

Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church

P.O. Box 1332
Puyallup, WA 98371

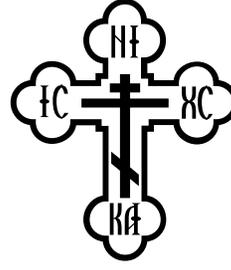
HYMN of the MONTH

Troparion - Tone 1

*You were revealed to all as a true shepherd
O Hieromartyr John of Chicago,
for you nurtured your people
in the Orthodox Faith,
guiding them by word and deed
on the path of salvation,
and defended the Faith
even unto the shedding of your blood.
Therefore, we, your spiritual children,
cry out in thanksgiving:
Glory to Him who gave you strength!
Glory to Him who granted you
the Martyr's crown!
Glory to Him who through you
grants mercy to all!*

Kontakion, tone 8

*As you zealously fulfilled your pastoral service,
you brought your soul to God
as a well-pleasing sacrifice, O Father John.
Entreat Christ God to grant peace to the world
and great mercy to our souls.*



PARISH NEWSLETTER

HOLY RESURRECTION
ORTHODOX CHURCH
OCTOBER 2017

P.O. Box 1332 Puyallup, WA 98371 ▪ Phone 253.537.4883
www.orthodoxtacoma.com ▪ V. Rev. John Pierce

A Saint Who Links Russia and America: St. John Kochurov, Commemorated October 31st

The Orthodox Church around the world is one. Despite differences in language, music, styles of iconography and so on, the Church professes one faith, celebrates the same liturgies and prays the same prayers. Nowhere is this unity more apparent than in the Orthodox faithful who bring Orthodoxy to their new homelands. There are many saints who link the Russian Orthodox Churches in Russia and America, beginning with St. Herman of Alaska in the 18th and 19th centuries, and continuing through St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco in the 20th century. No doubt there are saints living among us today.

The church celebrates the memory of one of these saints, St. John Kochurov, on October 31st.

St. John was born on July 13, 1871 and graduated from the Ryazan Seminary and St. Petersburg Theological Academy. After graduation, marriage, and ordination to the priesthood, St. John came to the United States as a missionary. He was the first priest assigned to St. Vladimir's Church in Chicago, which later became Holy Trinity Cathedral (completed and consecrated in 1902.) Work on the Cathedral was begun under the supervision of St. John, with the blessing of St. Tikhon, Bishop of North America, Patriarch of Moscow, and Confessor (one who suffers, but is not killed outright,) for the Faith. St. John was active in the formation of many parishes in the Chicago area, in Buffalo, NY, and Hartshorne, Oklahoma. He translated religious texts into English, foreseeing the need for them as the Church grew in



A Saint Who Links Russia and America *cont'd*

America. He helped organize the first All-American Sobor (Council) in Mayfield, Pennsylvania in 1897, and was chairman of the church's Mutual Aid Society.

Upon completion of his work in America, St. John was transferred to Narva, Estonia in 1907, and later to St. Catherine's Cathedral in Tsarskoe Selo. This "Tsar's Village," located outside St. Petersburg, is near the Summer Palace and other Imperial Residences. On October 31, 1917 the Bolsheviks entered Tsarskoe Selo, arrested, and shot St. John. He was canonized by the Russian Orthodox Church in 1994.

As far back as the 1890s both Sts. John and Tikhon saw the need for a multi-national, multi-lingual church in the United States. This would combine a respect for the diverse linguistic, national, cultural backgrounds of its members with a commitment to a united Orthodox Church on the North American continent, and reach out beyond the national backgrounds of its immigrant members to the wider, English-speaking society of the United States. The example of St. John Kochurov inspires us with the vision of an Orthodox Church in America calling us to follow his example now, in the 21st century.

In Our Parish

Come to Sunday Matins!

