



St. Xenia Parish News

170 North Lowell Street, Methuen, MA 01844

September-October 2005

What do we mean by the word ORTHODOX?

by St John of Shanghai & San Francisco

SHORTLY AFTER THE DOCTRINE of Christ began to be propagated among the Gentiles, the followers of Christ in Antioch began to be called Christians (Acts XI:26). The word “Christian” indicated that those who bore this name belonged to Christ—belonged in the sense of devotion to Christ and his Doctrine. From Antioch, the name of Christian was spread everywhere.

The followers of Christ gladly called themselves by the name of their beloved Teacher and Lord; and the enemies of Christ called His followers Christians by carrying over to them the ill will and hatred which they breathed against Christ.

However, quite soon there appeared people who, while calling themselves Christians, were not of Christ in spirit. Of them Christ had spoken earlier: “Not everyone that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven” (St. Matt. VII:5). Christ prophesied also that many would pass themselves off for Christ Himself: “Many shall come in my name, sayings I am Christ” (Matt. XXIV:5). The Apostles in their epistles indicated that false bearers of the name of Christ had appeared already in their time: “As ye have heard that Antichrist shall come, even now there are many antichrists” (I John II:19).

They indicated that those who stepped away from the doctrine of Christ should not be considered their own: “They went out from us but were not of us” (I John II:19). Warning against quarrels and disagree-

ments in minor matters (I Cor. I:10-14), at the same time the Apostles strictly commanded their disciples to shun those who do not bring the true doctrine (II John I:10). The Lord, through the Revelation given to the Apostle John the Theologian, sternly accused those who, calling themselves faithful, did not act in accordance with their name; for in such a case it would be false for them.

Of what use was it of old to call oneself a Jew, an Old Testament follower of the true faith, if one was not such in actuality? Such the Holy Scripture calls the synagogue of Satan (Apocalypse II:9).

In the same way a Christian in the strict sense is he only who confesses the true doctrine of Christ and lives in accordance with it. The designation of a Christian consists in glorifying the Heavenly Father by one’s life. “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven” (St. Matt. V:16). But true glorification of God is possible only if one rightly believes and expresses his right belief in words and deeds. Therefore true Christianity and it alone may be named “right-glorifying” (Ortho-dox). By the word “Orthodoxy” we confess our firm conviction that it is precisely our Faith that is the true doctrine of Christ. When we call anyone or anything Orthodox, we by this very fact indicate his or its non-counterfeit and uncorrupted Christianity, rejecting at the same time that which falsely appropriates the name of Christ.

St. Xenia of Petersburg Orthodox Church is a parish of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad, under the omophorion of Metropolitan LAURUS, First Hierarch, and Bishop GABRIEL of Manhattan. The parish newsletter is published bimonthly under the direction of the Rev. Michael Crowley. In order to ensure timely delivery to our far-flung parish, please submit all notices by the 15th of the month prior to publication to Margaret Lark at (603) 332-9613, e-mail: skovranok@verizon.net, or to Father Michael at tcrowley@maine.rr.com. Thank you.

Rector:

Rev. Michael Crowley
 16 Channel Road
 South Portland, ME 04106
 (978) 204-0428 (cell phone with voice mail)

Confessions on Saturday during Vigil, on Sunday during the Hours, and by appointment

Parish Council

President: Rev. Michael Crowley (207) 767-1889
 Starosta: Rdr. Constantine Desrosiers (603) 775-0320
 Secretary: Natalie Pishenin (978) 658-5564
 Treasurer: Tony Sarantakis (978) 263-2016
 Sisterhood: Matushka Nancy Crowley (207) 767-1889
 Cemetery: Lily Dombrowski (978) 851-2972
 Peter Danas (978) 459-9541
 Roberto Gonzalez (978) 692-1229
 Michael Johnson (978) 691-0045
 Anna Johnson (978) 691-0045
 John Kekis (978) 456-9865
 Choir Director: Michael Lang (603) 465-9754

Trapeza Schedule

*** =Strict Fast(no meats, fish or dairy)**

If you cannot be at church on your assigned Sunday please call and switch with someone. If you have any questions contact Karen Schidlovsky at (603) 868-6410. Trapeza can be whatever you would like to prepare on your day. Some parishioners prefer to make a big lunch but this isn't necessary. As long as there is enough food for about 40 people anything is appreciated. Donuts, fruit and pastries are as acceptable as soup and sandwiches. Thank you in advance for your contribution.

