

Holy Trinity Russian Orthodox Church

1723 E. Fairmount Avenue, Baltimore, MD. 21231

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31st Sunday after Pentecost

Tone 6

December 28, 2020 / January 10, 2021

Sunday after the Nativity of Christ

Christ is Born ! Glorify Him !

Righteous Joseph the Betrothed, Holy Righteous David the King, and James the Brother of the Lord; the 20,000 Martyrs of Nicomedia, including Glycerius - priest, Zeno, Theophilus - deacon, Dorotheus, Mardonius, Migdonius - deacon, Indes, Gorgonius, Peter, Euthymius, and the women martyrs Agape, Domna, Theophila and others (302); Venerable Ignatius, monk, of Loma (Vologda) (1591); Venerable Cornelius, monk of Krypets Monastery in Pskov (1903); Apostle Nicanor the Deacon (of the Seventy) (34); Hieromartyrs

Nikodim, Bishop of Belgorod and Arcadius deacon (1918); Hieromartyr Alexander - priest (1920); Hieromartyrs Theoctistus and Leonid - priests (1937); Hieromartyrs Aretha and Alexander - priests (1938).

Today's Scriptural Readings:

Galatians 1: 11-19 / Matthew 2: 13-23

*We magnify Thee, O Life-Giving Christ, Who for our sakes
now art born in the flesh of the Virgin Mary, unwedded and most pure*

This Week's Liturgical Calendar – All Services in Church

No fasting January 7 - 17 – Holy Days – СВЯТКИ

Saturday, January 16 th	6:00 PM	Vigil Service
Sunday, January 17 th	10:00 AM	Divine Liturgy <i>General Confession – 9:30 AM</i>

Divine Services at Holy Trinity are live-streamed at
<https://www.youtube.com/user/HolyTrinitySermons>

[Yolka / Talent Show](#)

Our Christmas Yolka [is here](#). This unique video features a short presentation of our previous Yolka shows, a compilation of video-recorded talent show performances from our children (and adults) and a special appearance by St. Nicholas. We offer our sincere thanks to the director and producer of this creative video, Natallia Makarava. And everyone who participated in the talent show did a great job. We thank them for sharing with us their best wishes. Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Installation of Parish Council Officers

Sunday, January 10th at the end of the Divine Liturgy we will conduct the installation of the Parish Council Officers for the Year 2021. May God bless their work for our parish.

Victor Marinich	<i>President</i>
Vadim Radchenko	<i>Vice President</i>
Andrei Burbelo	<i>Recording Secretary</i>
Albert (Augustine) Blaszak	<i>Treasurer</i>
Anna-Zumrat Shkurba	<i>Stewardship Chairperson</i>
Alexey Shevelkin	<i>Member-At-Large</i>
Michael Mickel	<i>Cemetery Manager</i>
Natallia Makarava	<i>Sisterhood President</i>

Cemetery Committee Officers – 2021 – Congratulations

Last Sunday, the Cemetery Committee conducted its election of officers for the year 2021. We congratulate Michael Mickel – *Cemetery Manager*; Brian-Seraphim Cardell – *Secretary*, and Drew Pastor – *Treasurer*.

Thank You!

From the bottom of my heart, I offer my sincere thanks to the Parish Council, the Sisterhood and all our parishioners who so warmly and generously congratulated me on the 20th Anniversary of my Ordination to the Priesthood on Nativity. Your love and prayerful support give me great strength and I appreciate all that you do for the parish and for me and my family. Your faith in God, love of His Church and devotion to our parish truly inspire me to work harder and pray more fervently. I stand humbled before you. I love you all. Thank you and God bless you. **Fr. John**

Online Christmas Bake Sale – Thank you!

This year we conducted an online Christmas Bake Sale, featuring homemade exquisite cakes, Russian-themed and Holiday-themed cookies, sweet bread and rye bread, as well as gifts from our Parish Kiosk. We sincerely thank Natallia Makarava, who coordinated the sale, Tania Masiuk, who updated our online store and all the Sisterhood members who baked for this sale and who volunteered at the distribution. And we thank everyone who purchased some baked good for their families. May God bless and protect all of you! Thank you!

Book Discussion Continues

We continue to conduct a weekly book discussion via Zoom, discussing the book “The Winter Pascha” by Fr. Thomas Hopko. It is a book of meditations on preparing for the feast of the Christ’s Nativity and Theophany. This book is available at the following bookstores: [St. Vladimir Press Bookstore](#), [St. Tikhon’s Press Bookstore](#), [Ancient Faith Bookstore](#), and Amazon. If you are interested in participating, please send [Fr. John](#) an email to register.

