



## St. Andrew Orthodox Church

201 Penn Avenue  
Lyndora, PA 16045  
[www.saintandrewlyndora.org](http://www.saintandrewlyndora.org)  
(724) 285-6010  
V. Rev. Fr. Joseph Wargo, Priest

### 2010 CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER

#### “Families in Christ – A New Year and a New Beginning”

We have celebrated the Nativity of Christ, and twelve days later celebrated His Baptism and Manifestation to the world. We, as “families in Christ” should also take some time to reflect on the years of Our Lord’s Life in between these two major events as we begin this 2010 Year!

We already know that Christ was baptized and began preaching at the age of 30. Before this He lived with His earthly family – with Mary His mother, and Joseph His foster father. Jesus was indeed fully human and fully God. His human life had to be nurtured both physically and spiritually. We know from Holy Scripture that Jesus’ parents fulfilled the Old Testament law, taking Him to be circumcised on the eighth day and presented in the Temple on the 40<sup>th</sup> day. We also read in the Gospel of St. Luke that His parents went every year to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover and Jesus participated in this pilgrimage.

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We wish our entire Church Family  
A Blessed, Healthy, Happy  
New Year-!

### ***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., Zelienople, 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**, **Joanne Ordy** (wife of **Rich Ordy**), and **Deb Pfabe**.



### ***Reader Schedule for January***

- January 3 - Wayne Truckley
- January 10 - Sally Matuke
- January 17 - Rick Daller
- January 24 - Tom Daller
- January 31 - Gretchen Pfabe



### ***Coffee Hour Schedule for January***

- January 3 - Eva Jean Minto
- January 10 - Sharon Hamilton
- January 17 - Matushka Jane
- January 24 - Dorothy Hays
- January 31 - The Skero's



### ***Thank You For Your Service To Our Country!***

Please remember Justin Fields, and the entire Fields family, in your thoughts and prayers as Justin prepares to be deployed on January 18, 2010. Justin will be serving a tour of duty aboard a Navy vessel charged with maintaining security in the Mediterranean region. **Our fervent prayer is that it is a time of peace.** We will publish a mailing address for Justin when available, and encourage parishioners to let him know they're thinking of him often with cards and letters!



### ***Church School 2010***

- January 3, 2010 - Sandi Potter
- February 7, 2010 - Val Enslin
- 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.



## ***Happy Birthday!***

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

January 3 - Eva Jean Minto  
January 3 - Bob Rasch (Sr.)  
January 7 - Kristin Crouse  
January 8 - Cathy Sheppard  
January 13 - Jean Bowen  
January 15 - Pam Kraynik  
January 17 - Fr. Wargo  
January 19 - Evelyn Csizmadia  
January 27 - Barbara Fields

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



## ***Wedding Anniversaries in January***

No one from our parish  
braved the cold of January to get married!

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

And St. Luke tells us further that Jesus “grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom and the grace of God was upon Him” (2:40). We can safely assume that the years in His home included not only physical nourishment but also a spiritual and practical upbringing. As parents in our own homes we also give physical nourishment to our children and we also should give our children spiritual nourishment as well, such as, teaching them about God, Jesus, Theotokos and the Saints. As your pastor, I am very happy that the parents in our church are taking an active part and taking turns on a monthly basis of showing our children a religious DVDs before the Sunday Divine Liturgy begins and to lead a discussion with the children about one or more themes that portrays a religious event that is applicable in our lives.

What a marvelous value Our Lord puts on “family life” and maturing in the spirit. The home—the Family—is the ideal setting for “spiritual nourishment” and “growth in our daily lives as Orthodox Christians”. Things we can do in the New Year as a Family are to pray together in the home, study and read the scriptures (Holy Bible), read the “Lives of the Saints”, and being “regular” in “church attendance” are most necessary. Yet many families also have found it helpful to supplement these spiritual activities with perhaps a visit to an Orthodox Monastery (Saxonburg or Ellwood City) and talk with the Orthodox Nuns or call up our new Bishop (MELCHISEDEK) and make an appointment to visit with him as a family along with your children. The Diocesan Center is close for Orthodox Families to visit and I am sure that our Bishop would welcome you, but call him first to set up a day and time that is convenient for both of you.

