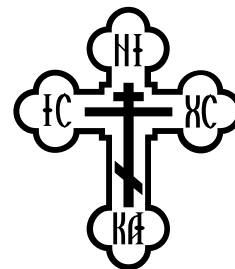


Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church

P.O. Box 1332

Puyallup, WA 98371



PARISH NEWSLETTER

HOLY RESURRECTION
ORTHODOX CHURCH
DECEMBER 2018

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

The Mystery of Loving-kindness

A Sermon by St John of Kronstadt on the Nativity of Christ

"Great is the mystery of piety: God is manifested in the flesh." (1 Tim. 3, 16)

It is on this day that, throughout the entire inhabited world, the Holy Church brings to our remembrance and observes that most majestic and sublime of mysteries: The Incarnation of God the Word from a Most-pure virgin through an outpouring of, and an overshadowing by, God's Holy Spirit. Wondrous, inexpressible, and awesome is this mystery, both for the exalted and all-contemplating celestial minds of those who dwell in the heavens: the ranks of the angels, – and for the minds of men, enlightened by the Holy Spirit. Imagine: the unoriginate God from Whom everything received the commencement of its existence: The Angels, the human race, and the entire world, both visible and invisible, – takes a beginning in His humanity. He Whom the heavens cannot contain – is contained in a virginal womb. God becomes an infant and is borne upon the arms of a Mother. He who nourishes every breath is nourished at His Mother's breast.

The science of astronomy has learned and affirms that, in the order of creation, our earth is but a barely-noticeable point; that millions of worlds around our own fill



The Mystery of Loving-kindness --- cont'd.

up the vastnesses of space. And, lo! this single point, this barely-noticeable globe of God's creation, being inhabited by men, – has been accounted worthy of the inexpressible honor of bearing upon itself God-in-the-Flesh, the God-Man, Who did deign to dwell amongst men, to teach erring mankind the knowledge of God, to work innumerable miracles of good, to preach repentance and complete forgiveness of sins; to suffer and to die as an holy Sacrifice for the sins of the world, to be resurrected through the power of Divinity from amongst the dead, – having vanquished death, which is natural to all men, – and to make a gift of resurrection to the entire human race.

Not a single one of the visible worlds, save the earth, has been deemed worthy of this greatest of all honors: for it was only upon the earth that Jesus Christ, the only-begotten of the heavenly Father, had a Virgin-Mother, and He alone was Her Son by way of humanity. Why was the earth given such preference? Why was it only on earth that God appeared in the flesh? – This is a great Divine mystery, a mystery of immeasurable loving-kindness and of God's condescension to perishing mankind.

Thus, God did appear in the flesh: rejoice and be exceeding glad, O earth; rejoice and celebrate, ye earth-born. The Creator Himself did come to you, in order to create you anew; to restore you, who were corrupted by transgressions. To you did He come: the almighty Physician Himself, – powerful to treat all the inveterate afflictions of sin, – in order that He might heal all the passions of the soul and all the infirmities of the body, – all of which He truly did do, as we know

from the Gospel and from the history of the Church.

Thus, greet Him joyfully – with pure minds and hearts, with bodies chaste and restrained by fasting and abstinence, which the Holy Church has thoughtfully instituted prior to this great feast in order to prepare us worthily to meet the heavenly Tsar', Who comes to us in order to abide in us.

He came to us with the mercy and good will of His heavenly Father, – and from us He demands mercy toward our neighbors; He is the righteous King' – and He demands of us all righteousness; for He, too, as a man, fulfilled all righteousness (Matt. 3,15), showing us an example and providing us with grace and the strength to carry it out. He Himself did suffer for us, having borne the cross; and He taught us to deny ourselves, – or our sins and our passions, – and to follow after Him, doing what is holy out of reverence for God (2 Cor. 7, 1).

He came to heal our souls, ailing from sin, and commanded all to repent; let us ever, then, be earnestly contrite, correcting ourselves and striving toward holiness and perfection. The holy Angels, at the Nativity of the God-man, did declare peace unto the world; and unto men – the good will of the Heavenly Father. Let us then, ourselves, have within us a peaceful conscience, and let us be at peace with everyone, if possible. Be at peace and be holy with all, sayeth the apostle, – for without this shall none see the Lord. (comp. Heb. 12, 14).