Theophany - Great Blessing of Water

Monday, January 18th

9:00 AM – Royal Hours, Vespers, Divine Liturgy, Great Blessing of Water

6:00 PM – Vigil Service

Tuesday, January 19th

10:00 AM – Divine Liturgy, Great Blessing of Water

Cleaning Group – Group #1 / Join a Group – Help your brothers and sisters

Group #1 will clean the week of January 11-16: Elena Loyko (captain), Ludmila and Igor Maltsev, Tamara Lipatova, Alla Gordon, Victor Marinich, Dan Walsh. Please join a group. We always need more members.

Vigil Candles: On the Altar and near St. Barbara

January 10-16: Candles offered by the Griffith Family for the health/salvation of the servants of God: Donald-John Griffith, Ivan Kryuchkov, and Leonid, and for the repose of the soul of the servant of God: +Matushka Tatiana. A \$15 donation will keep all three candles lit for one week. Schedule your candle offering with Elena Loyko 443-537-8978.

Birthday / Anniversary Celebrations: January 10-16

We offer our best wishes and birthday congratulations to Lydia Zorina (1/13), Alexandra Boarman (1/14) and Dmitriy Shustov (1/15), and Angel-Day congratulations to Anysia Sierakowski (1/12), Catalin-Vasiliy Frujinoiu (1/14) and Brian-Seraphim Cardell (1/15). May God bless them with health, prosperity and many years.

Challenge Grant – Matching Donations

The Lisowsky and Mickel families have pledged to match all donations for the new front doors on a 1:1 ratio. For every dollar you donate, they will match one dollar, up to \$10,000 towards the new front doors. Double the value of your donation: \$20 becomes \$40, \$50 becomes \$100, and \$100 becomes \$200! **Donation forms are attached to this email bulletin.** Send in your donation today!

NEW ATTENDANCE RESTRICTIONS – 25%

We must limit the total attendance at Divine Services to **46 persons, including** clergy, altar servers and choir in the church and **30 persons** in the hall watching Divine Liturgy on the TV, all following social distancing and wearing masks. This is 25% total capacity, based on updated calculations.

Submit your 2021 Pledge

The mission of our parish is to spread the Word of God, to grow, to expand, to improve and not just to preserve our traditions. Our parish shouldn't become stale, but pursue holiness. We strive to fulfill the mission of our parish, through prayer, work and sacrifice. Prayer – because we are called to “pray without ceasing” (1 Thess. 5:17); work – because we are taught to increase the talents given to us (Matt. 25: 14-30); and sacrifice – because "everyone to whom much is given, from him will much be required" (Luke 12:48). Please be generous as the Lord is generous to you. When completing your pledge for the new year, please consider raising your level of giving. Our church cannot operate without your financial contributions. Our parish will grow only through your prayers, work and generous sacrifice.

When you are generous, you are not bestowing a gift, but repaying a debt. Everything you possess materially comes from God, who created all things. And every spiritual and moral virtue you possess is through divine grace. Thus, you owe everything to God. More than that, God has given you his Son, to show you how to live: how to use your material possessions, and how to grow in moral and spiritual virtue. St. John Chrysostom

Please Remember in Your Prayers...

Archpriest George Konyev; Deacon Michael Bishop; Mat. Myra Kovalak; Mat. Klavdiya Burbelo; Kh. Jocelyn Mathewes; Mat. Natalia Kosich; Mat. Catherine Kowalchik; Marie Vass; Charles Snipes; Arthur-Stephen & Evelyn-Evanthia Lisowsky; Yelena Radchenko; Lydia Zorina; Katherine Plaskowitz; Philip Plaskowitz; Bernadine Borawick; Julia Aymold; Lilli Ann Hoffman; Ioann and Galina Zernetkin; Monika-Anastasia & Stephanie Handley; Blanche-Julia Stolkovich; Ekaterina Koroleva; Nina and Glen-Gregory Lewis; Lyudmila, Anton & Aleksander Karnup; John Alexander Bylen; Katherine Garrett; Kenneth Pukita; William and Ann Ferkile; Irina Kononova; Petr and Lyudmila Borodkin; Svetlana & Aleksey; Alla; Anna; Alla; Raisa, Zinaida; Pavel, Vladimir, Valentina, and Maria; Maria Pappas; Bonnie Duke; Diana Radchenko; Aleksey & Lidia Potapov; Oleg and Andrei; Vitaliy, Tatiana, Olena & Nicholas Berchuk; Cynthia and Bill (Basil) Popomaronis; Andrei, Marina, Valentina and Vladimir; Valentina Shultieva; Katherine Shultieva; Shanna, Stephen, Trent-Michael, Grant-Alexander, Adalynn, Rosalyn Lisowsky; Tayisia Solvieva; Leonid and Zoya; Jayne Sudol; Rita and Richard Herber, Mary Orzolek, George Matassov; Nikolai, Janice & John DesLauriers; Nicholas Rodzianko; Alexandra; Armen Nostrant; Vasiliy; Elizabeth Wright; Shane-Michael Sierakowski; Samantha-Xenia Tate; Natalia Gerachenko; George Materewicz; Arezoo-Emilia Pavuk; Joanne Pavuk; Daria Artemova; Natalie Masiuk-Gardner; Katherine Masiuk; Yelena, Tatiana, infant Maya and Oxana; Cyril Reshetiloff; Victor, Jill-Christine, Andrew, Alexander and Lara Marinich; Vasiliy Jaroatchuk.