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

\$500.00 was collected for the food bank for Christmas. Helen Daller would like to thank all of you for your generosity and Christian Love. Your kindness is appreciated!

### ***Preliminary Pirohi Making Dates***

As per Helen Buckowsky, mark your calendars for the following dates when our church will be making pirohi:

February 10, 11 & 12  
March 3, 4 & 5  
March 24, 25\* & 26

\*After Divine Liturgy for the Annunciation.

Both Western & Orthodox Easter fall on the same date this year (April 4, 2010), and we expect to be making a larger-than-normal amount of pirohi in March! Kindly get your orders in as soon as possible, and please be sure and bring a friend or two to help out with the effort.

### ***2010 Orthodox Wall Calendars***

Be sure and pick up your new 2010 Orthodox Calendars, compliments of Geibel Funeral Home and available in the back of the church. We sincerely thank Geibel Funeral Home for their generous donation to our church.

### ***2010 Church Collection Envelopes***

If you have not done so already, kindly pick up your 2010 church offering envelopes from the back of the church. If you currently do not have envelopes, but would like to, please see Mary Ann Skero.



### ***Blessing of Homes***

On Wednesday, January 6<sup>th</sup> we celebrated the Theophany of the Lord and the Greater Blessing of Water. This begins the time of year when Father Wargo will be blessing the homes of our parishioners. Please take a moment to fill out the form below and return it to Father Joe as soon as possible in order to schedule the blessing of your home.

### ***Home Blessings Card***

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

YES, I would like my home blessed – preferably on this

Date \_\_\_\_\_ and Time \_\_\_\_\_

NO, I do not want my home blessed.

### *From The Pastor's Desk - Page 3*

Such visits can provide the family with an experience apart from the world and its typical activities of school, work, entertainment and electronic communication. I recently saw a sign on Route 8 in front of a business establishment that said: **"Worship God, not things!"** Do not let "things" intrude in your life in this New Year. Instead, let God come into your life and let Him intervene!

In the months before Jesus began His Ministry, His cousin, John the Baptist, was urging people to repent of their sins and accept baptism in the Jordan River. One Icon of Christ's Baptism in the Jordan shows Jesus submerged in the water, with small creatures representing evil spirits fleeing from Christ. John the Baptist, in crude clothing, is performing the baptism. Angels stand nearby with bowed heads, indicating that they will serve Jesus. The heavens are open, indicating God's presence, and the Holy Spirit is pictured above as a dove. The event is the first manifestation (Epiphany) of the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as seen in the Gospel (Mark 1:9-13). We must also remember that Jesus took upon Himself to be Baptized, although He was sinless.

As Orthodox Christians, we realize that evil will exist along with good until the Second Coming, and we know that we have a role to play in the battle. We who are followers of Christ are to acquire the Holy Spirit. We who are baptized Christians know that our lives are not our own.

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### *From The Pastor's Desk - Page 4*

Satan, who is the master of deception and perversion, has numerous lies waiting for us. He would like us to believe that what we do with our bodies is not the concern of the Church, or that "a little of something bad" is not really evil, or that some moral decisions are really "inconsequential," if they don't hurt anyone. We must struggle now against such lies so that our bodies and minds can become strong and we can be victorious in the battle against evil.

So I, as your Pastor, wish our Church Families to be strong and obedient to God's Word in teaching our children "what is right" and at the same time, "set the example" so our children can grow up in the Orthodox Faith as true "followers of Christ." I wish you all a most blessed and healthy New 2010 Year!

**"Christ is Baptized"! "In the Jordan"!**

In Christ's love as we celebrate His Baptism on the Feast of Theophany

Fr. Joseph Wargo