September

4 Helena Doohovskoy, Marianne DiMatteo
 11* Karen Schidlovsky, Nancy Harris
 18 Carolyn Sarantakis, Pamela Reed
 25 Tanya Sciaudone, Mireille Lang

October

2 Nicholas Kronauer, Vera Sarantakis
 9 Matushka Nancy Crowley, Yekaterina Fredette
 16 Masha Harris, Anna Johnson and Tatiana Pishenina
 23 Amy McLellan, Anna Kekis and Kasarda's
 30 Mariana Haven, Josephine Kniaziuk and Irene LaPage

Sisterhood News:

Sisterhood dues are \$5 per year, and membership is open to all women of the parish. Our next meetings will take place on September 4th and October 2nd.

Lilac Nights raised \$150 for St. Seraphim Camp, \$100 for Project Mexico — thank you Gonzales' for putting the great basket together — and \$100 for the Bednets for Africa — thank you Langs' for putting the basket together. We are saving the \$2429 profit in the Sisterhood account for the dance next year.

Bednets Campaign: We have so far raised over \$1000. Mireille Lang will be giving a presentation at her children's school on September 23rd where they will be making candles to sell for the campaign. In addition, the Eagle Tribune interviewed her for the campaign and it ran in the Saturday August 20th edition.

The Sisterhood is currently planning the Church Feast on the weekend of September 23rd.

Thank You...

...to all who contributed time, talent and treasure to our Second Annual Lilac Nights Festival. This event would not be the success it is, without your help. We raised \$150 for the Saint Seraphim Camp, \$100 for Project Mexico, and \$100 for the Bednets for Africa Campaign.

Object Apology Corner: Many of you probably noticed that the July-August issue of the newsletter never made it to your mailboxes. The best explanation for this is that after the heat broke — somewhere in the middle of August — it gradually dawned on your intrepid editor that *she had never sent it to the printer*. Put it down to the extreme heat of the summer, or, more likely, encroaching dim-wittedness. At least we have the newsletter pretty much put together for *next* summer.

Please remember in your prayers... Nicholas, Paul, Nina, David, Vassilisa, Xenia, Anne, Andrew and Mary Klinoff and their family, Rev. Roman Lukianov and his family, and Abbot George Schaeffer of Holy Trinity Monastery.

Please remember to inform the Myrrh-bearers Sisterhood if someone is in the hospital or shut in at home.

Condolences... to Lily Dombrowski and Alice Taylor on the July 14 repose of Basil (Bart) Taylor, Alice's husband and Lilly's brother-in-law. Bart and Alice were long-time members and supporters of St. Xenia Church. Let us all pray for Bart's soul, and the comfort of the Lord for Alice.

Congratulations... to the Engelichev family on the arrival of their latest member, Sofia (Sonia), on July 5th. Many years to Sonia and her proud parents, Constantine and Judy!

...to the Nikshysh family, on the arrival of their daughter Daria on July 16. Many years to Daria, her older brother Timothy, and her proud parents, Dmitri and Tatiana!

Financial Update: As of August 31, 2005 the balance on the church mortgage stands at \$66,092.64. If you have any questions, please see Reader Constantine Desrosiers.

Donations towards the fresco have reached \$5,500.00 — the total needed is \$10,000.00.

Sunday School News: This fall, Laryssa Doohovskoy will be teaching the young adults about singing in the church choir, and the Spring semester will offer studies in church history given by Daniel McLellan. Alexander Doohovskoy will continue as instructor for the younger Sunday School class.

Bible Study, suspended for the summer, and will resume on the second Wednesday in October. Our thanks to all who participate.

Principles of Orthodoxy Class will resume on October 8th & 22nd. We will try to meet twice a month to begin this new year.

Choir News: The Choir has just begun to learn a new Anaphora in the ancient Russian Znamenny chant. In addition, there will be some intensive choir practices preparing for the visit of our Bishop Gabriel for the parish altar feast on September 24th. Please be aware and listen for times and dates.