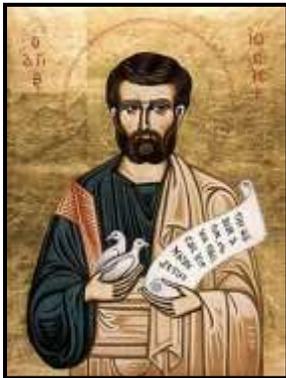
Next Council Meeting: Thursday, January 14 – 7:00 PM in the Church Hall
To receive the call-in information for the teleconference
call Victor Marinich 443-910-3562

Fr. John Vass, Rector 443-527-7067	Fr. Deacon Michael Bishop:	410-563-0472
Victor Marinich, <i>Council President:</i>	443-512-0985	Vadim Radchenko, <i>Vice President:</i> 410-465-6172
Andrei Burbelo, <i>Recording Secretary:</i>	732-598-5187	Albert Blaszak, <i>Treasurer:</i> 410-799-3226
Anna-Zumrat Shkurba, <i>Stewardship Chair:</i>	443-857-8541	Alexey Shevelkin, <i>Member-At-Large:</i> 443-570-6672
Natalia Makarava <i>Sisterhood President:</i>	443-625-8470	Michael Mickel, <i>Cemetery Manager:</i> 410-666-2870

**Excerpt from the Diary of the
Holy Righteous John of Kronshtadt (+1908)**

The goal of our life is union with God: specifically, in this life, union with God is in faith, hope and love; in the future life it is in all perfect love. Take a look at how the enemy and we ourselves distort this goal. We unite our hearts with various things as determined by our passionate attachments. Sometimes – O, how terrible – our love is directed toward money, food, drink, clothing, home, decorations, in the manner that we should toward people – to the point of forgetting about God. Sometimes we are prideful, resentful, we hate and lie – and then we directly unite ourselves with the devil, who is the personification of evil, falsehood, pride, resentment – and in this is how we offend our Master, Who created us according to His image and likeness, and subsequently how we distort the God-created image and from God Himself the created likeness. But we think far too little about this, we are too ignorant about this, about what is the most existential task for us – union with God.

Sunday After Nativity: *Commemoration of the Ancestors of God*



Saint Joseph the Betrothed was of the lineage of King David. In his first marriage, he had four sons and two daughters. After he became a widower, St Joseph led a life of strict temperance. He was chosen to be the husband and guardian of the Most Holy Theotokos, who had taken a vow of virginity. An angel told him of the Incarnation of the Son of God through her. St Joseph was present when the shepherds and the Magi worshiped the new-born divine Infant. On the orders of the angel, he fled into Egypt with the Mother of God and the Infant Jesus, saving them from the wrath of King Herod. He lived in Egypt with the Virgin Mary and the divine Child, working as a carpenter.



The Holy Prophet-King David was a forefather of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh. The youngest son of Jesse, David shepherded a flock of sheep belonging to his father. He was distinguished by his deep faith, and he zealously fulfilled the will of God. During a battle with the Philistines, he vanquished the giant Goliath in single combat, which decided the outcome of the war in favor of the Israelites. He endured many things from King Saul, who saw him as a favorite of the people and his rival. David, however, showed his own decency and magnanimity. After Saul and his son perished, David was proclaimed king of the southern part of Israel, and after Saul's second son was killed, he became king of all Israel. He built a new capital, Jerusalem ("the City of Peace"), and a new tabernacle.



The Holy Apostle James, Brother of the Lord, was the eldest son of Joseph the Betrothed from his first marriage with Solomonia. The Apostle James is remembered in the holy days after the feast of the Nativity of Christ together with his father Joseph and the Prophet King David, since by tradition, he accompanied the Holy Family during the Flight into Egypt and dwelt there together with the God-Infant Jesus, the Mother of God and Joseph, helping them, and he returned with them to Israel. After the Ascension of the Lord, Saint James was the first bishop of Jerusalem, gaining the great esteem not only of Christians, but also among Jews. He accepted a martyr's death for Christ: they threw him off from the roof of the Jerusalem Temple since he had publicly preached to the people about the God-manhood of the Lord Jesus Christ.