

**Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church
2011 Forsythe Ave
Monroe LA 71201**



**Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church
is under canonical jurisdiction of the Metropolis of
Atlanta, the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America
and the Ecumenical Patriarchate.**

**Current service schedule are shown inside. Please visit
our parish website for further information.**

**Parish Priest is Father Dimitri Leusis, who may be
contacted at the church's phone: (318) 325-1764.**



April, 2009

**WEEKLY SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICES, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED:
 ORTHROS- 9:30 DIVINE LITURGY - 10:30**

Weds.- Apr. 1 PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY 6:30 PM

Fri. - Apr. 3 GREAT AKATHIST 6:30 PM

Sun. - Apr. 5 ST. MARY of EGYPT (5TH OF LENT)

Prosphora: Rodakis
Refreshments: Helen Kolokouris

Weds.- Apr. 8 PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY 6:30 PM

Fri.- Apr.10 NO SERVICES

Sat.- Apr.11 LAZARUS SATURDAY
 ORTHROS: 9:30 DIVINE LITURGY 10:30

Prosphora: Reserve

Sun.-Apr.12 PALM SUNDAY

Prosphora: Rodakis
Refreshments: Michaelides

FOR HOLY WEEK SERVICES SEE ATTACHED FLIER

Sun.- Apr.19 HOLY PASCHA- AGAPE SERVICE 12 Noon
 PASCHA AGAPE DINNER: Annual PASCHA
 DINNER. Everyone is invited.

Sun.- Apr.26 SUNDAY of ST. THOMAS
Memorial Service for APRIL & Agape Luncheon
Prosphora: Carol Webster
Koliva: Carol Webster

CHURCH and HALL CLEANING for APRIL: Rodakis Family

ANYONE WISHING TO COME TO CHURCH AT ANY TIME TO LIGHT A CANDLE OR FOR PRAYER, PLEASE CALL FR. DIMITRI WITH TIME AND DAY TO OPEN DOORS. THE CHURCH IS AVAILABLE TO EVERYONE AT ANY TIME !

HOLY WEEK WISH LIST

ITEMS NEEDED FOR HOLY WEEK SERVICES:

- * Someone to donate flowers for the NYMPHIOS
- * Donation for the flowers for the WREATH (Cross)
- * Donations for flowers for the EPITAPHIOS
 (We have one donation to-date)
- * EGGS- Asking every family to bring 1 dozen brown eggs on Palm Sunday

Please Call Fr. Dimitri to make arrangements



The AKATHIST (SALUTATIONS)

The *Akathist* has some of the most beautiful hymns (poetry) written to the Theotokos. The hymn is compiled by a grouping of four themes. Thus it is sung in four separate stanzas or parts on the first four Fridays of Great Lent (in the Greek tradition) and by the entire Church in its entirety on the fifth.

The first Stanza (part 1-6) recounts the Annunciation, the Virgin Mary's purity, her visit to Elizabeth and St. Joseph's doubt and his joy upon hearing of her super-natural Conception.

The second Stanza (7- 12) recounts the Nativity from the Shepherds hearing the praises of the Angels and their going to the manger, the adoration of the Magi, the reception of Symeon and the flight into Egypt.

The third Stanza (13- 18) recalls the " new" creation incarnate, the Lord's omnipresence (ie. that is even while on earth He was also in Heaven), and the confusion of philosophers and orators.

The fourth and last Stanza (19- 24) we are shown the Theotokos as Protectress of the Faithful, God becoming Man, our inability to properly praise God, by His incarnation He cancelled all ancient spiritual debts and finally that our petitions to the Most Holy Theotokos protects us from misfortunes.

I hope this gives everyone a better understanding of the service and that everyone may attend to hear these beautiful praises.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLEASE NOTE: The **Parish Council** request anyone making **DONATIONS** by check to please make a notation on the check whether the donation is for: PLEDGE, CHRISTMAS, PASCHA, FLOWERS, MEMORIALS, etc. If there is no specific notation, the monies will be placed in the general operations fund.

- **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING- APRIL 5**, following Liturgy

PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES : Will be posted on bulletin board the following Parish Council Meeting along with monthly financial report.

- **DONATIONS FOR FLOWERS:** Anyone wishing to donate flowers for PALM SUNDAY, HOLY WEEK (the wreath for the Cross or the Tomb decoration) , or PASCHA; please call Fr. Dimitri to make arrangements.

PHILOPTOCHOS: The Metropolis Clergy-Laity and Philoptochos Conference will be held this year in Tampa, FL on June 10-13, 2009. Anyone interested in attending please contact Fr. Dimitri.

GAMES ONLINE FOR ORTHODOX YOUTH : The Dept. of Internet Ministries has announced a new web site at [www. games. goarch .org](http://www.games.goarch.org) where kids 5 yrs and up can explore, create, play and learn about the Orthodox Faith.

THANK YOU TO:

BELATED Thank you- **Tommy Poulos** and **Alex George** for purchasing and installation the new bathroom vanity in the Parish House.



The ORTHODOX SAINTS of AMERICA

As you are aware, at the end of each Divine Liturgy I mention Saints John of San Francisco, Herman of Alaska and all the American Saints. Still how many of us know the names of our own Saints of America, or how many we have.