The beautiful office of Sunday Matins has resumed in our Parish, beginning at 8:15 a.m. Matins opens with prayers and Psalms, then the Solemn "Six Psalms" are read - the most ancient part of the service - while we stand very still (no venerating icons or lighting candles during the Six Psalms.) We then chant verses from Psalm 136 "for His Mercy endures forever. Alleluia!" followed by a great censuring of the church with hymns about the Myrrhbearing Women discovering the empty Tomb. This leads up to the Matins Gospel - one of eleven appointed to be read - about the Resurrection of Christ. The Hymn, "Having Beheld the Resurrection of Christ," is chanted followed by the invocation to the saints. We then venerate the Gospel Book as we settle into the canon - a series of hymns reflecting the theme of the Sunday. A hymn to the Theotokos called the Magnificat is sung (we all stand), followed by the Praises and the chanting of the Great Doxology: "Glory to Thee, who has shown forth the Light! Glory to God in the highest!" Come to Sunday Matins!

Holy Trinity Wilkeson Committee

On Sunday, September 24th we enjoyed a beautiful autumn afternoon at our historic Temple in Wilkeson. Vespers for the Feast of St. Sergius & Radonezh was served, Fr. John

gave a brief homily on the significance of St. Sergius and a meal was served by the Holy Trinity Wilkeson Committee. Some members of the parish made their first visit to the building "where it all began." Committee members have been hard at work on the grounds cutting over-bushes. In one instance, a holly that had established itself behind the washroom building was cut away, revealing a rotten roof. A roof repair will be completed before the rains settle in. Holy Trinity Wilkeson Committee Meetings are held on the second Sunday of every month, the next one will be October 8th in room 3, downstairs in the Parish House. Everyone is invited!



Slavonic Liturgy

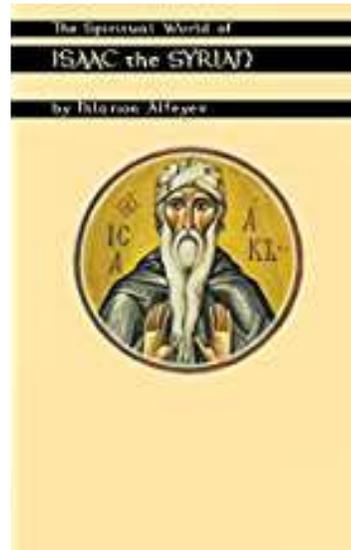
The Divine Liturgy is served in Old Church Slavonic once a month, usually on the second Saturday. Our next Liturgy will be served at 10:00 a.m. on October 14th, the Protection (Pokrov) of the Theotokos, Old Style. A delightful potluck follows Liturgy. Everybody is welcome! - - - continued on page 6

Our Parish Bookstore - by Susan Noel Reynolds

Mystery and Miracle

After hearing Christ say that it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God, those around Him asked, 'Then who can be saved?' He responded that 'What is impossible for men is possible for God.' We must work to our limit of strength to repent, and then depend on God for his mercy.

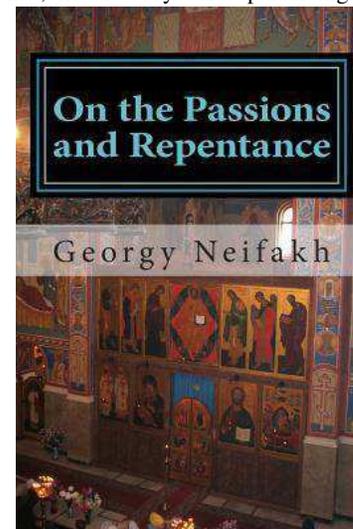
Two books that came to me address this question. One, The Spiritual World of Isaac the Syrian, by Hilarion Alfeyev, is an over-



view of St. Isaac's writings, with a section on repentance. The other, On the Passions and Repentance, by Antiochian priest Georgy Neifakh, looks at the various passions and how to struggle against them. This requires help from God. St. Isaac says it beautifully: 'Rig together my impulses for the ship of repentance, so that in it I may exult as I travel over the world's sea until I reach the haven of your hope.' He says elsewhere: 'Repentance is given to man as grace after grace. By this door we enter into the mercy of God. It is by opening a chink in the wall of our hardheartedness that 'a small ray of light will break through and fall into our heart.' And, 'In a moment of true repentance, and only in that moment, we begin to feel the

love of God'.