Amen.

Nov 15th - Dec 24th: The Nativity Fast

Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday	Abstinence of: Meat & Meat Products, Dairy Products	No Abstinence of: Fish, Shellfish, Vegetables & vegetable products, Olive oil, Fruit, Wine
Wednesday & Friday	Christians maintain the same fast & abstinence on these days as they do on all Wednesday, Fridays & other days of fast: No meat, dairy, fish, wine & olive oil.	

NOTE: During the Nativity Fast, from Dec. 14th (the Day after St. Herman of Alaska) to Dec. 24th inclusive, the fast is taken more strictly. Fish is not permitted on any day and olive oil and wine are permitted only on Saturdays and Sundays.

HROC Bookstore --- by Susan Reynolds

THE BOOKSTORE ADVENT SALE WILL TAKE PLACE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9th. Keep looking for new stock for both St. Nicholas Day and Christmas gifts! Cards, books, a new selection of icons, inexpensive crosses, prayer bracelets, suncatchers and nightlights, and more. Also available are 2019 Pocket Planners and Books of Saints Days with quotations for each day, and what the Scripture readings for each day are.

'For He was made Man in order that we might be made God .. .' So states St. Athanasius in his work 'On the Incarnation'. What a radical statement! Almost incomprehensible in its meaning and implications. Surely not a subject for light reading, but it lies deeply within the Church's understanding of God Incarnate. In this way, 'the Word of God took a body and has made use of a human instrument . . . and the Saviour did that in order that He might fill all things with the knowledge of Him. . . For the Lord touched all parts of creation and freed and undeceived all of them from every illusion. . . The Word Incarnate, as is the case with the Invisible God, is known to us by His works. By them we recognize his deifying mission.'

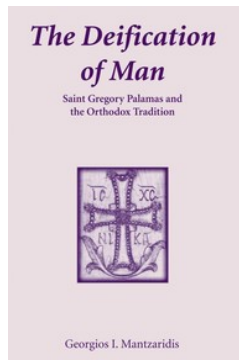
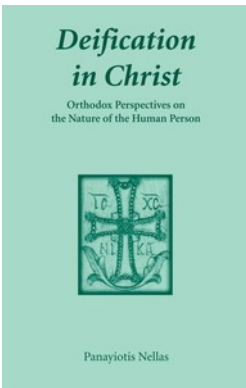
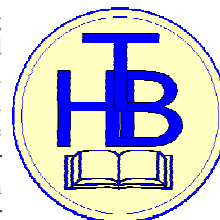
But how do we get there from where we are? The Church Fathers give us a guide to the Way, and two of the books that teach us about this are The Deification of Man, and Deification in Christ. The first is a study of St. Gregory Palamas' teaching on the 'new man' in Christ. He begins with the basic teaching on deification upon which the rest depends; how the phrase "I say, 'You are gods'" from Ps. 82 is realized. He then goes on to explain how the sacraments of the Church transmit the uncreated grace of God, the dispensation of Christ. 'Man lives

and moves according to the uncreated power of God dwelling within him'. Our moral life is the fruit of our communion with Christ. Our

cooperation through living by God's will and practicing virtue renders us capable of receiving the power and grace of God, regenerating us. The experience of this regenerated life, in which we redirect our passions from the world to God, allows us to participate in the spiritual worship in the life of prayer. The consummation of this life is resurrection with Christ, and entry into the glory of the Father.

Deification in Christ, subtitled 'The Nature of the Human Person', follows the same general outline of the previous book, but expands the ideas and gives writings from writings of six of the Fathers on these subjects. For instance, there is an extensive exposition of the meaning of the 'garments of skin' with which God clothed Adam and Eve, in terms of the state of the human body and soul, or the 'natural' man, after the Fall. Another topic which is covered in this book is the relationship between the Church and the world, and the struggle 'against principalities, against powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness' Eph.6:12

These are admittedly pretty dense books. But I think that they underline the vast import of the Incarnation, which tends to be obscured by the festivities of the Christmas season. ' . . . in order that we might be made God.' wow.



