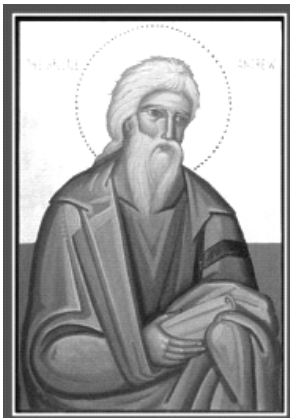


St. Andrew Orthodox Church

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

February 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

One Center, One Point

"Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, Have Mercy on Me"

The Jesus Prayer is a prayer in words, but because the words are so simple, so few and unvarying, the Prayer reaches out beyond words into the living silence of the Eternal. It is a way of achieving, with God's assistance, the kind of non-discursive, non-iconic prayer in which we do not simply make statements to or about God, in which we do not just form pictures of Christ in our imagination, but are 'oned' with him in an all-embracing, unmediated encounter. Through the Invocation of the Name we feel his nearness with our spiritual sense, much as we feel the warmth with our bodily senses on entering a heated room. We know him, not through a series of successive images and concepts, but with the unified sensibility of the heart. So the Jesus Prayer concentrates us into the here and now, making us single-centered, one-pointed, drawing us from a multiplicity of thoughts to union with the one Christ. "Through the remembrance of Jesus Christ," says St Philotheus of Sinai, "gather together your scattered intellect" - gather it together from the plurality of discursive thinking into the simplicity of love.

Bishop Kallistos of Diokleia

Calendar of Events - February

5	9:30 a. m.	Liturgy	First Sunday of the Triodion — Zacchaeus Sunday
			FOCA Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday
12	9:30 a. m.	Liturgy	Publican and Pharisee — Fast Free Week
14	6:30 p.m.	Parish Council Meeting	
15	7:00 p.m.	Sisterhood Meeting	
19	9:30 a. m.	Liturgy	Prodigal Son
26	9:30 a. m.	Liturgy	Meatfare
27		Meat Fast Begins	
28	9.00-2.00pm		Annual Interfaith Day, St. Mary's Cathedral Parish Hall

Upcoming Events

Mar 5 Cheesefare — Church School Pancake Breakfast

Deadline for the March Newsletter is February 19

This edition of the Newsletter is sponsored by Thomas and Gail Dimitroff in memory of parents, Lenka (Helen) and Vasil, and sister Evelyn VanderBos.

Parish Council

- **Samir Matta** **Chair**
(517)669-6676
council@standreworthodoxchurch.us
- **John Johnson** **Vice-Chair**
(517)646-8786
babaftj@aol.com
- **Jack Stein** **Secretary**
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stein@ameritech.net
- **Don Beck** **Alternate Secretary**
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- **Maria Daly** **Treasurer**
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- **Don Dimitroff**
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Sisterhood of St. Helen

- **Tsveta Lambo** **President**
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sisterhood@standreworthodoxchurch.us
- **Fran Johnson** **Vice President**
(517) 646-8786
- **Kathy Fortais** **Secretary**
(517) 694-4617
- **Catherine Hattrem** **Treasurer**
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Brotherhood of St. George

- **Scott Pierpont** **President**
(517) 694-9144
pierpon1@msu.edu

Newsletter Staff

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

Parish Council—Samir Matta, Chair

Thank you to all church groups who turned in their list of anticipated functions for the year, to be approved by the parish council. We are also very appreciative and thankful to all our parishioners who increased their contributions, provided financial support or labored hard on behalf of the church to help us keep up with our escalating expenses and operating costs. We would also like also to say a warm **THANK YOU** to the following people and organizations:

1. The Sisterhood of St. Helen for covering the first mortgage payment on 1556 Greencrest Ave.
2. Anonymous donor for his contribution of \$1070 dollars to cover the purchase of the snow blower and \$300 towards the mortgage payment on 1556 Greencrest Ave.
3. Luba Evanoff for her \$20 dollar weekly contribution toward mortgage payment.
4. To all who committed to provide financial support toward mortgage payments on the property at 1556 Greencrest Ave. *Please forward your donation(s) ASAP or weekly commitments to Will Gross or Maria Daly and let them know if you would like to be recognized in the weekly bulletin and monthly newsletter.*
5. Maria Daly and Will Gross for their contribution to purchase the “Little Giant” multi-function ladder. Twenty four different uses will prove very handy while doing maintenance work within our church complex.
6. Leann Matta for spearheading the “Parish Directory“ project which the parish council has approved for finalization. The “Parish Directory“ will be printed in color at cost to members who request it or be provided for free in black and white to all members.

We are also pleased to announce that the e-mail, address and phone number of your parish council members are listed on our web site. Please visit our web site at: <http://www.standreworthodoxchurch.us> and check out ways to stay in touch.

