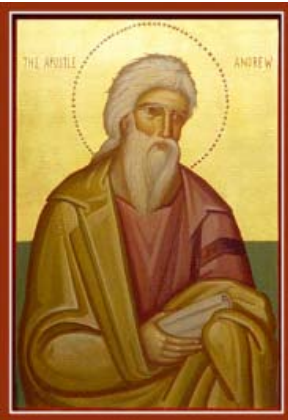


St. Andrew Orthodox Church

1216 Greencrest Ave. East Lansing, MI 48823 (517) 351-4627

January 2006



Rev. Fr. Christopher Rozdilski,
Pastor

Rectory: (517) 351-4627
Emergencies ONLY: (517) 256-7399

Saturday Vespers 6 pm
Confessions (following)

Sunday Liturgy 9:30 am
Confessions 9:00 am

Visit Our Website at: StAndrewOrthodoxChurch.US

“WHEN THOU, O LORD WAS BAPTIZED IN THE JORDAN,...”

By REV. FR. GABRIEL BARROW

IN THIS HOLY EPIPHANY SEASON, it is the Tradition of the Holy Orthodox Church to Bless Water in the Church. This “Blessed” or “Holy Water” is then sprinkled on everything, so that all creation might receive the sanctification that the River Jordan received at the time of the Baptism of Our Lord by St. John the Baptist.

If we turn to the Liturgical text of the Great Blessing of the Water, we find added petitions to the Great Ektenia:

- ◇ “That this water be sanctified by the power, act, and descent of the Holy Spirit.
- ◇ That in this water may be planted the action of purification which belongeth to the Trinity transcendent in essence . . .
- ◇ That it may be granted the grace of redemption and the blessing of the Jordan
- ◇ That we may be lighted by the light of knowledge and true worship, by the descent of the

Continued on page 2

Calendar of Events - January

5	6:00 p.m.	Eve of Theophany, Vespers and Blessing of the Waters
6	9:30 a.m.	Feast of Theophany, Liturgy and Great Blessing of the Waters
8		Brotherhood Meeting after Liturgy
9	<i>by appointment</i>	Start of Home Blessings
10	6:30 p.m.	Parish Council Meeting
12	7:00 p.m.	Ethnic Dance Class
18	7:00 p.m.	Sisterhood Meeting
19	7:00 p.m.	Ethnic Dance Class
26	7:00 p.m.	Ethnic Dance Class

Upcoming Events Feb 12 First Sunday of the Triodion (First of three Sundays prior to Lent)

Deadline for the February Newsletter is January 22

This edition of the Newsletter is sponsored by the Dines family - Nevenka, Gregory, Geoffrey and Lisa, in memory of George K Dines on the 25th anniversary of his death on January 23.

Holy Spirit

- ◇ That this water may become a gift for sanctification, redemption for sins, for the healing of soul and body, and for every meet benefit.
- ◇ That this water may be beneficial for eternal life
- ◇ That it may drive away all the cunning devices of our enemies, visible and invisible
- ◇ For those who drink therefrom and take home for the sanctification of their homes
- ◇ That it may be for those who drink and receive therefrom in faith, a purification for their souls and bodies
- ◇ That we may be worthy to be filled with sanctification, as we receive of these waters, by the appearance of the Holy Spirit, in an invisible manner. . .”

Thus, we see from the Liturgical text that this Holy Water is a means by which the Church, through the Holy Spirit, has been given the grace to sanctify all of creation. Yet the key work here is “sanctification.” The Orthodox Church is not a magical, cultic church that says a few strange words and does some strange actions and “presto-chango” something strange happens. The Priest is not a magician or master of witchcraft. Instead, the Holy Orthodox Church is a means by which the Faithful may come and, through the hands of the Priest, by the gift of the Holy Spirit, receive Sanctification, Healing, and a Promise of Eternal Life. But the pre-requisite to being a receiver of this Gift of the Holy Spirit is that you must be a part of the Body of Christ, that is, His Church, of which He is the Head. If you have not attended the Services of the Church, if you have not received forgiveness of your sins, if you have not received worthily the Holy Body and Blood of Our Lord, and if you have not sacrificed in every way to show your love and dedication to Christ and to His Holy Church, then the Power of this Holy Water will have little or no effect on you or on your soul. If you are not a True follower of Christ in His Holy Orthodox Tradition, then this Holy Water, sprinkled on the walls of your home will bring, instead of a Blessing, a condemnation upon your home. For our Lord, Himself, teaches: “Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do what I tell you?” (Luke 6:46). If we feel that Holy Water sprinkled on the walls of our home by a Priest is an end and a goal in itself, then we are simply pagans, worshipping water and believing in a form of witchcraft. The Blessing of the Holy Water at Epiphany is a sacramental blessing of the Church. You *must* respond to a sacrament if you are to receive any eternal benefit from it. If we are to call Him “Lord, Lord,” then we *must* do what He tells us!