In Our Parish

Children's St. Nicholas Party

Come to our annual children's party after Liturgy on Dec. 2nd. We'll have the first Sunday Lenten potluck (fish, wine & oil allowed), then Fr. John will read the St. Nicholas story. Following the reading, You-Know-Who shows up! Please bring a new, unwrapped toy for the Toys for Tots drive, it will be the last day of the collection. Fr. John will deliver toys the following week.

Christmas 2018

Dec. 20th-24th Prefeast of the Nativity

Hymns about the Nativity begin as early as Nov. 21st, the Entry of the Theotokos, but beginning December 20th, a special Prefeast intensifies the hymns offered up until Christmas Day. We'll serve a number of Vespers leading up to the Feast, each one will be followed by a time for people to come to confession.

Dec. 23rd: Lessons and Carols

After Divine Liturgy on Sunday, Dec. 23rd, we'll gather in the Parish House to sing favorite western carols interspersed with readings from the Bible about the birth of Christ. The Holy Myrrhbearers' Sisterhood, will serve hot cider and Lenten (no dairy or eggs) cookies. If you want to bring some Lenten cookies, please do!

Dec. 23rd: Decorate the Church

Please come and help us decorate the church after Lessons & Carols.

Dec. 24th: Royal Hours, 10:00 a.m.

Royal Hours will be served Monday morning. The "Hours" are short services corresponding to the ancient Roman watches beginning at 6:00 a.m. and observed every three hours up until 3:00 p.m. These Hours are pulled together and served all at once beginning at 10:00 a.m. Each of the four "Hours" lasts a little under fifteen minutes, and includes Psalms, hymns, and appointed lessons from the Bible. The whole service concludes with a short Typica, that is, the Beatitudes read quickly, the creed and concluding hymns and prayers. Confessions will be heard at the conclusion of Royal Hours.

Dec. 24th: Vespertal Divine Liturgy, 4:00 p.m.

We begin this service with Vespers, and after hearing the many Old Testament prophecies about the birth of our Lord, we continue with the celebration of the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great. Prepare for Holy Communion by not eating after 11:00 a.m. Monday morning.

Dec. 25th: Festal Matins, 9:00 a.m. Festal Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.

Come to Matins! We will provide texts for you to sing along. The festal Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom will be served on Christmas morning at 10:00 a.m.

Donate a Poinsettia!

Please donate a poinsettia! We will keep the church warm enough to accept your donations from Wednesday, Dec. 19th thru Christmas Eve, Dec. 24th.



Holy Myrrhbearers' Sisterhood

The Sisterhood will hold their monthly meeting Saturday, Dec. 22nd at 5:00 p.m. They will prep the refreshments for Sunday. All the women of the parish are welcome!

Stewardship 2019

Stewardship forms will be included in the Sunday bulletin emails, they may also be found on the bulletin board in the Parish House. Please complete your pledge to the 2019 Annual Budget, and please consider making an extra pledge to the building fund as well!

Hazardous Weather News

We will make every effort to keep you up to date on changes in scheduled services & activities due to inclement weather. PLEASE, when the weather is threatening, check the parish web-page, www.OrthodoxTacoma.com, and your e-mails before setting out for church! Please contact Michelle Mewhinney-Angel if you need to be contacted by phone.

Hymn of the Month

December 9th, The Conception of the Most-holy Theotokos by Saint Anna
The righteous Joachim and Anna were childless for fifty years of their married life. In their old age the Archangel Gabriel appeared to each one of them separately, telling them that God had heard their prayers and that they would give birth to a daughter, Mary. Then St. Anna conceived by her husband and after nine months bore a daughter blessed by God and by all generations of men: The Most-holy Virgin Mary, the Theotokos.

Troparion, tone 4

Today, the bonds of barrenness are broken,
for God has heard the prayers
of Joachim and Anna.