Thus we make a beginning to inner purity, of which external words and actions are only witnesses. Cutting off the external things that witness to our brokenness is a way to starve the root of our hardness, and find the mysterious gift of repentance, which, as St. Isaac says, is the door of mercy, opened to those who seek it.' In fact, he also says that 'perceiving one's



own sins is more important than performing miracles or having supernatural mystical visions.'

So repentance, being a gift of God, is a miracle, something we cannot do totally on our own. St. John Chrysostom says this:

'Everywhere He bids us practice great care in our way of life. If you change from inhumanity to almsgiving, you have stretched forth the hand that was withered. If you withdraw from theaters and go to church, you have cured the lame foot. If you draw back your eyes from beauty not your own, you have opened them when they were blind. If instead of satanical songs, you have learned spiritual psalms, being dumb, you have spoken. These are the greatest miracles; these are the wonderful signs.'

In Our Parish *continued*

Diocesan Assembly

The Annual Meeting of all the parish rectors and lay delegates, as well as heads of the monasteries under His Eminence, Archbishop Benjamin of San Francisco and our Diocesan Auxiliary, Bishop Daniel of Santa Rosa, will take place at St. Nicholas Church, Portland, Oct. 10th thru 12th. Our lay delegate is Cheryl Wilson. Lynnell Brunswig will also be in attendance in her capacity as a member of the Diocesan Council. This is a regular business meeting with many reports, elections to Diocesan Council (the board of the Diocese) and Metropolitan Council (the board of the OCA), and passing a budget for 2018.

Seminarian Collection

We will be taking a matching grant collection for Seminarian Brenden Link on Sunday, Oct. 15th.

Inquirers Class

A new series is underway. Everyone is welcome to attend this introduction to Orthodox Christianity. It meets most Saturdays at 5:00 p.m., but be sure to check the calendar to confirm a class has been scheduled!

Charities

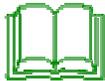
The next Charities Committee Meeting will be held October 29th after Liturgy. We will put together the items collected for Project Mexico. Please look in the back of the church or on the charities bulletin board in the Parish House for a list of items you can contribute. We will join St. Katherine's Church in Kirkland in putting together boxes that will be shipped, free of charge, to Mexico.

Oktoberfest

The Holy Myrrhbearers will sponsor Oktoberfest following Liturgy on Sunday, October 22nd. Join us for some German food, beer, and music!

Bible Study

9:30 a.m. Tuesday, October 3rd (Potluck) and October 17th (no Potluck). We'll be picking up



where we left off - on the Epistle of James.

Christian Education

Fr. John will meet with children grades 1-6 in room 4 after Liturgy on Sunday, Oct. 8th & 29th.

Cleaning the Church

Would you consider helping clean the church after Sunday Liturgy? It mostly involves some sweeping, vacuuming the carpets in the nave, as well as picking up leftover bulletins and straightening things up a bit. Please let Sdn. Dimitri Pletz or Fr. John know you'd like to help, or simply sign up on the Parish House bulletin board!



Family and Friends in Puerto Rico

As we go to press, our beloved Fr. Joseph and Matushka Veronica Velez, both natives of Puerto Rico, have finally received a call from his father. Aid is not reaching the smaller towns and countryside, and it will be months before electricity and water are restored. In the meantime the cost of gas has spiked, and it is very expensive to keep a generator running to refrigerate medications. We took a collection for Fr. Joseph on Sept. 24th, and we'll take another on Oct. 8th. Also, a friend of the parish, Floyd Sloan (+Keith Hoirup's friend, whom he was visiting when he died) who moved to Puerto Rico to be near his family, has not been heard from. Please keep them all in your prayers.

Readers and Lector's Workshop

Subdeacon Dimitri Pletz will lead a workshop for those who read or would like to read in church. It will be held after Liturgy on Sunday, October 8th in room 2, downstairs in the Parish House.

News And Notes

Parishioners **Matthew Means and Laurel Ramos** will be married October 15th! We'll get to see our long time friends **Fr. Joseph and Marthie Ramos!**

Fr. John preached at Holy Cross Church in Sacramento, CA on Sunday, Sept. 10th. **Fr. Ian MacKinnon** is the Rector there and is also the Chancellor of the Diocese of the West. **Frs. John and Ian** are among the few priests (about six) serving our diocese who were ordained prior to the consecration of our now-retired **Bishop Tikhon** in 1987.