The Holy Water is the means by which the Church, through the Holy Spirit, by the hands of the Priest, goes to sanctify the homes of its Faithful members. For just as Christ came into the world and sanctified it, so the Church has been given the responsibility to continue this sanctification of all creation, that was begun by Our Lord, Himself, in the Flesh. Any time we receive a Blessing and a Sanctification from the Church, this Sanctification carries with it many duties and responsibilities. In the case of the Blessing of our Homes, or any object with Holy Water, we must promise God that this Holy Water is a means by which we consecrate ourselves, our homes, and our possessions to the Glory of God.

The Holy Water performs a two-fold sacramental action: 1) It cleanses of evil — it is a means by which we purify ourselves, our homes, or any object, casting out any devil that might be in it, and 2) It consecrates to God — having cast out the evil, we dedicate ourselves, our homes, or any object to the exclusive service and glorification of Almighty God. We promise that our homes will no longer be places of anger and places of sin. Instead, we dedicate them as places of love and as dwellings of those who are honored to be followers of the Holy Orthodox Faith. Thus, to receive the Blessings of the Church upon yourself, your home, or on any of your possessions, and then not to use them for Christ, or moreover, to use them against Christ through any form of evil or sin, is an ex-

treme contradiction of the Blessing itself.

Thus with this Epiphany and the Blessing of Our Homes, we must promise God that in the coming year, and from now on, our families and our homes will be dedicated to Him and to the work of His Holy Church. It is only when we, as Faithful Orthodox Christians, obey and follow the Teachings of Our Lord, as taught by the Apostles, as defended by the Martyrs, and as proven by the Saints, that we will indeed be worthy and will truly receive “the grace of redemption and the blessing of the Jordan.”

HOW TO PREPARE YOUR HOME FOR THE BLESSING OF EPIPHANY:

After the Priest has contacted you as to the time when he will be coming to your home, you should make sure that *all* members of your family that live in your home are present when the Priest comes. You should have the family Ikon, either on a table with a clean tablecloth, or if it is kept on the wall in the living or dining room, it may be left there. In either case, make sure that your vigil candle is burning in front of the family Ikon when the Priest arrives. The Priest will bring with him the Holy Water that was Blessed in the Church at Epiphany Services. The whole family should be present for the *Service of the Blessing of the Home at Epiphany* and all should receive the Blessing of the Priest and the Sanctification of the Holy Spirit through the Holy Water.

MAY GOD GRANT ALL OF YOU A TRULY FRUITFUL, HEALTHY, AND HOLY NEW YEAR!

TROPARION OF EPIPHANY: “When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest! For the voice of the Father bare witness to Thee, and called Thee His beloved Son! And the Spirit, in the form of a dove, confirmed the truthfulness of His word. O Christ our God, who hast revealed Thyself and hast enlightened the world, glory to Thee!”

KONTAKION OF EPIPHANY: “Today Thou hast appeared to the universe, and Thy light, O Lord, hast shone on us, who with understanding praise Thee: Thou hast come and revealed Thyself, O Light Unapproachable!”

The Rule of Prayer

Many rules of prayer have developed in the history of the Church. At no place or time has there been a uniform rule. In 19th Century Russia, for example, the rule varied considerably from one monastery to another, though certain basic elements were found in all of them. Therefore, the term “Rule of Prayer” should never be understood as a strait jacket, regulating and limiting our communion with God.

What the Rules do teach us is the importance of regularity in our life of prayer. It is better to say a few prayers every day without fail than to say a great number of prayers on an irregular, impulsive basis. Those of us who are fortunate enough to have a spiritual father should consult him before establishing our own Rule. Those of us who do not, should begin with a modest Rule, increasing it only when it has become a regular and integral part of our lives.