The parish council would like also to remind our church organization chairpersons that your written reports are due to the parish council one week prior to our parish council meeting or the first week of each month. Your report may include a detailed statement about activities have taken place during the month or a simple note about no activities. Our intent is to support your activities and make the information available to **all parishioners** to review as part of our meeting minutes’ documentation folder kept in the church hall. Father Christopher will also include a summary of activities or special events which have taken place each week during the previous month (house blessings, baptisms, weddings, visitations, other meetings, etc.). Maria Daly will also have a summary report of the financial

Continued on next page

health of the church which is being developed with the help of Doug Hattrem.

The Parish Council is pleased to announce that the concept of “Stewardship” or “Pledging” has been approved as **another method** to satisfy membership commitments to our parish family. The committed amount shall satisfy the intended “Parish Assessment” and other weekly contributions. The Parish Council will be looking for your comments and support. They will also be using the next few months to research the best way to implement this concept that is being used successfully by many orthodox parishes.

The Parish Council would also like to assure everyone that this new concept **is not** intended and **will not** replace the current “Assessment” methodology being used by St. Andrew. It is only intended to help expand our membership, give committed parishioners the ability to vote, and allow your Parish Council to assess budgetary needs for the year based on anticipated commitments. Please communicate with any of the parish council members if you have any questions.

We are also evaluating special needs to be addressed this coming year. Some of the challenges to be studied or undertaken include the following:

1. Replacement of the roof on the property at 1556 Greencrest Ave. in order to satisfy the needs of our insurance carrier and increase the coverage on the property to \$100,000 from the current \$40,000.
2. Repairs to the concrete sidewalk around the church complex, church steps and driveway to the rectory.
3. Replacement of the asphalt pavement in the church parking lot.
4. The purchase of a new riding lawn mower to be used for maintaining the property around the church, the rectory and the house at 1556 Greencrest Ave. H&H Mobile will continue to provide snow removal and maintain the landscape around the parking lot.
5. Costly repairs of the deformed original “Window Icons” vs. potential replacement.
6. Future use of the property at 1556 Greencrest Ave.

As you see, challenges to be addressed require considerable financial support, dedication and hard work by all our parish family. So your participation and involvement is much anticipated and will be greatly appreciated. **Your parish council needs your help** to lay a solid foundation for the future of our church. Our goal is to tackle the many issues at hand and develop a plan to address future needs. You have trusted us with the financial responsibility of the parish, we take our duties very seriously but we are always open to your ideas and suggestions.

Take pride in your church and get involved. Financial support is not the only need we have; communicate with Father Christopher or any member of your parish council about special projects.

In God’s Service.

Your Parish Council.

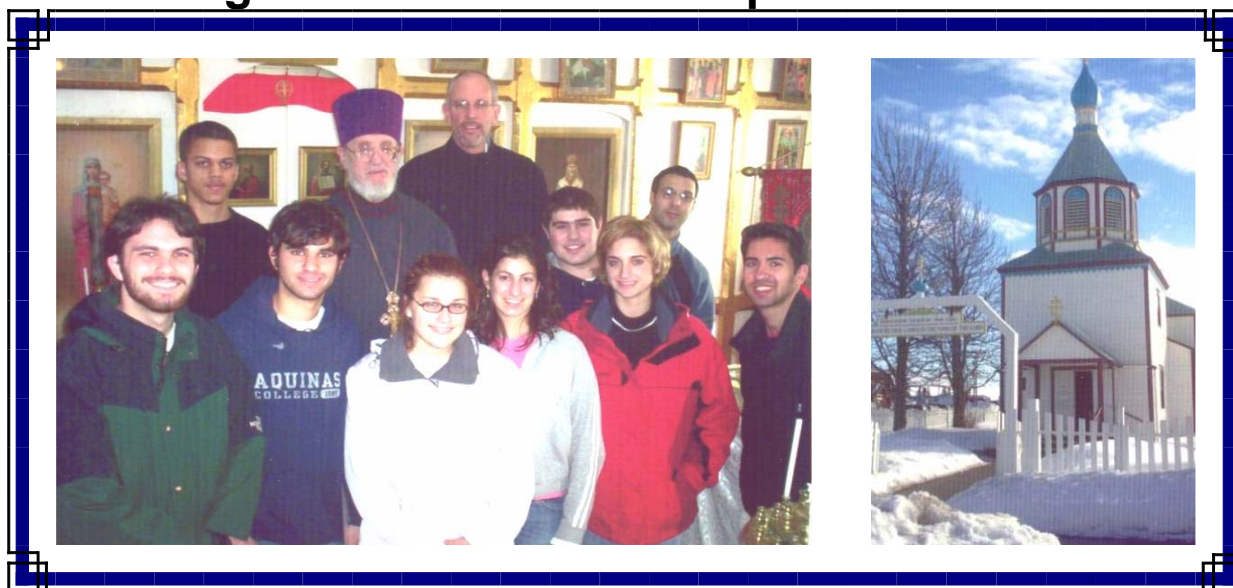
And we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

— Romans 8:28

O Lord, preserve the good and goodness, and make the evil be good by Thy goodness.

