

September 2009



**CHURCH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER**

**ST ANNA ORTHODOX CHURCH**

## **New: Chanting Lessons**

Church school students will have eight weeks of chanting lessons with Diaconissa Nino Deisadze this year.

Chanting lessons will start Sunday, October 11, for the elementary and middle school boys. They will have 25 minutes of church school, followed by 20 minutes of chanting.

Since the lessons will take place in the church hall during church school, we are looking to install rollaway dividers between the classrooms. The dividers come in fixed lengths, so the furniture downstairs has been rearranged somewhat to make room for them.

Donations are welcome toward the cost of the dividers. Please see Fr. John.

## **Please Save For Us!**

The primary class will need cardboard tubes of all sizes later this fall. Please donate tubes from paper towels, gift wrap, oatmeal containers, etc.

We also could use the unsolicited holiday gift wrap and greeting cards you receive in the mail from charities.

## **A Challenge for Our Students from Fr. John**

Father John wants our students to memorize the introductory prayers, Psalm 50, and the Creed. Copies of these prayers are attached to this newsletter.

Parents are asked to help their children learn these prayers by heart. The youngest children can begin with the Our Father, then work on the rest of the introductory prayers. Older students can learn the introductory prayers, then move on to Psalm 50, then the Creed.

Students who have memorized all the prayers should tell Fr. John. He will listen to them recite the prayers. When students are able to recite all the prayers correctly, they will receive a prize.

## **Minicamp for St. John of Kronstadt**

The next minicamp will be held Saturday, October 31, to celebrate St. John of Kronstadt.

Kids ages 4 and up are encouraged to take part.

The camp will be held in the afternoon, followed by a potluck supper, so that all children and parents may attend the vespers service for St. John.

Please stay tuned for more information and signup.

If you would like to help with the camp, please see Maria Tseitlin.

## **September Feasts**

This month we celebrate two of the twelve great feasts: the Nativity of the Theotokos on September 8/21 and the Exaltation of the Cross on September 14/27.

Only the preschoolers and kindergarteners will be studying these feasts in church school. To help you celebrate these feasts with your children at home, materials at your child's level have been attached to this newsletter. Please remember to treat all icon drawings as icons, and dispose of them appropriately.

## Introductory Prayers

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

Heavenly King, O Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, Who art everywhere present and fillest all things, O Treasury of every good and Bestower of Life: come and dwell in us, and cleanse us from every stain, and save our souls, O Good One.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (3 times)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, be gracious unto our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy Name's sake.

Lord have mercy. (3 times)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, Which art in the Heavens, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Through the prayers of our holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.

## Psalm 50

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy great mercy; and according to the multitude of Thy compassions blot out my transgression.

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know mine iniquity, and my sin is ever before me.

Against Thee only have I sinned and done this evil before Thee, that Thou mightest be justified in Thy words and prevail when Thou art judged.

For behold, I was conceived in iniquities, and in sins did my mother bear me.

For behold, Thou hast loved truth; the hidden and secret things of Thy wisdom hast Thou made manifest unto me.

Thou shalt sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be made clean. Thou shalt wash me, and I shall be made whiter than snow.

Thou shalt make me to hear joy and gladness; the bones that be humbled, they shall rejoice.

Turn Thy face away from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and with Thy governing Spirit establish me.

I shall teach transgressors Thy ways, and the ungodly shall turn back unto Thee.

Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation; my tongue shall rejoice in Thy righteousness.

O Lord, Thou shalt open my lips, and my mouth shall declare Thy praise.

For if Thou hadst desired sacrifice, I had given it; with whole-burnt offerings Thou shalt not be pleased.

A sacrifice unto God is a broken spirit; a heart that is broken and humbled God will not despise.

Do good, O Lord, in Thy good pleasure unto Sion, and let the walls of Jerusalem be builded.

Then shalt Thou be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness, with oblation and whole-burnt offerings.

Then shall they offer bullocks upon Thine altar.

## **The Creed**

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Only-begotten, begotten of the Father before all ages; Light of Light, true God of true God; begotten, not made; being of one essence with the Father; by Whom all things were made;

Who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from the Heavens, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man;

And was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, suffered and was buried;

And arose again on the third day according to the Scriptures;

And ascended into the Heavens, and sitteth at the right hand of the Father;

And shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead, Whose Kingdom shall have no end;

And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of life; Who proceededth from the Father; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; Who spake by the Prophets;

In One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church.

I confess one baptism for the remission of sins.

I look for the resurrection of the dead,

And the life of the age to come. Amen.

## **Dismissal Hymn for the Nativity of the Theotokos**

Thy Nativity, O Theotokos, hath proclaimed joy to the whole world; for from thee hath dawned the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, annulling the curse, and bestowing the blessing, abolishing death and granting us life everlasting.

## **Dismissal Hymn for the Exaltation of the Cross**

Save, O Lord, Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance; grant Thou unto the faithful victory over adversaries. And by the power of Thy Cross do Thou preserve Thy commonwealth.

## **Other Materials for Celebrating the Feasts**

The Twelve Great Feasts series by Mother Melania has books about the Nativity of the Theotokos and about the Exaltation of the Cross. The text is in verse. The illustrations are watercolor. These books are appropriate for children 10 and under. They cost about \$6 apiece, and are available from St. Nectarios Press, [www.orthodoxpress.org](http://www.orthodoxpress.org).