—Orthodox Daily Prayers (St. Tikhon’s Seminary Press)



Parish Council

- **Samir Matta** **Chair**
(517) 669-6676
- **John Johnson** **Vice Chair**
(517) 646-8786
- **Maria Daly** **Treasurer**
(517)487-9511
- **Jack Stein** **Secretary**
(517) 541-2367
- **Don Beck** **Alt. Secretary**
(517) 651-6668
- **Don Dimitroff**
(517) 621-1266

Sisterhood of St. Helen

- **Tsveta Lambo** **President**
(517) 351-1503
- **Fran Johnson** **Vice President**
(517) 646-8786
- **Kathy Fortais** **Secretary**
(517) 694-4617
- **Catherine Hattrem** **Treasurer**
(517) 372-3154

Brotherhood of St. George

- **Scott Pierpont** **President**
(517) 694-9144

Newsletter Staff

- **Fr. Christopher**
- **Catherine Hattrem**
kathleenh50@hotmail.com

Parish Council—Samir Matta, Chair

Christ is Born, Glorify Him. The Parish Council would like to extend a "Very Merry Christmas and the Happiest New Year" to all the Parish family at St. Andrew. May GOD's blessing be with you all and may the new year be filled with joy, happiness and GOD's grace.

With the upcoming year, The Parish Council would like to thank all the volunteers and church organizations who labored hard and with much patience to support all church activities throughout the past year. Your support and dedication to our church community is very much appreciated and without your commitment and hard labor, our growth and success would not be possible.

In order to have another successful and enjoyable year, filled with enjoyable activities and excitement, the parish council would like to remind all chairpersons (Sunday School, FOCA, Sisterhood, Brotherhood, Salvation Army "Adopt a Family", The Haven House, MSU Concession, Younkers, Parade of Homes, etc.) to submit a list of all sponsored activities to be performed at the church hall or in the name of our parish, to the parish council for approval at the beginning of the year so we can coordinate the use of the church hall and insure that the liability to our church is minimized. This is strictly a formality and it is not intended to be a cause for alarm to anyone. The parish council is truly committed to supporting all your focused efforts on behalf of St. Andrew.

The parish council would like also to use your feedback and comments about those sponsored activities at the end of the event so we can assess its usefulness in the future. Your input is also very much appreciated to determine whether a simple form is needed to help you in this endeavor while streamlining this process. Thank you all for your willingness and hard labor. May GOD bless you and protect you always in his grace.

In our efforts to minimize costs, we have been successful in reclassifying the house at 1556 Greencrest as a part of the Church Complex and therefore, property taxes will not be required for the upcoming years. Thanks to the dedication of Don Dimitroff throughout this lengthy process. However, The City of East Lansing is requiring that the house be used as part of the church. At this time, the parish council is proposing to utilize the house for future parish council or any church organization meeting(s) and as a parish house office until a final decision can be made about future use. We appreciate your financial support and assistance in making this property as a useful extension of our parish complex.

Should you have a suggestion or a concern, please contact your parish council representative.

God's Blessings to all.
Your Parish Council

Organizations of Fellowship and Service

Brotherhood—Scott Pierpont, President

The Brotherhood would like to thank Scott Pierpont, Maria Daly, Jack Stein, Kathy Estrada, Don & Jennifer Beck for their hard work and dedication in supporting the "YOUNKERS COMMUNITY DAY" and "VOLUNTEER" events this year. The event has raised about \$370.00 for our church and their support is very much appreciated.

The Brotherhood would also like to invite parishioners to assist with moving some of the furniture in the rectory office and church hall to the house at 1556 Greencrest. Your support is much needed for this upcoming project. Contact John Johnson if you are interested in helping out.

Church School—Jennifer Beck

A big thank you to everyone who helped with and participated in this year's Christmas Pageant. A special thanks to Lisa Dines, Leann Matta, and Rachel Britton for their assistance. And thanks to the Sisterhood of St. Helen for the donation of their cookies from the Cookie Walk. We hope everyone had a Blessed Nativity and we look forward to a wonderful and prosperous new year in the Church School.

Thank You ...

To all those who decorated our Temple and our Social Hall for Christmas. You did a beautiful job!

FOCA/OCF—Laura Patrick, Coordinator

OCF will continue to meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays next semester. Please check www.msu.edu/~ocf for meeting times.

The Jr. FOCA was able to donate \$250 to help needy children through the Christmas Stocking Project. Thanks to the support of St. Andrew parishioners, approximately \$150 was raised through the sale of stockings. All of this money was used to buy Christmas presents for underprivileged children in Eastern Europe and the Gulf region.

FOCA Pop Can Returns for January

Estrada

Please remove cans weekly or when the container is full, and give the funds to Laura.

Sisterhood - Tsveta Lambo, President

A warm hearted thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make the 3rd annual cookie walk such a great success. Once again the selection of cookies was wonderful and very festive. Only with the hard work of volunteers and members, is the sisterhood able to continue their philanthropic work. This year the sisterhood donated \$300 to Haven House, and has plans for purchasing new vestments and covers for the altar. Thank you to everyone for your continued support and may God grant you a blessed New Year.

