like to extend our warm appreciation to the Diocese, to Fr. Hojnicky, to our photographer and medic Tom Drebot (Christ the Savior, Harrisburg), to our choir director, Patricia Metz (St. Nicholas, Bethlehem), and to all of our participants and their families for making the 2015 Winter Teen Retreat a successful one. If you missed out on the fun this year, please email [retreat@ocayouth.org](mailto:retreat@ocayouth.org) to be included on the mailing list for the 2016 Retreat.



## UPCOMING EVENT:

Saint Tikhon's Summer Camp July 5-11, 2015  
 Camper registration deadline: May 16, 2015  
 Counselor application deadline: April 30, 2015  
 Download your forms today!  
 Visit [www.sttikhonscamp.org](http://www.sttikhonscamp.org).





## Three St. Michael teens begin choir directing

When a notice appeared in the parish bulletin of Saint Michael the Archangel Church in Wilmington, DE asking for more volunteers to direct the choir, three of the parish teens willingly accepted the challenge. Katharine Bunitsky, Nicholas Carey, and Gabriela Poletaev, all talented musicians and regular members of the parish choir, agreed to begin helping out with directing duties during services. The teenagers have been active in other areas at St. Michael's, mostly with church school and Junior choir. Now their talents will be a regular blessing in an additional area for the parish.

Katharine Bunitsky, 13 lives with her parents Mark and Juliana in Wilmington, DE. She is homeschooled and takes classes at Mount Sophia Academy. Katharine studies Viola and Piano. She has often performed on Viola at the parish Yolka. Her Great Aunt Olga also directed the St. Michael's parish choir many years ago. Fr. Peter Bunitsky of Syracuse, NY and Katharine's uncle, is a priest in the Bulgarian Diocese under Metropolitan Joseph. She also reads the hours before liturgy with her brother Samuel.

Nicholas Carey, 14 lives with his parents Chris and Nona in Newark, DE. Nicholas is from a very talented family. His brother and two sisters all sing. His oldest sister Joanna, began directing the St. Michael's choir for weekday liturgies when she was Nicholas' age. After graduating from University of Delaware with a degree in Vocal Performance, she got married and moved out of state. Now Nicholas is following in her footsteps. Nicholas plays piano and attends Tall Oaks Classical School in New Castle, DE where he is in 9th grade.

Gabriela Poletaev, 15 lives in Bear, DE with her parents Gregory and Silvana. She is homeschooled and takes classes at Mount Sophia Academy. Gabriela studies piano and is an active singer. Not only does she sing with the homeschool choir, but she is also a member of the Tri-State Choir and of Madrigals, both in Delaware. She has often sang songs for the parish Yolka. Gabriela also swims and coaches for the Drummond Hill travel swim team which competes in swim meets on the east coast.

After rehearsing with the choir, each teen began by directing 1/3 of the liturgy on a Sunday. Giving pitches and keeping the music flowing were the main challenges which each director did quite well. After the liturgy, Fr. James Weremedic congratulated the teens and looked forward to each one directing an entire liturgy by themselves. St. Michael the Archangel Church is very blessed to have three talented teenagers begin directing the choir. We are proud of our teens and look forward to their development in the church.



JERMYN • On the Eve of the celebration of the Theophany of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, His Eminence, Archbishop MARK visited St. Michael's Orthodox Church for the Vigil Service. Following the Service, Bishop MARK was the special guest at the Theophany Eve Supper.



LOPEZ • V. Rev. Dennis Hendershot blessing the homes of St. Vladimir parishioners.

# THEOPHANY



MOUNT CARMEL • Father Nicholas Harris Blessed Water for St. Michael's Orthodox Church on January 11, 2015 following Divine Liturgy.



LOPEZ • The faithful of St. Vladimir's Orthodox Church gathered for the feast of Theophany. Following Divine Liturgy, the celebrants travelled to Loyalsock Creek and witnessed the Blessing of the Waters there.



BERWICK • On Sunday, January 11, 2015, the faithful of Holy Annunciation celebrated the feast of Theophany with the blessing of the Susquehanna River at the Berwick Test Track.

HARRISBURG • On Sunday, January 18th the Orthodox parishes of Greater Harrisburg gathered at City Island Park for the 7th Annual Pan-Orthodox Great Blessing of the Susquehanna. His Grace, Bishop Mitrophan of Eastern America (Serbian Orthodox Church) was our celebrant, along with the clergy and faithful from the following communities: Christ the Saviour Orthodox Church (OCA) in Harrisburg, Holy Apostles Orthodox Mission (OCA) in Mechanicsburg, Holy Trinity Orthodox Cathedral (GOA) in Camp Hill, St. Nicholas Orthodox Church (SER) in Oberlin



## Honoring Fr. Joseph and Matushka Gloria Martin for 50 Years of Dedicated Service

On Sunday, November 9, 2014, His Eminence, Archbishop MARK, clergy, friends and family gathered at the Bear Creek Inn to honor Fr. Joseph Martin and Matushka Gloria for over 50 years of dedicated service to the church and the Diocese. They were also wished a happy and healthy retirement. The previous week, Sunday November 2, 2014, Fr. Joseph Martin and Matushka Gloria visited Holy Ascension Orthodox Church in Frackville. Fr. Joseph, a native son of the parish, served the Divine Liturgy with Fr. James Jadick. At the conclusion of the service all of the faithful gathered in the church hall to greet our guests.

Fr. Joseph served his first Divine Liturgy at Holy Ascension 49 years ago and now served his first Divine Liturgy after retirement back in very familiar surroundings!

# MAY GOD GRANT THEM MANY YEARS!

# CALENDAR

## APRIL

April 11-12	Vesperal Liturgy, and Paschal Services	St. Stephen's Cathedral, Philadelphia
April 16	Clergy Continuing Education Program with Deacon Stephen Muse	All Saints Church, Olyphant
April 19	St. John the Baptist	Nanticoke
April 26	St. John the Baptist	Edwardsville
April 28-30	Pastoral Life and Ministry	Syosset

## MAY

May 03	St. John the Baptist	Dundaff
May 5-7	Pastoral Life & Ministry	San Francisco
May 21	Holy Ascension, Holy Ascension	Frackville
May 23-24	St. Nicholas	Bethlehem
May 24-25	Memorial Day Pilgrimage	St. Tikhon's Monastery
May 26-27	Pastoral Practice Committee	Antiochian Village
May 31	Holy Pentecost	Holy Trinity Church, Stroudsburg

## JUNE

June 6	95th Anniversary	SS Peter & Paul, Uniondale
June 9-12	Holy Synod of Bishops Meeting	Syosset
June 13-14	Vespers and Liturgy	St. Mark's, Wrightstown
June 16	Diocesan Council Meeting	Harrisburg
June 16-18	Continuing Clergy Symposium	St. Tikhon's Seminary

## JULY

July 5-11	St. Tikhon's Summer Camp	
July 18-20	F.O.C.A. Convention	Atlanta, GA
July 20-24	All American Council	Atlanta, GA
July 26	Holy Trinity Church	McAdoo
July 27	Akathist to St. Panteleimon	Holy Annunciation, Berwick

# ATTENTION ALL GRADUATES

Add one more thing to your post-graduation to-do list! The Fall issue of *Alive In Christ* will feature our 2015 Graduates. *Alive In Christ* would be honored to share your accomplishment with the Diocese. Please provide a high resolution photograph of the graduate, along with the following information: Name, Parish, Parent's names, Where they have graduated from, and future plans.

**DEADLINE IS JULY!**

Instructions at [www.doepa.com](http://www.doepa.com)

