

## St. Andrew Orthodox Church

201 Penn Avenue  
Lyndora, PA 16045  
www.saintandrewlyndora.org



**Christ Is Born! Glorify Him!**



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(724) 285-6010  
V. Rev. Fr. Joseph Wargo, Priest

### 2009 CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER

#### “CHRISTMAS – A Time of Happiness and a Time of Sadness”

CHRISTMAS can be a time of happiness in that we are celebrating the Birth of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in Bethlehem. Christmas is a time to rejoice a new born King, a new beginning for us as Christians, rejoicing with the greeting “Christ is Born!” “Glorify Him!” Christmas is a time to rejoice and be happy with our family, friends, relatives, fellow parishioners and neighbors, sharing gifts, food and fellowship with one another in the new born Christ. Christmas is a time to act out the commandment “to love one another as I (God) loves you.”

However, Christmas can be a time of sadness, depression and loneliness. The constant refrain on radio and television, in shopping malls and churches, about the happiness of the Christmas Season, about getting together with family and friends, reminds many people of what they have lost or never had.

(continued)

### ***Prayer Requests***

Please remember the shut-ins of our parish with a card or visit, as well as in your prayers: **Betty Onufer** (945 Border Ave., #303, Ellwood City, PA 16117), **Andrew & Lillian Grinnik**, (Passavant Retirement Community, 301 Burgess Ave., Zelenople, PA 16063); **Ann Nemeceff** and **Mary Embroski** (Sunnyview).

Others in need of special prayers for healing are Fr. Joe's mother **Helen Wargo, Kent Bowen, Judy Stewart, Peg Glagola, Nick Sopol, Bonnie Gicie, George Milich, Steve Milich and Deb Pfabe.**



### ***Reader Schedule for December***

December 6 - Sally Matuke  
December 13 - Rick Daller  
December 20 - Tom Daller  
December 25 - Gretchen Pfabe  
December 27 - Debbie Pfabe



### ***Coffee Hour Schedule for December***

December 6 - Wargo/Hall/Rogos  
December 13 - Eva Jean Minto  
December 20 - Ron Uram  
December 27 - Mark Stewart & Cathy Sheppard

### ***Display Case - New Items For Sale***

Be sure and check out the new Orthodox items available for sale, located on the top shelf of our display case in the church hall. They make great Christmas Gifts! Please see Eva Jean Minto to purchase anything from the case. As always, if you don't see something you may want, we can order it for you.

### ***Sisterhood Meeting***

The next Sisterhood meeting is Sunday, December 13, 2009 following Divine Liturgy.



### ***Special Christmas Collection for Food Bank***

By now, many of you may have noticed the beautifully wrapped "present" down in the church hall and are asking who is it for! Well, the answer is . . . it is part of our special community outreach project for December. What we would like to see is this box overflowing with money!

We are asking all parishioners to please be generous and to place your monetary donations into this box. Then, before Christmas, the monies will be counted and the church will make a donation to our local food bank so that needy families in our community can have a Merry Christmas meal. Please make your best offering (or offerings) as soon as possible! How wonderful that we have this opportunity to truly be God's representative here on earth.



### ***Happy Birthday!***

Happy Birthday wishes for **December** go out to the following members of our church family:

- December 13 - Doris Rasch
- December 14 - Jeff Campbell
- December 14 - Valerie Enslin
- December 15 - Marla Yasinsky
- December 22 - Aiden Hall (2 Years Old!)



### ***Wedding Anniversaries in December***

December 29 – John & Linda Buckner

**May God Grant You All Many Years!**

### ***Decoration of the Church for Christmas***

Our thanks to all of the “elves” who came out to help decorate the church for the Christmas Season. The church looks wonderful, both inside and out.

## ***From The Pastor’s Desk - Page 2***

The anguish of broken relationships, the insecurity of unemployment, the weariness of ill health, the pain of isolation, the gut wrenching loss of a child, or brother, or sister, the loneliness of no longer having a beloved spouse to share each day, the loss of a dear family pet – all these contribute to a feeling of being **alone**, of ‘**feeling blue**’ in the midst of the society around us which seems bent on “being happy” and “celebrating”.

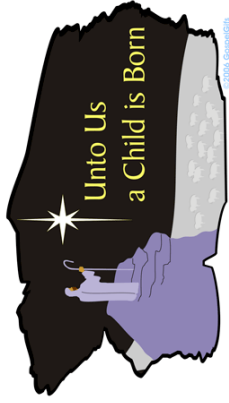
There are years when we **hurt** at Christmas time and can’t get into the festivities others seem to have. It is at such times that we need to make the space and take the time to acknowledge our sadness and concern. We need to know that we are not alone. For these reasons, let us acknowledge that God’s presence is for those who mourn, for those who struggle – that God’s Word comes to shine light into our darkness. We need to move from feeling ‘blue’ to experiencing the **wonder** and **hope** of Christmas.

If you know anyone (and I am sure you do, perhaps a parishioner or two) who is depressed or lonely and find they are hurting this Christmas, call them up, visit with them, bring them to Church, share a gift of not only a present but of “presence” telling them they are not alone and that someone cares. Be that “**presence**” this Christmas to the person in need and show them that you care and that God also cares too!

May joy and peace be with you and yours as we celebrate the Birth of the Christ Child in a Manger this Christmas and receiving our Savior anew as we begin a New 2010 Year!

**“Christ is Born”! “Glorify Him”!**

In Christ’s love as we celebrate His Birth this Christmas –  
Fr. Joseph Wargo



***“Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace, good will toward  
men.”***

We invite all of our parishioners,  
past and present,  
their families and their friends  
to join us as we celebrate  
the Most Glorious Birth  
of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

There will be a

***Christmas Eve Vigil*** at  
**7:00 pm on December 24<sup>th</sup>.**

Then on ***Christmas Day*** we will gather for  
**Divine Liturgy at 9:30 am.**

***Oh Come All Ye Faithful!***

***Communion at Christmas***

In order to receive Holy Communion on Christmas Day, one must have received Individual Confession at least once during the Advent Season. Confessions are heard on Saturdays, following Vespers. Or, if you need to make special arrangements, please contact Fr. Wargo to be sure your confession can be heard before December 25<sup>th</sup>.



### ***Church School 2009-2010***

Fr. Wargo met with the parents of our church school children on Sunday, October 25, 2009 following Divine Liturgy. After some discussion, it was decided to have a once-a-month format for the 2009-2010 school year. Parents were asked to volunteer for one Sunday and lead the lesson for the children, based on the viewing of pertinent religious videos, followed by questions and answers. The schedule is as follows:

December 6, 2009 –	Tom Daller
January 3, 2010 –	Sandi Potter
February 7, 2010 –	Val Enslen
March 7, 2010 –	Judy Ferver
April 11, 2010 –	Sue Campbell
May 2, 2010 -	Nadine Schorr

### ***Parish 2010 Budget Meeting***

Because a Church Budget for 2010 was not available for our 2009 Annual Meeting, Council has called a **special Parish Meeting** to be held on **Sunday, January 24, 2010** to approve the church budget and also to hear reports from Fr. Wargo and Andy Musko on events from our Archdiocesan Assembly held November 7<sup>th</sup>. All parishioners are encouraged to attend.