Congratulations



Laura Patrick

Laura Patrick's dream is to create what the bio-tech industry calls gold-collar jobs — high-paying, high-tech positions.

"I could see a nice company of 150 people being in research and development," she said.

Patrick, 25, of Okemos represents the economic future that could one-day transform mid-Michigan's faltering economy and replace the ailing 20th-century auto industry.

In the fall of 2003, this Michigan State University graduate student turned her master's thesis in chemical engineering into a company called Biopolymer

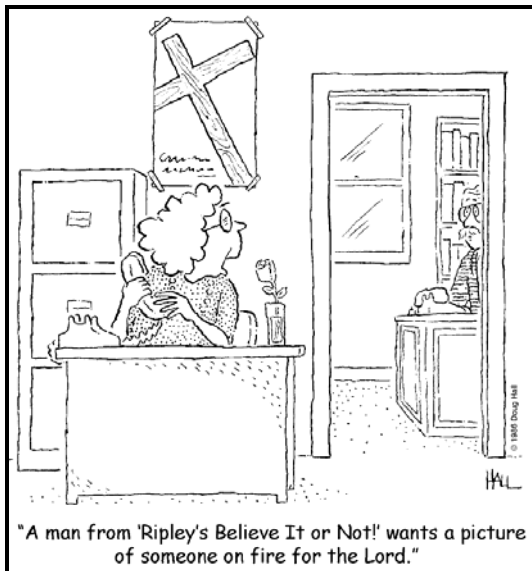
Innovations.

The company she co-founded with her professor, Ramani Narayan, has found a way to use cornstarch as a way to keep eye medications from rolling off of the eye upon application.

In addition, Biopolymer is taking cornstarch, which could come from locally grown corn, and using it to rebuild liver tissue.

The goal is to use the starch to create a scaffolding upon which liver cells will grow. The technology may prevent patients from needing a liver transplant or keep them alive while they wait for a donor.

"The future is life science and bio-based materials," Patrick said.



"A man from 'Ripley's Believe It or Not!' wants a picture of someone on fire for the Lord."

Living Work and Donations / Moments of Fellowship

Prosfora donors in January.

1— Fr. Christopher and Matushka Sarah for health of family members.

8 — John & Fran Johnson for Marissa McFarland's birthday.

15 —Doug and Catherine Hattrem for the health and welfare of family members.

22 —Don and Jennie Dimitroff in memory of sister Evelyn Van Der Bos on the second anniversary of her repose.

29—Ted & Joanne Lopushinsky for family birthdays.

New Year's Resolutions:

To your enemy, forgiveness.

To an opponent, tolerance.

To a friend, your heart.

To a customer, service.

To all, charity.

To every child, a good example.

To yourself, respect.



Ushers and Coffee Hour Sponsors for January

	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Coffee Hour</u>
1	Doug and Catherine Hattrem	Sisterhood of St. Helen
8	Anna Zivic and Jack Stein	Dines Family
15	Nevenka Dines and John Johnson	Maria, Bianka Daly & Doug, Catherine Hattrem
22	Denise and Steve Covell	Jack & Denise Stein
29	Sandy Oade and Penju Miteff	Jennifer & Don Beck

Church Cleaning Schedule for January

	<u>Upstairs</u>	<u>Downstairs</u>
7	McFarland and Johnson	Gross
14	Anna Zivic and Tsveta Lambo	Stein
21	Lou Lambo, Maria Daly, Joann Lopushinski	deMorrow
28	Andretz and Miller	Bianka Daly and Michael Daly
Feb 4	Poufcas	Sandy Oade

January 2006

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Feast of Circumcision 9am Confessions 9:30 Liturgy	2	3	4	5 Eve of Theophany 6pm Vespers and Blessing of the Waters	6 Feast of Theophany 9:30 Liturgy and Blessing of the Waters	7 6pm Vespers, followed by Confession
8 9am Confessions 9:30 Liturgy Brotherhood Meeting	9 Home Blessings Begin	10 6:30 Parish Council Mtg	11	12 7pm Ethnic Dance Class	13	14 6pm Vespers, followed by Confession
15 9am Confessions 9:30 Liturgy	16	17	18 7pm Sisterhood Mtg	19 7pm Ethnic Dance Class	20	21 6pm Vespers, followed by Confession
22 9am Confessions 9:30 Liturgy	23	24	25	26 7pm Ethnic Dance Class	27	28 6pm Vespers, followed by Confession
29 9am Confessions 9:30 Liturgy	30	31				

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East Lansing, MI 48823