— Liturgy of St. Basil

Organizations of Fellowship and Service



Members of the MSU OCF serving in Alaska during "Real Break 2005"

FOCA/OCF—Laura Patrick, Coordinator

OCF News.

There will be two OCF meetings in February:

- Wednesday, Feb. 15th
- Tuesday, Feb. 28th

Meetings are held at The Union - Purdue Room, 7:30 pm- 9:00 pm.

Please visit www.msu.edu/~ocf for more information.

"Real Break" is coming up in March. There are two trips planned during MSU's Spring Break:

- Help out at Project Mexico in Tijuana (\$1100)
- Help out at the Raphael House in San Francisco (\$750).

Anyone interested in going please check out http://www.ocf.net/realbreak/trip_summaries.asp and sign up as soon as possible.

Some of the MSU students have already signed up for these trips. Anyone interested in making a donation to support them should see Laura Patrick.

The hardworking students of OCF will be conducting fundraisers to raise money for the trips. Support from St. Andrew parishioners would be greatly appreciated!

FOCA News

"Souper Bowl of Caring"

On Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 5, 2006, team up with our parish's youth to help the needy in our community and around the world. Help our team in the "Souper Bowl of Caring" by bringing a canned good with you to Liturgy and donating at the FOCA sponsored coffee hour. Please support this effort and help our parish become Souper Bowl Champions! All of the donations will go to a local soup kitchen.

FOCA Pop Can Returns

February	Faulkner / Waters
March	Andretz / Miller
April	Krause

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

Moments of Fellowship

Sisterhood - Tsveta Lambo, President

A Message to the women of St. Andrew

Maybe you've wondered "Just what is the Sisterhood, and what is its purpose?"

The Sisterhood, as its name implies, is a group of women who are sisters in Christ. As Christian women, our purpose is to love and serve God and His people. The Sisterhood is a service organization for all women of the parish--young and old, single and married.

We give of our time and talents, in whatever way we can, to touch others with God's love. This can include raising money for the work of His Church with events such as the Cookie Walk in December and the rummage sale in the Spring. It can mean a phone call or a card to a sick parishioner. In the past two years we have purchased two sets of vestments, as well as matching altar cloths, for Father Christopher, the readers, and the altar boys. Yearly, we send money to St. Vladimir Seminary in memory of Father Donohue, the founder of this church. This year we also sent a contribution to St. Tikhon Seminary in honor of Fr. Christopher for Father's Day, and sent \$300 to Haven House, a home for abused mothers and children in East Lansing. We plan to donate anything left after the rummage sale to this outreach. When Fr. Christopher needs a luncheon or dinner put on for guests or feast days, we provide it. Our bread sale and spaghetti dinner during Lent are as much a way to serve the parish as they are fundraisers.

All women of the parish are invited to join us at our meetings and activities, and to become a member of the sisterhood. We meet on the third Wednesday of each month, unless Fr. Christopher's schedule requires that we meet at another time.

Thank You

To Barbara Pierpont and the football concessions crew for a successful season. They raised a grand total of \$5,139.68, which includes \$600 to the Sisterhood for ice cream sales.

Our Sympathy...

To Matushka Sarah on the death of her grandmother who passed away last month in England. May her memory be eternal.

Church School—Jennifer Beck

The children in church school are still working through this year's theme of Prayer. Readings, discussions, and products are being created at each level. As we approach the season of Great Lent, we have two young ladies who will be offering their first confession--Ellie Beck and Julianna Krause. The church school will also be hosting coffee hour on Cheesefare Sunday (March 5) with our 2nd annual pancake/crepe breakfast. More details to follow!

Note on Offering Envelopes

Last year, "special" envelopes were included in the monthly newsletter. This year they are included in your box of Sunday/Feastday envelopes. Please remember to use them.



From the "Orthodox Observer"

Editor:

I am a convert to Orthodoxy. I believe the Orthodox Church is the True Church, and have no doctrinal problems. The more I study the Bible and the writings of the early Church Fathers, the more I am convinced. . .

I am now 47 and it was only two years ago that I came to know that the Orthodox Church is not an ethnic branch of the Roman Church. I had taught about 20 years in various Protestant churches and was out to reach Catholics for Christ, convinced that they were not "saved". God has in mercy worked a miracle in my life and I am now sharing the GOOD NEWS with my Protestant friends, to help them understand the true faith.