I believe that we should all be some-what aware of the lives of our own saints that have touched the shores of America. Beginning with this monthly bulletin I am going to write a short synopsis on the lives of these **Orthodox Saints of America**, the life of one saint each month. As we read their lives, we realize that not every saint the Church celebrates lived centuries ago. Nine of our American Saints lived and died in the Twentieth Century.

To-date there are thirteen saints who have been glorified by the Church, seven who reposed in America. After having spent time as missionaries in America, five were martyred by the Communist, one of whom was American born.

In alphabetical order, the American Saints are:

- St. Alexander (**Holovitzky**) **Martyr of the Bolsheviks**
- St. Alexis (**Toth**) **of Wilkes-Berre**
- St. Herman {**ie. Germanos**} **of Alaska**
- St. Innocent **Enlightener of America**
- St. Jacob { **ie. Iakovos** } (**Netsvetov**) **Martyr of the Bolsheviks**
- St. John (**Kocherov**) **Martyr of the Bolsheviks**
- St. John (**Maximovic II**) **of Shanghai & San Francisco**
- St. Juvalay **of Alaska the Martyr**
- St. Nikolai (**Velimirovic**) **Bishop of Zica (Serbia)**
- St. Peter **the Aleut- Protomartyr of America**
- St. Raphael (**Hawaweeny**) **Bishop of Brooklyn**
- St. Tikhon **Patriarch of Moscow**
- St. Varnavas (**Nastic**) **the New Confessor**

SAINTS THAT PROTECT AMERICA, PRAY FOR US!

Part I



St. ALEXANDER MISSIONARY TO AMERICA MARTYR OF THE BOLSHOVIKS (Feast day December 4th)

St. Alexander Hotovitzky was born on February 11, 1872, in Volhynia Province, Russia. His father was rector of Volhynia Theological Seminary, where Father Alexander received his education before entering the St. Petersburg Theological Academy. Graduating in 1895 with a master's degree, he was sent to the Diocese of the Aleutians and North America. Assigned to St. Nicholas Church in New York City as a lay minister and Reader, where he met and married Maria Scherbuhina. He was ordained deacon after his marriage and was ordained to the holy priesthood on February 25, 1896 by Bishop Nicholas in the diocesan cathedral in San Francisco.

Fr. Alexander became editor of the Orthodox journal, the *American Orthodox Messenger* and instrumental in the establishment of the Orthodox Mutual Aid Society, known as now *FROC* (Federated Russian Orthodox Clubs). Through Fr. Alexander's activities and missionary zeal, Saint Nicholas parish soon outgrew its modest size. Realizing a new church home was needed, Fr. Alexander began soliciting funds traveling throughout the US, even returning to Russia for funds. Returning to New York, Fr. Alexander was assigned to St. Nicholas Church where he ministered his parish and was successful in missionary work among Russian emigres and with *Uniates* (Eastern Rite

Catholics) from the Austro-Hungarian Empire, especially Galicia (eastern Poland) and Carpatho-Russia (present day Slovakia and western Ukraine) he was also instrumental in establishing new Orthodox parishes in New York (Yonkers), Passaic, N. J. and Philadelphia. Returning to New York City Fr. Alexander participated with the architectural design and the construction of the new St. Nicholas Church (now the cathedral of the Antiochian Archdiocese).

Fr. Alexander served his parish faithfully in the US for eighteen years and returned to Russia in February 1914. Patriarch (Saint) Tikhon, for whom he served under in NYC, assigned Fr. Alexander priest in Helsinki. There he defended the Orthodox minority against the proselytizing of the Finnish Lutherans. In 1917 he was transferred as the assistant priest to Christ the Saviour Cathedral in Moscow. In October 1917 the Bolshevik coup (aka Russian Revolution) took control of the government and the Church. To ease the burden of the Church which was imposed by the Bolsheviks and feed people who had been left impoverished, Fr. Alexander was co-founder in establishing a brotherhood to aid the Cathedral and in feeding the starving.

Because of his activities, he was arrested numerous times between 1920- 1922. His final arrest came in Nov. 1922, at which time Fr. Alexander was put on trial along with 105 other clergy and laity as counter-revolutionaries and traitors to the Soviets. During the trial, Fr. Alexander defended the accusations brought against him and also defended the other accused. Usually these trials brought death-penalty verdicts, to every one's surprise, the verdict imposed was imprisonment for ten years with all appeals being turned down. In another surprise, Fr. Alexander and the others were granted amnesty in 1923. In 1924, the Soviet recommended thirteen clergy and laity administrative exile and Fr. Alexander was exiled to northern Siberia for three years.

In the 1930's he was assigned to the Church of the Deposition of the Robe in Moscow. He was arrested for the final time in 1937. After this arrest there are no records of his life and repose. There are however oral reports of his martyrdom. Fr. Alexander's relics and final resting place is unknown.

Father Alexander was canonized by the Church of Russia along with many others as martyrs of the Communist Yolk.

ST. ALEXANDER, the NEO- MARTYR, PRAY FOR US.