He has promised them,
beyond all their hopes,
to give birth to the Maiden of God,
from whom the Infinite One
Himself became a man;
and to whom the angel
shall greet with the shout:
Rejoice, O full of grace,
the Lord is with you!

Kontakion, tone 4

Today the universe rejoices
for Anna has conceived the Theotokos,
which was brought about by God;
for she has brought forth the one
who is to bear the ineffable Word!

December Charities

Adopt A Family:

We have adopted a family through the YWCA again this year. This family could really use several basic necessities. They have also asked for toys for the children along with a few "dream gifts." Note: We have been able to extend the final day to December 16th! Please sign up on the display in the Parish House. Gifts do not need to be wrapped. If you have no time to shop but still would like to contribute, checks can be given to the Holy Myrrhbearers' account - please memo the check, "Adopt A Family".

The following is a message from Denell, the single mother of the family we have adopted. "We fled Reno, Nevada on December 29th 2017 with only our clothes because of domestic violence. We became homeless in September of 2018, my four babies, my dog Cali and I. God saw us through and pro-



vided us with the help we needed with a safe place to stay in a new, loving home. We are loved, grateful, humble, safe and blessed. I just need a little help to get back on my feet as a newly single mother doing the best for my family."

First Sunday collection: December 2nd, Please see Father John if you need assistance.

Toys for Tots will be collected at the St. Nicholas children's party, December 2nd. Donate a new, unwrapped toy. There will be no Charity Committee meeting in December.

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday



Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Check the special Adopt-A-Family display in the Parish House. Items must be brought to church by Dec. 16!
Join us in the Parish House after Liturgy on Dec. 23 for Bible Readings and our favorite Western Christmas Carols!

<p>2 Matins 8:15 am Divine Liturgy 9:30 am 1st Sun collection Lenten Potluck St. Nicholas Party</p>	<p>3</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 10px auto;"> Bring an unwrapped new toy for Toys-for-Tots collection! </div>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Vespers 7:00 pm at St Nicholas Church 1523 S Yakima 98405</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Matins 8:45 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am at St Nicholas Church</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Inquirers 5:00 pm Vespers 6:30 pm</p> <p>8</p> <p>Slavonic Liturgy 10:00 am lenten potluck</p> <p>Inquirers 5:00 pm Vespers 6:30 pm</p>
<p>9</p> <p>Matins 8:15 am Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Sunday School choir</p>	<p>10</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 10px auto;"> Panikhida for Anton Matar, Irene's brother Coffee hour: memorial meal </div>	<p>11</p> <p> Bible Study 9:30 am lenten potluck Parish Council 6:30 pm</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Vespers 6:30 pm</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Divine Liturgy 9:30 am <i>St Herman of Alaska</i></p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Inquirers 5:00 pm Vespers 6:30 pm</p>
<p>16</p> <p>Matins 8:15 am Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Sunday School choir</p>	<p>17</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 10px auto;"> Adopt-a-Family gifts due! </div>	<p>18</p> <p> Bible Study 9:30 am no potluck</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Vespers 6:30 pm</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Vespers 6:30 pm</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Vespers 6:30 pm</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 2 - 4 pm Myrrhbearers 5:00 pm Vespers 6:30 pm</p>
<p>23</p> <p>Matins 8:15 am Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Lessons & Carols decorate church</p>	<p>24 <i>Nativity Eve</i> Royal Hours 10:00 am Vesperal Divine Liturgy 4:00 pm</p>	<p>Matins 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am <i>Nativity of the Lord</i> <i>"Christ is born!"</i> <i>"Glorify Him!"</i></p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Vespers 6:30 pm</p>
<p>30</p> <p>Matins 8:15 am Divine Liturgy 9:30 am</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>Jan 1</p> <p>Divine Liturgy 10:00 am <i>Circumcision of the Lord</i> <i>St Basil the Great</i></p>	<p>2</p> <p>Vespers 6:30 pm</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Theophany Royal Hours 10:00 am</p>	<p>5 <i>Theophany Eve</i> Divine Liturgy Indoor Blessing of Waters 10:00 am Compline/Matins 5:30 pm</p>