I am Orthodox and thank God for this, but two things bother me. One is how hard it has been for me to find a church where I feel accepted, since I do not have an ethnic background. . . Greek, Russian, etc. I am now with a Russian parish but not really acquainted with any people there yet. Guess I am used to the outreaching spirit of the evangelical Protestant groups. The second thing is the lack of evangelistic zeal. If people really believe they are in the True Church and that no one can be saved outside the church, and that the Lord wills that none be lost, then why keep the faith hid?

Most of my friends have never heard that the Orthodox faith is different from the Roman. I know many people who are not attending church now. If I did convince them to turn to the Orthodox Church, would they be welcome? A Spanish friend did and after a year is still an outsider. She said that only one person ever bothers to even say hello. Another, who is Italian and has been Orthodox less than a year, also is discouraged because of the coldness towards him and his wife.

If only those in the True Church are to be saved, why are the Spanish, Italian, German, Irish etc. left out?' Christ died for them too. After almost two months and attending vespers and liturgy, I only know the priest and the one who sells the candles. I almost left but realized I am now too Orthodox in faith to fit anyplace else. This lack of concern for the others, just because they are not Greek or Russian or Ukrainian, seems so contrary to the spirit of Christ who commanded his disciples to teach all nations.

At first I had hoped to be as active in my new church as I was as a Protestant, but now feel it is not probable. I have considered just going for liturgy and going elsewhere for fellowship, but do not feel this is the right answer.

I love the Orthodox Faith. I cannot keep quiet about my faith, but yet where to take a convert? Are all Orthodox churches like this?

May Moore

Trenton, New Jersey

For a response to this letter, see the next page.

Living Work and Donations

Ushers Coffee Hour Sponsors and Prosfora Donors for February

	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Coffee Hour</u>	<u>Prosfora</u>
5	Tsveta Lambo / Samir Matta	FOCA	Tsveta Lambo
12	Doug & Catherine Hattrem	Lambo	John and Frances Johnson
19	Anna Zivic / Jack Stein	Smalley	Smalley
26	Nevenka Dines / John Johnson	Covell	Doug and Catherine Hattrem

Church Cleaning Schedule for February

	<u>Upstairs</u>	<u>Downstairs</u>
4	Poufcas	Sandy Oade / Additional Volunteer Needed
11	Beck	Donahue / Covell
18	Cathy Estrada / Paripovic	Patrick / Jr. FOCA
25	Volunteer Needed	Greve / Hubinger

Response to May Moore's Letter (from the "Orthodox Observer")

Editor:

I would like to respond to the letter of May Moore (December 20 issue). She states that she is a convert to Orthodoxy and wonders if all Orthodox churches ignore the convert.

There is at least one that doesn't. My family and I attended the St. Andrew Church in East Lansing, Michigan, for three years. This parish awakened in me a new love and respect for my Orthodox faith. Under the leadership of its priest, that parish has grown to include Serbs, Greeks, Syrians, Russians, Macedonians, Carpatho-Russians, Bulgarians, and many converts. Everyone's ethnic background blends together to form a wonderful community bound together in universal faith that transcends all nationalities.

Ethnicity is a big part of the charm of that parish. It comes through beautifully at bazaars, bake sales, folk dance lessons, and parties. But when we worshipped together, ethnicity was forgotten.

I have not found other Orthodox parishes like this, but I'm sure there must be more. If Orthodoxy is to survive in this country, more parishes should follow this example.

Dr. Jeffrey Zdrale
Appleton, Wisconsin

36th Annual Interfaith Day

**“FAITH IN
CHALLENGING TIMES”**

*- Perspectives from Jewish, Orthodox,
Catholic and Protestant Faiths -*

St. Mary's Cathedral Parish Hall

219 Seymour Street

Lansing, Michigan

February 28, 2006

9:00 – 2:00

Vegetarian Luncheon

Reservations NLT February 20

\$8:50 includes luncheon

For Tickets Contact

Roosie Lamb phone *351-1503*

February 2006

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 6:30 pm Eve Meeting of our Lord in the Temple Vespers/Litya	2 9:30 am Meeting of the Lord Divine Liturgy	3	4 6 p.m. Vespers followed by Confession
5 First Sunday of the Triodion Zacchaeus Sunday 9 a.m. Confessions 9:30 Liturgy	6	7	8	9	10	11 6 p.m. Vespers followed by Confession
12 Publican and Pharisee Fast free Week 9 a.m. Confessions 9:30 Liturgy Brotherhood Meeting	13	14 6:30 pm Parish Council Mtg	15 7 pm Sisterhood Meeting	16	17	18 6 p.m. Vespers followed by Confession
19 Prodigal Son Wed & Fri Fast 9 a.m. Confessions 9:30 Liturgy	20	21	22	23	24	25 6 p.m. Vespers followed by Confession
26 Meatfare 9 a.m. Confessions 9:30 Liturgy	27 Meat Fast Begins	28				