The month was a bit quieter as **Fr. John** took the remaining days of his summer vacation in September.

Welcome to **Emilia Soot**, daughter of **Fr. Stephen and Mona Soot** in Albany, OR (seminary classmates of Fr. John) who begins her studies at PLU, and **John Sommer**, son of **Fr. David and Heather Sommer** in Snohomish who is at St. Martin's, Lacey.

We blessed the new home of Subdeacon **Dimitri and Anna Maria Pletz** in Olympia on August 26th.

Reader **Steven and Stephanie Hille** moved into their new home in Puyallup in September. **Rdr. Steven** has completed the Diaconal Late Vocations Program for the Orthodox Church in America. He must un-

dergo the grueling final exam and have his ordination approved by the Holy Synod of Bishops. If all goes well, God willing, he will be ordained to the Holy Diaconate by His Eminence, **Archbishop Benjamin** in our parish on Saturday, December 9th.



In Our Parish *continued*

Family Fun Fall Trip

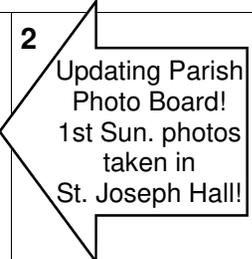
On Sunday, Oct. 22nd, after Oktoberfest, we will depart to the Nisqually Valley for a fam-



ily trip to Schilter Family Farm. They have lots of fun Fall things to do and see, including a five acre corn maze! There is a price break once we reach 20 people 3 and older - so please sign up on the bulletin board! Stephanie Pierce Vuleta is organizing our trip, her phone number is there, contact her if you have any questions. \$12.00 entrance fee, www.schilterfamilyfarm.com

Parish Photo Board

Walter Jones will be taking photos the first Sunday of each month following Liturgy in the St. Joseph Hall to update the parish photo board in the upstairs hallway of the Parish House. If you are new, or need to update your photo, please stop by and see Walter.

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|--|--|--|---|--|
| 1 <i>Protection</i> Matins 8:15 am Divine Liturgy 9:30 am First Sunday Collection/Potluck "choir" | 2  Updating Parish Photo Board! 1st Sun. photos taken in St. Joseph Hall! | 3  Bible Study Potluck 9:30 am | 4 Vespers 6:30 pm | 5 Vespers 6:30 pm | 6 Divine Liturgy 9:30 am <i>St. Innocent</i> | 7 Inquirers Class 5:00 pm Vespers 6:30 pm |
| 8 Matins 8:15 am Divine Liturgy 9:30 am HT Wilkeson Mtg 1-6 w Fr John Readers Workshop "choir" | 9 <i>St. Tikhon</i> <i>In Wilkeson:</i> Prayer Service to St. Tikhon 6:30 pm | <hr/> Diocesan Assembly in Portland, Oct. 10 th -12 th <hr/> | | | 13 | 14 <i>Pokrov</i> Slavonic Liturgy 10:00 am potluck Vespers 6:30 pm |
| 15 Matins 8:15 am Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Seminarian Sun Means-Ramos Wedding | 16 | 17  Bible Study No Potluck 9:30 am Parish Council 6:30 pm | 18 Divine Liturgy 9:30 am <i>Apostle Luke</i> Vespers 6:30 pm | 19 | 20 | 21 Myrrhbearers 5:00 pm Vespers 6:30 pm |
| 22 Matins 8:15 am Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Oktoberfest Family Farm Trip | 23 | 24 | 25 Vespers 6:30 pm | 26 | 27 | 28 Inquirers Class 5:00 pm Vespers 6:30 pm |
| 29 Matins 8:15 am Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Charities Mtg 1-6 w Fr John "choir" | 30 Vespers 6:30 pm | 31 Divine Liturgy 9:30 am <i>St. John Kochurov</i> | Nov 1 Readers Vespers 6:30 pm | 2 | 3 | 4 Inquirers Class 5:00 pm Vespers 6:30 pm |