Upcoming Events

Our parish's annual meeting is scheduled for Sunday October 16th. All are invited to attend; however, voting is restricted to those who have completed their renewal, or new, membership forms. Agenda items include:

- Presentation of the 2004 – 2005 Auditing Committee report
- Presentation of the 2005–2006 annual budget to parishioners for review and approval
- Election of parish council members having one-year terms
- Election of church warden/Starosta having a three-year term
- Election of three Auditing Committee members for the 2005 – 2006 year
- Update from Fr. Michael
- Open Forum Questions

In addition to its other business, the parish annual meeting will vote on a lay delegate to represent our parish at the IV All-Diaspora Council to be convened on May 6-14, 2006, on the important 85th anniversary of the First All-Diaspora Council, at the Cathedral of the Mother of God "Joy of All Who Sorrow" in San Francisco. Parish delegates must be chosen from among parishioners who are active in church life and are helpful to the Church. The number of parish delegates is to correspond to the number of clergymen assigned to the parish (if there is one clergyman assigned, then one parish delegate is sent to the diocesan assembly). The list of delegates is presented to the diocesan bishop.

PARISH MEMBERSHIP FORM

Since the earliest days of the Orthodox Church, a distinction has been made between those who are members of the Church and those who are not. Membership in an Orthodox parish is not a petty administrative formality. Rather, it is an active, physical expression of our faith in God and respect for His Church. The first step in parish membership at St. Xenia Orthodox Church is to complete a parish membership form. Once completed, the portion below is returned to the Parish Treasurer.

Parish membership at St. Xenia Orthodox Church entails certain requirements and responsibilities. A fundamental requirement is participating in the Holy Mysteries. To remain a member in good standing of St. Xenia Orthodox Church one must receive Confession and Holy Communion at least once a year. The Orthodox Church has long taught that more frequent participation in the Holy Mysteries is crucial for proper spiritual health and growth. To that end, the parish encourages participation in Confession and Holy Communion at least four times a year, once during each of the major Lenten periods.

One major responsibility of parish members is fiscal support of the parish. St. Xenia Orthodox Church strongly encourages a yearly pledge of 10% of annual income (a tithe) by its members. This is understandably not possible for all members. While 10% is a goal, a yearly pledge of at least 1% of annual income is required for parish membership. Fulfilling this responsibility is fundamental to the sustenance and growth of the parish.

One benefit of parish membership is the opportunity for a more active participation in the life of St. Xenia Orthodox Church. Participation in parish life can include singing in the choir, baking prosphora, assisting with the upkeep of church property, and participation in the administration of the parish. All members are permitted to participate in parish meeting discussions. Parish members in good standing who are at least 21 years old may vote at parish meetings and serve on the Parish Council.

Thank you for taking the time and effort to complete this parish membership form. If you have any questions, please contact Father Michael

St. Xenia Orthodox Church Membership Registration and Pledge Form

Date: _____

Last Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____

Household Members (please include ages for those under 21)

Name	Patron Saint & Feast Day	Orthodox (Y/N)	Age	E-mail Address

Pledge Amount: _____ Annual Quarterly Monthly Weekly



Our iconographer Fr. Yakov Ferens sent the pictures above to us. As you can see, the proposed fresco is a very beautiful rendering of the Hospitality of Abraham icon. If you wish to view this in color you can on our web site <http://www.stxenia.org>. The newsletters are in the "Our Church" section.

Fr. Yakov began the actual work on the icon during the last week of July.

Thus far, we have received over \$5,000 towards the \$10,000 cost of the fresco that will include some further decoration of the ceiling of the altar so that the overall effect will be consistent.

We are in need of further donations towards this project so please keep it in mind as we move forward and the work begins.

The spiritual life and vitality of our parish finds expression in this beautiful enhancement of our temple.

Our regular column The Russian Corner will appear in the next edition of the Newsletter.

September 2005

St. Xenia Orthodox Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 (19 Aug) M Andrew the Gen- eral & comp	2 (20 Aug) Pr Samuel	3 6:30 PM Sunday Vigil (21 Aug) Ap Thaddaeus
4 9:30 AM Pente- cost 11 Hours & Divine Liturgy Tone 2	5 (23 Aug) M Lupus	6 (24 Aug) HM Eutyches	7 (25 Aug) App Bartholomew & Titus	8 (26 Aug) MM Adrian & Natalia	9 (27 Aug) St Poemen	10 6:30 PM Sunday Vigil (28 Aug) St Moses the Black
11 9:30 AM Behead- ing of St John the Baptist Hours & Divine Liturgy Tone 3 Wine & oil allowed	12 (30 Aug) SS Alexan- der, John & Paul	13 (31 Aug) Deposi- tion of the Cinc- ture of the Theotokos	14 (1 Sept) Church New Year Wine & oil allowed	15 (21 Sept) M Mamas of Caesarea	16 (3 Sept) HM Anth- imus & comp	17 6:30 PM Sunday Vigil (4 Sept) HM Baby- las; Pr Moses
18 9:30 AM Pente- cost 13 Hours & Divine Liturgy Tone 4	19 (6 Sept) Miracle of Archangel Mich- ael at Chonae	20 6:30 PM Vigil of Nativity of the Theotokos (7 Sept) M Sozon	21 8:30 AM Nativity of the Theotokos Hours & Divine Liturgy Fish, wine & oil allowed	22 (9 Sept) SS Joach- im & Anna	23 6:30 PM Vigil of St. Xenia (10 Sept) MM Menodora & comp	24 9:30 AM St. Xenia of Pete- rsburg Hierar- chical Divine Liturgy 12:30 PM Festive Trapeza with Bp. Gabriel
25 9:30 AM Pente- cost 14 Hours & Divine Liturgy Tone 5	26 6:30 PM Vigil of the Exaltation of the Cross (13 Sept) Dedic- ation of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher	27 8:30 AM Exal- tation of the Cross Hours & Divine Liturgy Wine & oil allowed	28 (15 Sept) GM Nice- tas the Goth	29 (16 Sept) GM Euphemia	30 (17 Sept) MM Sophia & daughters	

October 2005

St. Xenia Orthodox Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 6:30 PM Sunday Vigil (18 Sept) St Eumenius of Gortyna
2 9:30 AM Pentecost 15 Hours & Divine Liturgy Tone 6	3 (20 Sept) GM Eustathius & family	4 (21 Sept) Ap Codratus; St Demetri of Rostov	5 (22 Sept) HM Phocas of Sinope	6 (23 Sept) Conception of St John the Baptist	7 (24 Sept) M Thecla	8 4:30 PM Principles of Orthodoxy Class 6:30 PM Sunday Vigil (25 Sept) St Euphrosyne
9 9:30 AM Pentecost 16 Hours & Divine Liturgy Tone 7	10 (27 Sept) MM Callistratus & comp	11 (28 Sept) St Chariton	12 7:30 PM Bible Study (29 Sept) St Cyriacus	13 (30 Sept) HM Gregory of Armenia	14 (1 Oct) Protection of the Theotokos Fish, wine & oil allowed	15 6:30 PM Sunday Vigil (2 Oct) MM Cyprian & Justina
16 9:30 AM Pentecost 17 Hours & Divine Liturgy Tone 8 12:00 PM Annual Parish Meeting	17 (4 Oct) HM Hierotheus of Athens	18 (5 Oct) M Charitina	19 (6 Oct) Ap Thomas Wine & oil allowed	20 (7 Oct) MM Sergius & Baccus	21 (8 Oct) St Pelagia the Penitent	22 4:30 PM Principles of Orthodoxy Class 6:30 PM Sunday Vigil (9 Oct) Ap James, son of Alphaeus
23 9:30 AM Fathers of the 7th Council Hours & Divine Liturgy Tone 1	24 (11 Oct) Ap Philip	25 (12 Oct) MM Probus & comp; St Martin of Tours	26 (13 Oct) MM Carpus & comp	27 (14 Oct) MM Nazarius & comp	28 (15 Oct) St Euthymius the New	29 6:30 PM Sunday Vigil (16 Oct) M Longinus
30 9:30 AM Pentecost 19 Hours & Divine Liturgy Tone 2	31 (18 Oct) Ap Luke					

Please remove my name from your mailing list.

I no longer wish to receive this newsletter.

Please add the following people to your mailing list:

Name _____

Address _____

Name _____

Address _____

Name _____

Address _____

St. Xenia Orthodox Church
170 North Lowell Street
P.O. Box 147
Methuen, MA 01844

Forwarding Service Requested

Postmaster: Dated Material

DIRECTIONS TO ST. XENIA CHURCH:

From I-93 North or South take Exit 46, Routes 110 and 113 Dracut and Lawrence. If you were travelling North on I-93, take the exit and go around the rotary and under the highway. Follow the signs and bear right off the rotary for Route 110/113 Dracut. **If you were travelling South on I-93,** bear right at the bottom of the exit ramp towards Route 110/113 Dracut.

Where Routes 110 and 113 split, bear right onto Route 113 towards Dracut. You will pass several cemeteries on your left, including the Polish National Catholic Cemetery. The very next gate on the left is the entrance to St. Xenia's. Please note that the church is on the left just before the Hickory Hill Golf course, so if you pass the golf course, you will have missed the church. Parking is available on church grounds.